

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 28

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Mr. Stewart at 7:30 p.m.

2. SPEAK OUT

Rev. Carol Joyce Brun led the speak out with the help of the coordinator, Rev. Richard Sparrow. The speak out was an opportunity for one minute statements of concern on the agenda of the General Synod. It included the following topics:

Resolutions are not enough, delegates and visitors should write to their congresspeople;

Marriage Encounter encourages communication, give it a try;

The St. Louis Association Peace Task Force thinks a point of unity is the United Nations position, information is available from the Office for Church in Society;

Christians for Justice Action announced their Burning Bush Awards to Rev. Bill Briggs and Ms. Susie Briggs, Rev. James Smucker and Rev. Avery Post;

Oppression still exists against Gay/Lesbian persons, particularly those with AIDS; Grieve with the United Church of Christ Lesbian/Gay Coalition and the continuing harassments they experience daily;

United Church of Christ Lesbian/Gay Coalition Choir told of their fear of "us," they urge us to receive their ministries, their lives as well as their music;

We need to break bread with those of other church traditions, pray for and welcome Pope John Paul in the United States;

Let's invite folks to our churches—by using Official United Church of Christ emblems, logos as road markers, welcome indicators;

Bring Argentine voices to the United States for the Sixteenth General Synod—to be with them in their terror, and

Greetings from United Church of Christ Fellowship in the Arts—"Songs of Hope and Peace" published through their efforts is available.

3. GENERAL SYNOD PRIORITIES VOTING RESULTS

The voting results on UCC priorities were announced.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries	544
Homeless	466
Family Life	61
Evangelism & Church Growth	278

Youth and Young Adult Ministries was adopted for two years by a vote of 506 to 99 and Ministry to the Homeless for four years. These are the two new priorities.

4. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SANCTUARY MISSION

Rev. Isaac McDonald (SOC) moved on behalf of Committee 24 the adoption of the Resolution "United Church of Christ Sanctuary Mission."

One change in the printed text was made.

87-GS-45 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "United Church of Christ Sanctuary Mission."

United Church of Christ Sanctuary Mission

WHEREAS, refugees in El Salvador and Guatemala, every day, are fleeing their countries to escape "Death Squads," dangers of persecution, torture and murder, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ at the 1981 Thirteenth General Synod called upon the United Church of Christ to become a "Peace Church," and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ at the 1985 Fifteenth General Synod called upon the United Church of Christ to become a "Just Peace Church," stating peace and justice cannot be separated, and

WHEREAS, the 1983 Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ has resolved that: The office of the President issue an immediate call to all pastors and congregations urging an active advocacy campaign to call upon the U. S. Government to grant to El Salvadoran and Guatemalan nationals seeking refuge to our country the privilege of "extended voluntary departure status" until they can return home with a reasonable degree of safety. It has further been resolved: that the Fourteenth General Synod applaud those congregations granting sanctuary to Salvadorans and Guatemalans, and encourage all our congregations to consider providing sanctuary until such time as extended voluntary departure status is granted; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has called upon its congregations to extend hospitality to persons seeking safe haven in the United States (G. A. Resolution #8330) and has affirmed the religious and moral rights of churches and synagogues to provide sanctuary and protection for those fleeing persecution as an age-old expression of the Biblical tradition of our faiths (G. A. Resolution #8549);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod reaffirms the action of the Fourteenth General Synod regarding sanctuary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod recommends that collaboratively the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, and the Council for Hispanic Ministries provide resources and coordinate programs to educate local churches about sanctuary and the plight of refugees in this country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod in response to immediate needs calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and other instrumentalities to develop support, and administer a sanctuary mission or missions in the United States in order to help save God's people from torture, murder, and "Death Squads." Support could include responding to the following needs: education, bail bonding, legal services, transportation, medical, food, clothing, housing, programming, sponsorship, employment, counseling, companionship, and interpreters.

Financial Implications

Implementation is subject to the availability of funds.

5. COORDINATING CENTER FOR WOMEN IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Ms. Lucinda Gordon (WIS), chairperson of Committee 10 described the cooperation received from intended speakers, from the Nebraska Conference, from the 220 people who attended

the hearings, and from others who relinquished time. On behalf of the committee, Ms. Gordon moved that the proposal for the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, as amended, be adopted.

Only supportive discussion took place, culminating years of work into a time of joy and celebration; debate was closed and

87-GS-46 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the proposal for the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society as amended. (See Appendix G for Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society report.)

