

## SATURDAY EVENING

### 13. RESOLUTION "WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE"

Assistant Moderator Enriquez introduced Ms. Lynn Eisenhart (NEB), Chairperson of Committee Eleven. Ms. Eisenhart introduced and moved the adoption of the Resolution "Women's Health Care."

Mr. Dwight Davis (PC) spoke to a point of order on paragraph #6 and offered an amendment to change paragraph 6.

Ms. Deborah Grey (NH) pointed out to the delegates that Synod votes on the "resolution" portion and not the "whereas" portion. Assistant Moderator Enriquez declared the amendment out of order.

Ms. Edith Guffey (OH) offered a friendly amendment that United Black Christians be added to the listing in the next to last paragraph. The friendly amendment was accepted by Ms. Eisenhart.

93-GS-25 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the resolution "Women's Health Care."

#### RESOLUTION "WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE"

WHEREAS, we are called to minister in the name of Jesus, whose earthly ministry involved the healing of women who came to him seeking health and wholeness even in the face of popular disapproval (Mark 5:24-34) (Luke 13:11-17);

WHEREAS, the G.S. 18 Pronouncement Toward an Accessible Universal Health Care System states that "Health care is a justice issue. All parts of creation deserve to be healed when broken, injured, or sick...deserve to be tenderly touched by concerned healers whenever in need;"

WHEREAS, society has viewed women as having a predisposition toward both physical and mental illness which has contributed to the neglect of women's health care issues and has kept women from full participation in professional and social life;

WHEREAS, many physicians are significantly more likely to attribute a woman's health complaint to emotional rather than physical causes;

WHEREAS, physicians and hospital personnel often do not adequately explore the relationship between physical violence and women's health care needs;

WHEREAS, women are disadvantaged because of inadequate attention to research, diagnosis, and treatment of health problems unique to, or with different risk factors in women (such as AIDS, mental health and heart disease) of various cultural, economic, racial and age groups;

WHEREAS, pregnancy and childbearing have been regarded as infirmities to be tolerated by employers rather than as contributions to be valued, thus limiting women's full acceptance and participation in the workforce;

WHEREAS, health insurance is often tied to employment and over fifteen million women in the United States have either inadequate insurance coverage or none at all and, therefore, adequate health care, including treatment, screenings and provisions for reproductive choice is not available;

WHEREAS, much harm comes to pregnant women and their unborn children from inadequate prenatal care especially to women who are uninsured or underinsured; and

WHEREAS, the substandard health status of poor women around the world, especially women of color, is at least in part due to environmental racism and a disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards and degradation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls:

-the Coordinating Center for Women and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to identify and develop resource materials for local churches about women's health, and to provide strategies to address these issues;

-the Office for Church in Society to advocate increased federally-funded research of women's health needs;

-the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to allocate resources to assist in educating members of local churches, especially youth and young adults, to the ways that media, schools, and the church itself project images of women that are destructive to their physical and mental health;

-the United Church Board for World Ministries to advocate for education and increased funding of the special health needs of all women in its global health ministries with special regard to the practice of female genital mutilation;

-the Coordinating Center for Women, The Council for Health and Human Services Ministries and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to promote scientific and medical careers for women;

-the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries and its member organizations to explore ways to use their resources to assist local churches, Conferences, Associations, and UCC related health

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care institutions to meet the health service and educational needs of women and to develop/share models of comprehensive health care that are attuned to women's needs;

-the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ to work with the Coordinating Center for Women to evaluate their health insurance plans in relation to the health needs of women;

-the Office for Church in Society, the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to continue to advocate for and educate in support of universal health care for all persons residing in the United States;

-the Commission for Racial Justice in conjunction with the Council for American Indian Ministry, Council for Hispanic Ministries, Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministry, United Black Christians and the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to develop strategies to focus national attention on the relationship between the health of women of color and environmental racism in the United States; and

-all ministries of the United Church of Christ to actively engage in addressing the causes and impact of violence against women and girls.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 14. RESOLUTION "ENDORSEMENT OF THE PUBLICLY FINANCED APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE REFORM"

Assistant Moderator Enriquez asked Ms. Eisenhart to continue with the report of Committee Eleven. Ms. Eisenhart introduced and moved the adoption of the

Resolution "Endorsement of the Publicly Financed Approach to Health Care Reform" found on page 195 in the Advance Materials.

### 15. ORDER OF THE DAY

Mr. Keith Duvernay (OH) called for the Order of the Day so that the Synod could prepare for worship as scheduled.

93-GS-26 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the call for the Order of the Day.

### 16. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

Assistant Moderator Enriquez asked Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson for announcements.

Ms. Jackson reported that 398 persons helped prepare sandbags for the levees in the St. Louis area and Archbishop Tutu visited them at the work site. The project was coordinated by Ms. Susan Sanders of United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and Ms. Janet Powell of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Assistant Moderator Enriquez declared the Nineteenth General Synod to be in recess following worship. Ms. Enriquez announced delegates would reconvene in a joint session with the General Assembly Sunday afternoon, July 18, at 2:30 p.m. in Halls 4 & 5.

### 17. WORSHIP

Worship was based on the theme "Welcomed in Diversity" with a meditation by the Rev. Robert Kemper, Pastor of First Congregational Church in Western Springs, Illinois.

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 18, 1993

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderators Marilyn Moffett of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and David Ruhe called the joint plenary of the General Assembly/General Synod to order at 2:37 p.m.

Moderator Moffett expressed her pleasure at looking over the joint plenary and seeing that God has brought the two denominations to this point.

Mr. Harold Antoine, Jr., Administrative Assistant to the Mayor of St. Louis, greeted the delegates of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of

Christ) and welcomed the denominations to the Gateway City.

### 2. SPEAK OUT!

Moderator David Ruhe called upon Mr. Dick Sparrow, United Church of Christ Speak Out! Coordinator, to give directions for the "Speak Out!" session.

Mr. Sparrow reminded the delegates that the Speak Out! would last for 14 minutes and the speakers would be alternated between United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) speakers.