

MONDAY EVENING

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod calls upon clergy, church educators and other members of the United Church of Christ to integrate issues of child care, work place and family life in preaching, worship, educational activities, mission and parish life.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

6. RESOLUTION "CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY"

Ms. Gnewuch then moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Chemical Dependency."

Mr. Peter Schmehl, a member of the Business Committee, moved to amend the eleventh Whereas, and to make changes to the first three paragraphs of the Therefore, Be It Resolved. The amendment was

89-GS-67 VOTED: The 17th General Synod amends the Resolution "Chemical Dependency" as follows: In the Whereas paragraph, which begins "Concentrated effort . . ." by replacing the words "with the exception of" with the word "including," and in the Therefore, Be It Resolved, paragraphs, after the word "instrumentalities," insert the words "and other national bodies," and after the words "Homeland Ministries" insert the words "and the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries" in the three places where such words appear.

89-GS-68 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Chemical Dependency," as amended.

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

WHEREAS, Jesus calls us to ministries of healing and lives of wholeness;

WHEREAS, the disease Chemical Dependency is recognized by the American Medical Association and the World Health Organization, as one of the most serious health problems in the world today;

WHEREAS, Chemical Dependency is a primary, chronic, progressive, and if left untreated, fatal disease;

WHEREAS, Chemical Dependency affects not only the physical and emotional components of human health and behavior, but also the spiritual health of the total person;

WHEREAS, large numbers of those affected by Chemical Dependency are within the church, clergy and laity alike presenting the symptoms with the same incidence;

WHEREAS, Chemical Dependency affects persons of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, levels of education, religions, gender, and sexual orientation and regardless of social or financial position;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that victims of Chemical Dependency so seriously affect an average of four other persons (co-dependents) that they too must be listed as casualties in need of care;

WHEREAS, the total costs associated with alcohol and drug-related problems are immense, the damage widespread, the consequences severe, the suffering incalculable;

WHEREAS, domestic violence is often related to alcohol and other drug abuse;

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that alcoholics and addicts need not "hit bottom" before beginning the recovery process;

WHEREAS, concentrated efforts to meet the problems created by Chemical Dependency have proliferated in virtually every organized section of our society, including the church;

WHEREAS, as those who are chemically dependent are children of God and recipients of the grace of God;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod reaffirms Resolution (83 GS 100) on Substance Abuse, and urges its local congregations, associations, Conferences, boards, Instrumentalities and other national bodies, to consider the following actions:

That the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries develop an 800 hotline number available nationwide for immediate spiritual guidance and counselling and referral to individuals afflicted with chemical dependency and provide resources, information for clergy and laity;

That the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries work with the ecumenical community to develop Christian Education curriculum materials (K-adult) that will enhance Christian self-esteem and aid in critical thinking and decision making, strengthen resistance to negative peer pressure, and clarify value systems of the faith community;

That the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries work with United Church of Christ Seminaries to develop course offerings and continuing education experiences dealing with chemical dependence for seminarians, pastoral counselors and local church clergy and lay leaders;

That the Office for Church in Society use the full weight of its office toward lobbying efforts in all areas where poverty, unemployment, education, law enforcement, and corruption continue Chemical Dependency. Further, that we urge our governments to expend more monies in drug, alcohol prevention and treatment programs. In addition, that our government develop sanctions against those nations importing drugs into our country, and further that our country cease giving aid to the growing of tobacco and its export abroad;

That the Pension Boards, Conferences with independent health insurance plans, and Executive Council review the problem and reconsider health insurance coverages on those who are chemically dependent and their co-dependents;

That local congregations examine the Chemical Dependency problems in their own communities; and that they be sensitive to these as they plan liturgical and social celebrations;

That local congregations be encouraged to offer meeting space to self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and related programs such as Alanon, Adult Children of Alcoholics and Alateen.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.