

13. DELETION OF BYLAW 198

Mr. Hatfield moved that the Eighteenth General Synod delete Bylaw 198, relating to election of a publisher and editor for A.D. Publications, from the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. The motion was seconded and there was no discussion.

91-GS-17 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod deletes Bylaw 198 from the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

14. AMENDMENT TO BYLAW 219

Mr. Hatfield moved the amendment to Bylaw 219 regarding the make-up of the Board of Directors of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society. The motion was seconded and there was no discussion.

91-GS-18 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod amends Bylaw 219 to read:

Bylaw 219 Voting members of the Assembly shall include up to three representatives from each conference which chooses to participate. One representative may be a staff person related to women's structures in that conference.

Voting members shall also include two representatives each of Pacific and Asian American Ministries, United Black Christians, Council for American Indian Ministries, Council for Hispanic Ministries, National Committee on Persons with Disabilities, and the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns; two representatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); two representatives named by the National Steering Committee of the Network for United Church of Christ Clergy Women; two representatives of the Youth Priority Task Force; and the members of the Board of Directors of the Center.

The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society shall be governed by a Board of Directors of twenty-nine persons. Fifteen members shall be elected by General Synod for six year terms, 1/3 to be elected each biennium to serve until their respective successors are elected. These members shall be 2/3 lay and 1/3 clergy, of which not less than 2/3 of each category shall be women. Six members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the Executive Council from a pool of candidates nominated by racial/ethnic and General Synod recognized groups for terms up to but not exceeding 6 years. Eight members shall be elected by the Biennial Assembly of the Center according to guidelines which reflect the diversity of the United Church of Christ, each to a term of six years, with approximately 1/3 being elected at each Assembly. All terms on the Board of Directors will run concurrent with General Synod policy. Membership may also be granted to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

15. RESOLUTION "CELEBRATING CHRISTIAN CONNECTION"

Mr. Hatfield drew the attention of the delegates to the resolution "Celebrating Christian Connection" Part I, page 13 or Part 3, page 2. He summarized the resolution and moved that it be adopted. The motion was seconded and there was no discussion.

91-GS-19 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts "Celebrating Christian Connection"

CELEBRATING CHRISTIAN CONNECTION

SUMMARY

This resolution asks the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ to affirm the historic connection of the United Church of Christ with the Christian Connection congregations of the Norfolk, VA, area, the site of the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

BRIEF THEOLOGICAL AND BIBLICAL BASIS

One of the four historic branches of the United Church of Christ consisted of the churches of the Christian Connection, which merged with the Congregational churches in 1931. These southeastern churches, under the leadership of James O'Kelly, broke from the Methodist General Assembly in Baltimore in 1792. These congregations in Virginia and North Carolina were originally called Republican Methodists, and in 1794 became known simply as Christian churches, adhering to five principles:

1. Jesus is the sole head of the church.
2. Local churches are autonomous.
3. Christian character is sufficient for church membership.
4. The Bible is sufficient rule of faith and practice.
5. Christian unity.

BRIEF RATIONAL FOR SYNOD ACTION

In order to understand who we are and what we believe as a denomination, it is important to know our heritage and to celebrate the contributions of those who have gone before us. Thus, learning from our ancestors in faith, we can retain the best insights of faith and practice for future enlightenment in the ministry of the United Church of Christ.

The Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ meets in the area that is historic to a part of our denominational family. It is vital that we honor and celebrate our forefathers and mothers as we participate in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

Most United Church of Christ members are unaware of the Christian Connection and its origins as Republican Methodist congregations in the Norfolk, VA, area. In our continuing dialogue with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we need to celebrate this part of our heritage by first understanding it. The location of the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affords a unique opportunity to affirm relationships in ministry.

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, one of our four historic branches of the United Church of Christ was the Christian Connection, which merged with the Congregational church in 1931; and

WHEREAS, the southeastern churches of the Christian Connection originated as Republican Methodist and later Christian congregations in the Norfolk, VA, area.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ remember, acknowledge and celebrate the Nineteenth Century of our denomi-