

MONDAY MORNING

Adults have not moved forward since the Priority on Youth and Young Adult Ministries ended in 1989.

The current priority of Evangelism and Church Growth adopted by the Eighteenth General Synod asks us to look at where the church is going and growing. In looking toward the future, the church should look to Young Adults in this quest. One outcome of successful Young Adults Ministries is the utilization of Young Adults as a resource for such growth. With this in mind we challenge the Nineteenth General Synod to help us further unite all our members by becoming a leader in Young Adult Ministries.

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ seeks to be a church of "faithful people of all ages, tongues, races;"

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has historically affirmed and valued the presence and participation of young adults, defined as those people whose have graduated from high school or 19 years of age through age 30, in its life and work; and

WHEREAS, despite that affirmation our church in recent times has not adequately included young adults in its life and work and struggled to minister to Young Adults;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that General Synod Nineteen of the United Church of Christ affirms the presence and participation of Young Adults, defined as those people who have graduated from high school or 19 years of age through age thirty, in the life and work of the church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod Nineteen challenges and charges its member churches and ministers to include Young Adults in the life and work of the church and to provide significant ministries to, with, and for Young Adults;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in consultation with the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries work with the wider church to develop and implement programs through which the church on all levels (local, association, conference and national) can be more inclusive of and responsive to Young Adults; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod respectfully requests the national instrumentalities, offices, commissions and agencies of the church to place an emphasis on the needs and opportunities for Young Adults, recognizing them as distinct and separate from youth programs throughout the church:

- 1) that denominational policy and practice insure that the voice of Young Adults be heard and heeded in all matters related to the faith and life of this beloved church;

- 2) that alternative models of ministry be developed to involve young adults in the ministry, mission and life of the whole church; and
- 3) that educational resource and materials and programs be developed, networked and actively shared in response to the unique needs of Young Adults.

Subject to the availability of funds.

19. RESOLUTION "ON MINISTRY IN TOWN AND COUNTRY SETTINGS"

Mr. Frierson continued with the report of Committee Eight and moved the adoption of the Resolution "On Ministry in Town and Country Settings."

The Rev. Julia Oatman (NY) proposed an amendment to add a fourth paragraph to the second Be It Further Resolved to read: 4. General Synod Nineteen calls upon the Pension Boards to report to General Synod Twenty a plan to upgrade the Pensions of those who have served in low salary, rural/urban ministries with the aim to bring about equalization of all pensioners.

93-GS-37 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod defeats the amendment.

The question was called for and the Nineteenth General Synod voted to close debate.

93-GS-38 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "On Ministry in Town and Country Settings."

RESOLUTION "ON MINISTRY IN TOWN AND COUNTRY SETTINGS"

WHEREAS, there are 6,330 congregations in the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, the average membership size of these congregations is 274 people;

WHEREAS, the average attendance at worship in over half of the congregations (56 percent) is 100 persons or fewer;

WHEREAS, nearly a third (31.4 percent) of the UCC congregations are located in rural or small-town settings, with another third (30.5 percent) in small cities of 10,000 to 50,000 people;

WHEREAS, it can be said, therefore, that the United Church of Christ is a denomination of predominantly small-membership congregations with many of them located in "town and country" settings; and

MONDAY MORNING

WHEREAS, a growing number of these congregations are experiencing a decline in both membership and resources, making it ever more difficult for many of them to secure and afford the full-time services of an ordained pastor while continuing their commitment to and support of the denomination's wider mission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognize and give thanks for the ministries of small-membership congregations and pastors within the denomination, and that a ministry to and with small-membership congregations in town and country settings be affirmed as a calling from God to a valid life-time vocation of service which deserves the support, encouragement and blessing of the whole church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod urges all conferences, associations and local churches to commend these congregations and their pastors and grant them appropriate recognition and a vote of thanks;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod respectfully requests the national instrumentalities, offices, commissions and agencies of the church, together with the seminaries, to place a priority on the needs of and opportunities for ministry in town and country settings, and:

1. that appropriate educational resource materials and programs be developed in response to the unique needs of these congregations and their leaders;

2. that alternative models for ministry be developed, reclaimed, restored and renewed through joint planning and development efforts involving conference, instrumentalities and seminaries; and
3. that denominational policy and practice ensure that the voice of the pastors and people of small-membership congregations in town and country settings be heard and heeded in matters related to the faith and life of the United Church of Christ;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod respectfully requests that a denomination-wide strategy for congregational and pastoral renewal through community mission be developed to give witness to the unity of God's mission in all settings.

A progress report on the development of this strategy and report shall be given to General Synod Twenty. We request that responsibility for this be assigned to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in consultation with Office for Church in Society, Office for Church Life and Leadership and United Church Board for World Ministries.

Subject to the Availability of Funds.

20. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

Assistant Moderator Malaski called the order of the day and asked Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson for announcements. Following announcements, Assistant Moderator Malaski declared the Nineteenth General Synod to be in recess until 2:00 p.m. Monday afternoon.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 19, 1993

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator David Ruhe called the 6th plenary of the Nineteenth General Synod to order at 2:00 p.m. He informed the delegates that Assistant Moderator Malaski learned earlier that his house in South Dakota was flooded. Mr. Malaski left Synod to be with his family and Moderator Ruhe asked that the Synod remember Mr. Malaski in prayer.

2. SPEAK OUT!

Moderator Ruhe called on the Rev. Richard Sparrow (MASS), Co-ordinator of the Speak Out!, to begin the Speak Out! [*Summaries of Speak Outs! are found in Appendix D.*]

3. RESOLUTION "SRI LANKA"

Moderator Ruhe called on the Rev. Elizabeth Fisher (CT), Chairperson of Committee Five, to report the work of that committee. Ms. Fisher stated Committee Five had several resolutions to consider. She first introduced and moved to adopt the Resolution "Sri Lanka."

93-GS-39 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Sri Lanka."

RESOLUTION "SRI LANKA"

WHEREAS, Jesus taught: "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9 (NRSV);