

## MONDAY AFTERNOON

GS-93-42 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "In Support of Multilateral Peacemaking Actions To Resolve The Conflict in The Balkans" as amended.

### RESOLUTION "IN SUPPORT OF MULTILATERAL PEACEMAKING ACTIONS TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT IN THE BALKANS"

WHEREAS, violent conflict in the territory of the former Yugoslavia has continued for two years, causing more than 130,000 deaths, the displacement from their homes of an estimated 3.6 million persons and an intolerably cruel level of suffering on civilian populations while all efforts to halt the fighting have proved ineffective;

WHEREAS, the conflict has been marked by particularly heinous crimes and violations of internationally accepted human rights which must be condemned as unacceptable in civilized world society, including

- the practice of "ethnic cleansing;"
- the use of systematic rape and forced pregnancy as an instrument of war policy; and
- the detention of prisoners, both combatants and civilians, in inhuman conditions of deprivation and suffering;

WHEREAS, the groups involved in the hostilities are each closely identified with a different religious tradition, and memories of historical antagonisms and perceived injustices among these religious groups have been a significant factor in fueling the current conflict, thus presenting to the worldwide church a special and solemn responsibility to contribute positively to the resolution of the conflict and to reconciliation among the religious communities involved;

WHEREAS, grave danger exists that failure to resolve the issues at stake may spark further violent conflicts in other republics of the former Yugoslavia, where populations are similarly mixed, and in which other neighboring nations have their own direct interests, creating the potential for a yet wider chaotic conflict engulfing the entire Balkan peninsula and involving the intervention of powers from outside the region as well;

WHEREAS, the Fifteenth General Synod affirmed the United Church of Christ to be a Just Peace Church and called for international structures of friendship, justice and common security from violence;

WHEREAS, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. in its statement of November 13, 1992, on the Conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, has called on U.S. churches to support efforts to secure a political solution in the former Yugoslavia, and on May 14, 1993, twenty U.S. church leaders issued a

Message on the Conflict in the Former Yugoslavia;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses profound sorrow and regret at the death, injury, destruction and all forms of suffering which have been inflicted by the conflict in the former Yugoslavia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod regards the inability and/or unwillingness of the international community to have taken effective and timely action to end the conflict as a tragic and deplorable failure and calls for a renewed commitment to restore peace for the peoples of the Balkans as well as to prevent the recurrence of such failure in future situations of tension and conflict;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod condemns the continuing military action and calls urgently on all parties to implement an immediate, unconditional, and irrevocable cease-fire; to terminate immediately the practices of ethnic cleansing and systematic rape and other crimes against noncombatants; to release immediately all prisoners, both military and civilian; and to undertake a firm commitment to prompt, comprehensive and open dialogue to resolve the outstanding political problems;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod expresses its appreciation and commendation to those religious leaders in the former Yugoslavia who have publicly supported these aims, affirming their commitment to higher values beyond loyalties to their own communities and who have attempted to influence their respective communities to resolve the political issues peacefully;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod calls for a major peace-building effort by church and other agencies to promote understanding relationships among the communities in the former Yugoslavia as well as local grass-roots dialogue opportunities and training in conflict resolution with the support and participation of international volunteers who have requisite skills and experience in this field;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod urges the United States Administration to undertake no unilateral military action in the Balkans;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod urges the United States Administration and all other governments to maintain and, where possible, to intensify enforcement of the existing arms embargo in relation to all republics of the former Yugoslavia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod, recognizing with appreciation the initiatives

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which have been taken by the United Nations and the European Community to coordinate negotiations in the Balkans conflict, even though these negotiations have not been successful, urges their continuation until agreements are concluded which provide for:

- a permanent political settlement responsive, insofar as possible, to the legitimate aspirations of all parties for self-determination and for security but not dictated by the results of military aggression; and
- the repatriation or, where preferable, resettlement elsewhere of all persons made homeless as a result of the conflict, adequate resources to supply their basic needs for new housing and for the resumption of normal and productive economic and social life;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod expresses appreciation and admiration for all who have supported and who carry out the provision of emergency housing, food and medical care for the victims of the conflict -- including programs organized by governmental agencies, other aid organizations and especially the ecumenical relief program in which the United Church of Christ participates -- and urges all to support generously these programs until the achievement of an end to hostilities makes them no longer necessary;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod encourages the work of the United Nations Human Rights Special Rapporteur to investigate and document violations of human rights, especially systematic rape, and urges the establishment by the United Nations of an international tribunal to adjudicate and impose punishments on persons guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod urges conferences, associations and congregations of the United Church of Christ:

- to study the history of the Balkan peoples and to develop understanding of the concerns and aspirations of the various communities;
- to support by prayer and action steps to resolve the issues of the conflict, in particular to participate in advocacy for the policies of this resolution; and
- to be sensitive to the special needs of persons from the Balkans living in their areas and to offer understanding and support.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 8. RECOGNITION OF THE MINISTRY OF SCOTT LIBBEY

The Moderator called on the Rev. David Hirano (CT), Ms. Lou Ann Parsons (retired United Church Board for World Ministries missionary serving in S. Africa for thirty years

and currently working on the See, Judge, Act Interstaff Team) and Ms. Dorothy Gentry Kearney (President, United Church Board for World Ministries Corporation) to lead the Synod in a celebration of the ministry of the Rev. Scott Libbey, retiring Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for World Ministries.

The Rev. Hirano, Ms. Parsons and Ms. Kearney all spoke of their years in ministry with Rev. Libbey. Following their presentations, Rev. Libbey received a standing ovation.

Ms. Dorothy Gentry Kearney presented Rev. Libbey with a plaque commemorating his service to the Board for World Ministries.

The Rev. Scott Libbey was joined by his wife, Jean, at the podium where he thanked the General Synod and the United Church Board for World Ministries.

### 9. COUNCIL OF INSTRUMENTALITY EXECUTIVES PRESENTATION CONTINUED

The video presentation of the Council of Instrumentality Executives continued, highlighting the work of United Church of Christ agencies.

### 10. ELECTIONS

The Moderator asked tellers to proceed to Teller's table.

The Moderator called on Mr. Terry White, Vice Chair of the Executive Council, who briefly described the work of the Nomination and Election Committee of the Business Committee. Mr. White then thanked the members of the Committee, Mr. Sam Allen, Ms. Carol Closson and Mr. Mark Keuther.

Mr. Terry White introduced the Rev. Samuel Allen (SC), Chairperson of the Nomination and Election Committee of the Business Committee.

Mr. Allen explained that elections would be conducted in two stages. The first, for those positions that were uncontested. Mr. Allen then moved that the Nineteenth General Synod direct the Secretary to cast one vote, unanimously electing all the nominees for uncontested offices and boards, including President Paul H. Sherry and Director of Finance and Treasurer Doris R. Powell, as presented to the General Synod in the report of the General Synod Nominating Committee.

93-GS-43 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod instructs the Secretary to cast one ballot for uncontested offices and boards as presented to the Nineteenth General Synod in the report of the General Synod Nominating Committee. The Rev. Paul H. Sherry is elected President