

MONDAY EVENING

Health and Human Services Ministries, the Health and Welfare Coordinating Council.

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries is designated as coordinator.

11. RESOLUTION "NEGATIVE STEREOTYPING OF NATIVE AMERICANS"

Ms. Elizabeth Fisher, the Chairperson of Committee 16, drew the attention of the delegates to Committee Report Part 3, page 7. She also pointed out the original resolutions found in Advance Materials II, Pages 116-117, and Advance Materials III, page 2.

She pointed out the areas where the committee made changes. She moved that the General Synod adopt the Resolution "Negative Stereotyping of Native Americans." After Ms. Fisher spoke to the resolution, she asked Ms. Lilia Behr to speak to affirm the importance of this issue. There was brief discussion, primarily in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Christy Flynn (KO) moved the previous question.

91-GS-47 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Negative Stereotyping of Native Americans."

NEGATIVE STEREOTYPING OF NATIVE AMERICANS

WHEREAS, all human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1: 27);

WHEREAS, Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us (John 15: 12-17);

WHEREAS, Paul admonishes us to work for peace and mutual upbuilding (Romans 14: 18-19);

WHEREAS, The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society is committed to the elimination of all forms of discrimination, particularly sexism and racism in our church and society;

WHEREAS, the Center has affirmed the need to educate the church and society regarding its silence in the matter of racist and sexist language and stereotypes in all forms of media, in educational resources, and in our attitudes;

WHEREAS, The Center is committed to expanding the understanding of the dehumanizing impact of the use of sexist and racist language in our society, as exemplified by the offensive nomenclature of professional, amateur, and school sports teams, and their use of Native American stereotypes and imagery;

WHEREAS, the use of racist and sexist language and stereotypes continues to exploit Native American culture by its identification with consumer products (i.e. beer, cologne, cars, coffee, and tobacco);

WHEREAS, the abuse of Christian symbols such as the cross and chalice for entertainment and/or profit is insulting, insensitive, and an affront to Christian spirituality and is therefore unacceptable;

WHEREAS, the abuse of Native American symbols such as the headdress and sacred pipe for entertainment and/or profit is insulting, insensitive and an affront to Native American spirituality and is therefore unacceptable;

WHEREAS, the Center recognizes its obligation to support and uphold the concerns of its constituency particularly in the areas of sexism and racism;

WHEREAS, the use of racist and sexist imagery is an affront to basic human rights, undermines basic human dignity and has a negative impact upon the self image, self awareness, and sense of human worth; and

WHEREAS, the UCC Council for American Indian Ministries has affirmed the spirit of this resolution and has developed a supporting resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society to confer with the Office of Communication, the Commission for Racial Justice, the Office for Church in Society, and the Council for American Indian Ministries to determine strategies that could have a substantive impact on the church with a goal of educating the membership of the United Church of Christ regarding the negative effects of sexism and racism, and to uphold and take leadership in the following actions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ meeting in Norfolk, Virginia affirms this resolution and calls upon each member of the United Church of Christ to uphold the following actions:

1. Dialogue with one another and with Native American peoples about the effects of negative stereotyping, and about the positive history, culture, and spirituality of the Native American peoples.
2. Write to the teams and schools which use Native American imagery for team mascots and/or logos, expressing deep concern about the use and misuse of Native American names and images, such as the Washington Redskins, Cleveland Indians, Golden State Warriors, and Chicago Black Hawks.
3. Ask Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and the National Hockey League to make special contributions from their revenues and/or endowments to assist in the positive identification of Native Americans and their cultures.
4. Organize a boycott, or personally boycott, professional and collegiate games in those leagues which refuse to engage in dialogue, and which refuse to commit to a process of movement toward the use of positive images.
5. Organize a boycott, or personally boycott, the television and other media sponsors of professional and collegiate games whose teams use negative stereotyping and imagery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon each member to follow the above course of action in reference to producers,

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manufacturers, and the branches of the United States Armed Forces which use Native American names and images to market products such as "Jeep Cherokee," "Winnebago," "Redman Chewing Tobacco," and the "Apache" helicopter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon the Commission for Racial Justice and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to make available to these teams, sponsors, and manufacturers the Pastoral Letter on Contemporary Racism.

