

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod prays for the peace, stability and economic revitalization of Laos, Cambodia/Kampuchea, and Vietnam; and the General Synod requests the UCBWM and OCIS to seek the cooperation of the Conferences in acquainting congregations with the problems of refugees; and calls upon United Church of Christ churches to renew their commitment to refugee sponsorship through UCBWM and the Church World Service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod requests the President of the United Church of Christ to urge the U.S. Government to play an active and constructive role to establish lasting peace and stability in Cambodia/Kampuchea so that Cambodians/Kampuchians outside their country can return home, but that the U.S. Government will not provide covert military aid to any of these Southeast Asian countries.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

25. JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Ms. Jacqueline Smith (WIS) requested a Point of Personal Privilege and moved that "The 17th General Synod expresses gratitude for the United Church of Christ Study and action on 'Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation' and commends the study and action to the local churches, associations and conferences for thoughtful consideration." Two people spoke in favor of this, and

89-GS-91 VOTED: The 17th General Synod expresses gratitude for the United Church of Christ Study and action on "Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation" and commends the study and action to the local churches, associations and conferences for thoughtful consideration.

26. RESOLUTION "INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE"

Mr. Art Wille presented the work of Committee Three, and presented the Resolution "Inclusive Language." He directed the attention to the original texts, and then to the new resolution in Part Seven of the Committee Reports. He asked delegates to make some changes in the text, then he moved the adoption of the resolution as amended.

Ms. Marilyn Breitling, Executive Director of the Coordinating Center for Women, and Ms. Barbara Weller of the Biblical Witness Fellowship both spoke in favor of the resolution.

A friendly amendment to change "local churches" to "local congregations" in the second THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED was accepted. Another amendment to change "person of leadership" to "local church congregations" failed.

89-GS-92 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Inclusive Language," as amended.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

WHEREAS, the use of inclusive language for God is a theological issue, important to the wholeness and well-being of the entire Church;

WHEREAS, prayerful and discerning study of God's Word is essential to the mission and integrity of the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ seeks an approach to the Scriptures that is faithful to the original texts, responsive to our traditions, to contemporary needs and to the diversity present in our life together;

WHEREAS, the rich variety of images of God in the Scriptures is a gift to the Church, entrusted to us for the articulation of our faith under the guidance of the Holy Spirit;

WHEREAS, past General Synods have affirmed the significance of inclusive language and the importance of genuine dialogue in which members of the Church are sensitive to one another's burdens and share a common hope, and

WHEREAS, nevertheless, the way in which inclusive language is sometimes employed or ignored in the Church gives birth to pain or a sense of loss among us,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms the importance of continuing study of inclusive language and updating of the "Inclusive Language Guidelines," marked by careful scholarship, theological vitality, and an openness to Biblical interpretation and faith language that may include new and renewed understandings of ancient texts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod invites the Office for Church Life and Leadership to guide this theological endeavor and to accept responsibility for it (in such a way that the seminaries, conferences, local congregations and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ be asked to engage together in this vital task during the biennium 1989-91), offering a progress report to General Synod 18, and that the Office for Church Life and Leadership disseminate during the next biennium, in conversation with the seminaries, Conferences, local churches and Instrumentalities, educational resources and materials that address the hopes and promise, as well as the questions and reservations present in the midst of discussions of inclusive language and the nature of authoritative texts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod urges that, in this interim period (1989-91), all who publicly use the Bible and other selected Biblical resources identify the version of Scripture or source of quotation, and that the recognized and established instrumentalities continue to identify the version of Scripture or source of re-written or paraphrased material used in all resources and written materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod recognizes that the responsibility for the use of inclusive language in worship, in the writing of material for publication or other public use of the Bible continues to rest with the person in leadership.

Such responsibility includes: 1) Choosing from among existing or emerging translations by scholars from credible Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic texts, and 2) choosing from among Biblical paraphrases, lectionaries and other selected Biblical resources that identify the grace of God in relation to the realities and concerns of contemporary life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod recognizes that genuine, open and honest discussion on important issues such as inclusive language and the Trinitarian formula involves the gift of trust and represents not a burden but an opportunity and a challenge for the Church. The 17th General Synod also urges that this task be undertaken in faith, hope,

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and love, with a sense of gratitude for the unity we share as companions of our Savior Jesus Christ, who breaks down the dividing wall of hostility and summons us to a costly and joyful discipleship. The Word of God remains a lamp to our feet and a light to our path!

