

TUESDAY MORNING

12. WORSHIP

The closing worship was offered around the theme "Celebrating the Spirit that empowers us toward oneness."

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Brun gave a few announcements following the worship service.

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 4

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Robert Sherard called the 17th General Synod to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. BIBLE STUDY

The Moderator recognized Rev. Ann Asper Wilson who led the Synod in a Bible study based on the scripture Acts 3 and 4. The theme was "Speaking the Word with Boldness." Following the Bible Study, Moderator Sherard recognized the wonderful work that the co-leaders of the study, the Rev. Charles McCollough and the Rev. Ann Asper Wilson, had done.

3. AGENDA

The Moderator recognized Ms. Charlene Mason, Chairperson of the Agenda Committee. She explained how the Agenda Committee works to develop the agenda for the General Synod. She also explained the revised schedule of committee reports that would be heard.

4. STANDING RULES

The Rev. Edward Walker, Co-Parliamentarian, was recognized by Moderator Sherard and clarified the process outlined in the Standing Rules regarding debate in the plenary.

5. RESOLUTION "BOYCOTT OF ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL OIL AND COVENANTAL SUFFERING"

Mr. Felix Carrion, the Chairperson of Committee 15, moved that the General Synod refer to the Executive Council the Resolution "Boycott of Royal Dutch/Shell Oil and Covenantal Suffering." After brief discussion it was

89-GS-75 VOTED: The 17th General Synod voted to refer the Resolution "Boycott of Royal Dutch/Shell Oil and Covenantal Suffering" to the Executive Council.

6. RESOLUTION "BOYCOTT OF ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL OIL"

Mr. Carrion, on behalf of Committee 15, moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Boycott of Royal Dutch/Shell Oil." He pointed out that the only change from the original resolution was the elimination of the word Mobil wherever it occurs, as Mobil Oil has totally divested from South Africa.

There was brief discussion and a friendly amendment was proposed and accepted as follows: Add after point three "Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, the 17th General Synod commits itself to reach out to those whose jobs or pensions are threatened by this action and asks the President of the Church to convey to those congregations and conferences where Shell employees reside the concern of the General Synod to stand with them in serving those who may be caused

to suffer. The President will also indicate to those conferences and congregations that the Executive Council is in the process of developing means to express that covenantal suffering for all parts of the church."

89-GS-76 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Boycott of Royal Dutch/Shell Oil," as amended.

BOYCOTT OF ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL OIL

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has since 1965 repeatedly demonstrated its opposition to the apartheid regime in South Africa and its support of church leaders there who work for peaceful change;

WHEREAS, our faith calls us, as expressed by the United Church of Christ Statement of Mission, "to hear and give voice to Creation's cry for justice and peace; to name and confront the powers of evil within and among us; to repent our silence and complicity with the forces of chaos and death; . . . to join oppressed and troubled people in the struggle for liberation;"

WHEREAS, the South African religious community repeatedly has called for economic pressure and economic sanctions as the most effective means of bringing about political change. In 1985, the South African Council of Churches and other ecumenical bodies resolved "that disinvestment and similar economic pressures are now called for as a peaceful and effective means of putting pressure on the South African government to bring about the fundamental changes this country needs."

Despite the mounting legal risks imposed by the State of Emergency and the imprisonment and torture of increasing numbers of church leaders, churches in South Africa are speaking out with an increased sense of desperation and urgency. The Southern African Catholic Bishops Conferences issued a statement on economic pressure on the South African Government in May 1986. In October 1987 the Rev. Frank Chikane, the General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, restated the South African Council of Churches' position advocating sanctions against South Africa that "include economic, military, diplomatic, cultural and any other action that seeks to exclude South Africa from the community of nations and is designed to increase the cost of maintaining apartheid." Church leaders from around the world endorsed and supported these calls for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa both in the Harare Declaration of 1985 and in the Lusaka Statement of 1987. Further, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, the partner church of the United Church of Christ, in 1986 voted that:

(The UCCSA) Takes a clear stand in favor of immediate and comprehensive sanctions against South Africa as a means to achieve justice and peace through non-violence. Affirms its support for the resolutions and action taken by various national and international churches, church groups and organizations to achieve this end. In particular informs our

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sister-churches in the United Kingdom and the United States of this resolution and encourages them in their resolve to bring pressure to bear on those respective governments to achieve this end;

WHEREAS, oil is the lifeblood of the modern police and military which enforce racist rule in South Africa and terrorize the front-line states. Oil is classified as a "munition of war" in South Africa. According to laws passed in 1977, 1979, and 1985, the apartheid government is allowed to take over oil companies' operations in the event of a national emergency, and such companies are prohibited from disclosing the facts about how much petroleum they supply to the South African government and for what purposes.

