

13. ASSISTANT MODERATOR G. MELVIN PALMER HONORED

Rev. Rollin Russell, Conference Minister of the Southern Conference, moved to the microphone to honor the years of ministry of the Assistant Moderator, Rev. G. Melvin Palmer. Mr. Palmer was presented with a pottery chalice and plate.

14. PRESENTATION OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION

The Office of Communication gave an audio-visual presentation, and included a personal response at the microphone by Rev. William Green (MICH) expressing how the United Church of Christ witness, particularly at the national level, can become a challenge to study, and discuss concerns at the local church level. Ms. Beverly Chain also reported on aspects of the agency's work.

15. PRESENTATION OF THE COMMISSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

The Commission for Racial Justice audio-visual presentation, was followed by remarks from Rev. Ben Chavis. He reminded the body that the actions of the 60's had not removed injustice; and that work continues as part of a comprehensive strategy and a vital witness to the life, love and ministry of Jesus Christ.

16. PROPOSED PRONOUNCEMENT AND PROPOSAL FOR ACTION "HAZARDOUS WASTE AND THE ENVIRONMENT"

Ms. Marylu Mills (OHIO), Chairperson of Committee 2, reported from her committee of 28 delegates from 20 states. All committee members have considerable concern about the issue of toxic waste and believe this proposed pronouncement is too weak. Ms. Mills, on behalf of her committee, moved that no action be taken on the Proposed Pronouncement "Hazardous Waste and the Environment."

After discussion, a proposed amendment was defeated, and it was

87-GS-83 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod takes no action on the Proposed Pronouncement "Hazardous Waste and the Environment."

Ms. Mills also moved on behalf of Committee 2 that no action be taken on the Proposal for Action "Hazardous Waste and the Environment."

87-GS-84 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod takes no action on the Proposal For Action "Hazardous Waste and the Environment."

17. SONG BREAK AND THANKSGIVING FOR HEALING OF NORTH DAKOTA CHAIRPERSON

The Moderator declared that it was time for a song break. Ms. Kris Klusmeier sang, accompanied by Mr. Ron Klusmeier on the piano.

Rev. Marwood Rettig (ND) thanked the General Synod for the prayer support and concern for the conference chairperson, Mr. Karl Limvere, who had had a heart attack. Mr. Rettig reported that he was doing fine and that his wife was with him at the University.

18. RESOLUTION "RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UCC AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY"

Rev. Armin C. Bizer (IK), Chairperson of Committee 15, explained the materials the committee dealt with and moved the adoption of a new Resolution "Relationship Between the

United Church of Christ and the Jewish Community."

After considerable discussion, an amendment was proposed, then defeated. Debate was closed, and

87-GS-85 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "The Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the Jewish Community."

Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the Jewish Community

Historical Background and Theological Rationale

Christianity, developing its faith and identity, its life, and its creativity from a common heritage with Judaism, has a unique relationship to the Jewish people. The New Testament can only be adequately understood in the light of this common heritage with the Jewish people. The New Testament testifies to how painful was the historical process of separation of the Christian community from the Jewish people.

We in the United Church of Christ acknowledge that the Christian Church has, throughout much of its history, denied God's continuing covenantal relationship with the Jewish people expressed in the faith of Judaism. This denial often has led to outright rejection of the Jewish people and to theologically and humanly intolerable violence. The Church's frequent portrayal of the Jews as blind, recalcitrant, evil, and rejected by God has found expression in much Christian theology, liturgy, and education. Such a negative portrayal of the Jewish people and of Judaism has been a factor in the shaping of anti-Jewish attitudes of societies and the policies of governments. The most devastating lethal metastasis of this process occurred in our own century during the Holocaust.

Summary

Faced with this history from which we as Christians cannot, and must not, disassociate ourselves, we ask for God's forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for divine grace that will enable us, more firmly than ever before, to turn from this path of rejection and persecution to affirm that Judaism has not been superseded by Christianity; that Christianity is not to be understood as the successor religion to Judaism; God's covenant with the Jewish people has not been abrogated. God has not rejected the Jewish people; God is faithful in keeping covenant.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the God we worship is the God of all creation; and

WHEREAS, the Christian communities of recent times have come more and more to recognize that God's covenant with the Jewish people stands inviolate (Romans 9-11); and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church also stands bound to the same God in covenant, the covenant affirmed and embodied in Jesus as the Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church has denied for too long the continuing validity of God's covenant with the Jewish people, with all the attendant evils that have followed upon such denial;

THEREFORE, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms its recognition that God's covenant with the Jewish people has not been rescinded or abrogated by God, but remains in full force, inasmuch as "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable" (Rom. 11:29).

