

numbers of members. And we call for the setting of a goal that at least 25% of resources for new and renewing churches under the special ten-year program of church development be committed to congregations located in communities in economic crisis.

4. Calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to lead in strengthening the commitment of the United Church of Christ as a pluralistic church. The evangelism and church growth program offers us our best chance. Therefore, we call for the setting of a goal of raising our social-ethnic membership from its current 5 to 6 percent to 10 percent in the next decade. Appropriate educational and resource materials and training of laity and clergy for leadership in the urban setting and scholarships for such leadership training are needed.
5. Calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to hold a major consultation which specifically relates the development of the local church to the vision of the Gospel for justice and peace in the world.
6. Calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership to develop resources for planning in local churches which will intentionally call forth the churches to develop mission objectives having to do with justice and peace and to continue to develop worship resources which celebrate in Word and Sacrament our commitment to a just peace.
7. Calls upon the seminaries related to the United Church of Christ to develop courses of study which give attention to the issues and themes of this Pronouncement and equip persons for effective leadership in ministries of evangelism and church growth and justice and peace.
8. Calls upon the United Church Board for World Ministries to share stories from partner churches around the world, where growth in the spirit as well as in numbers of Christians is related to ministries of justice and peace. We must also hear when this commitment to justice and peace has led to the persecution of the church. The United States must become a mission field for these stories to be effectively told. We call upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Office for Church in Society to utilize these stories and learnings in their resource materials and these missionaries in their training events and programs.
9. Calls upon the Office of Communication, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, the Office for Church Life and Leadership, the Coordinating Center for Women, the Commission for Racial Justice and the United Church Board for World Ministries to celebrate within the United Church of Christ and in the world those local churches which are embodying the oneness of evangelism and church growth and of justice and peace.

Implementation

Churches, conferences and national bodies, including the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, the Office for Church Life and Leadership, the Office of Communication, the Commission for Racial Justice and the Coordinating Center for Women are requested in this Proposal to respond in various directions. These bodies are responsible for developing those strategies and programs which will achieve the goals outlined.

Implementation of this Proposal for Action is subject to the availability of funds.

12. RESOLUTION "THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS"

Mr. Stephens, on behalf of Committee 6, also moved the

adoption of the Resolution "The Church's Response to the Economic Crisis." He described the Resolution, then spoke to it. A proposed amendment was defeated, debate was closed and

87-GS-82 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Revive Us Again: The Church's Response to the Economic Crisis."

Revive Us Again: The Church's Response to the Economic Crisis

WHEREAS, the centralization of economic resources throughout the nation, with its emphasis on short-term profit rather than sustained development, destroys community life, inflames racial discrimination and ethnic conflict, decreases the quality of public education, and fragments family life with the stresses of unemployment and dislocation; and

WHEREAS, many UCC congregations are located in communities in rural America and Appalachia beset by the specific problems of plant closings, massive job loss, destruction of neighborhoods, and the erosion of a viable tax base on the local level; and

WHEREAS, the church, with its values and faith that God's coming realm will free all people for productive lives in caring communities, is called to confront controlling institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Fifteenth General Synod adopted a ten-year United Church of Christ Church Development Program; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines and practices guiding the administration of the ten-year church development exclude the majority of United Church of Christ churches, and in particular those churches located in critical mission situations; and

WHEREAS, there is no regular source of funding for support of churches in critical mission situations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

- Declares its support for rural, urban and Appalachian organizations seeking to restore values of community control, affirms the dignity and self worth of all citizens and fosters the stewardship of the earth's resources;
- Encourages coalitions among groups in these and other sectors to address the issues of monopolization and community life;
- Joins with other denominations and faiths in ecumenical partnership to enlarge the base of resources for building strong community organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to take steps to:

- Provide training and education for church and community leaders to strengthen their mission, increase economic literacy and revitalize their communities;
- Identify and relate to the "home missionaries" in impoverished areas who aid local communities and congregations in strengthening the mission of increasing citizen participation in economic life;
- Provide funding and technical assistance where necessary to implement these efforts.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that a portion of all funds from all sources designated for the ten-year church development program be allocated to projects that do not necessarily meet the existing guidelines and that are located in critical mission situations as determined by the Directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.