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istries, and the Office for Church in Society to develop educational and advocacy resources and materials on this subject for use by local congregations.

11. RESOLUTION "CAMPAIGN TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER"

Ms. Joy Miller moved the adoption of the Resolution "Campaign to End Childhood Hunger."

91-GS-24 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Campaign to End Childhood Hunger."

CAMPAIGN TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER

WHEREAS, millions of children are going hungry in the United States of America and these children are invisible to the eyes of many people who are unaware of the tragic dimensions of the solvable problem of hunger in the United States;

WHEREAS, it is time to make ending childhood hunger a national priority;

WHEREAS, conservative estimates based on the final Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project (CCHIP) results indicate that 5.5 million children are now hungry and 11.5 million are either hungry or at risk of hunger in the United States;

WHEREAS, the impact of hunger on children in the U.S.A. often manifests itself in lower birth weights of newborns and in many specific health problems such as unwanted weight loss, fatigue, headaches, irritability, inability to concentrate and frequent colds;

WHEREAS, CCHIP found that hungry children experience two to three times as many of these problems as do children whose families do not experience hunger;

WHEREAS, the capacity to learn of children who are hungry is compromised and their physical development, stamina and resistance to disease are impaired;

WHEREAS, hunger hurts everybody, and only when our children are well nourished can they reach their full potential and become contributing members of society;

WHEREAS, childhood hunger in the United States is caused by lack of income, and with nearly 32 million people living below the poverty line, including 12.6 million children, the need for affordable housing, health care, quality education and jobs with living wages become critical components of long term solutions to the many problems caused by poverty.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod endorses the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger and:

Supports the adoption of national policies guaranteeing food security to all people;

Seeks to ensure all eligible low income women, infants and children can receive assistance through the Special Supplement Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children;

Seeks to make the School Breakfast program available to low income children across the country and encourages federal, state and local policies to ensure the national School Lunch program remains broadly accessible to all such children;

Seeks to make the Food Stamp program accessible to all who are eligible and supports changes in the benefit level so that children and their families will have enough to eat each month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon the Office for Church in Society (OCIS) to monitor and advocate legislative issues related to the above policy matters in Washington, D. C.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod asks the Office for Church in Society to continue to coordinate relationships with low income community groups involved in partnership efforts to address the above concerns through the related National Up and Out of Poverty Now Campaign, and the Children in Poverty working group.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod asks that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Commission for Racial Justice, and the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society continue to relate to groups in poverty for whom such a campaign is concerned, and seek to engage others in the campaign's efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod requests that the Hunger Action Program be a coordinating table for the above efforts, as well as the primary body responsible for education, training, and curriculum development regarding the campaign within the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the conferences and local churches of the United Church of Christ be called upon to endorse the campaign to End Childhood Hunger, to continue and expand their partnerships with low-income groups, to develop and/or present educational opportunities for their members about the issues, to engage in advocacy regarding public policies consistent with the campaign, and to communicate their efforts with the Hunger Action Office campaign so helpful models and activities can be shared across the church.

Subject to the availability of funds.

12. RESOLUTION "VIRGINIA PRIVACY LAWS"

Ms. Priscilla Nauer, Chair of Committee 20, moved the adoption of the Resolution "Virginia Privacy Laws."

91-GS-25 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Virginia Privacy Laws."

VIRGINIA PRIVACY LAWS

Theological and Biblical Basis

The theological and Biblical understandings of our United Church of Christ provide us with ample evidence that God calls us to personal freedom with responsibility. In no area of life is this principle more significant than in the area of affectional and sexual preference. Premier United Church of Christ ethicist, Professor James B. Nelson, and others have contributed important biblically-based insights in support of personal affectional and sexual freedom with responsibility (cf. *Embodiment: An Approach to Sexuality and Christian Theology*, James B. Nelson, Augsburg Publishing House, 1987). Numerous scripture passages guide our thinking in this crucial area (cf. Galatians 5; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Matthew 5:7; Exodus 20:3, to name a few).

