

MONDAY EVENING

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;

MONDAY EVENING

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that President Paul Sherry, in consultation with the Council of Conference Ministers, appoint a UCC Flood Relief Coordinating Committee made up of representatives from the national instrumentalities, the Council of Conference Ministers and representatives from local churches and the Conferences immediately affected to coordinate and implement the response of the UCC to the flood disaster in cooperation with the Disciples of Christ and other ecumenical partners.

Subject to availability of funds.

6. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE TO THE NINETEENTH GENERAL SYNOD

Assistant Moderator Enriquez called on Moderator David Ruhe to continue the business before the Synod. Moderator Ruhe introduced Ms. Karen Mosby-Avery (ILL) who presented the recommendations of Committee Two regarding the Report of the General Synod Committee on Structure to the Nineteenth General Synod.

Ms. Mosby-Avery directed the delegates to the Committee on Structure's report on pages 160-168 in the Program/Worship and Business Book. Committee Two also considered the resolution entitled "To Preserve the Financial Integrity of the Pension Boards' Members' Pension Accounts," which was introduced as new business. Committee Two first made revisions to the recommendations from the Committee on Structure's report. The Committee then revised the recommendations contained in the Resolution on the Financial Integrity of Pension Boards' Members' Accounts. These recommendations and amendments were consolidated in the Committee's recommendations dealing with the Report on Structure.

Ms. Mosby-Avery moved the Nineteenth General Synod adopt the recommendations of Committee Two regarding the Report of the General Synod Committee on Structure to the Nineteenth General Synod. Ms. Mosby-Avery spoke of the primary concerns Committee Two had about the Report and stated that they were in five primary areas: 1) First, the committee members recognized the importance of the work of the Committee on Structure for the United Church of Christ. 2) The numerous concerns regarding structure can only be dealt with if the Committee on Structure is given additional time and resources to pursue this work. 3) Those members who are ministered to through the Pension Boards should be reassured that this process will not adversely affect them. 4) There should be an ongoing dialogue between the Committee on Structure and the Pension Boards. 5) The Committee on Structure and the Pension Boards should both be accountable to the

larger church for jointly communicating the work that is being done related to the Church's Structure.

Ms. Mosby-Avery reported Committee Two is not sending a unanimous recommendation to the Committee on Structure. However, in addition to what is voted, Committee Two will submit to the Committee on Structure concerns it had about the Structure report.

The previous question was moved; however, the Moderator recognized another delegate who wished to speak earlier.

The Rev. James Haddix (ME) offered the following amendment to the Recommendations: "The interim report of the General Synod Committee on Structure be received with gratitude and that General Synod Nineteen vote to dissolve the Committee on Structure." After the motion was seconded, Mr. Haddix spoke to the amendment.

Following discussion both for and against the amendment, Mr. James Bishop (ME) moved to end discussion and the Nineteenth General Synod voted to close debate on the amendment to the Recommendations of Committee Two: "that the interim report of the General Synod Committee on Structure be received with gratitude and that General Synod Nineteen vote to dissolve the Committee on Structure."

Moderator Ruhe called for the vote on this amendment.

93-GS-52 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod defeats the amendment to the Recommendations of Committee Two.

7. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. John D. Ordway, Executive Vice President of the Pension Boards, asked for a point of personal privilege. He spoke to an earlier comment that the Pension Boards did not want to speak with the Committee on Structure. He indicated that the Pension Boards had sought conversation with the Committee on Structure and received no response.

8. CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION

Mr. James Bishop (ME) moved to amend the Recommendations by substituting the following paragraph for section "D" of the Recommendations: D. Refer the "Resolution to Preserve the Financial Integrity of the Pension Boards' Members' Pension Accounts," and the two legal opinions received relative to the issue to the Executive Council to mediate the review and conversations between the Committee on Structure and the Pension Boards which are intended to seek mutually acceptable means which will preserve the financial integrity of the Pension Board members' accounts.