

## SATURDAY EVENING

### 3. NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AWARDS

Ms. Enriquez also announced that at the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries dinner Friday evening, the National Committee on Persons with Disabilities presented Ms. Jeanette Schmoyer of the Penn Northeast Conference and First Congregational Church, UCC, Great Falls, Montana with awards.

### 4. RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENERAL SYNOD DELEGATION TO COACHELLA VALLEY AND THE RECENT DEATH OF CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

Assistant Moderator Enriquez introduced President Paul Sherry who spoke to the delegation about the 20th anniversary of the General Synod delegation to the Coachella Valley and the recent death of César Chávez.

President Sherry reminded the delegation that twenty years ago, in response to the plea of the United Farm Workers for the church to witness to stop violent attacks on farm worker union organizers, the Ninth General Synod chartered a plane and sent 95 UCC members to Coachella, California.

President Sherry introduced several of those who participated in that journey. Those persons introduced were: Malcolm Bertram, Sterling Carey, Don Clark, Alberto Filomeno, Lynn Fitch, Jorge Morales, G. William Myers, Larold K. Schulz, Jack Seville, John Stahler.

President Sherry invited Synod to remember and give thanks for the life of César Chávez, whose unwavering commitment to justice and peace will long endure as a source of inspiration to all.

President Sherry introduced two leaders of the farm worker movement, Baldemar Velasquez, President of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, and Arturo Rodriguez, President of the United Farm Workers of America, who are continuing César Chávez' legacy of organizing and empowerment. Both spoke of their appreciation of the United Church of Christ and asked for continuing support of the farm workers.

### 5. SPEAK OUT!

Assistant Moderator Enriquez invited delegates and visitors to use the next few minutes for the "Speak Out!" session. *[Summaries of Speak Outs! are found in Appendix D.]*

### 6. NOMINATING AND SECONDING SPEECHES

Assistant Moderator Enriquez called attention to General Synod Standing Rules 27-37, General Assembly/Synod Handbook, pp. 24-25, regarding the time allotment and procedures (Rule #37) for Nominating and Seconding speeches.

In addition, Ms. Enriquez reminded the delegates of the rules regarding printed material for distribution on the floor of General Synod and planned demonstrations as discussed in rules 40 and 43.

The Rev. James Dewey (IK) nominated the Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry for the office of President of the United Church of Christ. The seconding speech was offered by Ms. Celsa Ayala Coloma (MASS).

Mr. Peter Schmehl (PSE) nominated the Rev. Doris Ruth Powell for the office of Director of Finance and Treasurer of the United Church of Christ. Ms. Rose Lee (CA NV, N) offered the seconding speech.

### 7. RESOLUTION "IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRADE"

Assistant Moderator Enriquez described the process and time frame for consideration of Committee Reports. She expressed appreciation for the work of the Rev. Bob Ullman (WI), Ms. Stella Schoen (OH) and Ms. Janice White (OH), Committee Process Facilitators, as well as all Committee Chairpersons.

Assistant Moderator Enriquez introduced Mr. Chris Lee, (CAL.S) Chairperson of Committee Thirteen, who indicated that Committee Thirteen had combined the resolution "Regarding the North American Free Trade Agreement" and the resolution "Call for Opposition to the NAFTA" into one resolution entitled "In Support of International Fair Trade." Mr. Lee moved the adoption of the resolution "In Support of International Fair Trade."

Mr. James Norton (MO) spoke in support of the resolution.

93-GS-19 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the resolution "In Support of International Fair Trade."

### RESOLUTION "IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRADE"

WHEREAS, the emerging structures of global trade and exchange provide unparalleled opportunities for all people

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to find sustainable relationships of commerce and business, to share in abundance of God's creation and to appreciate the benefits and diversity of cultures, skills, knowledge and heritages of all peoples of the world whom our Creator's love has called into being;

WHEREAS, in its pronouncement "Christian Faith and Economic Justice," the United Church of Christ has declared that "We establish as a goal the just transformation of the global economy into an economic order that fundamentally ensures economic, racial, and social justice for all of God's people throughout the world;"

WHEREAS, the North American Free Trade Agreement, if ratified by the United States Congress, would link the United States, Canada and Mexico into the world's largest trading block;

WHEREAS, numerous public interest groups concerned with economic and social justice have examined the NAFTA and determined that the terms of the proposed NAFTA would:

-expose numerous existing U.S. federal, state and local environmental and consumer laws to challenge and create downward pressure on industrial and agricultural worker safety standards;

-promote environmentally unsound commercial activity in the areas of agriculture and energy;

-create incentives for manufacturers to relocate to avoid strict enforcement of environmental regulations and exploit poor workers;

-intensify these problems through omission of enforcement and funding provisions for environmental protection;

-establish highly secretive negotiation and dispute resolution processes that deny citizen oversight of NAFTA on vital concerns such as food safety, consumer product standards, and environmental regulations on hazardous substances; and

-encourage the concentration of land, wealth and means of production in the hands of small groups of individuals and transnational corporations;

