

MONDAY EVENING

91-GS-39 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod votes to suspend the rules to allow for the reading of the names of those of our denomination who have died of or are living with AIDS.

NAMES OF PEOPLE OF OUR DENOMINATION WHO ARE LIVING WITH OR HAVE DIED OF AIDS

Tim Brubaker	Ruth Allen
Gerry Burton	John Allen
David Booth	Ed
Dr. James R. Perry	Steve
Brad Truesdale	Dennis
Greg	Rick Z
John	Lee Connor
Kip	Jaison Wlaker
Rod	Dave
Corey	Ron
Sandy	Michael Elden Pritchett
Gary	George
Hans	Rick
Jack	Allen David Pritchett
Doug	Rick
David	Harry
Louie Feirro	Vito Russo
Ed Crawley	Mark Mutchnik
Paul Lee Aubjerg	Sal Licata
Peter Gelfken	Douglass Tuthill
Randy Edwards	Bill Broderick
Zachery Chanel	Rev. Bill McLinn
Rev. Michael Schlaff	Rev. Christopher Lee
Scott Still	John Cross
Jarvis	Rev. Tom Davis
James Michael Frye	Michael Kantrowitz
Jorge Herna	Werner Kuhn
Nicky Ruiz	Timmy Barbo
Perry Cork	Rev. David Murry
John Wood	Tommy
David	Jerry Gevers
Tom Coons	Jeffrey Sevcheck
Derrick She	Paul Benedict
Reese Burns	Steven Cass
Larry	Mike of Jefferson City, MO
Bryan Walsh	David Summers
Chris R. N.	Susan
Brian Wulsh	David
Bob Hinkle	Vernell
Alex Stevens	Jack Reicher
Dennis	Richard
John Sikes	Gary
Ivan Trudy	Tim
Mark Marcelle	Doug Grant
John Biekas	David King
Scott Stille	Kip Ramos
Craig Stenger	John June
Mark S.	Greg Musick
Ken S.	Rodney Camero
Ron M.	Gary Porter
Maria	Cary Williams
Ernie	Craig
Eddy	Mark Henry
Tommy Flynt	Eric James
Derrick Pearson	Steve Risch
Matt White	Jack
Todd White	George
Tom Hurley	Bill Shuman
Darrell Olsen	Jack Hubner
John Sinwell	Peter Bowler

Rev. Steve Fink	Rev. Steven Chamberlain
Joseph	Jorge H.
Doug	Perry Corke
Cameron	Rev. Michael Schloff
Guy Moulton Yates, M.D.	John Woods
John	Derrick Sheridan
Rev. Russell Koons	Darryl Robinson
Tony	Jack Lindquist
Sully	Bryan Walsh
Michael Naddney	Richard Mitrano, R.N.
Gary Bryant	Chuck Swalm
John M. Cox	Richard Wickersham
Bartolo Hernandez	Liz Erik Guengerich
Rev. Michael Koonsman	Josue A.
Robert C.	Jurgon B.
Randy	John Susimile
Bobby	David S.
Ron	Joseph Blair
Lester Harris	

4. RECOMMENDED ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE NOMINATION OF CLARENCE THOMAS TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Moderator recognized the following people to make a presentation: the Rev. Benjamin Chavis (CRJ), Ms. Beverly Chain (OC), Ms. Marilyn Breitling (CCW), the Rev. S. Garry Oniki (OCIS), the Rev. Bill Hulteen, the Rev. C. Shelby Rooks (UCBHM), the Rev. Paul Sherry, President, the Rev. Carol Joyce Brun, Secretary, the Rev. Scott Libbey (UCBWM), the Rev. Doris Powell (Director of Fiance and Treasurer), and the Rev. Mary Sue Gast (CCW).

Mr. Chavis spoke to announce that President Bush had nominated Mr. Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. He read the following Recommended Action "In Response to The Nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court of The United States."

It is the consensus of the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ that today's nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court of the United States is an affront to the pursuit of equal justice. The United Church of Christ affirms a historic commitment to equal justice for all persons without limitation or discrimination due to race, gender, religion, or national origin.

