

## MONDAY EVENING

President George Bush and respectfully requests that President Bush withdraw the nomination of Clarence Thomas;

We request that the Judiciary Committee of The United States Senate vote to not approve the nomination of Clarence Thomas;

We call upon all other persons, groups and organizations with a commitment to fairness and equal justice to join in the building of a national campaign to block the confirmation of Clarence Thomas as a justice on the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

The body responded with a standing ovation.

### 5. AGENDA CHANGE

The Moderator recognized Ms. Linda Turner, Chairperson of the Agenda Committee. She reported that the discussion of the financial campaign would be continued Tuesday morning. She reminded the delegates of the way committee reports are assigned and what happens when issues are not discussed at the time. She recommended the following allocation of time.

91-GS-40 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod approves that up to 45 minutes be allocated to the report of Committee One, dealing with the priorities, and 25 minutes be allocated for each of the other committees reporting this evening.

### 6. RESOLUTION "SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT"

The Rev. Paul Adkins, Chairperson of Committee Nine, spoke of the three issues the committee discussed. He then moved adoption of the Resolution "Support of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" as written in Advance Materials II, page 115. A committee member, Ms. Paula Van Natta, spoke in favor of the resolution.

91-GS-41 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Support of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development."

#### SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, we face an environmental crisis in our relationship with the earth and the impact of our "first world" economic development on the developing countries and on human development and justice throughout the globe;

WHEREAS, the women of the world bear a disproportionate burden for the care of those adversely affected by the impact of overdevelopment on the environment and a special role in the spiritual nurture of our families;

WHEREAS, the Seventeenth General Synod recognized the role of the Church in responding to this crisis by adopting the Priority "Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace," emphasizing the preeminence of our relationship with the earth by placing "Integrity of Creation" in first place;

WHEREAS, the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society is a member of the Priority Working Group for Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace;

WHEREAS, the General Synod has adopted numerous resolutions calling for the support of the work of the United Nations, the only organization capable of mobilizing global action on environmental issues;

WHEREAS, the United Nations has called for a UN Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in June of 1992; and

WHEREAS, the International Coordinating Committee on Religion and the Earth (ICCRE) has been formed to foster awareness of the spiritual dimension of the environmental crisis and to develop a clear religious voice to impact the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod expresses support for the June 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and for the work of the International Coordinating Committee on Religion and the Earth, and

Calls on the Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace Working Group; the Spiritual Renewal Network and the Network of Environment and Economic Responsibility to consider ways to support the work of the International Coordinating Committee on Religion and the Earth, and to raise awareness of United Church of Christ conferences, congregations and members about the spiritual dimensions of the environmental crisis, and

Calls on members, congregations, conferences and national bodies to continue work toward the goals of the Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace Priority, using the resources of the national Working Group and developing additional worship, educational and action programs to heal the earth and bring justice and peace for all, and

Requests the President of the Church to communicate this support to the Secretary General of the United Nations, to the United Nations Environment Programme, to the President of the United States and the United States Ambassador to the United Nations.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 7. RESOLUTION "IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS"

Mr. Adkins then moved that the Eighteenth General Synod adopt the Resolution "In Support of the United Nations" found on page 1 of Committee Reports Part 3. Ms. Gretchen Green from the committee spoke to the resolution.

91-GS-42 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "In Support of the United Nations."

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WHEREAS, Micah asks, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice?" (Micah 6:8a), and Jesus proclaims, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9), and the Psalmist proclaims, "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created, and thou renews the face of the earth" (Psalms 104:30);

WHEREAS, The United Church of Christ Priority adopted at General Synod XVII, "Integrity of Creation, Justice, and Peace," enlists all parts of the United Church of Christ in study and action;

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WHEREAS, A resolution of the Sixteenth General Synod calls for renewed United States support of the United Nations as our best investment for a just peace;

WHEREAS, The United Nations is the world's best existing vehicle for coordinating the efforts of all people to:

- (a) Work toward restoring the earth and the integrity of creation,
- (b) Provide justice to all people and creatures of God's creation,
- (c) Make peace and keep peace among the nations and people of our civilization;

WHEREAS, the planet Earth will not continue to support the human species at the present rate of population growth and depletion and desecration of the biosphere;

WHEREAS, many of the goals of the United Nations parallel on these issues the priorities and spirit of the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, the current crisis in the Middle East creates new urgency around the need for the leadership of the United Nations for building peace with justice and for binding up the human social and political wounds of war.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon instrumentalities such as the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, and conferences to devote additional resources:

- (a) To re-establish the office of the United Church of Christ at the United Nations Church Center in New York City;
- (b) To provide an awareness and education to people of all ages in the United Church of Christ on how the United Nation's goals and programs parallel the United Church of Christ's priority of "Integrity of Creation, Justice, and Peace," and the Gospel's call to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, freedom to the oppressed, sustenance to the hungry and housing to the homeless;
- (c) To advocate for the United Nations by encouraging the United States to support the United Nations and lead the nations of the world in working through the United Nations as the forum for resolving world issues;
- (d) To cooperate with the United Nations and its specialized agencies in meeting the needs of all God's children for assuring the basic human rights and providing the education, health care, food and housing all God's children need for the fullness of life promised in the Gospel;
- (e) To explore the possibility of cooperating in these efforts with our partner church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod supports ratification by the United States of the International Human Rights Covenants and Conventions on:

- (a) Universal Declaration of Human Rights which has not been ratified by the United States;

- (b) Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women which has not been ratified by the United States;
- (c) Convention on the Rights of the Child which has not been ratified by the United States;
- (d) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which has not been ratified by the United States;
- (e) International Covenant and Optional Protocol on Civil and Political Rights which has not been ratified by the United States;
- (f) International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination which has not been ratified by the United States;
- (g) International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid which has not been ratified by the United States;
- (h) Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment which has not been ratified by the United States;
- (i) Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees which has not been ratified by the United States;
- (j) We celebrate the ratification by the United States of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 8. RESOLUTION "UNITED STATES' ROLE IN A NEW WORLD ORDER"

Mr. Adkins directed the delegates' attention to Committee Reports Part 3, page 3 and moved that the General Synod approve the Resolution "United States' Role in a New World Order." Ms. Lisa Slosker, a member of the committee spoke to the resolution.

91-GS-43 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "United States' Role in a New World Order."

#### UNITED STATES' ROLE IN A NEW WORLD ORDER

##### Background

The United Church of Christ has embarked on a significant journey from being a proponent of Just War theology to adopting a position on a Just Peace.

The Thirteenth General Synod defined a Just Peace "as the interrelation of friendship, justice and common security from violence". As we explore what it means to be a Just Peace Church we are further challenged by the message of the World Convocation on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation in Seoul, Korea, sponsored by the World Council of Churches in 1989. In anticipation of the World Council of Churches meeting, General Synod 17 voted the Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace Priority.

As the United Church of Christ evolved towards a Just Peace theology, policy and priorities have been espoused in support of peace with justice and against war. Many of these policies bring us into conflict with American cultural beliefs and the premises of United States nationalism. The World Council of Churches' message on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation particularly challenges the premises behind the role the United States has played in perpetuating an unjust world order.