

**MONDAY MORNING**

**8. RECOGNITION OF THE MINISTRY OF GEORGE WESLEY OTTO**

Assistant Moderator Malaski explained that rather than retiring as originally announced, the Rev. George Otto, former Executive Director of the Stewardship Council, has been called to serve the Broadmoor Community Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mr. Malaski invited the delegates and visitors to join in a word of prayer for Mr. Otto's continuing ministry and the congregation that he serves.

**9. AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The Moderator called on the Rev. Lois Powell, Chair of the Agenda Committee, who reviewed the business still to be processed. Ms. Powell reminded the delegates that any business not handled by the General Synod will be referred to the Executive Council, the General Synod "ad interim," for action.

**10. RESOLUTION "ENDORSEMENT OF PUBLICLY-FINANCED APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE REFORM"**

Assistant Moderator Malaski recognized the Chairperson of Committee Eleven, Ms. Lynn Eisenhart, to continue the report of Committee Eleven. The Resolution "Endorsement of Publicly-Financed Approach to Health Care Reform" was being discussed when the order of the day was called Saturday evening. Ms. Eisenhart reviewed the resolution and moved its adoption.

Following discussion, Ms. Carol Spangenburg (PNE) called the question and the Nineteenth General Synod voted to close debate.

93-GS-28 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Endorsement of Publicly-Financed Approach to Health Care Reform."

**RESOLUTION "ENDORSEMENT OF PUBLICLY-FINANCED APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE REFORM"**

**BACKGROUND**

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ seeks to follow the example of Jesus Christ and to be faithful to the Gospel by finding ways to make the compassion and service provided by the Good Samaritan available to everyone living in the United States and the world;

WHEREAS, justice requires the establishment of systems and procedures which give everyone equal access to health care services and benefits;

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution, "National Health Care Policy," in 1975 and the Eighteenth General Synod passed a pronouncement, "Toward an Accessible Universal Health Care System," with a supportive Proposal for Action; and a priority goal statement, "Health Care For All," which advances policy standards including access to health care for everyone living in the United States, equity and progressivity in the financing of health care, concern for the special needs of those with disabilities and those with other barriers to receiving adequate health care, administrative savings and fair reimbursement to health care providers;

WHEREAS, insurance reform approaches to health care reform fail to achieve universal access to health care or equitable cost containment;

WHEREAS, employer mandate approaches to health care reform fail to achieve important administrative savings and system simplification; and

WHEREAS, publicly financed approaches to health care reform promise universal access, equitable and progressive financing, significant administrative savings, a strong basis for correcting the oversupply of health care resources in some areas and the undersupply in others, simplification and understandability of health care systems, public access to decision making, a better chance for including comprehensive benefits and long term care and other advantages;

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

-endorses the publicly-financed approach to health care reform as that which is most in keeping with the policy of the United Church of Christ;

-calls upon the instrumentalities, organizations, health and welfare institutions associated with the United Church of Christ, conferences, associations, local churches, and members of the United Church of Christ to join in advocacy activities to advance legislation that incorporates a publicly-financed approach to health care reform that promotes wellness and provides care and treatment for acute and short term illness, chronic and long term illness and disability;

-calls for advocacy support to be directed to addressing the needs of those who are displaced from employment by the cost-savings aspects of legislation;

-calls for the above advocacy activity to be accomplished in cooperation with the Interreligious Healthcare Access Campaign when that is compatible and feasible; and

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-urges individual members of the United Church of Christ to improve the stewardship of their bodies by engaging in practices and habits that improve their health as a way of giving thanks for the gift of life and as a way of modeling individual responsibility for improving the health of the population.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 11. RESOLUTION "MUTUAL RECOGNITION AND RECONCILIATION OF ORDAINED MINISTRIES"

Assistant Moderator Malaski called on the Rev. David Long-Higgins, the Chairperson of Committee Four. Mr. Long-Higgins called the attention of the delegates to the text of the resolution found in the Program/Worship and Business book and moved the adoption of the Resolution "Mutual Recognition and Reconciliation of Ordained Ministries."

There was some discussion and a point of clarification was made.

93-GS-29 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Mutual Recognition and Reconciliation of Ordained Ministries."

#### RESOLUTION "MUTUAL RECOGNITION AND RECONCILIATION OF ORDAINED MINISTRIES"

WHEREAS, the 1989 General Synod and 1989 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) each took identical actions to establish "full communion" between our two denominations;

WHEREAS, the 1989 General Synod and 1989 General Assembly called for the mutual recognition and reconciliation of ordained ministries;

WHEREAS, the actions of the General Synod and General Assembly stated that "Mutual recognition of ordained ministries is intended to acknowledge in the ministries of the partner church the manifest blessings of God and the fruit of the Spirit and, therefore, to affirm them as true ministries of the one, holy Church of Jesus Christ. Reconciliation of ordained ministries is intended to refer to future actions by the churches, both separately and together, whereby their ordained ministries become one ministry of Jesus Christ;"

WHEREAS, a Joint Planning Committee made up of representatives from the ministry offices of each denomination has been engaged in a process of testing various plans by which the reconciliation of ordained ministries could be manifest and implemented; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Planning Committee, as a result of this testing process, is developing for consideration by General Synod Twenty in 1995, a detailed proposal and time line for the implementation of the mutual recognition and reconciliation of ordained ministries;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod receives the report of the Office for Church Life and Leadership on "The Mutual Recognition and Reconciliation of Ordained Ministries with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod requests the Office for Church Life and Leadership to continue its work with the Center for Leadership and Ministry, Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to shape the specific way in which the recognition and reconciliation of ordained ministries will be implemented;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod requests the Office for Church Life and Leadership to propose to General Synod Twenty in 1995 the necessary action, including required constitution and bylaws changes, to implement the reconciliation of ordained ministries with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 12. RESOLUTION "CHILDREN AND COMMUNION"

Continuing the report of Committee Four, Mr. Long-Higgins directed the delegates to Packet A and moved that the Synod adopt the resolution "Children and Communion." He spoke to the resolution and explained the changes the Committee made in the original text.

Several delegates spoke in favor of the resolution. The Rev. Wendy Williams-Brinks (PNE) moved the previous question and the Nineteenth General Synod voted to close debate.

93-GS-30 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Children and Communion."

#### RESOLUTION "CHILDREN AND COMMUNION"

WHEREAS, "People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." (Mark 10:13- 16 NRSV);