

MONDAY MORNING

-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);

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WHEREAS, as the church gathers in many settings and on many occasions, we often voice the conviction spoken through our Statement of Faith, that God calls us into the church "to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table;"

WHEREAS, the Lord's Supper is the sacred meal of the family of God which feeds and forgives, nourishes and strengthens us to be God's people;

WHEREAS, children are fully a part of the family of God and it is the church's responsibility to teach all its people through lifelong participation in the sacraments;

WHEREAS, the inclusion of children in the worshipping community, in the Sacraments, and in the mission of the church makes real our understanding of the nature of the Church as a community which reflects God's determination to gather people from all cultures, races, classes and ages;

WHEREAS, for many years the conviction has grown and the practice spread within the United Church of Christ regarding children's participation in the Lord's Supper as witnessed in the BOOK OF WORSHIP of the United Church of Christ and in surveys of practices in our local churches;

WHEREAS, there is growing ecumenical conviction that children belong at the table;

WHEREAS, current knowledge of human development affirms that we learn through experience before we can intellectualize meaning and clearly that is the case in the sacrament of Holy Communion with its tangible signs of bread and cup affording meaning to children as well as adults;

WHEREAS, Christ's presence in Holy Communion is a spiritual mystery, engaging people of all ages on many levels; and

WHEREAS, Jesus as the host invites "all who hunger for spiritual food" (BOOK OF WORSHIP) partake of the bread and the cup as gifts of God's grace;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms and encourages the participation of children in the full worship life of the church, including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod invites local churches:

- a. to explore children's participation at the Lord's Table;
- b. to study the theological and practical issues that pertain to the subject; and
- c. to educate children and families regarding participation at the Lord's Table;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod urges Conferences and Associations:

- a. to welcome children at the table at gatherings when the Lord's Supper is celebrated and
- b. to provide leadership training programs and information about resources on the topic for local churches;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod, in recognition of the need for people of all ages to be involved in ongoing education on the nature of Communion, asks the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Office for Church Life and Leadership:

- a. to make existing resources known to our churches;
- b. to create and provide worship and educational resources for ongoing training;
- c. to urge the seminaries related to the United Church of Christ to advocate the spiritual nurture and growth of children through worship and the sacraments; and
- d. to reflect the inclusive nature of communion as resources are developed and published;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod welcomes children to the Lord's Table at Synod and other church-wide events where communion is celebrated.

Subject to the availability of funds.

13. RESOLUTION "CLERGY AND CLERGY FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY"

Assistant Moderator Malaski asked Mr. Long-Higgins to continue with the final piece of business considered by Committee Four. Mr. Long-Higgins directed the delegates to Packet A and moved the adoption of the Resolution "Clergy and Clergy Family Appreciation Day." Mr. Long-Higgins spoke to the resolution.

Following discussion, Assistant Moderator Malaski called for the vote.

93-GS-31 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod defeats the Resolution "Clergy and Clergy Family Appreciation Day." *[The text of this resolution is found in Appendix E.]*

14. "STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN CONVICTION OF THE PROPOSED PRONOUNCEMENT CALLING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO BE A MULTIRACIAL AND MULTICULTURAL CHURCH"

Mr. Malaski introduced Ms. Merlene Bagley to report the work of Committee One. She pointed out that the Proposed Pronouncement would be found in Packet C. She then moved the adoption of the "Statement of Christian