

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

(Amos 5:24). Jesus confirms Isaiah's prophecy on the mission of God ". . . he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and the recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18.

Is it possible that God is inviting us to win Armenia to the Lord through this open door for service, for the USSR has, in an unusual pronouncement, accepted U.S. assistance? It is a unique opportunity to show the love of God in Christ by our sharing, caring and by being fair by siding with the just cause of Armenians? God always speaks. Sometimes by a small still voice and other times through the storm and the shaking of the earth. Hearts are now receptive!

Text of the Resolution

WHEREAS, the Armenians have stood for Christ beginning in 301 A.D. through trials and tribulations;

WHEREAS, Armenians in Armenia proper have not been able to publicly propagate their Christian faith since 1920 due to USSR's arbitrary constitutional barriers;

WHEREAS, religion is making a comeback in USSR as a result of Mikhail Gorbachev's "glasnost" and "perestroika" principles;

WHEREAS, as a result of a devastating earthquake, the Armenians have suffered a great tragedy with the loss of 25,000 to 50,000 lives and 500,000 lives have been left homeless and disabled;

WHEREAS, a just and reasonable request by Armenia to have historical Armenian Karabagh (Artzakh) annexed to the Soviet Armenian Republic, has caused political strife and 50,000 to 200,000 Armenians have been forced to homelessness having to abandon home and assets to escape threats of all kinds;

WHEREAS, charitable and political assistance at this juncture of Armenian life in the homeland is a crucial one for human kindness and religious possibilities;

WHEREAS, while a great outpouring of help and sympathy by a large number of nations in goods and services has been overwhelming, there remains a great responsibility and challenge upon the Christian Church for generous response;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ, calls upon all of its churches for enhanced support of the Armenian victims of the earthquake through directed gifts and One Great Hour of Sharing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the President of the United States, the State Department and Congress to use their influence upon the USSR to transfer historic Armenian Karabagh (Artzakh) to Armenia.

16. RESOLUTION "SUPPORT FOR THE REFORMED COLLEGIUM OF SAROSPATAK IN HUNGARY"

Mr. Riddoch moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Support For the Reformed Collegium of Sarospatak in Hungary."

89-GS-109 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Res-

olution "Support For the Reformed Collegium of Sarospatak in Hungary."

SUPPORT FOR THE REFORMED COLLEGIUM OF SAROSPATAK IN HUNGARY

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ claims the Reformed heritage as one of its essential theological roots;

WHEREAS, three million members of this Reformed heritage live as the children of God in Hungary and hundreds of thousands in Transcarpathia and in Czechoslovakia;

WHEREAS, the Reformed Collegium (high school and seminary) of Sarospatak from 1531 served the Reformed Church of the world over four centuries having close connections with Reformed institutions in Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Scotland and the USA;

WHEREAS, this historic institution was taken away from the church in 1952, can be reestablished if there are financial means;

WHEREAS, the Hungarian Reformed Church cannot do this by its own strength, and

WHEREAS, our partner Reformed churches in the United States and Holland offered substantial financial support to this purpose.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ prayerfully and respectfully affirms our Reformed heritage by joining our Reformed brothers and sisters in prayer, moral support and refers to the United Church Board for World Ministries, to explore in partnership with the Reformed Church of Hungary, the issues and needs involved in reestablishing the mission of the Reformed Collegium of Sarospatak in Hungary.

17. RESOLUTION "JOIN WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES AGAINST INHUMANITIES OF THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC IN THE REGION OF TRANSYLVANIA"

On behalf of Committee 16 Mr. Riddoch moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Join World Alliance of Reformed Churches Against Inhumanities of the Romanian People's Republic In The Region of Transylvania."

The Rev. Desmond Parrach (CA.SY.) moved to reword item 3 "to offer our prayers and seek ways to generate financial support for the 40,000 persecuted, dislocated and homeless Transylvania refugees, now in Hungary.

89-GS-110 VOTED: The 17th General Synod amends, "Join World Alliance of Reformed Churches Against Inhumanities of the Romanian People's Republic In The Region of Transylvania" to reword item #3 to read: "to offer our prayers and seek ways to generate financial support for the 40,000 persecuted, dislocated and homeless Transylvania refugees, now in Hungary."

89-GS-111 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Join World Alliance of Reformed Churches Against Inhumanities of the Romanian People's Republic In The Region of Transylvania."

