

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

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

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to offer a prayer if the resolution is adopted. Ms. Hoglund yielded to Mr. Evan Farrar (OH) to speak to the resolution.

Mr. Farrar spoke in support of the resolution. Several other persons also spoke positively of the need for passage of the resolution.

93-GS-68 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "In Solidarity with the Peoples of Angola and Zaire."

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

WHEREAS, Jesus was continually in solidarity with those who struggled for economic and political justice (John 4:1-42, Luke 10:29-37, Mark 2:13-17);

WHEREAS, the people of Angola and Zaire are involved in struggles to create societies which better reflect the peace, love, and justice of God;

WHEREAS, these courageous efforts are being met by resistance in the form of war, famine, and corruption encouraged by those in Angola and Zaire who oppose positive social and political change;

WHEREAS, these conditions have led to a terrible second civil war in Angola which has cost the lives of 40,000 people in six months;

WHEREAS, these conditions have led to brutal government sanctioned policies of violence and corruption in Zaire;

WHEREAS, we, as Christians, are deeply concerned for the well being and safety of all God's people in Angola and Zaire; and

WHEREAS, we are historically and intimately connected with partner churches in both Zaire and Angola with whom we have worked for years as brothers and sisters in Christ;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the UCC prays for the people and churches of Angola and Zaire;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the UCC hereby calls upon the United Church Board for World Ministries to continue to work actively for peace and justice in both suffering nations while attempting, as much as possible, to be in solidarity with our partner churches in Angola and Zaire;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the UCC encourages the conferences, associations, churches, and members of the United Church

of Christ to be advocates for the peoples' struggle in Angola and Zaire.

Subject to availability of funds.

8. PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLES OF ANGOLA AND ZAIRE

A prayer was offered by Rev. John Dorhauer (MO) in solidarity for the peoples of Angola and Zaire as requested in the resolution.

9. APOLOGY

Rev. Donald Freeman from the Business Committee offered an apology to General Synod delegates and to the Rev. Thomas Dipko, Executive Vice-President of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. Rev. Freeman pointed out that the Business Committee had inadvertently placed Rev. Dipko in an extremely awkward situation regarding the relationship of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to General Synod and the appropriate language to be used in covenant polity. Rev. Freeman pointed out that the Business Committee should have alerted the delegates to the issue.

10. CELEBRATION & COMMITMENT TO THE ECUMENICAL DECADE OF CHURCHES IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN

Moderator Ruhe called on the Rev. Mary Sue Gast, Executive Director of the Coordinating Center for Women, and the Rev. Bertrice Wood, Associate/Office of the Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for World Ministries, for a Celebration and Commitment to the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women.

Ms. Gast indicated that this celebration was in honor of the midpoint in the Decade of Women from 1988 to 1998 initiated by the World Council of Church's response from religious communities as a portion of unfinished agenda from the United Nation's Decade of Women.

Ms. Wood invited delegates to join in solidarity with women of the entire Church world wide by wearing the color black on Tuesdays. This act should be seen not as mourning but as a declaration of determination and resolve to be in solidarity with all women.

A presentation was offered by a variety of persons dressed in black who, through story, recitation, mime, dance, song and drumming told a story about our need for solidarity with women. It was reported that the red threads on person's wrists were symbolic of the blood of women who have been subjected to violence. The presentation included a symbolic dance of red streamers.