

## TUESDAY EVENING

decreased budgets and/or restructuring. Additionally, even where portfolio assignments for youth and young adult ministries are still maintained, staff re-alignments have weakened youth and young adult ministry programs. These developments, if allowed to continue their present course, portend serious problems in the United Church of Christ's present ministries to youth and young adults and the future denominational affiliation of these groups.

### Text of the Resolution

WHEREAS, Youth and Young Adult Ministries were voted as a Priority by General Synods from 1983 to 1987;

WHEREAS, Youth and Young Adults are in need of spiritual and leadership empowerment;

WHEREAS, Youth and Young Adults have a need to be involved in the ministries and missions of the denomination, and may drop out or seek other faith affiliations if they are not given the opportunities in the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, strong and vital Youth and Young Adult programs are found in some conferences and associations, other conference and association Youth and Young Adult programs have dwindled; and

WHEREAS, re-structuring in conferences, due to organizational and budgetary rationale, has resulted in increasing numbers of Youth and Young Adult program staff positions and programs that have been weakened and/or eliminated.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod encourages churches, associations, and conferences to prayerfully strengthen and replenish Youth and Young Adult programs and program staff positions in their conferences and associations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon conferences and associations to dialogue and work with Youth and Young Adults in order to develop new and creative responses for Youth and Young Adult ministries in times of changing needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to survey, assess, and creatively present to the Nineteenth General Synod patterns, changes, and developments, and recommend implementation models in this issue of concern for youth and young adult ministries.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 16. RESOLUTION "ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE"

Ms. Gosselink recognized Ms. Jamieson for the presentation of the Report of Committee Seven. She advised the body to correct the resolution as found in Committee Reports, Part IV, page 11, line 8, to read "associations and local churches." On behalf of the committee, Ms. Jamieson moved that the Eighteenth General Synod adopt the Resolution "Active Nonviolence."

Ms. Jamieson spoke on behalf of the committee. There was discussion of the resolution. The Eighteenth General Synod

terminated debate on this issue and proceeded to voting on the Resolution "Active Nonviolence."

91-GS-90 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Active Nonviolence."

### ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE

WHEREAS, we live in a violent environment in which:

- people have become insensitive to violence, being conditioned by television, news coverage, war toys and the glorification of violent role models;
- our society tends to emphasize greed, competition, and the resolution of conflict through force;
- increasing numbers of people are poor, hungry, homeless, and without health care or support systems;
- wealth is increasingly transferred from the poor and the middle classes to the rich;
- a basic level of unemployment is accepted as normal;
- increasing numbers of people are poor, hungry, homeless, and without health care or support systems;

WHEREAS, violence is perpetrated through:

- all forms of domestic abuse;
- the use of war and embargoes of the type which lead to hunger and starvation;
- the destruction of the ecosystem;

WHEREAS, we are beneficiaries of violence because:

- with 5 percent of world population the U.S. consumes one third of the world's resources;
- we expropriate resources by means of international debt, unequal trade agreements, austerity requirements and military force;

WHEREAS, active nonviolence confronts injustice and violence using strategies and techniques for social transformation and personal change which engender shalom - justice, peace, wholeness, health, integrity of individuals and creation;

WHEREAS, we have seen active nonviolence:

- in the witness of God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ;
- in the witness, testimony and suffering of many in the church;
- in nonviolent movements for justice in the world;
- demonstrated in the lives of such people as Chief Seattle, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dorothy Day.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ proclaims its commitment to nonviolence and urges members of the United Church of Christ to choose nonviolent methods, seeking a knowledge of nonviolent principles and techniques.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls the delegates and the members of conferences, associations and congregations to understand:

- the environment of violence;
- the plight of victims of violence;
- the responsibility and accountability of those who knowingly or unknowingly are perpetrators or beneficiaries of violence; and
- the tradition and effectiveness of active nonviolence.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod requests the Office for Church in Society, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the UCBHM Divisions of American Missionary Association and Education and Publication, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, conferences and associations and local churches:

- to help church members confront violence on the personal, interpersonal, structural and systemic levels of life;
- to train church members in the use of nonviolent strategies and techniques;
- to develop linkages with institutions, organizations, nations and especially the United Nations for the purpose of the study, promotion and use of nonviolence as a means for achieving the integrity of creation, justice, and peace;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod encourages local pastors to preach about active non-violence.

