

resent the United Church of Christ in ecumenical settings, including the women's structures and organizations of other communions and religious bodies.

The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society shall convene the Biennial Assembly of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society consisting of representatives of conferences and other bodies in the United Church of Christ for purposes of education, consciousness-raising, inspiration, theological reflection, and networking.

Bylaw 219

Voting members of the Assembly shall include up to three 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 representatives 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 representatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); two representatives named by the National Steering Committee of the Network for United Church of Christ Clergy Women; two representatives of the Youth Priority Task Force; and the members of the Board of Directors of the Center.

The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society shall be governed by a Board of Directors of twenty-nine persons. Fifteen members shall be elected by General Synod for six year terms, one-third to be elected each biennium to serve until their respective successors are elected. These members shall be 2/3 lay and 1/3 clergy, of which not less than 2/3 of each category shall be women. Six members of the Board of Directors shall be elected from a pool of candidates nominated by racial/ethnic and other interest groups of the General Synod, to be elected by the Executive Council for terms of six years, 1/3 to be elected each biennium to serve until a successor is nominated and elected. Eight members shall be elected by the Biennial Assembly of the Center according to guidelines which reflect the diversity of the United Church of Christ, each to a term of six years, with approximately 1/3 being elected at each Assembly. All terms on the Board of Directors will run concurrent with General Synod policy. Membership may also be granted to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Authorizing the Secretary of the United Church of Christ to renumber all the following paragraphs.

9. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT ON NOMINEES FOR THE COORDINATING CENTER FOR WOMEN

Because of the new structure of the Coordinating Center For Women in Church and Society, Ms. Denise Hood, Chair of the Nominating Committee, submitted an Addendum to the Nominating Committee report and moved the nomination of those nominees listed as follows:

Coordinating Center For Women in Church and Society

CLERGY—Rev. Elice Higginbotham, NY; Rev. Peter Monkres, WIS; Rev. Mike Montgomery, NEB; Rev. Gail Reynolds, FLA; and Rev. Leticia Rouser, SC.

LAYMEN—Mr. Richard Brooks, MICH; Mr. Steve Haskins, RM; and Mr. T. A. Taylor, MO.

LAYWOMEN—Ms. Lilia Behr, MINN; Ms. Lilia Enriguez, CAL.S; Ms. Nancy Godfrey, ME; Ms. Lauren Johnson, MASS; Ms. Debbie Kaynor, CONN; Ms. Annie Neal, CAC; and Ms. Fe R. Nebres, HI.

The Moderator called for additional nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved and

87-GS-49 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod closes nominations from the floor for the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

Since the Nominating Committee Report is required to be received twenty-four hours before the vote is taken, Ms. Hood moved a suspension of the rules.

87-GS-50 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod determines that the CCW slate be placed on the Monday 9:00 a.m. ballot, noting that this essentially suspends Bylaw 184.

The vote received the required 3/4 consent.

There was clarification for the delegates that a transition process was part of the Coordinating Center for Women proposal voted affirmatively, and that the new Coordinating Center for Women structure would not be in jeopardy during the time involved in ratification of the Constitutional Amendment establishing it.

10. CORRECTIONS OF ERRORS IN NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT IN THE ADVANCE MATERIALS

Ms. Hood then noted that some biographical information circulated in the Report of the Nominating Committee, Advance Materials II, pp 28-29, was in error regarding the General Synod Nominating Committee, Class of 1993: Ms. Shirley A. Bergmann — served on her Conference nominating committee; and Rev. Charlotte Sickbert, is Vice-Moderator of the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference.

11. REQUEST FOR CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY TO SPEAK

Mrs. Teri Marutiak (RI) moved to amend the agenda to allow 10 minutes for each candidate for Secretary of the Church to address the assembly for 5 minutes each, at a time to be set by the Agenda Committee. The motion failed to receive the required 2/3 vote.

12. GLOBAL DEBT CRISIS

The Rev. Louis Dorsch (OHIO), chairperson of Committee 20 moved the Resolution "Global Debt Crisis" on behalf of the Committee. This Resolution was reworded by the committee. He indicated that there would be greater clarity in renumbering of the paragraphs, it was

87-GS-51 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Global Debt Crisis."

Global Debt Crisis

Background

In 1986 the Third World owed Western banks and governments approximately one trillion dollars. Seven countries owe one half of this Third World debt: Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Venezuela in Latin America; and South Korea, the Philippines and Indonesia in Asia, but the debt crisis also severely affects many poor Sub-Saharan African nations and the Central American countries, whose per capita debt is very high.

The burden of the International debt crisis has fallen disproportionately on the poor countries and on vulnerable groups within them, particularly the urban and rural poor. Over the past decade, the living standards of the vast majority of people in the Third World have deteriorated sharply. In the poorest countries, particularly in Africa, the debt crisis is exacerbating hunger and malnutrition.