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

27. RECOGNITION OF CONFERENCE AND NATIONAL STAFF MEMBERS

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Avery D. Post and the Rev. James Tomasek, chair of the Council of Conference Ministers, to honor National and Conference staff members who have retired since the last General Synod, or who will soon retire. An audio-visual presentation was shown, illustrating the work of these people: Rev. Donald R. Buckthal, Rev. Ralph Cook, Rev. John F. Fairfield, Rev. Arthur A. Higgins, Rev. Dean L. Hodges, Rev. William Koshewa, Rev. James Savides, Rev. Delbert Schrag, Rev. Christine Skelton, Rev. Naida Such, Rev. Bernie Zerkel, Jr. The Rev. Robert L. Bergfalk was honored also as a Conference staff person retiring from the Minnesota Conference.

28. ADOPTION OF THE BIENNIAL BUDGETS

The Moderator recognized Mr. William Kiesel, Chairperson of the Budget Committee for the adoption of the Annual Budgets. He reminded the delegates that there had been three occasions to discuss the budgets. He then moved the adoption of the budgets as printed in the Advance Materials II, pages 41 - 69.

89-GS-93 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Biennial Budget of the United Church of Christ.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BIENNIAL BUDGET

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
Budget of the General Synod	\$1,534,970	\$1,576,267
COREM	13,057	13,412
PAAM	21,714	22,305
CHM	21,714	22,305
Contributions	150,678	154,777
UCBWM	3,137,550	3,222,887
UCBHM	2,974,045*	3,054,498*
Pension Boards	929,682	961,472
OCIS	742,768	762,534
OCLL	1,189,425	1,220,952
Stewardship Council	1,236,680	1,270,317
Com. on Development	157,722	162,011
OC (includes KYP and UCNews)	1,024,951	1,052,840
CRJ	1,023,500	1,051,338
CCW	402,678	413,192
 TOTAL	 \$14,600,000	 \$15,000,000

*\$67,000 in 1990 and 1991 earmarked as the UCC Budget portion of funding for Local Church Development

29. RESOLUTION "SUPPORT FOR UCC FELLOWSHIP OF THE ARTS"

Ms. Susie Keele, of Committee 23, moved the adoption of the Resolution "Support for United Church of Christ Fellowship

of the Arts." She pointed out the changes made from the original resolution. There was brief discussion, and it was

89-GS-94 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Support for United Church of Christ Fellowship of the Arts."

SUPPORT FOR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FELLOWSHIP OF THE ARTS

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ Fellowship of the Arts has presented for our aesthetic and spiritual nurture, our edification, and our sheer enjoyment an exhibit of outstanding art in a variety of media, by professional and amateur artists;

WHEREAS, our expressions through the arts is not just something peripheral to our life of faith of the very "substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen;"

WHEREAS, United Church of Christ-related performers have brought God-given gifts of song, movement, drama and more to our times of work and leisure;

WHEREAS, the UCCFA has, during recent months, awakened our imagination and called us to new exploration through issues of the Arts Advocate;

WHEREAS, these efforts have been accomplished through the commitment of hundreds of art supporters throughout the United Church of Christ, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod expresses our gratitude for the talents of the artists and the work of the UCCFA members in planning and supporting these activities, under the leadership of UCCFA president, Reverend Dorothy Lairmore;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod, noting the call by the UCCFA to richer life in worship, education, spirituality, and social witness, pledges ourselves as individuals and congregations to encourage and support the UCCFA's work in our midst, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod, calls upon the leaders and constituencies of the various United Church of Christ national bodies (Instrumentalities, councils, commissions, special interest groups, and the like) as well as our Conferences, Associations, and local churches to invite UCCFA participation in planning and development of local, regional, and national United Church of Christ events so that the continuing growth and development of the UCCFA's unique ministry will be encouraged and supported.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

30. RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE VALUE OF THE FLAG AS SYMBOLIC SPEECH AND OPPOSING EFFORTS TO RESTRICT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Ms. Keele moved the adoption of the Resolution "Affirming the Value of the Flag as Symbolic Speech and Opposing Efforts to Restrict Freedom of Expression." There was considerable discussion and

89-GS-95 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Affirming the Value of the Flag as Symbolic Speech and Opposing Efforts to Restrict Freedom of Expression."