Mr. Clarence Thomas, at the age of 43, has gained the questionable distinction of being a severe opponent to civil rights and human rights. As the former chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission during the Reagan Administration, Thomas exemplified callous and contemptuous lack of respect for the rights of women, racial and ethnic persons, and the rights of the senior citizens. In addition, Thomas consistently opposed the efforts of workers to redress employment discrimination. Thomas is a vocal opponent of affirmative action and his anti-abortion stance sends a chilling message to the most vulnerable in our society and casts a repugnant shadow over "freedom of choice" and opportunity at the hands of the courts for decades to come.

The legal career of Clarence Thomas is diametrically opposed to the standards of justice embodied by Justice Thurgood Marshall.

The Eighteenth General Synod decries this nomination by

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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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churches and conferences to stand, as well as members of the Peace and Justice Network. She spoke about the unique role our church plays throughout the nation and the world.

Mr. Oniki spoke about serving as interim director this past year for the Office of Church In Society, and that the office had worked faithfully to relate the gospel to the struggle with the endemic nature of racism. Mr. Oniki expressed appreciation to the UCC for support and participation in peace and justice ministries. The staff of the Office of Church In Society joined him on stage and he asked the delegates to listen to the staff concerns about South Africa, health care, the United Nations, El Salvador, hunger, ICJP, peace, the middle east, aids, civil rights, and gay rights.

6. INSTRUMENTALITY PRESENTATION - OFFICE FOR CHURCH LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

The Office for Church Life and Leadership staff were recognized by Mr. Hulteen, while General Synod watched a video which explained the work of the Office for Church Life and Leadership. All members of conference staffs who work with Office for Church Life and Leadership on a regular basis were asked to stand as Mr. Hulteen, asked how many present have seen the "Pastoral Relations Committee" handbook, the Leaders' Box, the Manual on Ministry, the Book of Worship. New resource for lay caregivers will be available this fall. General Synod was led in singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

7. STATEMENT "IN RESPONSE TO THE NOMINATION OF CLARENCE THOMAS TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES"

The Rev. Benjamin Chavis and Mr. Donald Freeman (Business Committee) clarified what was done last evening in regard to the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. Mr. Chavis read the statement again. Some delegates wanted a specific vote rather than a consensus.

The Rev. Sterling Cary (ILL) stated that Mr. Chavis needed permission of Synod to entertain the motion. Mr. Chavis explained this motion came at the recommendation of the Business Committee. There was a motion to suspend the rules in order to entertain this motion.

The Rev. Keith DuVernay (OHIO) stated that he felt it both unfair and inappropriate to ask General Synod to vote without seeing the whole statement being voted. Following discussion, the Synod acted upon the motion.

91-GS-68 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the statement "In Response to the Nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court of the United States."

IN RESPONSE TO THE NOMINATION OF CLARENCE THOMAS TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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The Eighteenth General Synod decries the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court of the United States; respectfully requests that President Bush withdraw this nomination; requests that the Judiciary Committee of the United States vote to not approve this nomination; and calls upon all other persons, groups and organizations across this nation with a commitment to fairness and equal justice to join in building a national campaign to block the confirmation of Clarence Thomas as a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

8. INTRODUCTION OF AGENDA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Assistant Moderator Rogers called upon Ms. Linda Turner, chair of the Agenda Committee.

Ms. Turner took a moment to introduce the members of the Agenda Committee process people: the Rev. Mary Ann Neevel, the Rev. Bob Ullman, the Rev. Sheldon Culver Shippel and Ms. Rheda Schulz and thanked them for their work. Ms. Neevel thanked the people who chaired hearings and committees.

9. RECOGNITION OF A SPECIAL GUEST

Assistant Moderator Rogers recognized a special guest (to a drum beat) as an Easter Bunny playing a drum (the copper top bunny) came on to the stage and left. This was symbolic of General Synod which keeps on going and going. The bunny was thrown out of the arena because it did not have proper credentials.

10. PROPOSED PRONOUNCEMENT "TOWARD AN ACCESSIBLE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM"

The chairperson of Committee Six was Mr. James Blume (SC). Mr. Blume talked about the original documents the committee was given and described the changes made to the original documents which resulted in the final documents, found in Committee Report 4, page 5.

Mr. Blume spoke to the motion commenting on the Good Samaritan story as a basis for support. Mr. Blume stated this is not a call for socialized medicine as in Great Britain, or a plan similar to Canada's current plan.

Mr. Joe Alfred (IL.S) stated he felt the document is in the form of a resolution, which is not proper for a pronouncement.