

## MONDAY MORNING

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.