

TUESDAY MORNING

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."

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

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

WHEREAS, the Bible calls us to have no other gods than God, and commands us to avoid idolatry of all kinds;

WHEREAS, worship of nation and of symbols of national identity has always been one of the most tempting and widespread forms of idolatry;

WHEREAS, symbols should not be confused with the truths or values that they symbolize;

WHEREAS, the flag of the United States is among the most potent of all political symbols, and has been used as such in political campaigns throughout this nation's history;

WHEREAS, the use or abuse of symbols that are sacred to many people (such as the cross) as a means of communicating ideas is an accepted and protected aspect of freedom of expression in the United States;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a historic commitment to freedom of expression, and

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

- 1) affirms its deep respect for the flag of the United States as a treasured symbol of the democratic values that are the foundation of our nation;
- 2) calls upon the American people to recognize that the importance of the flag lies in its enormous communicative power as a symbol of democracy, liberty, and equality under the law;
- 3) deplors the abuse of the flag, but affirms the right to use the flag as a means of symbolic expression, even in cases where the expression is abhorrent to the vast majority of Americans, and
- 4) opposes any effort to amend the United States Constitution to restrict freedom of expression or to exalt the flag as the one and only symbol in our society that may not be used or abused as a means of political expression.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

31. RESOLUTION "PROVIDING LARGE TYPE AND BRAILLE EDITIONS OF THE NEW HYMNAL"

Ms. Keele then moved the adoption of the Resolution "Providing Large Type and Braille Editions of the New Hymnal." One friendly amendment was accepted to change the resolution to add to the "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED," . . . or other suitable aides to enable persons with visual impairments to join in singing the songs of the faith."

89-GS-96 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Providing Large Type and Braille Editions of the New Hymnal," as amended.

PROVIDING LARGE TYPE AND BRAILLE EDITIONS OF THE NEW HYMNAL

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a vital tradition of ministry to and with those who are physically and mentally challenged;

WHEREAS, we seek to embrace all of God's children as one;

WHEREAS, some live with visual impairments or are blind and desire to participate fully in worship;

WHEREAS, Jesus said a person born blind was so born, "so that God's power might be seen at work . . ." (John 9:3);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod calls on the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and its hymnal committee to make available Large Print and Braille Editions of the new United Church of Christ Hymnal, or other suitable aides to enable persons with visual impairments to join in singing the songs of the faith.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

32. RESOLUTION CONCERNING SUPPORT OF INFACIT'S BOYCOTT OF GENERAL ELECTRIC PRODUCTS

Mr. Carrion, Chairperson of Committee 15, pointed out the two paragraphs that were duplicated and should be deleted, then he moved the adoption of the Resolution "Concerning Support of INFACIT'S Boycott of General Electric Products."

After some discussion, it was the will of the body to extend the discussion for 5 minutes beyond the scheduled time limit. Following that, the resolution was voted on and defeated. A division of the house was called for, and the Moderator's decision was upheld.

33. AGENDA

Ms. Charlene Mason announced the order of the committee reports for the afternoon as follows: Committees 12, 21, 17, 16, 8.

34. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Sherard called on Secretary Carol Joyce Brun to read the announcements.

35. RECESS

Mr. Sherard declared a recess at 12:00 p.m.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 4

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the 17th General Synod was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by the Moderator, the Rev. Robert Sherard.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Charlene Mason, Chairperson of the Agenda Committee, urged delegates to fill out evaluation forms.