**JOIN WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES
AGAINST INHUMANITIES OF THE ROMANIAN
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC IN THE REGION OF
TRANSYLVANIA**

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has sent \$5,000 and the Calvin Synod Conference over \$30,000 to the Transylvanian Refugee Aid through the Reformed Church in Hungary;

WHEREAS, persecution of the minorities in Transylvania, triggered worldwide abhorrence toward the violent acts that rendered thousands homeless, and

WHEREAS, we are commanded to "Bear one another's burdens," (Galatians 6:2) and told by our Lord that "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and other caring communities:

1. To stand against the inhumanities of the Romanian government in the region of Transylvania,
2. To call upon the President of the United Church of Christ to make our stand known to our political leaders, and
3. To offer our prayers and seek ways to generate financial support for the 40,000 persecuted, dislocated and homeless Transylvanian refugees, now in Hungary.

**18. RESOLUTION "RECOGNITION OF CALVIN
SYNOD CONFERENCE MISSION GIVING"**

On behalf of Committee 16 Mr. Riddoch moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Recognition of Calvin Synod Conference Mission Giving."

89-GS-112 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Recognition of Calvin Synod Conference Mission Giving."

**RECOGNITION OF CALVIN SYNOD CONFERENCE
MISSION GIVING**

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ recognizes that the Calvin Synod, though small in numbers (41 congregations), yet with a special flavor and strategic position, is proud to be an integral part of the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, churches in the Calvin Synod continually carry out some special missions due to their unique informational channels, connections, and responsibilities, support ministries in Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela, and finance Bibles for Transylvania, Transcarpathia and Lithuania;

WHEREAS, the Calvin Synod has not received mission credits from the UCC for its special efforts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes with Christian love the unique mission efforts and accomplishments of the Calvin Synod Conference, and requests that the Stewardship Council explore with appropriate parties in the United Church of Christ (Calvin Synod, UCBWM, Conferences, Treasurer, and others) the means for funds to be designated for mission credit.

19. PRESENTATION BY THE PRESIDENT ELECT

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Avery D. Post, who introduced the Rev. Paul H. Sherry newly elected President of the United Church of Christ, who spoke to the delegates and visitors.

The Moderator expressed congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Sherry, and also expressed continuing appreciation to the Rev. Avery Post for his effective leadership, ministry, and commitment.

Assistant Moderator Millham announced that the Rev. Louis and Mrs. Joanna Gunneman were present in the visitors seating. The delegation applauded.

**20. INVITATION TO THE EIGHTEENTH GENERAL
SYNOD**

The Moderator called on the Rev. Rollin O. Russell, Conference Minister of the Southern Conference, who invited the United Church of Christ delegates and visitors to the 18th General Synod to be held in Norfolk, Virginia in June 1991. An audiovisual presentation was given.

21. RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION FOR ACTION

The Moderator introduced the Rev. Janet Smith-St. Cyr (CAL.N) Chairperson of Committee 8, who presented the report for the Committee. She referred delegates to Advance Materials II, pages 30 and 31 and III, page 48.

On behalf of the Committee Ms. Smith-St. Cyr moved the adoption of the resolution "An Invitation to Action, Lutheran Reformed Dialogue Series III."

89-GS-113 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts "An Invitation to Action, The Lutheran Reformed Dialogue Series III, Official Response of UCC." (Appendix G)

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST RESPONSE
TO AN INVITATION TO ACTION BACKGROUND**

For more than twenty five years, churches of the Reformed family and churches of the Lutheran family of churches have met in formal dialogue, seeking to resolve differences that have separated our churches since the Reformation. The UCC participated in the third of these formal dialogues (1981-1983). The final report of this dialogue, entitled An Invitation to Action, A Study of Ministry, Sacraments, and Recognition, was published in 1984.

The UCC Council for Ecumenism prepared a study guide and initiated small study groups across the length and breadth of the church to study An Invitation to Action. The draft of the UCC response, approved by the Council for Ecumenism, is attached.

The American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the Reformed Church in America and the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. have affirmed The Invitation to Action. The Lutheran Church in America did not take official action. What follows is the official response of the United Church of Christ.

With the birth of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, resulting from the union of the three Lutheran churches, new conversations between the Reformed and Lutheran churches