

**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