

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

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 Hoglund (IL), Chairperson of Committee Fifteen, to present the work of that Committee. Ms. Hoglund moved the adoption of the Resolution "On Shalom in Cuba." Ms. Hoglund pointed out that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) had passed a similar resolution earlier in the day. Ms. Hoglund 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

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the churches and members of the United Church of Christ to support their efforts;

2. encourages United Church of Christ members to act as the persistent petitioner in Luke 11:5-8, urging the President and members of Congress to respect the sovereignty of Cuba and the humanity of the Cuban people, to repeal the Cuban Democracy Act, to end the blockade, and to seek the welfare and shalom of the Cuban people, and not their starvation, sickness and death;

3. encourages United Church of Christ members to urge President Clinton to respond favorably to the December letter and request from Cuban church leaders;

4. calls upon President Paul Sherry and a representative group of UCC leaders to meet with leaders of the Ecumenical Council of Cuba at the earliest possible time to discuss our common task of unity and reconciliation and how to achieve better relations between our two countries;

5. calls upon the Office for Church in Society and the Commission for Racial Justice to give special attention and leadership to these concerns; and

6. requests the United Church Board for World Ministries and the United Church of Christ Fellowship of Reconciliation to give special attention and leadership to these concerns.

6. RESOLUTION "URGING REOPENING OF EAST JERUSALEM"

Continuing the report of Committee Fifteen, Ms. Laura Hogleund moved the adoption of the resolution "Urging Reopening of East Jerusalem." Ms. Hogleund pointed out that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is considering a similar resolution this afternoon. Ms. Hogleund requested that the Rev. Dale Bishop from the United Church Board for World Ministries be granted voice without vote. Voice without vote was granted by consensus.

Rev. Bishop spoke in favor of the resolution.

93-GS-67 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the resolution "Urging Reopening of East Jerusalem"

RESOLUTION "URGING REOPENING OF EAST JERUSALEM"

WHEREAS, in response to individual acts of violence against Israelis, the government of Israel, on March 29, 1993, imposed a ban on Palestinians residing in the West Bank and Gaza from entering Israel and East Jerusalem - a ban which continues to the present;

WHEREAS, this ban has prevented many Palestinians from reaching medical facilities in Jerusalem and has kept Christian and Muslim residents of the Occupied Territories from their holy sites in East Jerusalem;

WHEREAS, this ban has devastated the Palestinian economy, causing an economic loss of approximately \$3,000,000 per day;

WHEREAS, the United States government has advocated a position, which is in accord with the position of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, that East Jerusalem is occupied territory and that no party can unilaterally change that status;

WHEREAS, just as Jerusalem is of central importance to the Jewish people, so is East Jerusalem the cultural, economic and religious center of the Palestine people, both Christian and Muslim;

WHEREAS, the churches of the Middle East have sought the support of churches around the world in ending the closure of East Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, the closure of East Jerusalem represents an obstacle to the successful continuation of the Middle East Peace Talks;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that General Synod Nineteen requests that the President of the United Church of Christ call upon the U.S. government to urge Israel to end its ban on travel to East Jerusalem by residents of the West Bank and Gaza;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod Nineteen requests the President of the United Church of Christ communicate with all of the delegations to the Middle East Peace Talks the hope that these negotiations will lead to a just peace in the region based upon security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians, as well as their neighbors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod Nineteen affirms its solidarity with the Middle East Council of Churches in declaring that the city of Jerusalem must be the Jerusalem for all peoples.

7. RESOLUTION "IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLES OF ANGOLA AND ZAIRE"

Ms. Hogleund introduced and moved the third and final piece of business considered by Committee Fifteen, the adoption of the resolution "In Solidarity with the Peoples of Angola and Zaire." Ms. Hogleund again pointed out that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were considering a similar resolution. Also, the resolution calls for prayer and a member of Committee Fifteen is prepared