WHEREAS, Canadian, Mexican, and American environmental, citizen, and labor leaders, including Manual Garcia, leader of Mexico's largest independent labor federation, have denounced NAFTA, calling it "an instrument to allow multinational corporations to take advantage of Mexican labor;"

WHEREAS, the delegates from education organizations and unions of Canada, Mexico and the United States who attended the tri-national conference have declared that they "believe that the continuation of accessible, democratic, universal, free, quality public education is endangered by the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement" and that the US-Canada Free Trade Agreement and the proposed NAFTA have already caused serious negative impacts on public education on the continent and will continue to have serious negative impacts unless amended;

WHEREAS, a large group of female U.S. lawmakers have criticized NAFTA for failing to address the needs of women workers and their families, pointing out that "one of the most neglected aspects of the proposed treaty is the impact it will have on women" who traditionally suffer the most immediate and dramatic impacts of rapid industrialization such as degraded health and restricted access to health care, reduced access to potable water and subsistence farm land;

WHEREAS, groups gathered at the "Latino NAFTA Summit" issued a joint statement insisting that the trade pact be revised to include provisions regarding border infrastructure, job retraining and displaced worker assistance, the environment, labor standards, targeted economic development in Mexico and the U.S. small businesses, immigration, and Caribbean issues, and called for the three countries to agree to a set of basic worker rights, including: "the right of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, prohibitions on forced labor, restrictions on the use of child labor, minimum acceptable conditions regarding minimum wages, hours of work, and work place health and safety;"

WHEREAS, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in its 1993 report on Free Trade reported that "unregulated market economies threaten democracy by excluding large numbers of people from economic opportunities and can be associated with increasing inequality and poverty, as well as large-scale unemployment;"

WHEREAS, the Economic and Environmental Justice/Hunger Concerns Working Group of the National Council of Churches has expressed its "deep concern that the secretive nature of the negotiations and approval of NAFTA ... endangered the democratic process and public scrutiny," and has called upon the United States Congress and President Clinton to reject the NAFTA; and

WHEREAS, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ "condemned 'Free Trade' agreements which fail to address environmental, workplace and labor standards."

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NINETEENTH GENERAL SYNOD of the United Church of Christ concludes that the NAFTA, as currently negotiated, is inadequate in protection for workers rights and the environment, compensatory support for those displaced as a result of the agreement, and protection of health and safety standards for workers; and that provisions on investment and taxation will further encourage the concentration of land holdings and the means of production in the hands of a few individuals and large transnational corporations and financial institutions to the detriment of the vast majority of the Mexican, American and Canadian people; and calls on the Congress and our administration to reject NAFTA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NINETEENTH GENERAL SYNOD calls on the Congress and the President to renegotiate hemispheric trade agreements that:

1. Require the total costs to environment, of labor and for resource depletion be accounted for when setting the price for raw materials;
2. Provide financing mechanisms for environmental monitoring and enforcement, and cleanup, starting with the U.S. - Mexico border;
3. Require labor standards and worker rights, including the guarantee to organize freely and bargain collectively;
4. Require environmental, consumer and worker health and safety standards;
5. Require enforcement mechanisms and standards to be harmonized to the highest, rather than the lowest existing standards among signatories;
6. Require full public dispute resolution mechanisms which are available to all sectors and that provide for visibility, accountability, and sanctions for those who violate the provisions;
7. Discourage concentration of land and means of production in the hands of a few individuals and transnational corporations and encourage the preservation of small and family-owned farms and businesses; and
8. Provide for fair taxation of transborder movement of capital, goods and services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NINETEENTH GENERAL SYNOD calls on all United Church of Christ churches, committees, and offices to initiate programs of prayer, study and action to inform the members of the UCC of the issues and options, and to encourage members to write, telephone and visit their elected representatives to

communicate the substance and recommendations contained in this resolution.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 8. RESOLUTION "IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA"

Mr. Lee continued the report of Committee Thirteen. He introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution "In Support of the United Mine Workers of America."

93-GS-20 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the resolution "In Support of the United Mine Workers of America."

#### RESOLUTION "IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA"

##### Background

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) represents approximately 60,000 working coal miners and 120,000 retirees who are covered by the 1988 National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreement (NBCWA), a contract that is negotiated between the UMWA and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).

The average age of a UMWA member is 44 years old and the average life of a mine owned by the companies belonging to the BCOA is seven years. That means, on average, many UMWA miners will be in their late 40s or early 50s when their mines run out of coal and shut down. At that age, they will be too old to retrain and too young to retire.

Over the last decade, BCOA-member companies have developed complex corporate structures designed to avoid the UMWA contract and to deny their loyal, unionized workers job opportunities at newly-opened or purchased mining operations. Many companies have also avoided hiring the many thousands of laid-off union miners by bringing in non-union subcontractors to mine their coal properties.

##### Resolution

WHEREAS, the Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirmed the "role, rights, and responsibilities of both organized labor and management in the democratic functioning of an industrial society;"

WHEREAS, subsequent General Synods and UCC instrumentalities have reaffirmed support by the United Church of Christ for collective bargaining and fair labor practices;