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The United Church of Christ is composed of people who have sought freedom from oppressive government interference in religious and personal life. Our ancestors in faith helped develop the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, both of which seek to guarantee freedom from oppression for religious or personal beliefs and practices which do not injure or otherwise limit the same freedom for others. As inheritors of this faith and this tradition, we cannot allow oppressive state laws to go unchallenged.

Rationale for Why Synod Should Act

The Commonwealth of Virginia still has on its books laws which criminalize private and non-commercial sexual activity between consenting adults whereas many states have removed such laws from their books. In addition, the 16th General Synod called for United Church of Christ bodies meeting in states with so-called sodomy laws to make public witness to the church's commitment to defend the right to privacy.

Previous General Synod Policy

The Tenth General Synod Pronouncement called for "enactment of legislation at the federal, state, and local levels of government that would guarantee the liberties of all persons without discrimination related to affectional or sexual preference." The Eleventh General Synod urged the church "to work for the decriminalization of private sexual acts between consenting adults. The Sixteenth General Synod affirmed "the right to privacy, free from government intrusion, for all adults in their private, consensual, sexual relationships . . ."

Background

The Virginia "Crimes Against Nature Law" and similar old laws in 25 states and the District of Columbia criminalize private non-commercial sexual activity between consenting adults. Such laws criminalize oral or anal sex, even in the context of marriage, and are used exclusively against the gay and lesbian community to criminalize a lifestyle. The State of Virginia, the site of the Eighteenth General Synod, serves as an example of the unjust ways in which sodomy laws are used: A policeman was fired for being gay; a mother was denied custody of her child in a divorce case because she was a lesbian and therefore an unconvicted felon; two lesbians were ejected from a bar for dancing together, to name a few cases.

Policy Statement

WHEREAS, while many in the United Church of Christ consider homosexual acts sinful, many do not, and our church remains divided theologically on this point, most agree that private sexual activity between consenting adults should not be a criminal offense;

WHEREAS, the church needs to confess that it has in the past encouraged the use of government and criminal laws to enforce standards of personal morality more appropriately left to the individual, the family or the church;

WHEREAS, equal justice and equal protection under the law for all citizens are fundamental to a democratic society and so-called sodomy laws result in the violation of this basic principle, legally stigmatizing and denying a whole series of rights to a significant percentage of the population;

WHEREAS, old laws such as the Virginia Crimes Against Na-

ture law are still on the books in 25 states and the District of Columbia which criminalize private, non-commercial sexual activity between consenting adults;

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod Pronouncement in 1975 called for "enactment of legislation at the federal, state and local levels of government that would guarantee the liberties of all persons without discrimination related to affectional or sexual preference;"

WHEREAS, the Eleventh General Synod urged the church "to work for the decriminalization of private sexual acts between consenting adults;"

WHEREAS, the Sixteenth General Synod affirmed "The right to privacy, free from government intrusion, for all adults in their private, consensual, sexual relationships," calling on the whole church to work for legislation to protect this right and calling for United Church of Christ bodies meeting in states with so-called sodomy laws to make public witness to the church's commitment to defend the right to privacy;

WHEREAS, while many states have sodomy laws, laws which criminalize oral or anal sex, even in the context of marriage, these laws are used exclusively against the gay and lesbian community to criminalize a lifestyle;

WHEREAS, the State of Virginia, where the Eighteenth General Synod is meeting in June of 1991, serves as an example of the unjust ways in which sodomy laws are used;

WHEREAS, The Virginia Crimes Against Nature Law and other provisions are being used in ways which violate our fundamental understanding of justice, especially prohibitions against lack of due process, laws of evidence, opportunity to confront witnesses, and the judgement of a jury of our peers;

WHEREAS, in Virginia in 1990 a policeman was fired for being gay, because, under the Virginia Crimes Against Nature law he was an unconvicted felon, a basic denial of his right to fair employment;

WHEREAS, in Virginia in 1990 a mother was denied custody of her child in a divorce proceedings because she was a lesbian and therefore an unconvicted felon, a good example of how sodomy laws are used unfairly in divorce proceedings nationwide;

WHEREAS, in Virginia in 1990 two lesbians were thrown out of a country western bar for dancing together, violating the State Alcohol Beverage Control Act which, based on the Crimes Against Nature Law, forbids bars from becoming meeting places for homosexuals and other habitual law violators;

