

3. RESOLUTION "IN SUPPORT OF THE ECUMENICAL DECADE OF CHURCHES IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN"

Mr. Gerth introduced the Rev. Rosemary M. Maxey, Chairperson of Committee 13, who presented the report for that Committee. Ms. Maxey then moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "In Support of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity With Women."

89-GS-64 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "In Support of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women."

IN SUPPORT OF THE ECUMENICAL DECADE OF CHURCHES IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN

WHEREAS, the church through the sacrament of baptism calls women and men to live in freedom and faith together, and

WHEREAS, women in every part of the world feel the pain of oppression and sexism and encounter many obstacles to their full participation in both church and society, we all have need to confess our complicity in perpetuating the patterns of sexism and oppression that bind us, and

WHEREAS, the World Council of Churches has declared 1988-1998 The Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women, and

WHEREAS, the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society at its March 1988 Annual Meeting declared its support and endorsement for the Decade because we are called to advocate in church and society for the elimination of attitudes and practices that oppress women, especially sexism, racism, ageism, classism, homophobia and actions that discriminate against the disabled, and

WHEREAS, the United Church Board for World Ministries has responded to the challenge of the WCC by action of its Corporation at its 179th Annual Meeting, November, 1988 to seek with God's help to move toward solidarity and wholeness by supporting and participating in the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women, and

WHEREAS, the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society and the UCBWM join in solidarity to challenge the United Church of Christ to adopt a comprehensive resolution in support of the decade, and related plans for prayer and action in support of The Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all settings of the church, local churches, Conferences, national Instrumentalities and other bodies, seminaries and institutions:

1. To accept the goals of the Decade;
2. To develop strategies to meet the goals;
3. To evaluate present policies and programs in light of these goals:

Empower women to challenge oppressive structures in the global community, their country and their church;

Affirm the contribution of women through shared leadership and decision making in church and society, and

their contributions to theology and spirituality;

Give visibility to women's perspectives and actions in the work and struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of creation;

Enable the churches to free themselves from racism, sexism and classism and to give up teachings and practices that discriminate against women;

Encourage churches to take actions in solidarity with women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Requests all established and recognized Instrumentalities, Conferences and other bodies to conduct an analysis of their policies, budgets, programs and decision-making practices, and develop plans of action to make changes needed to address the goals of the Decade;
2. Recommends that all Conferences, Instrumentalities and other bodies name a Decade committee to promote the Decade and monitor the implementation of its goals;
3. Directs the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society in cooperation with the United Church Board for World Ministries to coordinate the recording of data and plans for action and report to the Nineteenth General Synod, and to identify resources and materials which reflect the purpose and goals of the Decade;
4. Encourages local churches to plan special events using materials that lift up the Decade;
5. Declares United Church of Christ Women's Week February 4-10, 1990 a week of prayer and solidarity with women;
6. Calls upon the Nineteenth General Synod to hold a mid-decade celebration and call to further commitment.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

4. RESOLUTION "ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR WOMEN WHO ARE POOR"

Ms. Maxey then moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Economic Justice for Women Who Are Poor."

89-GS-65 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Economic Justice for Women Who Are Poor."

ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR WOMEN WHO ARE POOR

Background

The impoverishment of women is a global issue of immense proportions. War, famine, natural disasters and countless generations of economic, cultural, social and religious subordination of women have combined to keep most of the women of the world locked in patterns of endless poverty.

Hunger, disease, frequent child bearing, poor sanitation, lack of education, inadequate services or resources all take their toll most severely on women and their children. Our hearts are moved by the wretched state of homeless refugees who are victims of war, drought or disaster, by women and children struggling to survive in teeming, overcrowded cities or primitive bush. We often fail to recognize the relationship of the plight of women in poverty around the world to our own economic system, and we fail to recognize and understand the basic issues underlying the poverty of all women.