

## MONDAY AFTERNOON

previous amendment be changed to "recommend." This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Rev. Jodi Ondich-Batson (NEB) moved the previous question on the Resolution as amended and the Nineteenth General Synod voted to close debate.

The Moderator called for a Division of the House on the Resolution and led the Synod in singing "Tell Me Why" while the votes were being tallied. Moderator Ruhe reminded delegates that there was a lot of feeling around the issue being voted on and that applause, when the vote was announced, would be inappropriate.

93-GS-47 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Call For Representation of Diversity in Completion of The New United Church of Christ Hymnal," as amended, by a vote of 424 in favor and 252 against.

### RESOLUTION "CALL FOR REPRESENTATION OF DIVERSITY IN COMPLETION OF THE NEW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HYMNAL"

WHEREAS, for over three years, 13 members of the United Church of Christ Hymnal Committee, under the auspices of United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, have labored hard to produce a new hymnal for the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, the Committee's biggest differences have centered on the issues of inclusive language. All members of the committee are convinced that we need an inclusive language hymnal. But does "inclusive language" mean using only neutral images for God and Jesus, or does it mean using a *multiplicity* of images, *including* traditional ones?;

WHEREAS, to help resolve these differences, the Hymnal Committee asked the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries Executive Committee for clarification. Instead, the Hymnal Committee learned at Easter time that they would be dismissed and that further decisions on the language of the hymn texts would be made by some of the members of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries Executive Committee;

WHEREAS, this diversity in feeling within the Hymnal Committee about how to treat images of God and Jesus reflects the genuine, heartfelt diversity amongst United Church of Christ members on the issue. The United Church of Christ accepts, even "embraces" diversity. A hymnal for the church should reflect the diversity of the church, including language. The Hymnal, hammered out of a diverse committee, had the makings of a hymnal that could speak to all. The dismissal of the Hymnal Committee makes it less likely that the new Hymnal's

images of God and Jesus will reflect the denominational diversity that we prize; and

WHEREAS, we are very desirous that the new hymnal be a *unifying* element of our diverse churches. We are pleased with the preliminary word that the Hymnal Committee was anticipating inclusion of many hymns from diverse traditions. We are concerned that a hymnal based on one pole of the *inclusive language* issue could become a divisive rather than an inclusive, unifying document;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries be asked to complete the new UCC hymnal, recommending that The Editorial Committee restore the word "Lord" (with balancing metaphors where possible) to those hymns originally using it in reference to Jesus.

### 14. MOMENT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The Rev. Thomas E. Dipko requested and received a Moment of Personal Privilege. His comments were as follows: "I request this moment of Personal Privilege to say to the General Synod this has been a time of passionate and intense discussion and prayer and struggling for all of us; and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the whole church will be the stronger, including the ecumenical church, because the Hymnal Sampler was brought here in openness and all of the information pertaining to this process was released to you prior to this Synod in time for your reflection. We certainly will do all we can to take to heart what counsel you have offered. At the same time, theologically and out of the integrity of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and those most responsible for this particular assignment, we also must respect the gifts and consciences of the corporate members and the Board of Directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries through which your counsel will have been heard. Thank you for this moment of personal privilege."

Moderator Ruhe thanked the delegates for their careful consideration of this issue.

### 15. RESOLUTION "ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IN EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS"

The Moderator called on the chair of Committee Ten, Ms. Pérsida Méndez who introduced the Resolution "Environmental Racism in East St. Louis, Illinois." Ms. Méndez called on Mr. Steven Patterson (IL) who spoke in favor of the resolution and asked for voice without vote for the Rev. Buck Jones (MO). Voice without vote was granted by consent to Rev. Buck Jones who spoke in favor of the resolution.

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93-GS-48 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Environmental Racism in East St. Louis, Illinois."

### ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IN EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, East St. Louis, Illinois is a city which is virtually 100 percent African American, and has no obstetric services, no garbage collection, but has raw sewage regularly backing up into homes and schools;

WHEREAS, lead, which is associated with impaired intellectual development, is found in playgrounds at an astonishing 10,000 parts per million;

WHEREAS, children in East St. Louis play directly downstream from chemical and industrial plants which contribute to the highest rate of childhood asthma in the nation;

WHEREAS, Project Hope, a local community empowerment ministry of the United Church of Christ, has found that 45 percent of the families in the community next to the Alta Sita Superfund site have one or more members with cancer, including 22 cases of cancers on one block alone;

WHEREAS, children play in creeks formerly used for storage of liquid toxic wastes that now glow at night and ignite as a result of friction caused by children riding their bicycles;

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Post Dispatch has described East St. Louis as "America's Soweto";

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice has played a pioneering role in documenting and bringing to national attention environmental problems in communities of color;

WHEREAS, the entire city of East St. Louis has environmental conditions worse than many sites on the "Superfund" National Priority List;

WHEREAS, East St. Louis is a blatant example of communities of color which are not only targeted for disposal of environmental toxins and hazardous wastes but which are, in fact, "disposal communities;"

WHEREAS, East St. Louis, once a thriving transportation center, is now an example of the results of failed urban and environmental policies in the United States of America;

WHEREAS, East St. Louis is a symbol of "environmental racism;" and

WHEREAS, Project Hope has requested that the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice assist it in securing environmental justice for East St. Louis.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Commission for Racial Justice:

1. to conduct a study of and produce a report on the environmental conditions of East St. Louis;
2. in conjunction with the President of the United Church of Christ, to bear witness to the conditions of East St. Louis as a symbol of environmental racism in urban America;
3. to bring the environmental issues of East St. Louis to the attention of relevant agencies in federal, state and local governments for proper redress;
4. to work with United Church of Christ related health care institutions to help address the environmental health problems of East St. Louis; and
5. to work with its counterpart in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), our Partners for the Glory of God, to address the environmental injustice in East St. Louis, Illinois.

The Moderator called for the Order of the Day.

### 16. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

The Moderator called the Order of the Day and asked Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson to make any announcements.

Following announcements Moderator Ruhe declared the Nineteenth General Synod to be in recess until 7:30 p.m. that evening.

## MONDAY EVENING, JULY 19, 1993

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Enriquez called the seventh plenary session of the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ to order at 7:35 p.m., July 19, 1993.

### 2. SPEAK OUT!

Assistant Moderator Enriquez called for the Speak Out! to begin. *[Summaries of Speak Outs! are found in Appendix D.]*