

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 its 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-

MONDAY AFTERNOON

ess of reconciliation between the United Church of Christ and native Hawaiians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod directs the Office for Church in Society to develop resources in collaboration with the Hawaii Conference UCC to enable churches and conferences to engage in study about the substance of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod also directs the Office for Church in Society to monitor and to follow up on this resolution, to report progress in UCC publications, and in collaboration with the Hawaii Conference UCC, to report to the Nineteenth General Synod.

AND FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the Eighteenth General Synod shares this resolution and follow up study and report with other denominations in order to encourage their support of this initiative of Native Hawaiian self-governance.

Subject to the availability of funds.

17. DEBATE EXTENDED

The Moderator asked the delegates for permission to extend debate for five minutes in order to hear the next Resolution. Permission was granted.

18. RESOLUTION "FOR A 21ST CENTURY STATEMENT OF FAITH"

Ms. Maxey moved that the Eighteenth General Synod take no action on this resolution at this time.

91-GS-29 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod takes no action on the Resolution "For a 21st Century Statement of Faith" at this time.

19. RESPONSE TO MS. EDELMAN'S ADDRESS FROM PAUL SHERRY

The Moderator granted President Paul Sherry the privilege of speaking in response to Ms. Marian Edelman's address. Mr. Sherry challenged all present to do everything possible to create a world fit for all God's children. He promised to mobilize the instrumentalities, conferences, and local churches to respond to this challenge.

20. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

Moderator Gosselink asked Ms. Bernice Powell for announcements and then declared the Eighteenth General Synod to be in recess until 2:00 p.m. Monday afternoon.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1, 1991

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Thomas called General Synod to order and recognized Ms. Bernice Powell for announcements.

Mr. Thomas called for the recognition of the Rev. Ray Berry (SD) for his 20 years in Social Service to Native Americans, eight years as an Association Minister, and 14 years serving Native American churches. His spouse Ms. Shirley Berry served as an administrative assistant. The delegates responded with a round of applause.

2. RESOLUTION "PARTNERSHIP REAFFIRMATION BETWEEN THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GHANA AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST"

Assistant Moderator Thomas recognized Ms. Juanita Helphrey to continue the report of the Executive Council.

Ms. Helphrey referred delegates to Advance Materials Section II, page 110, read the Resolution "Reaffirmation Between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana and the United Church of Christ," and moved its adoption.

91-GS-30 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Reaffirmation Between The Evangelical Presbyterian Church Of Ghana And The United Church of Christ."

PARTNERSHIP REAFFIRMATION BETWEEN THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GHANA AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana and the United Church of Christ (USA) have a partnership in

mission based on our mutual acceptance of membership in the Body of Christ;

WHEREAS, these churches are united by our belief in the Scriptures and our affirmation that we are sisters and brothers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;

WHEREAS, we believe that this partnership has provided for and will provide for the mutual free expression of our Christian love;

WHEREAS, both churches have declared themselves to be truly desirous of strengthening this relationship in the love of Christ;

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana is a member church of the All African Council of Churches, the World Alliance of Reformed Church, and World Council of Churches, demonstrating its interest and commitment in ecumenical relationships;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ (USA) seeks to celebrate, reaffirm and strengthen its dialogue and ecumenical relationship through the world; and

WHEREAS, we believe that this particular partnership in mission will share in Christian solidarity, and provide a means for strengthening our common implementation of the mission of the church in the world.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the UCC (USA) celebrates and authorizes the ongoing partnership between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana and the United Church of Christ (USA) in June 1991 and reaffirms the partnership agreement.

Subject to the availability of funds