

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Office for Church in Society, to develop regional and national strategies for public policy advocacy in support of universal health care legislation; provide ongoing legislative analysis regarding health care issues;

Office of Communication, to develop an effective media campaign on health care;

Office of Church Life and Leadership, to develop and provide to UCC pastors health care resources for pastoral care and counseling, and for worship and liturgical resources;

United Church Board for World Ministries, to conduct an analytic survey of health care systems in industrialized nations and distribute the results to the congregational health care task forces.

6. Agencies of the United Church of Christ

Council for Health and Human Services Ministries

- a. to encourage agency members to cooperate with the conferences to resource the congregational health care task forces;
- b. to identify, assess and provide to the Health and Welfare Coordinating Council various models for fee standardization, cost containment, and quality service provision relevant to the creation of an equitable, accessible universal health care system.

Subject to the availability of funds.

12. RESOLUTION "ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEDERALLY FUNDED NATIONAL LONG TERM CARE PROGRAM"

Mr. Blume continued with the report of the committee and moved the adoption of the Resolution "Establishment of a Federally Funded National Long Term Care Program" found in Committee Reports, Part 4, page 17.

91-GS-71 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Establishment of a Federally Funded National Long Term Care Program."

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEDERALLY FUNDED NATIONAL LONG TERM CARE PROGRAM

Endorsing the establishment of a federally funded national long term care program and committing the United Church of Christ to pursuing the enactment of such a program.

WHEREAS, one of every two persons over the age of 65 will be cared for in a long term care facility at some point, for some time, during his/her lifetime;

WHEREAS, thousands more persons will rely on long term care provided in the home by family care givers or paid home health agency staff;

WHEREAS, caring for family members often creates severe stress for care givers;

WHEREAS, demographic studies demonstrate that while our population ages, the demand and necessity for long term services will increase;

WHEREAS, by the year 2000, at least 8.9 million people of all ages will need long term care services;

WHEREAS, the Medicare program provides coverage to meet beneficiaries' acute care needs, but offers no coverage for long term care;

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program requires persons to possess limited assets or liquidate them before long term care coverage is provided;

WHEREAS, the private insurance industry has been unable to market consistently affordable individual long term care policies at reasonable premium prices; and

WHEREAS, payment for long term care is usually derived from the patient's assets or those of his/her family, creating severe financial hardships.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod endorses the establishment of a federal long term care program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod asks that a federal long term care program should provide coverage of facility, home, and community-based care to all Americans regardless of age or infirmity, and that the program should be financed as broadly as possible.

Subject to the availability of funds.

13. PROPOSED PRONOUNCEMENT AND PROPOSAL FOR ACTION "IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN LIFE"

Ms. White moved the adoption of the Proposed Pronouncement "In Defense of Human Life" and shared that the committee recommended its defeat.

It was recommended by Shepherd of the Hills, United Church of Christ, Bechtelsville, PA, with the concurrence of Trinity United Church of Christ, Mt. Reading, PA; Blackstone Federated Church, Blackstone, MA; Christ Little Tulpehocken United Church of Christ, Bernville, PA; First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Millers Falls, MA; St. Peter's United Church of Christ of Hilltown, Hilltown, PA; and St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Stowe, PA. to the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ meeting in Norfolk, Virginia June 27 - July 2, 1991.

Ms. White yielded to the Rev. Jeff Barton, UCC Ministers of Higher Education, who urged rejection of the proposal. Mr. Barton reminded the delegates that General Synod for 20 years has responded to the issue of freedom of choice. Mr. Barton commended a published compilation of statements and resolutions representing 20 years of debate, prayer and faithful learning from General Synods 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17 have all called us to carefully confirm responsibility and freedom of choice. It is Mr. Barton's opinion the proposed pronouncement does not further this discussion or lead us toward a new thing and he urged the delegates vote to reject the proposed pronouncement.

The Rev. John Brown (PSE) spoke in support of proposed pronouncement because all human life is precious.