Subject to the availability of Funds.

### 17. RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF COMMITTEE EIGHT

A motion was made to change the order of the day to address immediately Committee Eight's report on Resolution "Acknowledging the 500th Anniversary of the Landing of Christopher Columbus and a United Church of Christ Response." The motion was seconded. The Eighteenth General Synod failed to approve changing the order of the day.

### 18. RESOLUTION "USE OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION METHODS"

The Moderator recognized Ms. Jamieson for the presentation of the Report of Committee Seven. On behalf of the committee, Ms. Jamieson moved that the Eighteenth General Synod adopt the Resolution "Use of Conflict Resolution Methods." There was no discussion.

91-GS-91 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod adopted the Resolution "Use of Conflict Resolution Methods."

#### USE OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION METHODS

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ, in the Fifteenth General Synod, voted to affirm itself a Just Peace Church;

WHEREAS, the Integrity of Creation, Justice, and Peace Priority adopted by the United Church of Christ at the Seventeenth General Synod called all parts of the denomination to study and action in support of that Priority;

WHEREAS, as Christians, we believe that individuals, families, churches, and our nation should lead the world away from violence as a means of settling disputes;

WHEREAS, highly developed techniques of conflict resolution such as mediation, negotiation, and arbitration exist as the result of the efforts of many individuals and organizations in the academic, political, and business worlds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod:

Calls upon everyone involved in the national organizations and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to use

mediation, negotiation, and arbitration whenever disputes arise;

Calls the delegates and members of United Church of Christ conferences, associations, and congregations to study these methods of peacefully resolving conflicts and to apply them in their dealings with others inside and outside of our own religious community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon the government of the United States of America to resolve disputes with other nations peacefully and urges the use of conflict resolution techniques toward that end.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ, and the Office for Church in Society to communicate this resolution to the President of the United States and to the United States Congress.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 19. REFERRAL OF BUSINESS TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Rev. Samuel Buehrer (OHIO) moved the remainder of the business scheduled for this plenary session be referred to the Executive Council for action and the agenda order be moved to President Paul Sherry's remarks followed by Worship. The motion was seconded.

President Sherry asked for a point of personal privilege, offering to shorten his remarks to allow for the addressing of the Resolution "Acknowledging the 500th Anniversary of the Landing of Christopher Columbus and a United Church of Christ Response." He felt this to be a very significant issue and one which could be dealt with grace and strength.

Mr. Buehrer accepted President Sherry's request as a friendly amendment to his motion.

Mr. Hollis Wilson, Agenda Coordinator, noted the implications of the motion included the elimination of the viewing of the retrospective audio-visual presentation of the Eighteenth General Synod.

Ms. Bernice Powell, Executive Associate to the President, suggested a viewing of the audio-visual presentation as people were departing the arena for evening worship.

91-GS-92 VOTED: The Eighteenth General Synod refers the remaining business items (including the Resolution "Boycott of Salvadoran Coffee," Community Building time, Final Report of the Executive Committee, Report of the Credential Committee, and the Amenities Resolution) to the Executive Council for action, excluding the Resolution "Acknowledging the 500th Anniversary of the Landing of Christopher Columbus and a United Church of Christ Response," President Sherry's Closing Reflections, and evening Worship.

### 20. REPORT ON ILLNESS OF DON GALL

In response to many queries, Ms. Patricia E. de Jong (IOWA) reported on her husband's (the Rev. Donald A. Gall) health, recovering from dehydration.