FURTHER, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its determination to seek out and to affirm the consequences of this understanding of the continuing di-

vine covenant with the Jewish people in the Church's theological statements, its liturgical practices, its hymnody, its educational work, and its witness before the world.

1. Calls upon those boards and instrumentalities responsible for the development of our educational materials to

Examine and evaluate the image of Jews and Judaism presented in curriculum for use in local churches, seminary Church History courses, and other literature which is used to promote greater understanding of our tradition throughout the United Church of Christ, and:

On the basis of the evaluation to develop guidelines and educational resources for suggested use in the local church and seminaries to enable the literature to be representative of the understanding of Judaism and the Jewish people as a continuing witness in Covenant to God's presence in the world.

2. Calls upon those boards, offices and instrumentalities responsible for the development of literature relating to worship in the United Church of Christ to examine the liturgical materials, and based on this evaluation to create guidelines which will reflect a sensitivity to the image of Jews and Judaism which is projected in our liturgical content.
3. Calls upon the Office for Church in Society to coordinate the work of the established Inter-agency Task Force on Jewish-Christian Relations, the Jewish-Christian Dialogue Project in the United Church of Christ, and other groups within the United Church of Christ locally and regionally, and nationally who are presently engaged in dialogue with the Jewish community.
4. Calls upon all local congregations, and regional judicatories of the United Church of Christ actively to engage in dialogue with the Jewish community in order to establish relationships of trust and to participate in a joint witness against all injustice in our local communities and in the world.

Financial Implications: As funds are available.

19. RESOLUTION "THE ISRAELI-PALESTINE CONFLICT"

Rev. Ruth Powell, Chairperson of Committee 25, expressed her appreciation for the work of the committee, and described their work of consolidation. She moved a new Resolution which was recommended by her committee and spoke to the motion which was discussed. After discussion, it was

87-GS-86 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict."

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Biblical and Theological Foundations

The United Church of Christ affirms the Biblical and Theological Foundations of the Just Peace Church Pronouncement of the Fifteenth General Synod:

A Just Peace is grounded in the ministry of reconciliation. The Church is thus an alternative to those forces which divide, which perpetrate human enmity and injustice, which destroy. As Christians, we offer this conviction to the world: peace is possible.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ long has been concerned with the self-determination of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and has previously condemned "anti-Semitism in all its forms;" and

WHEREAS, the United Church Board for World Ministries has

developed a study packet on the Middle East entitled "In Search of Reconciliation," and an OCIS - UCBWM Human Rights Fact-Finding group has produced a Report on Human Rights in Israel and the Occupied Territories; and

WHEREAS, Christians, Muslims and Jews often hold distorted images of one another and treat one another with contempt or hatred to the point of violence and oppression, and as this has fostered hatred of Islam as in the Crusades and anti-Semitism as in the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, peace in the Middle East is essential for the future of Israel, for the Palestinians and the Arab states, and for the whole world; and

WHEREAS, it is time to end the Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod calls upon all congregations of the United Church of Christ to engage in study and action utilizing the United Church Board for World Ministries Middle East Study Packet "In Search of Reconciliation" and the "United Church of Christ Human Rights Study Tour Report;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod requests that the United Church Board for World Ministries provide personnel and resources to our ecumenical partners and partner Christian denominations in this area as they continue their ministries of reconciliation in the very shadow of the Cross; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins with the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East, an organization of Jewish, Christian and Muslim religious leaders, in affirming the following statement, entitled, "A Time for Peace in the Middle East;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the Office for Church and Society give careful attention to representing these concerns to the government of the United States.

A Time for Peace in the Middle East

(Statement Adopted June 11, 1987 at the National Meeting of the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East in Arlington, Virginia)

Peace in the Middle East is essential for the future of Israel, for the Palestinians and Arab states, and for the whole world. But the promise of peace remains unfulfilled. There is daily suffering and danger of greater violence and another war if there is no peace.

WE JEWS, CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS SAY - IN THE NAME OF GOD, COMPASSIONATE AND JUST - IT IS TIME FOR PEACE. We are motivated by our deepest religious convictions. Working for peace is not optional: it is fundamental to our faith.

It is time to end the Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is time for all parties to stop terror and violence. Peace cannot be achieved by force. It can only be achieved by negotiations. IT IS TIME FOR PEACE.

WE CALL UPON OUR OWN UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO MAKE PEACE A PRIORITY and use diplomacy to promote negotiations for a just peace based on the following:

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SECURE BORDERS AND PEACE WITH HER NEIGHBORS, as an expression of the Jewish people's right of self-determination. The principles embodied in U.N.