

## 6. RESOLUTION "INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY"

The Synod voted by acclamation to extend for five minutes the report of Committee 12. On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Cassidy moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Intentional Interim Ministry." After an introduction from Committee member, Ms. Anjanette Mason (CAC), the Rev. Henry Moyer (OHIO) offered a friendly amendment to include association ministers in the list. This was accepted, and it was

89-GS-101 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Intentional Interim Ministry."

### INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY

WHEREAS, it has long been recognized that the time of transition between pastors is one in which congregations may feel insecure and vulnerable;

WHEREAS, the interim time may be one when congregations are most accessible, teachable, and open to change;

WHEREAS, such congregations almost always seek help from the Conference Minister, Associate Conference Ministers and Association Ministers;

WHEREAS, leadership with special training is valuable in helping congregations prepare for the installed pastor, by providing leadership through such processes as assisting the congregation in being open to change, working through the varied feelings of loss, grief and uncertainty, enabling congregations to resolve conflicts, and in identifying and working on other appropriate agenda to help strengthen a congregation prior to calling the next pastor, and

WHEREAS, more attention is now being given to the importance of such a specialized ministry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod

1. Expresses appreciation to all those persons who have served in interim ministry settings and recognizes their contribution to the church-at-large as well as the congregations they have served, and offers special recognition to those who have sought out specialized training to better enable them to do this significant and critical task;
2. Calls upon local congregations working in partnership with the Conferences and/or Associations to utilize specially qualified interim pastors in interim situations whenever possible, and avail themselves of specially developed materials and procedures to best prepare for the next installed ministry;
3. Expresses appreciation to the Alban Institute of Washington, D.C., which in 1974 began the pioneering task of training leadership for interim ministry based upon their research findings, and to the Interim Ministry Network, which through representatives from ten denominations since 1981 provides an annual conference, a bi-monthly publication - "The In-Between Times," develops resources and training opportunities for those who work with congregations during the interim time including pastors, consultants, and denominational placement people;
4. Urges pastors, congregations, Associations, Conferences and the Office for Church Life and Leadership to make use of specialized resources and training such as provided by the Alban Institute and the Interim Network in preparing persons for the practice of ministry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod recommends this resolution to all the Conferences of the church, and requests the Office for Church Life and Leadership to establish an interim ministry program on behalf of the church.

Areas of concern might include exploration of standards, training, issues of call and standing, affirmative action, and relationship to the Interim Ministry Network.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

## 7. GIFT OF COOKIES TO THE CHILDREN IN PUERTO RICO

Assistant Moderator Mr. David Gerth recognized the Rev. Perry White for a point of personal privilege. Mr. White moved and the Synod approved to grant voice without vote to the Rev. George Kuebler, of the Local Arrangements Committee. Mr. Kuebler estimated that as many as 200,000 cookies had been baked. Ms. Lucy Villanueva received a barrel full of cookies to bring to the children in Puerto Rico.

## 8. RESOLUTION "CHALLENGING THE RESURGENCE OF RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"

The Moderator called upon the Rev. Peter Nichols (SC), Chairperson of Committee 21, to present the report of the Committee. On behalf of the Committee Mr. Nichols moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Challenging the Resurgence of Racism in the United States of America."

The Rev. Benjamin Chavis, the Rev. Yvonne Delk and the Rev. Shelby Rooks, representing the supporting agencies stood together to speak in favor of the motion, expressing their commitment to the fight for justice. Ms. Debbie Kaynor (CONN) offered as a friendly amendment, and it was accepted, to add CCW to the list of instrumentalities to implement the Resolution.

Mr. David Kniker (ILL) moved to amend the Resolution by moving the first 'Therefore Be It Resolved' to be the first 'Whereas' clause. This was defeated.

The question was called and it was

89-GS-102 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Challenging the Resurgence of Racism in the United States of America."

### CHALLENGING THE RESURGENCE OF RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### Background

During the last several years, there has been a dramatic and dangerous resurgence of racism in the United States of America. In particular, there has been an increase in the occurrence of overt acts of racially motivated violence throughout the nation. Recently, many states, including the states of California, Maryland and New York, have issued official investigative reports on the marked increase in racially motivated violence.

For example, ugly incidents between white and black students continue to plague colleges and universities across the nation. Governmental indifference to such incidents and complacency by the majority to the pain of racism, combine to create an atmosphere in which racist acts are tolerated. The result is an