

**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

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have begun and will continue for another biennium. Dr. Elizabeth Nordbeck of Lancaster Theological Seminary and Dr. Gabriel J. Fackre of Andover Newton Theological School are the official UCC representatives in the conversations.

WHEREAS, the Gospel of Jesus Christ unites Christ's followers in a single community of faith and compels us to make our unity visible so "that the world may believe . . ." (John 17.21, cf. Ephesians 4.4-6, 1 Corinthians 12.12-26);

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has been engaged in a series of dialogues with Lutheran and Reformed churches in North America since 1962;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is already in "church fellowship" with the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) by vote of the 14th General Synod, bringing us into relationship with churches of Reformed and Lutheran heritage in Europe.

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has within its own heritage a union of Reformed and Lutheran traditions;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is currently engaged in dialogue with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts "The Official Response of the United Church of Christ to An Invitation to Action (1984);"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on the basis of this "Response" the 17th General Synod declares that

- a) it recognizes the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church,\* and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as churches in which the Gospel is proclaimed and the sacraments administered according to the ordinance of Christ;
- b) it recognizes as both valid and effective the ordained ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which announces the Gospel of Christ and administers the sacraments as its chief responsibility;
- c) and recognizes the celebration of the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) by the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a means of grace in which Christ grants communion with himself, assures us of the forgiveness of sin, and pledges life eternal;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on the basis of these declarations, the work of previous dialogues summarized in An Invitation to Action, and our "Official Response," the 17th General Synod is committed to continuing conversations with these churches of the Lutheran and Reformed traditions and look forward to the day when "church fellowship" can be fully embraced by and implemented among each of our partners in this dialogue.

\*A church involved in Lutheran-Reformed Dialogue III (1981-1983) but not participating in our current conversations.

## 22. CONSULTATION REGARDING THE PLAN FOR FUNDING AND STAFFING ECUMENICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Ms. Smith-St. Cyr presented the next item of report of Committee Eight. On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Smith-St. Cyr moved the adoption of the Resolution "Consultation Regarding the Plan for Funding and Staffing Ecumenical Responsibilities."

She referred delegates to Advance Materials II, pages 28 - 29 and Advance Materials IV. She said that item 8 is missing from Advance Materials III, page 48 and should be included in the resolution.

The Rev. Thomas Dipko (OHIO) suggested that in the resolution section, on page 2, the 5th Resolution Point, delete in line #1, "in recognition of the role of" and replace it with "in consultation with."

Item #5 would then read "Calls upon the Executive Council, in consultation with the president, as principle ecumenical representatives of the church."

89-GS-114 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Consultation Regarding the Plan for Funding and Staffing Ecumenical Responsibilities."

## CONSULTATION REGARDING PLAN FOR FUNDING AND STAFFING ECUMENICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

WHEREAS, The 16th General Synod (87-GS-105) charged the Advisory Commission on Structure to develop, in cooperation with the Council for Ecumenism, a plan for funding and staffing the ecumenical responsibilities of the United Church of Christ as they reside in the Office of the President, and to report to 17th General Synod recommendations for both structural adjustments and financial support to reasonably and expeditiously provide for:

1. Adequate support for the Council for Ecumenism;
2. Adequate support for a possible staff position to oversee our ecumenical portfolio, under the direction of and responsible to the President;
3. Adequate travel budget for ecumenical responsibilities;
4. Goals for adequate funding of the ecumenical contributions budget.

Included in the action was a special provision for funding of this work.

AND WHEREAS, at its March 1989 meeting, the Executive Council received the report of the study from the Council of Instrumentality Executives and the Council of Conference Ministers, and made the following recommendation for consideration and vote by the 17th General Synod.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to be faithful to the UCC's ecumenical mandate, to help the UCC reclaim and refocus our ecumenical agenda and to assist the UCC in developing informed, responsible and adequate budgetary appropriations to carry out this mandate, the 17th General Synod requests the President to convene a consultation on ecumenism to be held before the budgeting process begins for the 1992-93 biennium.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod requests participants in the consultation will include the Presi-