

## MONDAY EVENING

### 3. RESOLUTION "IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT"

Assistant Moderator Enriquez called upon Persida Mendez to continue the report of Committee Ten.

Ms. Mendez introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution "In Support of the United Nations Conference on Population and Development." Ms. Mendez yielded her time to Priscilla Nauer (MN) to speak in favor of the resolution.

93-GS-49 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "In Support of the United Nations Conference on Population and Development."

#### RESOLUTION "IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT"

WHEREAS, the Seventeenth General Synod in the "Pronouncement on Christian Faith: Economic Life and Justice" declares that for Christians, "economic justice is a faith issue" and proclaims our responsibility as a church for supporting fair economic development throughout the world;

WHEREAS, the same Synod voted a priority on Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace (ICJP) calling for "addressing in their interrelatedness the issues of economic, racial and social justice, an end to war, hunger, poverty and economic exploitation and creating a sustainable environment that balances full and equal human development with the protection of the eco-system" which has generated a great deal of activity throughout the church;

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod in its program recommendations attached to the report of the Task Force on Christian Life-style and Ecology suggests that the UCC should seek to influence public policy consistent with the observation that population stability is to be encouraged, mindful of the need for a broad approach to social reform which would include adequate food, health care and women's rights;

WHEREAS, the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches meeting in Evanston in 1954 called for leadership initiatives by Protestant Churches on the question of stabilizing world population growth;

WHEREAS, the linkages between poverty, environmental destruction and unlimited population growth have been made increasingly clear by private studies as well as by the findings of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992;

WHEREAS, the United Nations has called an International World Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo, Egypt, September 5 to 13, 1994; and

WHEREAS, an international women's health coalition has issued a Women's declaration on population policies which proposes a basic principle, necessary conditions and minimal program requirements to the Cairo Conference;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ commends to its members and congregations, associations, conferences and national bodies engagement with the issues of population and development and calls for:

- study of the issues in multi-cultural settings where various points of view can be shared in truth and in love;
- distribution to the conference resource centers documents which support thorough examination of the issues;
- active support for literacy education, health care, family planning and women's rights;
- public articulation of our findings so that informed Christian concern can be heard in the political arena coming from the faith community now generally characterized as supporting the status quo;
- commissioning of racially and culturally diverse UCC delegations which should be at least 50% women to the Cairo preparatory meetings so the support reformation action by the United Nations can be encouraged in conversation with U.S. government representatives;
- congregational and individual prayers of the church community for reconciliation of differing points of view on these sensitive issues.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 4. RESOLUTION "RESPECT FOR ANIMALS"

Ms. Mendez continued with Committee Ten's report. She introduced and moved the resolution "Respect for Animals" originally found on page 203 of the Program/Worship and Business Book and found in Packet D. Ms. Mendez yielded her time to Allen Benner-Smith to speak in favor of the motion.

Mr. Benner-Smith pointed out that passing the motion does not put a stop to hunting and does not advocate becoming a vegetarian. The motion is an attempt to promote conversations and thought about the subject. It is very