

## 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.

## MONDAY MORNING

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod designates as PAAM Sunday the last Sunday of April each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod directs the Executive Council to work with the various instrumentalities to develop appropriate resources in consultation with PAAM to recognize, celebrate and use the contributions and gifts of Pacific Island Asian American peoples.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 16. RESOLUTION "SELF-GOVERNANCE OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS"

Ms. Maxey presented the Resolution "Self-Governance of Native Hawaiians" and moved its adoption. She asked for a suspension of the rules to allow the Rev. Kaleo Patterson (HI) to speak for the resolution. The Moderator suspended the rules upon consensus of the delegates.

91-GS-28 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Self-Governance of Native Hawaiians."

#### SELF-GOVERNANCE OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS

##### Theological and Biblical Basis

The belief that God delivers the oppressed is clear in Exodus 3:7-8, which asserts ". . . I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry . . . and I have come to deliver them . . . and bring them . . . to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey." Likewise, the Psalmist declares, the Lord ". . . has pity on the weak and the needy . . . and . . . from oppression and violence he redeems their life . . ." (Psalm 72:13-14).

By divine imperative, the prophets preached justice; and, by his unselfish life and sacrificial death on the Cross, Jesus Christ showed that God loves the oppressed. Thus, as the body of Christ, the Church engages in the struggle for justice and deliverance of the oppressed.

##### Rationale for Synod Action

In response to God's Word, and in obedience to Jesus Christ and affirming its Statement of Faith, the United Church of Christ, a Just Peace Church, works to free the oppressed.

The General Synod, our governing body, is a commendable example for the United Church of Christ members and others. Its instrumentalities side with today's oppressed; and, we trust it to do the same tomorrow as an expression of faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

##### References to Previous General Synod Policy on This Issue

Whereas, the Seventeenth General Synod, which adopted a "Hawaiian Homelands" Resolution, heard a pronouncement about the Westernizing and destruction of Pacific Island ways before Euro-American contact. It stated, "Hawaii was owned by God and the people were stewards of the land. Then, the Great Mahele (land distribution), a foreign idea of private land ownership, was introduced. The Kingdom of Hawaii enacted this system by Euro-American design and pressure. The same was true with the dethroning of Hawaii's last monarch Queen Liliuokalani. In both instances, American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions missionary descendants were in-

involved. Unable to relate to this land system, native Hawaiians became dislocated strangers at home; and many still ache with pain stemming from the tragic overthrow." Previous General Synods have passed resolutions and a pronouncement in support of Native Americans whose experiences are similar to Native Hawaiians.

##### Background and Discussion

WHEREAS, the Congregational Church, a historic member of the United Church of Christ, sponsored and sent 100 missionaries to Hawaii between 1820 and 1850. Many times that Church has been rightly commended and credited for all the good works it did so related to converting many Hawaiians to Christianity;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has yet to acknowledge that some of its missionary descendants were party to an illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy in 1893. In fact, U.S. President Grover Cleveland, on December 18, 1893 said to Congress, ". . . The military occupation of Honolulu by the United States on the day mentioned was wholly without justification, either as an occupation by consent or as an occupation necessitated by dangers threatening American life and property;"

WHEREAS, there is a rising consciousness to reevaluate the circumstances surrounding the overthrow. And, with the coming of the hundredth anniversary of that said historic event for Hawaiians, an honest appraisal and acknowledgment of the Congregational missionaries' descendants' role in it should be made, because our Church needs to bring that matter to some appropriate closure;

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Conference UCC, at its 1990 annual meeting, enacted Resolution "Recognizing the Right to Self-Governance of Native Hawaiians." Through this means, the Hawaii Conference UCC is supporting the movement to correct injustices to native Hawaiians;

WHEREAS, in 1970 President Richard Nixon changed the existing U.S. policy toward America's native peoples by rejecting all past policies which had kept Native Americans wards of the government. He announced a national policy of self determination of Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a history of granting indigenous people including American Indian, Eskimos, and Aleuts the inherent right of a self-determined governance and management of resources; and the Native Hawaiian has yet to be included among these.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod recognizes the inherent right of Native Hawaiians to self governance; and, pledges it support and solidarity in the name of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod urges the Hawaii State Legislature and the U. S. Congress to recognize the right of self-governance of Native Hawaiians; and we urge these governments to make available resources to support grassroots initiatives towards self-governance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod in recognition of our denomination's historical complicities in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893, directs the office of the President of the U.C.C. to offer a public apology to the native Hawaiian people, and to initiate a pro-