Proposal for the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society

The Purpose of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society

The purpose of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society shall be to initiate programs, and coordinate and give direction to ongoing and developing programs within the UCC which address the concerns of women and work toward the elimination of sexism in church and society. The Coordinating Center for Women shall live out its life in faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall strengthen and support the mission of the United Church of Christ and shall initiate and support the ministries of women and women's organizations in every setting of the church. It shall further be the purpose of the Coordinating Center for Women, through a sustained and collaborative approach, to achieve the vision of a society and a church that empowers, respects and nurtures women in all their diversity.

The United Church of Christ Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society shall be an instrumentality to address the concerns of women through spiritual growth, advocacy, communication and coordinated program development.

The Work of the Coordinating Center for Women

To articulate for the church a vision of equality and partnership, and to model that vision in the structure of the Center itself.

To enable women to deepen their faith and experience spiritual growth and renewal.

To advocate in church and society for the elimination of attitudes and practices that oppress women, especially sexism, racism, ageism, classism, homophobia and actions which discriminate against the disabled.

To expand communication among women in the church through such means as periodic national gatherings of UCC women and a membership organization, in order to increase commitment and participation in the mission of the church.

To identify and develop, in cooperation with other partners in the church system, programs and resources meeting the needs of all women in the church, to address the concerns of women, and to work toward the elimination of sexism.

Be an advocate for the increased employment and volunteer leadership of women representing the diversity of the United Church of Christ in national, conference and local settings.

To coordinate, in collaboration with local, conference, national, global, and ecumenical settings of the church, strategies to address public policy issues affecting women which work toward the elimination of sexism in church and society.

To represent the United Church of Christ in ecumenical settings, including women's structures and organizations of other denominations.

To address the concerns of women in a global context.

The Structure of the Coordinating Center for Women

The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society shall be established by the General Synod and accountable to General Synod. The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society shall be governed by a Board of Directors and shall convene a Biennial Assembly which will serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors of the Coordinating Center for Women.

The Board of Directors

The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society shall be directed by a Board of Directors of 29 persons reflecting the diversity of the United Church of Christ; membership shall be assembled from three streams of authority within our polity and shall serve for six year terms.

Fifteen (15) persons nominated and elected by the General Synod.

Six (6) representatives of interest groups (to include Pacific and Asian American Ministries, United Black Christians, Council for American Indian Ministry, Council for Hispanic Ministries, National Committee on Persons with Disabilities, and United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns) nominated by those interest groups and elected by the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ.

Eight (8) persons elected by the Biennial Assembly of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

The Board of Directors shall include non-voting members representing the national instrumentalities and other bodies, to be named by those bodies; a representative of the Executive Council, a representative of the Council of Conference Ministers and the elected Moderator of the Biennial Assembly. Non-voting members of the Board of Directors serve at the pleasure of their respective bodies, and will have their participation funded by those bodies.

The President of the UCC and the Executive Director of the Coordinating Center for Women will be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors of the Coordinating Center for Women and shall have voice without vote.

The Board will meet regularly to develop policy for the Center, adopt the annual budget, set program goals, call an executive, and conduct all other business as necessary.

All voting members of the Board of Directors of the Coordinating Center for Women shall be voting members of the Assembly. The Board of Directors will elect its own officers and organize such internal committees as required to carry out the mandate of the Coordinating Center for Women.

Staff Requirements of the Coordinating Center for Women

Addressing the increased responsibilities of policy and program development of the proposed structure will call for adequate staff. The Board of Directors of the Coordinating Center for Women shall call an Executive Director, who will hire associates in areas such as communication, constituency development, and program development. Adequate support staff services will be required. The Affirmative Action and EEO practices of the United Church of Christ will be observed in all personnel matters of the Coordinating Center for Women and emphasis will be given to calling and hiring racial/ethnic minority women.

The Biennial Assembly of the Coordinating Center for Women

The Coordinating Center for Women shall convene a Biennial Assembly consisting of representatives of conferences and

other bodies in the UCC for purposes of education, consciousness-raising, inspiration, theological reflection, and networking. The Biennial Assembly shall elect eight members of the Board of Directors of the Coordinating Center for Women.

