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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-

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dent of the UCC, as chief ecumenical representative, and representatives from the Instrumentalities, CRJ, COREM, the Executive Council, the Advisory Commission on Structure, the Council for Ecumenism, the Council of Conference Ministers, some representatives from ecumenical delegations, and any others deemed appropriate to facilitate the work of the consultation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod requests up to \$10,000 of the funding for the consultation shall be designated for outside staff support to initiate and facilitate the consultation, and shall come from a cooperative, good faith sharing of resources from the UCBWM, the UCBHM, the Budget of the General Synod, and the Council of Conference Ministers. In addition, expenses of participants shall be borne by the participating agencies. Planning for the consultation will be a cooperative process including representation from the Advisory Commission on Structure;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod requests the results of the consultation should be seen as contributory to the work of the Advisory Commission on Structure Phase II, and will be conveyed to that Commission, and the results will be shared with the church-wide consultation of funding and finances. They also will inform the 1992-93 budget, and will be reported to 18th General Synod for consideration and action, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, GENERAL SYNOD SEVENTEEN:

1. Requests the President to convene a major church-wide gathering in 1992 on "Renewing the Ecumenical Covenant of the United Church of Christ — Toward the Year 2000"; that this consultation be designed (1) to rediscover and celebrate the history, heritage and accomplishments of all parts of the UCC in its ecumenical witness, (2) to renew the church's vision for the basis, the nature, and the direction of its ecumenical commitments, and (3) to make recommendations for consideration by the General Synod, Instrumentalities, Conferences, and congregations in a report to be presented to the General Synod by 1993;
2. Calls upon the Executive Council and the Council for Ecumenism to engage in dialogue regarding their respective roles in ecumenical leadership, and produce jointly a written clarification of roles and mutual expectations in this area of the church's life; that the Executive Council make budget provision for the Council for Ecumenism at a level appropriate to the specification of roles and expectations that is mutually agreed to; that a progress report on this work, including specific budget provisions for 1992-1993, be presented to the General Synod in 1991;

3. Calls upon the Council for Ecumenism to explore, in consultation with UCC-Disciples Ecumenical Partnership Committee, development of closer cooperation between the Council for Ecumenism and the Council on Christian Unity;
4. Calls upon the Advisory Commission on Structure, in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the Council for Ecumenism in the life of the church, and in consultation with others as may be appropriate, to facilitate a review of the Council's present pattern of membership, task description, relationships and meeting patterns;
5. Calls upon the Executive Council, in consultation with the President of the United Church of Christ as principle Ecumenical representatives of the church, to establish a position as Assistant to the President for Ecumenical Concerns (an Ecumenical Officer), to be filled by January 1, 1992;
6. Calls upon the Council for Ecumenism to develop a rationale and a proposed ecumenical travel budget adequate to the ecumenical responsibilities of the UCC; that the Council for Ecumenism seek to develop with the Executive Council a plan for moving toward full funding of this budget as rapidly as possible; that a report on progress toward completion of this assignment be presented, with necessary recommendations, to the General Synod in 1991;
7. Calls upon the Council for Ecumenism to develop a rationale and a recommended percentage figure of the General Synod Budget that in its judgment would adequately symbolize the ecumenical commitment of the UCC; that if it appears necessary, the Council for Ecumenism support implementation of this method of determining the UCC's ecumenical contributions with a feasible plan for transition from the present support level to the one recommended; that the General Synod in 1991 adopt this figure as a guideline for planning the Biennial UCC Budgets;
8. Calls upon the Council for Ecumenism to review its procedures for determining the annual allocations from the Ecumenical Contributions Budget to the ecumenical agencies in which the United Church of Christ holds membership, and adopt written guidelines designed to ensure equity and responsiveness to changing needs in these funding relationships.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator called on the Rev. Carol Joyce Brun, who made announcements.

24. RECESS

The Moderator declared the 17th General Synod in recess until 7:00 p.m., Tuesday evening July 4.

TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 4

1. CALL TO ORDER

Prior to the Call to Order, Mr. Tim Rezash from Dayton, Ohio, entertained the gathering with vocal selections.

The Moderator, the Rev. Robert Sherard, called the final plenary session of the 17th General Synod to order with a loud AMEN. He said "we are weary, but our God will renew our hearts for the work ahead of us tonight."

2. RECONSIDERATION OF AIDS MINISTRY FUNDING RESOLUTION

Mr. D. F. Kniker (ILL), raised a point of order, challenging the counting of ballots taken on the issue relating to asking the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to guarantee support for the AIDS project, and moved that the ballot be taken again.

The Rev. Carol Joyce Brun spoke to the motion, stating that