

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Ms. Mason also indicated that any business not dealt with by General Synod would be referred to the Executive Council.

Mr. Drew Hammond (RM) was called to the podium. Mr. Hammond, a youth, was responsible for the recycling project of unwanted and unused paper of the delegates. He was applauded for his work.

3. RESOLUTION "AUTHORIZED MINISTERS, CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS, AND THEIR FAMILIES IN CRISIS"

The Moderator recognized the Chairperson of Committee 12, Ms. Sue Cassidy (IOWA), for the presentation of the Report of Committee 12. On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Cassidy moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Authorized Ministers, Christian Educators, and Their Families in Crisis."

The Rev. Jerry Roberts (IOWA) spoke on behalf of the Committee noting that the resolution calls for action. With no discussion, it was

89-GS-97 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Authorized Ministers, Christian Educators, and Their Families in Crisis."

AUTHORIZED MINISTERS, CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS, AND THEIR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

WHEREAS, the General Synod 17 has rejected the final report of the Clergy in Crisis Response Implementation Team, and

WHEREAS, the 17th General Synod recognizes a continuing need to address the needs of our authorized ministers, Christian educators, and their families in crisis.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 17th General Synod:

1. Calls upon the Conferences to prepare and provide authorized ministers, Christian educators, and their families with a listing of resources in their area which are available in times of crisis.
2. Calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership (OCLL) to facilitate and coordinate such listings by sharing information between conferences as well as information about resources available nationally.
3. Calls upon OCLL and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to explore with the closely related seminaries the development of programs which will assist authorized ministers, Christian educators, and their families in: a) preparing to deal effectively with times of crisis which arise in the course of ministry; and b) personal, vocational, and theological reflection during times of crisis.
4. Calls upon OCLL to include in Beginning Your Ministry in the UCC information about resources available to deal with times of crisis.
5. Calls upon the Pension Boards to develop a means of notifying authorized ministers, Christian educators, and their families of the guidelines and procedures for requesting financial assistance from the Board of Ministerial Assistance.
6. Commends the inclusion of specific financial goals to address crisis needs of authorized ministers, Christian educators, and their families within the proposed General Synod capital campaign.

4. RESOLUTION "PLACEMENT OF UCC CLERGYWOMEN"

Continuing the report of Committee 12, Ms. Cassidy moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Placement of UCC Clergywomen." The Rev. Darryl Malena (NEB) introduced the Resolution. After several affirming comments from the delegates, it was

89-GS-98 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Placement of UCC Clergywomen."

PLACEMENT OF UCC CLERGYWOMEN

Theological Rationale

As Christians, we are called individually to practice justice and mercy in our personal, professional and ecclesial lives. We are called to recognize, name and struggle against the oppression which permeates this world. Further, we are enabled through the gift of God's grace, to acknowledge our own complicity in the sin of the world, and through the power of God's grace, we strive to grow ever closer to God's will for us.

Today there exists a sense that one locus of oppression within our world can be seen in the process of calling women to pastoral leadership. God continues, with infinite love and mercy, to call forth both women and men for the particular tasks of the ordained ministry, equipping the saints for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Faithful to our recognition of God's calling of women to pastoral ministry, we are concerned that God's call not be restricted or prevented by either prejudice or benign neglect at any level of our denomination.

WHEREAS, fifty percent of all United Church of Christ persons currently graduating from seminary are women, and

WHEREAS, there is a perception that clergywomen are being overlooked by congregations who are seeking ministers, and

WHEREAS, clergywomen, believing that perception, are dropping out of the search process and leaving parish ministry, and

WHEREAS, a growing number of established clergy are approaching retirement age, creating an anticipated undersupply of qualified clergy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms the gifts and the call of women seeking pastoral placement in the United Church of Christ and stands in solidarity with them as they strive to live out a ministry of partnership with the whole People of God, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its pastoral concern for women who have experienced depersonalization and painful exclusion in the placement process, and

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

1. Requests the Office for Church Life and Leadership and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries Research Office
 - a. to design and conduct a study in consultation with the