

**8. RESOLUTION "ON METROPOLITAN MINISTRY"**

The Moderator called on Mr. Andrew Frierson, the Chairperson of Committee Eight, to complete the report of the Committee. Mr. Frierson explained the changes the committee made, noting the discussion on whether to combine the Resolution on Metropolitan Ministry and the Resolution on Town and Country Ministry. He stated that the Committee decided to preserve the integrity of both resolutions, but they added identical final paragraphs that give commonality to both. The Resolution "On Town and Country Ministry" was adopted earlier. Mr. Frierson then moved the adoption of the Resolution "On Metropolitan Ministry."

A friendly amendment was proposed by Rev. James Link (OH) changing the word "through" to "for" in #8. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Ms. Pam Moffat (OH) proposed an amendment to delete paragraph 5 in the "Therefore, Be It Resolved" section that calls for candidates for ordination or transfer of standing to associations in metropolitan areas to be asked to take courses exposing them to the urban context. After the motion was seconded, Ms. Moffat spoke to the amendment stating that if paragraph 5 remained, it might limit those who are available for urban ministry.

93-GS-54 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod defeats the amendment.

Ms. Wendy Harrison (IK) proposed an amendment to change "for" back to "through" in #8 as originally stated.

Lorain Giles moved the previous question and the Nineteenth General Synod closed debate.

93-GS-55 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod accepts the amendment to change "for" to "through" in #8.

Ms. Lorain Giles moved the previous question and the Nineteenth General Synod closed debate on the resolution.

93-GS-56 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the resolution "On Metropolitan Ministry" as amended.

**RESOLUTION "ON METROPOLITAN MINISTRY"**

WHEREAS, the United States is an increasingly urbanized society;

WHEREAS, according to recent urban studies, by the year 2000 90% of the population of North America will be classified as urban residents;

WHEREAS, the city is the site of so much power and affluence in proximity to so much poverty, powerlessness

and pain and almost all of us depend in so many ways upon the livelihood of the city;

WHEREAS, we are instructed by the Gospel to provide a "ministry of presence and reconciliation" (II Cor. 5:18,19) to all people, to people of all economic, educational and social stations and to people of diverse and alternative life-styles;

WHEREAS, we are enjoined by Jeremiah to "seek the welfare of the city....and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jeremiah 29:7);

WHEREAS, we must come to see ourselves in partnership with Jesus of Nazareth in ministry and mission in the city and in the world. For example, if one of our city churches suffers in membership decline and struggles to minister to a changing community, then all of the United Church of Christ suffers. As members of the United Church of Christ ministering in areas of transition, we must continue to exist and support the ministries of city churches as a total body; and

WHEREAS, members of the United Church of Christ living in urban areas are a people with a vision for the future and an awareness of the past, a people who have chosen to stay in the city; and who are called into being by our faith, our baptism and our experience of the Gospel of Jesus Christ regardless of racial, cultural or economic difference to be participants in the reconstruction of urban life;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that General Synod Nineteen:

1. affirms our commitment to metropolitan church revitalization and evangelism in racially and ethnically diverse settings while supporting other urban mission and church development projects;
2. includes a commitment to work toward the goal of calling additional staff to work in shared ministries addressing pressing issues facing metropolitan areas;
3. establishes a National Endowment for leadership training and empowerment of the metropolitan church;
4. makes strengthening the metropolitan church a national priority and call upon the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Board for World Ministries and the Office for Church in Society to allocate additional staff and financial resources for metropolitan church development;
5. strongly recommends that all candidates for ordination to and transfer of ministerial standing to metropolitan associations in the United Church of Christ fulfill an

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urban internship and take courses of study in seminaries exposing them to the urban context;

6. calls upon United Church of Christ related seminaries to provide opportunities for lay and clergy to become students skilled in urban church issues and the role of laity and clergy in metropolitan areas in modern life;
7. institutes programs to combat racism and promote multicultural, ethnic diversity throughout our United Church of Christ church life; and
8. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Nineteenth General Synod respectfully requests that a denomination-wide strategy for congregational and pastoral renewal through community mission be developed to give witness to the unity of God's mission in all settings.

A progress report on the development of this strategy and report shall be given to General Synod Twenty. We request that responsibility for this be assigned to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in consultation with the Office for Church in Society, Office for Church Life and Leadership and United Church Board for World Ministries.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### **9. RESOLUTION "CONCERNING GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL PERSONS AND THEIR MINISTRIES"**

Ms. Karen Schmiel, the Chairperson of Committee Nine, directed the attention of the delegates to the resolution in the Program/Worship and Business Book. She spoke of the work of the committee and moved the defeat of the Resolution "Concerning Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Persons and Their Ministries."

There was discussion both in support of and against the Resolution.

Ms. Wendy Williams Brinks (PNE) moved the previous question and the Nineteenth General Synod closed debate.

Mr. Antonio Villareal (PSE) called for a division of the house on the vote to close the debate. The Moderator's ruling was upheld.

93-GS-57 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod defeats the Resolution "Concerning Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Persons and Their Ministries." *[The text of this resolution is found in Appendix E.]*

### **10. RESOLUTION "UCC DRAFT RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA"**

Assistant Moderator Enriquez called on Mr. Dick Harter, the Chairperson of Committee Fourteen, to report the work of that committee. Mr. Harter directed the delegates to Report Pack F to find the text of the resolutions being recommended by the committee. He then moved the adoption of the "UCC Draft Resolution on South Africa." Mr. Harter yielded his time to Wanda Veldman (WI), who spoke in favor of the resolution.

Discussion followed, all in support of the resolution.

Mr. Edgar Roosa (PNE) moved the previous question and the Nineteenth General Synod voted to close debate.

93-GS-58 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the "UCC Draft Resolution on South Africa"

#### UCC DRAFT RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA

WHEREAS, our partners, the South African Council of Churches and the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, plan to call for the lifting of sanctions and the ending of other financial pressures once a Transitional Executive Council, representing all of the major political actors in the country, has been established;

WHEREAS, we celebrate the June 1993 multi-party agreement that established a date for South African elections on April 27, 1994;

WHEREAS, we rejoice in the victories of the democratic forces in South Africa — victories which have placed the country, in the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, "on the threshold of becoming a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist country;"

WHEREAS, we celebrate the role that millions of people around the world, here in the United States and in our churches have played in the South African struggle for freedom and justice;

WHEREAS, we highlight the important role that sanctions and divestment have played in accelerating the process of change in South Africa;

WHEREAS, we know that the establishment of a Transitional Executive Council will not equal the arrival of democracy, as only elections and equal participation of all South African citizens at all levels of society will guarantee this;

WHEREAS, the setting of an election date and the establishment of a Transitional Executive Council will be a great initial victory for democratic forces;