WHEREAS, these illustrations of how sodomy laws are used nationwide, not to control sexual activity, but to deny fundamental civil rights in the area of employment, family law and public accommodation to an entire class of people; and

WHEREAS, the government has no business denying such civil rights and no business regulating the private, consensual, non-commercial sexual activity of adults, but should respect the fundamental right to privacy guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the right to

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privacy for all private, consensual, non-commercial sexual activity between adults, and calls for the repeal of all state sodomy laws which attempt to criminalize this activity and deny basic civil and human rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Virginia legislature to repeal the Virginia sodomy law and other laws directed against persons specifically because of their sexual orientation, including that portion of Virginia Statutes Section 18.2-361 which applies to consensual acts between adults; Virginia Statutes Section 4-98.10 (u); and Virginia Statutes Section 4-114 (a) (2) (c), which laws are being applied in violation of the spirit of justice, evidence and court procedure, and our country's history and Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this action to the members of the Virginia legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod commends the Southern and Central Atlantic Conferences and the churches of Virginia for beginning to address this issue, helping people untangle the powerful emotions which are involved, and making a Christian witness in favor of fundamental human rights.

Subject to the availability of funds.

13. RESOLUTION "IMPROVING FINANCIAL AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR ENLISTED MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES"

Ms. Nauer moved the adoption of the Resolution "Improving Financial and Supportive Services for Enlisted Military Personnel and Their Families" and asked the Rev. Lois Rose (MASS) to speak in support of the resolution.

91-GS-26 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Improving Financial and Supportive Services for Enlisted Military Personnel and Their Families."

IMPROVING FINANCIAL AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR ENLISTED MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, the war in the Persian Gulf has raised our awareness of the impact of war on enlisted personnel, activated reservists, and their families;

WHEREAS, we recognize the human costs of military intervention within the military itself, as well as the civilian victims of the war;

WHEREAS, the priorities of the Department of Defense are the procurement and maintenance of weapons of destruction;

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense chooses to spend billions of dollars on such weapons as the B-2 bomber, patriot missiles, and SDI;

WHEREAS, the enlisted military personnel:

- receive inadequate income, which leads many to eligibility for food stamps;
- lack affordable and quality housing;

- experience difficulties of being a single parent;
- lack quality child care and parental leave;
- lack supportive services, i.e. financial management, recreation, mental and social services;
- receive inadequate information regarding rights, benefits, available supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the racism, sexism, heterosexism, and classism of the society are heightened within the military.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon the Department of Defense, to reallocate existing resources to provide improved and adequate remuneration and supportive services to enlisted military personnel and their families that will enable them to achieve an improved quality of life.

Subject to the availability of funds.

14. INTRODUCTION OF MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Moderator Charlotte Gosselink asked Ms. Faith Johnson, Secretary for Human Development Programs and Concerns, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to introduce the keynote speaker, Ms. Marian Wright Edelman, President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund.

Ms. Edelman delivered a moving address that ended with a powerful plea that the United Church of Christ help build a strong, committed constituency for all children. She received a standing ovation.

15. RESOLUTION "DESIGNATING PAAM (PACIFIC ISLAND AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES) SUNDAY IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST"

The Rev. Rosemary Maxey moved the acceptance of the Resolution "Designating PAAM (Pacific Island and Asian American Ministries) Sunday in the United Church of Christ" with one editorial amendment: to add the words "and use" to the last resolve so that it reads to celebrate and use. The Rev. Fred Ranches and Ms. Rosa Lee spoke for the resolution.

91-GS-27 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Designating PAAM (Pacific Island and Asian American Ministries) Sunday in the United Church of Christ."

DESIGNATING PAAM (PACIFIC ISLAND AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES) SUNDAY IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, the Pacific Island Asian American people have long been a part of the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has long been ignorant and unaware of the contributing gifts that Pacific Island Asian American peoples bring to the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, General Synod Seventeen passed a pronouncement recognizing the ministries of the Pacific Island Asian American people and the gifts they bring to the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to recognize these contributions and gifts of the Pacific Island Asian American people in the United Church of Christ.