Debt servicing is undermining the development prospects of most developing countries. High interest rates have increased interest on loans to the point where many developing countries are devoting more than two-thirds of their foreign exchange to servicing their debt. International credit patterns have shifted from an inflow to an outflow of funds from developing countries.

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) conditions for lending to debt ridden Third World governments impose requirements, such as reducing or eliminating social spending, controlling or cutting wages, devaluing currency, reducing or eliminating imports, and encouraging open foreign investments which impinge on the national sovereignty of recipient countries. IMF mandated austerity has fostered social unrest and riots in Brazil, the Sudan, and the Dominican Republic and massive demonstrations in Chile and the Philippines, challenging the legitimacy of regimes that starve their own people.

Conditions in the international economic system make it unlikely that Third World countries will be able to repay the principal on these debts. Developing countries continue to face record low prices for their basic commodity exports and increasing numbers of protectionist barriers against their manufactured products. Private commercial banks often set excessive fees, commissions, and interest rates which go beyond the borrowers' economic capacity to pay.

The world debt crisis also is having an adverse effect on the United States economy. The IMF austerity conditions have required substantial contraction of imports by Third World countries, and about a third of U.S. trade is with the Third World. Workers in export-oriented industries have lost an estimated 1.1 million jobs.

WHEREAS, the world economy faces a grave financial and economic crisis because of a massive debt of some one trillion dollars owed by the Third World to western banks and governments;

WHEREAS, the burden of the international debt crisis has fallen disproportionately on the poor countries and on vulnerable groups within them, particularly the urban and rural poor;

WHEREAS, the debt crisis has dried up outside lending to developing countries for programs, such as water, sewage, health facilities, housing, education, and nutrition, at the same time that these countries have diverted funds from these programs in order to pay their debt service;

WHEREAS, the International Monetary Fund's conditions for lending to debt ridden Third World governments impose requirements which impinge on the national sovereignty of recipient countries and cause hardship by requiring reducing or eliminating social spending, controlling or cutting wages, devaluing their currency; reducing or eliminating imports, and encouraging open foreign investment;

WHEREAS, the conditions in the international economic system make it unlikely that Third World countries will be able to repay the principal on these debts;

WHEREAS, the May, 1986, UN Special Session on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa identified the debt crisis as the central issue in North-South relations;

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II in Bogota, Colombia, on July 1, 1986 said, "The poor populations cannot pay intolerable social costs in order to meet foreign debt obligations;"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, mindful of God's special love

and concern for the poor and Jesus' injunction of that which is done for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, is done for me (Matthew 25:40):

1. Recognizes the international debt crisis as a critically important concern which compounds economic injustice for many Third World nations and threatens to create massive instability for the entire international system.
2. Affirms the need for reforms in the international economic order which would include principles designed to relate equitably to basic human needs, to just patterns of participation in planning and decision-making, and to guidelines which would enhance the development needs of the Third World nations.
3. Recommends that the United Church Board for World Ministries develop program resources, with other appropriate UCC bodies and ecumenical colleagues, which would inform church members about the international debt crisis and its consequences and advocate and work for the creation of a more just economic order.
4. Encourages United Church of Christ members to visit debtor nations and to talk with UCC mission personnel and partner church representatives to understand the impact of the debt crisis on the debtor nations.
5. Calls on UCC congregations to participate in the establishment of local ecumenical task forces on economic issues to study the links between the domestic farm crisis and the international debt crisis, and to organize events to publicize the impact of the international debt crisis on local economics.
6. Requests the United Church Board for World Ministries to engage in advocacy in cooperation with the Office for Church in Society and ecumenical partners to encourage Congress to enact appropriate legislation that will ease the burden of the poor in debt-impacted countries. Such legislation could include measures like those presently under discussion by which the United States would:
 - A. write off all or part of the debt owed to it, particularly by the poorest developing countries;
 - B. convert such debt into grants available for development projects;
 - C. reduce interest rates;
 - D. extend periods for repayment of remaining debt;
 - E. allow Third World debtor nations to limit their debt service obligations to no more than 20 percent of their export earnings;
 - F. replace austerity measures related to lending conditions with an emphasis on development;
 - G. encourage private lenders to adopt similar measures with respect to their own loans to Third World nations.
7. Asks the United Church Board for World Ministries in cooperation with the Office for Church in Society and ecumenical partners to urge the World Bank and other appropriate organizations to study the impact of the IMF policies on the poor in Third World countries, especially women and children.

Financial Implications

Implementation is subject to the availability of funds.

13. RENEWED U.S. SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rev. Dorsch then moved on behalf of Committee 20, and with no further discussion

87-GS-52 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Renewed U.S. Support of the United Nations."