

**9. RESOLUTION "SUBSTANCE ABUSE AS A PARAMOUNT PROBLEM"**

The chairperson of Committee 14 was Mr. Carl Rothe (IK).

Mr. Rothe introduced the resolution formerly named "Drug Abuse Nation Priority" and indicated that it's name had been changed to "Substance Abuse as a Paramount Concern" and moved it's adoption.

91-GS-32 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Substance Abuse as A Paramount Concern."

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AS A  
PARAMOUNT CONCERN

The Apostle Paul calls us to view our bodies as the temples of God and to treat them with due respect. Our faith directs us to lead supportive, loving, and meaningful lives. Substance abuse undermines the integrity of human creation and potential.

WHEREAS, Jesus calls us to minister to all persons in need;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ recognizes that substance abuse has a devastating effect on all segments of our society;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has been working on substance abuse prevention and treatment programs that would greatly benefit from additional support, coordination, and resources.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod recognizes substance abuse as a pervasive and paramount concern in our church and society, and instructs the Office of the President to appoint and equip an ombudsperson/coordinator to work with every appropriate instrumentality and agency of the United Church of Christ to develop policy and procedures which will address the problem of substance abuse throughout the church and society.

Subject to the availability of funds.

**10. RESOLUTION "RESPONSE TO FREEZE DISASTER"**

Mr. Rothe then introduced the Resolution "Response to Freeze Disaster," and moved it's adoption.

91-GS-33 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Response to Freeze Disaster."

RESPONSE TO FREEZE DISASTER

Background

History tells us about the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. Television showed us the Loma Prieta Earthquake of 1989. But there were no collapsed buildings, broken bridges, or national newscasters for the third worst natural disaster to hit California. On the night of December 22-23, 1990 the disaster began as temperatures statewide started to drop well below freezing. Citrus and other vulnerable crops froze causing the loss of the entire harvest. Farm workers waiting the call to pick fruit were never called. Packers with no fruit to pack laid-off their workers. Shippers had nothing to ship and did not call their truck-

ers. As time passed utility bills could not be met, mortgage and rent payments could not be paid. Food stocks dropped alarmingly. Entire families pooled their resources to buy food. Mothers began to stretch their infant's formula with water. The effect of the California Freeze rippled out into the surrounding communities. It is estimated the overall economic loss will exceed \$2.5 billion in the Central San Joaquin Valley. In one of the hardest hit counties the unemployment rate soared to 23% following the freeze, on par with the Great Depression of the 1930's.

An immediate ecumenical response developed as local interfaith communities organized to meet emergency needs. The most pressing need continues to be direct assistance to those who are ineligible for any relief or who receive benefits below subsistence levels. The interfaith coalitions provide food, clothing, medication, utility and rent assistance and advocacy on behalf of freeze victims.

Policy Statement

WHEREAS, the prophet Isaiah declares God's demand that we "... learn to do good; seek justice, relieve the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow";

WHEREAS, children are suffering from malnutrition, farm workers are in danger of losing their homes, and prospects for immediate seasonal employment are few;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has traditionally upheld the cause of the powerless, particularly the farm worker.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms the interfaith disaster response to the Freeze Disaster in California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod affirms the initial response to the disaster made by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the United Church Board for World Ministries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod urges the continued United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and United Church Board for World Ministries financial and other assistance in conjunction with the Northern California Conference.

Subject to the availability of funds.

**11. RESOLUTION "PARENTAL LEAVE POLICIES"**

The chairperson of Committee 22 was the Rev. Keith Haemmelmann (RM). Following introduction of the Resolution "Parental Leave Policies." Mr. Haemmelmann moved its adoption.

91-GS-34 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Parental Leave."

PARENTAL LEAVE POLICIES

Theological and Biblical Basis

As Christians we place a high value on the importance of a loving, nurturing family and recognize that in these times the word "family" describes a variety of experiences, it is true that the family, in whatever form, is the first teacher of children, providing the basis for learning about faith, love and