

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

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important that delegates call on others in the United Church of Christ to think about important issues. He urged support of the resolution because animals deserve respect.

93-GS-50 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the resolution "Respect for Animals."

RESOLUTION "RESPECT FOR ANIMALS"

WHEREAS, the biblical faith sees human beings as creatures of God, tenants in God's earth (Leviticus 25:23) and stewards of creation;

WHEREAS, the biblical charge to "have dominion over every living thing" (Genesis 1:28) has often been understood as placing human beings above creation instead of a part of it, while the scriptures teach that we are creatures and that we are to tend the earth and care for its creatures (Genesis 2:15);

WHEREAS, the rainbow story of the covenant declares four times (Genesis 9:8-17) that God's covenant is "with every living creature;"

WHEREAS, the scriptures teach that our lives are to be filled with compassion, not cruelty, toward animals (Proverbs 12:10);

WHEREAS, it is being urged by an increasing number of concerned and thoughtful Christians as well as others that all living creatures deserve humane and respectful treatment because, as living creatures, it is their right in the eyes of God;

WHEREAS, human compassion and decency require not only that we care for our fellow human beings, but that we treat no creature with cruelty or carelessness; and

WHEREAS, a growing awareness of our environmental responsibilities has led to a concern for the preservation and protection of animals, both in their wild and tame states, and the use of animals in the laboratory and commercially;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ commends to its members and congregations the consideration of our place among all living creatures as God's creatures, and invites them to evaluate human use of animals and resulting effects on the animals with questions such as these:

1. Are these animals treated justly, mercifully and with compassion and care?
2. Do these animals suffer unnecessary pain either in life or in death?
3. As a result of modern technology and advances, is there another, more humane way to supply our needs?

4. Does the benefit gained from the use of these animals outweigh the cost to them?
5. How does our current treatment of animals affect our spiritual development and welfare?
6. How does treatment of animals affect the diverse richness of God's creation?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod invites the Conferences, Associations, and congregations of the United Church of Christ to gather educational and theological material on the place of animals and to share this information among these entities with the assistance of the Office for Church in Society so that our Church may study the relationships.

Subject to the availability of funds.

5. RESOLUTION ON THE UCC RESPONSE TO THE FLOOD

Assistant Moderator Enriquez called upon Ms. Denise Page Hood, Chair of the Executive Council. Ms. Hood asked the delegates to turn to the new business packet for the Resolution on the UCC Response to the Flood.

Ms. Hood moved the adoption of the "Resolution on the UCC Response to the Flood."

There was no discussion.

93-GS-51 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the "Resolution on the UCC Response to the Flood."

"RESOLUTION ON THE UCC RESPONSE TO THE FLOOD"

WHEREAS, the States of the Mississippi Basin region have suffered unprecedented loss and devastation as a result of the floods of 1993;

WHEREAS, thousands of people have experienced the loss of their homes, businesses, farms and jobs or have been adversely affected by flooding throughout the region;

WHEREAS, the reconstruction and rebuilding of communities and lives affected by the floods will be long-term after immediate, emergency needs are met;

WHEREAS, the church is called to meet such devastating loss with compassionate prayer, immediate emergency relief and a deep, long-term commitment to assist the people of the region to rebuild their lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that all parts of the church work together to achieve a timely, sustained relief effort;