

TUESDAY MORNING

18. DECLARATION OF RECESS

The Moderator then declared the Synod in recess for one hour for an open hearing on the Biennial Budget.

19. OPEN HEARING ON THE BIENNIAL BUDGET

The Moderator called on Ms. Doris Powell to begin the open hearing on the Biennial Budget. During this time the Budget Committee of the Executive Council and the Instrumentality Executives answered questions from the delegates relating to the budget.

20. CALL TO ORDER

The Moderator called the General Synod back to order at 11:45 a.m.

21. THANK YOU TO DISCIPLES OF CHRIST ASSEMBLY PLANNERS

Ms. Enriquez called on Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson who recognized Mr. Don Manworren, Deputy General Minister of the Disciples of Christ, Ms. Claudia Grant, Deputy General Minister of the Disciples of Christ, and Ms. Mary Jacobs, Worship Co-coordinator, for their work to help make the Assembly/Synod run smoothly and successfully.

22. RESOLUTION "CALLING ON THE CHURCH FOR GREATER LEADERSHIP TO END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GAYS AND LESBIANS"

Assistant Moderator Enriquez called on Ms. Inez Luna, the Chairperson of Committee Six, to continue the report of that committee. Ms. Luna drew attention to page 194 of the Program/Worship and Business Book and Report Pack G. She moved the adoption of the Resolution "Calling on the Church for Greater Leadership to End Discrimination

Against Gays and Lesbians." Ms. Luna yielded her time to Dahron Johnson (SOC) to speak to the Resolution.

There was discussion for and against the resolution.

Mr. Peter Kakos (MASS) proposed an amendment, adding a paragraph addressing the issue of bisexuality as a new #6 in the resolve section; the present #6 becomes #7. The amendment reads:

Calls for education and leadership to help the church and society understand moral and legal issues relating to bisexuality.

Following a second, Mr. Kakos spoke to the amendment.

Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IL) moved the previous question and the Nineteenth General Synod voted to close debate.

93-GS-63 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the amendment to add "Calls for education and leadership to help the church and society understand moral and legal issues related to bisexuality."

23. DIVISION OF THE HOUSE AND CALL FOR THE ORDER OF THE DAY

Assistant Moderator Enriquez stated the amendment passed. Discussion continued, and Mr. Edgar Roosa (PNE) called for a Division of the House on the amendment.

93-GS-64 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod votes to observe the Order of the Day.

24. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

Mr. Don Manworren was recognized to give the announcements. Assistant Moderator Enriquez declared the Nineteenth General Synod in recess until 2:30 p.m.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 20, 1993

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator David Ruhe called the final plenary of the Nineteenth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING AND NEW CONFERENCE MINISTERS AND INTERIM INSTRUMENTALITY EXECUTIVES

Mr. Ruhe called on President Sherry who acknowledged Conference Ministers who have left or are leaving their positions. Those persons named were: The Rev. Martha Baumer (ILS), The Rev. Sterling Carey (IL), The Rev. James Halfaker (WNI), The Rev. Clarence "Clip" Higgins (NEB), The Rev. David Jamieson (CA NV, N), The Rev. Marwood Rettig (MICH), The Rev. Jeffrey Steinhelfer (MN), The Rev. Zoltan Szucs (CA.SY) and The Rev. Jim Tomasek (SC).

President Sherry acknowledged those Conference Ministers who have been called since the Eighteenth General Synod. Those persons named were: The Rev. Kenneth Biehl, Interim Conference Minister (RM); The Rev. Lynn Fitch and the Rev. David Brown (WNI); The Rev. Herman Haller, Acting Conference Minister (MICH); The Rev. Donald Kaufman, Interim Conference Minister (IK); The Rev. Carla Bailey, Conference Minister (IK); The Rev. John Krueger (KO); The Rev. Ben Crosby and the Rev. Phillip Mayer (NH); The Rev. F. Russell Mitman (PSE); The Rev. Francis Vitez (CA.SY); and The Rev. Bennie Whiten (MASS).

President Sherry acknowledged Instrumentality Executives who have been called since the Eighteenth General Synod. Those persons names were: The Rev. Ron Kurtz, Interim Executive Director, Stewardship Council; and The Rev. Leon White, Interim Executive Director, Commission for Racial Justice.

Following recognition of these persons, Moderator Ruhe acknowledged a "Visibility Augmentation Device" (a hat) which was a gift from the Penn Northeast Conference.

3. SPEAK OUT!

Moderator Ruhe called on the persons ready to offer final Speak Out! comments. *[Summaries of Speak Outs! are found in Appendix D.]*

Mr. Ruhe offered a word of thanks to all of the speakers for their contributions and to the Rev. Dick Sparrow for his work as the Speak Out! Coordinator.

