

Stewardship, and Leadership Development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod requests the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Youth and Young Adult Task Force or its successor body, to widely promote the 1988 Regional Young Adult Events, for the purpose of education, support, and leadership development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod requests that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Youth and Young Adult Task Force or its successor body, carefully evaluate Bylaws 171 and 212 and their implications for the effective and equivalent representation of both youth and young adults in the total life of our church, and report back to the Seventeenth General Synod.

\*(Gibbon, Robert T., 30 Year Olds and the Church: Ministry with the Baby Boom Generation, Washington, D.C.: The Alban Institute, 1981, p.1.)

## 6. BYLAWS 235 AND 236 ON YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Ms. Mojica-Hammer then moved on behalf of the committee, and Rev. John Hudson (MASS) of the committee spoke in support of the Bylaw changes. There was discussion and the required  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

87-GS-78 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts new Bylaws 235 and 236.

### Bylaw 235

The new Paragraph 235 to read:

The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries shall serve as a means for advocacy, coordination, communication, and networking on behalf of youth and young adult ministries throughout the United Church of Christ, including its instrumentalities and other national bodies, regions, conferences, and local churches. The Council shall organize itself with such officers and committees as needed in order to carry out its work. It shall be administratively related to the General Synod through the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, this provision not precluding the Council's right of direct access to the Executive Council and the General Synod concerning any matters in which it may feel that its interest in program or budget require the exercise of such access. The Council shall receive staff services from the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in consultation with Conferences, Instrumentalities and other national bodies. It shall also receive funding from the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. It shall report to the Executive Council and to the General Synod on issues, developments, and concerns in youth and young adult ministries of the United Church of Christ.

### Bylaw 236

The new Paragraph 236 to read:

The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries shall be composed of at least twenty-two, but no more than twenty-six members. All members shall be elected or appointed to a two-year term of office which shall commence with the adjournment of one General Synod and conclude at the adjournment of the next General Synod. The membership of the Council shall consist of persons who, for the majority of their term, are youth (persons of high school age or younger) or young adults (persons graduated from high school, or 19 years of age, through age thirty). A member may serve for one additional term, subject to the age criteria.

The membership of the Council shall be constituted as follows:

- a) Four persons, two youth and two young adults, shall be appointed, one by each: the Council for American Indian Ministry, the Council for Hispanic Ministries, Pacific and Asian American Ministries, and United Black Christians. Each of these bodies shall appoint alternately a youth or young adult to be a member of the Council.
- b) Twelve persons, one youth and one young adult from each of the six regions, shall be elected at the General Synod by the youth and young adult visitors and youth and young adult delegates from that region in an election conducted by the out-going members of the Council. Each conference may nominate one youth and one young adult. However, only one of the persons nominated by a given conference may serve on the Council at any given time.
- c) Six persons, three youth and three young adults, shall be appointed by the out-going members of the Council from among those persons nominated by the conferences. These members shall be appointed subsequently to the election described in b) above, but prior to the adjournment of the General Synod, to enhance the Council's membership with respect to size and geographic distribution of conferences and racial, ethnic and gender inclusiveness.
- d) Up to four persons, two youth and two young adults, may be appointed by the out-going members of the Council, as they in their judgment deem appropriate, in order that the Council's membership reflect the United Church of Christ's commitment to affirmative action. The persons so appointed shall have been nominated by the Council for American Indian Ministry, the Council for Hispanic Ministries, Pacific and Asian American Ministries, and the United Black Christians, each of whom may nominate one youth and one young adult.
- e) In addition, the Board of Directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries shall appoint a youth or a young adult director or corporate member of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries who shall serve as an ex-officio member without vote in order to provide liaison between the Council and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.
- f) If a vacancy occurs, it shall be filled by the Council from among those persons previously nominated by the appropriate body corresponding to that vacancy.

## 7. POINT OF PRIVILEGE REGARDING COMMITTEE ON LOCATION OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Rev. David Johnston of the United Church of Christ National Committee on Persons with Disabilities pointed out that the proposal calls for a new committee to be appointed, and that no one with the concern for persons with disabilities has been named to serve on the committee. He recommended that someone consider a disability representative for that committee.

## 8. RESOLUTION "THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY"

Rev. Riess W. Potterveld, Chairperson of Committee 21, described the revised Resolution "The Right to Privacy" and moved its adoption. He then spoke to the motion, there was discussion and

87-GS-79 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "The Right to Privacy."