Subject to the availability of funds.

12. RESOLUTION "CONCERNING CRISIS IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS"

Mr. Danny Roman, the Chairperson of Committee 13, moved that the Synod adopt the Resolution "Concerning Crisis in Financial Institutions found on page 9 of Committee Report 3. Mr. Roman spoke to the resolution. There was some discussion.

91-GS-48 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Concerning Crisis in Financial Institutions."

CONCERNING CRISIS IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ in its Seventeenth General Synod Pronouncement "Christian Faith, Economic Life and Justice" has declared that "Through our covenant with God, we are responsible to our sisters and brothers for the justice of the economic institutions in which we participate" and has called "the various bodies of the UCC ... to increase their advocacy on behalf of economic justice in the economic life of their nation;"

WHEREAS, in the past eleven years, the economy has become less just as evidenced by the relative decline in income and living standards of the middle, working and lower classes and a relative increase in the wealth and income of the affluent and very rich;

WHEREAS, the takeover of Savings and Loan institutions by wealthy investors, executives and depositors has contributed to the general shift in wealth and income away from the middle and working classes to the affluent and very rich;

WHEREAS, the takeover of the S & Ls was accomplished through the Federal Government's policy of deregulation of the S & L institutions, a policy which allowed "business insiders" to crowd out small local depositors, to direct investments away from middle-class residential housing to commercial enterprises, and to invest in high-risk ventures that were insured by U.S. taxpayers;

WHEREAS, in this climate of deregulation, powerful and affluent S & L owners and entrepreneurs committed what Attorney General Richard Thornburgh calls "the biggest white-collar swindle in history," and whose fraud, insider abuse, or outright criminality were factors in 60 percent of the failed S & Ls according to William Seidman, the chairman of FDIC;

WHEREAS, in 1989, Congress passed the S & L bailout law (Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement

Act), a law which sells bonds to pay for purchase of insolvent S & Ls and the reimbursement of insured depositors' accounts at an estimated cost of \$300 - \$500 billion to U.S. taxpayers over this decade (\$5,000/taxpayer) and up to \$1,369 trillion in the next forty years (\$15,000/taxpayer);

WHEREAS, Federal prosecutions have recovered less than one percent of taxpayer funds attributable to fraud and currently the Bush Administration is backing efforts by big accounting firms, banks, S & Ls and Wall Street investment houses to eliminate key civil provisions of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act or RICO, the statute used to prosecute Charles Keating;

WHEREAS, the 1989 S & L bailout law and the lack of vigorous prosecution of S & L investors will benefit wealthy bondholders and the S & L officials who ruined those institutions at the expense of U.S. taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the deregulation of the S & Ls, the undermining of efforts by the Federal Home Loan Banking Board Chairman Gray to rein in the S & Ls and expose the scandal, the passage of the S & L bailout law which socializes private gain, and the efforts of the Bush Administration to now deregulate commercial banks are all a consequence of the concentration of political power in the hands of business and the lack of effective countervailing power among the citizenry.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ condemns with righteous indignation the criminal behavior and governmental ineptitude which have damaged the savings and loan industry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Office for Church In Society through the Christian Faith: Economic Justice Working Group to work with other appropriate instrumentalities and ecumenical agencies, to engage in further study of problems and injustices related to the management and regulation of financial institutions and to develop study resources for local churches, associations and conferences;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges its members, local churches, associations and conferences to study the problems of financial industries and organize people to work for a greater degree of justice in the financial institutions of our country.

Background

Historically S & Ls were financial institutions that were owned by depositors in local communities; they offered mortgages to middle and modest-income families in those communities. Though S & Ls underwent changes through the years, as late as the 1970s, 67% of that assets of S & Ls were invested in home mortgages and the 4,732 S & Ls financed nearly 80% of the home mortgages in the U.S.

A major reason the S & Ls remained true to their mission was that, in the 1930s, the government created an insurance (FSLIC) and regulatory structure to safeguard deposits and ensure that deposits would be used primarily for home mortgages.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, the federal regulatory structure was dismantled. Prior to deregulation, only depositors were permitted to own S & Ls; new rules changed that — investors