4. RESOLUTION "CALLING ON THE CHURCH FOR GREATER LEADERSHIP TO END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GAYS AND LESBIANS" CONTINUED

Moderator Ruhe reviewed the status of the amendment that was being considered when the Order of the Day was called at the last plenary. The amendment read "Calls for education and leadership to help the church and society understand moral and legal issues related to bisexuality."

The Division of the House vote on the Amendment 93-GS-63 from the previous plenary session was reported as 325 Yes and 186 No votes. The amendment to add a paragraph addressing the issue of bisexuality carried.

The Rev. Dennis Frische Mouri (IL) moved the previous question and, following a second, the Nineteenth General Synod voted to close debate.

93-GS-65 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Calling on the Church For Greater Leadership To End Discrimination Against Gays and Lesbians" as amended.

RESOLUTION "CALLING ON THE CHURCH FOR GREATER LEADERSHIP TO END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GAYS AND LESBIANS"

WHEREAS, God is the creator of all people, including people of differing sexual orientations;

WHEREAS, human sexuality is a gift of God, a gift to enjoy and to express responsibly;

WHEREAS, moral judgments should not be made about who people are but rather on the basis of how community and covenant are formed and what responsible expression of sexuality might mean among people of all sexual orientations;

WHEREAS, anything that robs people of their human dignity is a sin;

WHEREAS, laws that discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation and rob them of their human dignity are wrong and sinful;

WHEREAS, Scripture is God's word of love for the human family, a history of God bringing good news to the oppressed, the brokenhearted, the captives, calling all people to redefine who should be called the neighbor that human community might be built;

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WHEREAS, those who turn the Gospel of love into a gospel of hate should be considered false prophets; and

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod in 1975 issued a pronouncement on Civil Liberties Without Discrimination Related to Affectional or Sexual Orientation, and similar national statements have been issued in 1969, 1973, and at every General Synod since 1975;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. calls for the passage of a federal gay and lesbian civil rights law that will end discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and federally assisted opportunities;
2. calls for an end to all state "sodomy laws" used to provide legal sanction for discrimination against gays and lesbians;
3. calls for passage of domestic partnership laws designed to provide greater justice for gays and lesbians;
4. opposes attempts in Missouri and any other states to file petitions and pass laws to prevent the civil rights of gays and lesbians from being protected;
5. calls for the lifting of the ban on gays and lesbians in the military and expresses its gratitude to United Church of Christ Chaplains in the military who have been working to help the military come to terms with the issue of social justice;
6. calls for education and leadership to help the church and society understand moral and legal issues relating to bisexuality; and
7. urges churches and church members to take more leadership in ending the legal sanctioning of discrimination against gays and lesbians and in countering the prevailing public perception that the religious community supports such discrimination.

Subject to the availability of funds.

5. RESOLUTION "ON SHALOM IN CUBA"

Moderator Ruhe recognized Ms. Laura Høglund (IL), Chairperson of Committee Fifteen, to present the work of that Committee. Ms. Høglund moved the adoption of the Resolution "On Shalom in Cuba." Ms. Høglund pointed out that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) had passed a similar resolution earlier in the day. Ms. Høglund requested that Mr. Howard Sterns, representing the Fellowship of Reconciliation, be allowed to speak.

Voice was granted to Mr. Howard Sterns by general consent. Mr. Sterns spoke in support of the resolution.

93-GS-66 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "On Shalom in Cuba."

RESOLUTION "ON SHALOM IN CUBA"

WHEREAS, the Eighteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 1991 called for restoring normal relations between the United States and Cuba;

WHEREAS, in October 1992, the United States Congress passed, and President Bush signed, the Cuban Democracy Act (Torricelli Bill) which tightens the 34-year US blockade of Cuba by prohibiting third nations and entities from trading with Cuba and imposing severe economic penalties for violations;

WHEREAS, through prohibition of food, medicine and other resources, this cruel, immoral and illegal blockade is having a devastating effect on the people of Cuba, and especially on its children, elderly and sick;

WHEREAS, the effects of the blockade were made worse on March 13 by a storm which destroyed thousands of homes, millions of banana trees, many acres of ground crops and left 150,000 people in need of help;

WHEREAS, Church World Service (of the National Council of Churches), with U.S. Department of Commerce permission, has sent four shipments of food and medicine to Cuba in 1992, and Pastors for Peace (of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization), without seeking Department of Commerce permission, has delivered one shipment of food and medicine to Cuba during 1992, and is presently delivering a second shipment July 16 to August 9, 1993;

WHEREAS, church leaders and members in Cuba have asked members of United Church of Christ delegations in September, 1992 and January, 1993 to enlist the help of the United Church of Christ in ending the blockade; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of the Reformed Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal and Baptist Churches and the Ecumenical Council of Cuba sent a letter to President-Elect Bill Clinton last December asking to meet with him to dialogue in Christian spirit about the life and mission of the churches in Cuba in their task of unity and reconciliation, on behalf of promoting better relations between the two countries;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. commends both Church World Service and Pastors for Peace for delivering food and medicine to Cuba and urges