Voting members of the Biennial Assembly shall include up to three (3) representatives from each conference which chooses to participate. One representative may be a staff person related to women's structures in that conference. Voting members shall also include two (2) representative each of Pacific and Asian American Ministries, United Black Christians, Council for American Indian Ministry, Council for Hispanic Ministries, National Committee on Persons with Disabilities, and the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns; two (2) representatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); two (2) representatives named by the National Steering Committee of the UCC Network for Clergy Women; two (2) representatives of the Youth Priority Task Force; and the members of the Board of Directors of the Coordinating Center for Women.

Conferences and other bodies represented shall choose their own representatives following criteria developed to assure an Assembly which reflects the diversity of the United Church of Christ. All of the bodies should consider persons who

- represent the various constituencies within the conference
- reflect a diversity of lifestyle and perspective
- represent a spectrum of age, racial/ethnic background, and lay/clergy status
- have knowledge and understanding of the conference which they represent
- have a commitment to the mission of the whole church
- carry a strong commitment to empowering women for leadership in church and society.

The cost of the Assembly shall be shared by all the participating bodies in a manner to be determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with all participating bodies.

Eight persons shall be elected to the Board of Directors of the Coordinating Center for Women by the Biennial Assembly from a pool of conference representatives nominated by Conferences participating in the Assembly. A process shall be developed which encourages broad participation of all parts of the church and honors the diversity of the UCC.

The Assembly shall elect its own moderator and organize internal committees as needed to carry out its goals. Conference ministers and instrumentality executives will be invited to all Assembly meetings and other staff and volunteers will be asked to participate and/or provide leadership as needed.

A Transition Team for the Coordinating Center for Women

A transition team will be convened following General Synod 16 by the President of the UCC or a representative of the President to effect a smooth transfer of functions and responsibilities from the existing Coordinating Center for Women to the new structure, also called The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

This interim decision making body will be composed of:

- 15 members elected by General Synod Sixteen to the Board of Directors of the Coordinating Center for Women
- The chairperson of the present Coordinating Center Committee
- Three members of the present Coordinating Center Committee named by the chair

One member of the Coordinating Center future structure sub-committee, named by the chair of the Coordinating Center for Women.

All 20 of these persons shall have voice and vote.

In addition six other persons will be part of the transition team acting in an advisory capacity, with voice and without vote.

- A member of the Women's Inter Staff Team
- The President of the United Church of Christ
- The executive of the Coordinating Center for Women
- A conference minister
- A member of the Council of Instrumentality Executives
- A member of the Executive Council

Costs of the transition team will be borne by the 1988 budget of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society. Staff services will be provided by the Coordinating Center for Women.

This transition team will serve until all of the Board of Directors have been elected, at which time the Board of Directors of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society will be duly constituted and begin its work. All members of the Board of Directors, those elected by General Synod 16, those elected from interest groups by the Executive Council, and those elected at the first Biennial Assembly of the Coordinating Center for Women, will begin their terms no later than December 31, 1988. The members will serve until their term of office expires.

The responsibilities of the transition team will include:

- Calling a transitional executive director and authorizing the hiring of any other professional/support staff to provide necessary staff services during the transition period. The transitional executive director shall serve until such time as the Board of Directors of the established instrumentality so indicates. The Board of Directors shall give notice of the end of employment of not less than ninety days for all staff employed during the transition period.
- Calling the first Biennial Assembly of the Coordinating Center for Women to be held before the end of 1988, and directing its planning.
- Establishing criteria and process for the election of eight members of the Board of Directors by the Biennial Assembly.
- Establishing the new office, recommending locations and interim staffing as needed.
- Arranging for the completion of the functions of the existing Coordinating Center for Women and transferring assets, liabilities and programs to the new structure.
- Adopting annual budgets until the Board of Directors is duly constituted.
- Electing a chair, and vice chair of the Board of Directors from among the members of the team elected by General Synod 16, to serve a two year term.
- Establishing such internal committees or task forces as may be necessary to conduct the business of the transition team.

The Women's Inter-Staff Team (WIST)

The Women's Inter Staff Team, begun in 1975 in response to the action of General Synod 10, shall continue as an inter-agency working group to ensure a collaborative approach to program development and implementation in the national bodies and instrumentalities of the church. The Women's Inter Staff Team shall be convened by the executive of the Coordinating Center for Women.

The Team shall be composed of staff members with portfolio or program responsibilities related to the concerns of women in church and society. Named by their respective bodies to fulfill this staff function, the WIST shall meet regularly to consult with the staff of the Coordinating Center for Women, and to engage in collaborative planning for policy and program development coordinated by the Coordinating Center for Women. WIST members shall act as liaison with their respective agencies, encouraging responsive collaboration.