Further, if companies like Royal Dutch/Shell did not supply oil and petroleum products, the South African government would have much more difficulty maintaining the apartheid system. South Africa has no known indigenous exploitable oil deposits nor does it have oil stockpiled to last more than nine months. In addition, very costly processing oil from coal cannot provide more than 25 percent of the country's needs. As a consequence, nearly all petroleum must be, and is, imported, despite a 1979 United Nations oil embargo against South Africa;

WHEREAS, Royal Dutch/Shell is the largest oil company operating in South Africa, with assets there of more than \$450 million. It co-owns and operates South Africa's largest oil refinery, the offshore station through which most of South Africa's imported oil is delivered, an oil pipeline operated with the government, and more than 900 gasoline stations inside South Africa. Royal Dutch/Shell also has investments in coal mining, chemical and plastic products, and real estate.

Subsidiaries of Royal Dutch/Shell, contrary to a United Nations oil embargo, provide oil to the South African military and police and abide by South African law regarding disclosure and takeover in the event of a national emergency;

WHEREAS, Royal Dutch/Shell is the target of an international boycott supported by, among many others, the Episcopal Church, World Council of Churches, National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, Unitarian Universalist Association, Progressive National Baptist Convention, General Conference of the United Methodist Church, AFL-CIO, and National Organization for Women;

WHEREAS, church and labor leaders in South Africa have particularly singled out Royal Dutch/Shell in their requests to the international community for economic pressure. In a statement on May 3, 1988, Archbishop Desmond Tutu urged "our friends abroad to enact comprehensive and mandatory sanctions, and call on international companies like Royal Dutch/Shell and Mobil Oil to end their economic support for apartheid and leave South Africa."

Speaking at the Royal Dutch/Shell Annual Meeting in The Hague in May 1988, James Motlasti, President of the National Union of Mineworkers (of South Africa) observed that Royal Dutch/Shell's activities inside South Africa are unacceptable, saying, "If it was not for Shell, it wouldn't be possible for South African Defense Forces, in particular the air force and ground force, to be able to launch murderous attacks against innocent people or neighboring states;"

WHEREAS, the 16th General Synod Resolution "Expanded Criteria for Divestment and Advocacy Related to South Af-

rica" calls upon members and agencies of the United Church of Christ to engage in economic pressure strategies to maximize our effectiveness as instruments of change by mobilizing the church to:

- a. engage in acts of public witness directed at corporations supportive of the apartheid system, such as prayer vigils, demonstrations, and letter writing and postcard campaigns;
- b. whenever possible abstain from the purchase of products or the use of services of corporations designated as key supporters of the apartheid system by the United Church of Christ Committee on the Implementation of the Pronouncement United Church of Christ Full Divestment of All Financial Resources From All Corporations Doing Business with South Africa.

and further

to work for the passage of comprehensive economic sanctions by the United States government which will terminate economic relations between the United States and south Africa and will require the withdrawal of all United States investment from South Africa

and we recognize boycotts to be the consumer equivalent of such sanctions;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ Executive Council in October, 1987 endorsed the international boycott of Royal Dutch/Shell; in doing so it implemented provisions of the General Synod 15 Pronouncement on United Church of Christ Full Divestment of All Financial Resources from All Corporations Doing Business with South Africa, which asked

That individuals, congregations, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ take into account whether corporations have direct investments in South Africa as they make consumer decisions and whenever possible abstain from the purchase of products manufactured by corporations continuing to do business in South Africa.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod

1. Affirms the international Royal Dutch/Shell boycott until such time that the corporation terminates all economic ties to South Africa;
2. Calls upon all United Church of Christ members, congregations, agencies, instrumentalities, national bodies, conferences and associations to abstain from institutional and consumer purchasing of products produced or marketed by the Royal Dutch/Shell group of companies, including Royal Dutch Petroleum; and
3. Asks the Implementation Committee to make available a list of products produced or marketed by Royal Dutch/Shell.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod commits itself to reach out to those whose jobs or pensions are threatened by this action and asks the President of the church to convey to those congregations and conferences where Shell employees reside the concern of the General Synod to stand with them in serving those who may be caused to suffer. The President will also indicate to those conferences and congregations that the Executive Council is in the process of developing means to express that covenantal suffering for all parts of the church.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.