### The Right to Privacy

WHEREAS, we are called as disciples of Jesus Christ to express our love of God through love of ourselves as God's

image, in love of neighbor and through the active pursuit of justice; and

WHEREAS, General Synod Ten voted its support for the "enactment of legislation at the federal, state, and local levels of government that would guarantee the liberties of all persons without discrimination related to affectional or sexual preference;" and

WHEREAS, General Synod Eleven urged "congregations, associations, conferences and instrumentalities to work for the decriminalization of private sexual acts between consenting adults;" and

WHEREAS, the sexual expression of many disabled persons is criminalized by the so-called "sodomy laws;" and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court on June 30, 1986 ruled to deny the right of privacy and stated that the Constitution does not protect sexual relations between consenting adults in the privacy of their own homes, thereby intruding on the privacy of heterosexuals and homosexuals alike; and

WHEREAS, the Court's majority opinion claiming there is "no connection between family, marriage, or procreation on the one hand and homosexual activity on the other" clearly denies the family life of gay and lesbian people; and

WHEREAS, Justice Harry Blackman in his minority opinion notes "the Court's almost obsessive focus on homosexual activity" while "the fact that individuals define themselves in a significant way through their intimate sexual relationships with others suggests, in a nation as diverse as ours that there may be many 'right' ways of conducting those relationships;" and

WHEREAS, the majority opinion equates private, consenting adult homosexual conduct with "incest and other sexual crimes" not taking into account expressions of love and intimacy in gay and lesbian relationships; and

WHEREAS, history demonstrates that obsessive fear and violence is encouraged by such thinking;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the actions of past General Synods supporting the human rights of all persons, regardless of sexual orientation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ now affirms the right to privacy, free from government intrusion, for all adults in their private, consensual, sexual relationships; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod directs the Office of the President and the Office for Church in Society to work diligently to insure that right at the federal, state, and local levels; and

FURTHER, the Sixteenth General Synod urges individuals, congregations, associations, and conferences to work for repeal of current laws which make private consensual sexual behavior a crime, and work for enactment of legislation that guarantees the civil liberties of all persons without regard to sexual orientation; and

FURTHER, the Sixteenth General Synod urges United Church of Christ bodies meeting in states which have so-called "sodomy laws" to plan events making public witness to the church's commitment to defend the right to privacy.

No financial implications.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS INTRODUCED

Ms. Teri Henderson (MICH) asked to be permitted to introduce a new business item by title only. She presented new

business entitled, "Response to the COMADRES Invitation." The item was referred to the Business Committee.

## 10. PRONOUNCEMENT "AFFIRMING THE WHOLENESS OF THE GOSPEL: INTEGRATING EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH AND JUSTICE AND PEACE"

Rev. David E. Stephens, Chairperson of Committee 6, presented the Proposed Pronouncement "Affirming the Wholeness of the Gospel: Integrating Evangelism and Church Growth and Justice and Peace." It was moved, there was discussion and it was

87-GS-80 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Pronouncement "Affirming the Wholeness of the Gospel: Integrating Evangelism and Church Growth and Justice and Peace."

### Pronouncement Affirming the Wholeness of the Gospel: Integrating Evangelism and Church Growth and Justice and Peace

#### Summary

This Pronouncement calls for the intentional integration of United Church of Christ programs in evangelism and church growth and in justice and peace. This Pronouncement does not seek to restate a theology of evangelism or of justice and peace. Rather, the focus is on the need for this integration to occur. In large measure such integration has not occurred. Connecting these two program areas of the church will give a more faithful focus for telling the Story and for building up our ministries in the world. A just peace ministry needs the ministry of evangelism and church growth, and the ministry of evangelism and church growth needs a just peace ministry for the church to proclaim both the word and deed of the Gospel.

#### Background

In the United Church of Christ we are a people who celebrate autonomy and diversity. Therefore we offer a multitude of programs to meet the needs of a large variety of people. At each General Synod we focus on certain issues by voting program priorities such as family, youth, spiritual renewal, justice and peace.

Many of us struggle to keep a creative tension of a full-orbed ministry with "one foot in piety and the other in society." The United Church of Christ has a strong program of evangelism and church growth, and we offer a multitude of programs on justice and peace-making, but have we intentionally connected these programs? We are aware that in other areas of our church's life the integration of piety and society has not been deliberate. For instance, in 1985 the General Synod voted a justice and peace priority and a spiritual renewal priority, but how intentionally integrated are these priorities?

In the midst of our autonomy and diversity, we are a denomination uniquely marked by the word and faith of covenant. Through local churches, associations, conferences and national instrumentalities, we need to affirm ways of how we belong to one another and how our programs connect and are part of a whole. The time is here to claim and declare who we are through integrating the ministries of evangelism and church growth and justice and peace. We need to embody the on-going call to be a covenanting church, with instrumentalities, conferences, associations and local churches working together in reclaiming the wholeness of the Gospel.