Financial support of WIST members shall be carried by the participating national body or instrumentality. All national bodies and instrumentalities shall be invited to name a staff member to WIST. Members of the Women's Inter Staff Team shall participate in the planning and implementation of the Assembly.

Members of WIST shall attend meetings of both the Board of Directors and the Biennial Assembly of the Coordinating Center for Women.

Funding Requirements for the Coordinating Center for Women

Funding for the Coordinating Center for Women shall come from the budget of the United Church of Christ in accordance with established procedures of the General Synod. (\$356,000 will be required in 1988 and \$400,000 in 1989.) The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society shall have access to Special and All Church Offerings and General Synod campaigns. The executive of the Coordinating Center for Women will participate in all decision-making processes related to funding as a member of the Executive Council, and one of the Instrumentality Executives.

6. CELEBRATION WITH THE COORDINATING CENTER FOR WOMEN

Rev. James Smucker of New York was recognized and as a point of personal privilege asked that the body invite Ms. Marilyn Breitling, Ms. Patricia Miller and Rev. Nancy Nelson Elsenheimer to the podium, where they were greeted with a standing ovation.

The Moderator also expressed thanks—to Ms. Marilyn Breitling, her staff, and to the Nebraska conference—for the way in which this issue was presented and dealt with.

Ms. Marilyn Breitling's response was: "Thank you. Thanks be to God." Ms. Breitling expressed gratitude for the joy the Sixteenth General Synod has given to the thousands of women, and men, in the UCC.

7. POINT OF SENSITIVITY TO PERSONS NOT IN FAVOR OF THE ACTION

The Moderator recognized Rev. Grant Sontag, (CONN) who pointed out that the Synod should be sensitive to persons not agreeing with the action of the General Synod. He was applauded.

8. COORDINATING CENTER FOR WOMEN IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Mr. Douglas Hatfield, Chairperson of the Committee on Structural Planning, was then called to the microphone to move the appropriate Bylaw and Constitutional amendments regarding the new structure for the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

Mr. Hatfield moved and

87-GS-47 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the following amendment to paragraph 63 of the Constitution of

the United Church of Christ and commends this action to the conferences for ratification.

Other Instrumentalities Constitution, Paragraph 63

There shall be other instrumentalities established by the General Synod, with purposes and organization as described in the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, to discharge responsibilities in the following areas of need or concern:

- a) social education and action, with the name Office for Church in Society;
- b) development of ordained and lay leadership, with the name Office for Church Life and Leadership;
- c) public relations and mass communication, with the name Office of Communication;
- d) stewardship, with the name Stewardship Council;
- e) program and advocacy for women, with the name Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

Assignment of responsibilities shall be determined from time to time by the General Synod and its Executive Council. Correlation shall be as provided heretofore in this Article and hereafter in this Constitution.

Mr. Hatfield moved the adoption of the new Bylaws 218 and 219.

87-GS-48 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts new Bylaws 218 and 219, and authorizes the Secretary of the Church to renumber the following paragraphs.

Bylaws for the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society

The Sixteenth General Synod amends the Bylaws by adding new paragraphs 218 and 219 and authorizing the Secretary of the Church to renumber the following paragraphs. The new paragraph 218 and to read:

Bylaw 218

The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, recognizing the pluralistic nature of the United Church of Christ, shall initiate, coordinate, give direction and bring into focus programs within the United Church of Christ which address the concerns of women and work toward the elimination of sexism in church and society. The Center shall be an advocate for women in seeking to achieve a society and a church that empower, respect, and nurture women in all their diversity thereby demonstrating faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthening the life and mission of the United Church of Christ. The Center shall develop programs and resources that respond to the needs of women in the church, including strengthening and supporting existing and emerging women's organizations and structures, working collaboratively with conferences, associations, national instrumentalities, and other bodies and ecumenical partnerships.

The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society shall strengthen and support the mission of the United Church of Christ and seek to articulate for the church a vision of equality and partnership, and to model that vision in the structure of the Center itself. The Center shall enable women to deepen their faith and experience spiritual growth and renewal; be an advocate in church and society for the elimination of attitudes and practices that oppress women; coordinate strategies and programs which address public policy issues affecting women in church and society; expand communication and constituency building networks between and among women in the church; be an advocate for the increased employment and volunteer leadership of women in every setting of the church; address the concerns of women in a global context, and rep-