

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

- (a) A brief title with information providing the source of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion, the date of submission and any other information pertinent to the Resolution or Other Formal Motion. If presented at General Synod, the names and conferences of the delegates presenting the Resolution or Other Formal Motion shall be included.
- (b) A brief summary of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion, if appropriate.
- (c) The biblical, theological and ethical rationale; the financial implications; and the expected outcome, if appropriate.
- (d) The text of the motion.
- (e) A statement, if appropriate, that the implementation of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion is subject to the availability of funds. There is no financial guarantee of any kind other than the annual budget determined by the Executive Council (73 GS 81).
- (f) A statement, if appropriate, that the implementing body is responsible for developing the strategy and program designed to implement the Resolution or Other Formal Motion.

Inserting Rule 15:

15. Reports to be made to succeeding General Synods on a Pronouncement, Proposal for Action, Resolution or Other Formal Motion may be requested for no more than the three General Synods immediately following that General Synod.

Inserting Rule 48:

48. When General Synod is not in session, the Executive Council acting as General Synod ad interim may amend the Standing Rules, as necessary, to facilitate the collection, processing and distribution of items of business for a subsequent General Synod. Notification must be sent to local churches, conferences and delegates regarding such action(s) at least one year prior to the beginning of the subsequent General Synod.

These standing rules will be effective at the close of the Nineteenth General Synod.

16. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT "HISPANIC MINISTRIES IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (HMIT)"

Ms. Hood moved the adoption of the Executive Committee Report "Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team (HMIT)."

93-GS-75 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod continues the life of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team for the 1993-1995 biennium. The Team will continue to report to each meeting of the Executive Council and will report to the Twentieth General Synod its achievements, concerns and future directions.

17. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT "EXTENSION OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDER / ASIAN AMERICAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE"

Ms. Hood moved the adoption of the Executive Committee Report "Extension of the Pacific Islander/Asian American Implementation Committee."

93-GS-76 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod continues the life of the Pacific Islander/Asian American Implementation Committee for two biennia, 1993-1997. Progress reports will be made to the Twentieth and Twenty-first General Synods as well as to each Executive Council meeting during that period.

18. RECOGNITION OF YOUTH FROM GERMANY

Ms. Ann Hewlitt (IK) was granted a point of personal privilege by Moderator Ruhe. She invited the delegates to celebrate the presence of youth at General Synod. She invited celebration of a particular group of young people: "Young Ambassadors" from the Indiana Kentucky Conference and young people and leaders from the EKU in Germany.

19. APPRECIATION TO MODERATOR RUHE

The Rev. "Clip" Higgins (NEB) requested a point of personal privilege. He stated Nebraska has many gifts and that Nebraska's gift to Synod this year had been the Rev. David Ruhe as Moderator. The General Synod expressed its appreciation for Mr. Ruhe with a prolonged standing ovation and the Nebraska delegates gave Mr. Ruhe's performance as moderator a perfect 10.

20. RESOLUTION "A CALL TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATING TO RESOLUTION 91-GS-67, CONCERNING THE GIFTS OF GAYS, LESBIANS AND BISEXUALS FOR MINISTRY"

Moderator Ruhe called on Ms. Karen Schmiel (MO), Chairperson of Committee Nine, to continue the report of the committee. Ms. Schmiel reviewed the work of Committee Nine and identified two issues of concern. The first was an issue of local church autonomy and the second the issue of the General Synod Eighteen process. Ms. Schmiel recommended the defeat of the resolution, "A Call to Consider Issues Relating to Resolution 91-GS-67, Concerning the Gifts of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals for Ministry."

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Ms. Schmiel spoke to the Resolution stating that the maker of the resolution was present in Committee Nine and wanted to be clear that the resolution is not a resolution about human sexuality. The resolution is about local church autonomy and a process that was legitimate during General Synod Eighteen but that caused deep hurt in some churches. The text of the resolution is unaltered by the Committee but defeat is recommended because Committee Nine believes local church autonomy is not threatened and does not require action by Synod, except to reassure those churches that their pain and hurt has been recognized and steps taken to remedy the process that created the difficulty.

Ms. Sherry Keiter (PC) moved the adoption of an amendment by substitution. The proposed amendment by substitution changes the entire resolution to read as follows:

RESOLUTION "A CALL TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATING TO RESOLUTION 91-GS-67, CONCERNING THE GIFTS OF GAYS, LESBIANS AND BISEXUALS FOR MINISTRY"

WHEREAS, some of the issues involved in Resolution 91-GS-67 have raised concern among many of us and are such that we have not been able to arrive at unanimity about them;

WHEREAS, Resolution 91-GS-67 has caused polarization within the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, Resolution 91-GS-67 calls for "disciplined dialogue in which the biblical and theological foundations for congregations to be open and affirming of gay, lesbian and bisexual people are prayerfully discussed;"

WHEREAS, the need for articulating what we can affirm together about issues, while recognizing our differences, is critical for the unity of the church;

WHEREAS, some have felt that there was not time at the Eighteenth General Synod for Resolution 91-GS-67 to be prepared in such a way as to express sufficiently our common ground;

WHEREAS, Resolution 91-GS-67 was a reformulation by a General Synod Committee and this reformulation was done so as to say the opposite of the original resolution;

WHEREAS, we are grateful that the standing rules of General Synod Nineteen have been modified to guarantee consideration of the original intent of a resolution;

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that in discussion of 91-GS-67 and related resolutions, all sides within the church have

too often engaged in polemics which have not built up the church and we lament practices such as:

- a) speaking of those who take an opposing view in a manner which is demeaning or exclusive;
- b) focusing only on the most extreme statements made of opposing views; and
- c) attempting to impose the will of one group upon others by questionable means in the conviction that all truth is on one side;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we confess that we all, of whatever point of view, have taken part in such practices, whether actively or by silent assent, and that they are destructive of our unity in Christ. We repent of such actions and call upon us all to engage in discussion about faithful discipleship in a manner more consistent with seeking the mind of Christ;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we affirm the unity of the church as the body of Christ given by the will of God and established eternally in God's grace. We believe that the church does not consist merely of individual members or of their collective views. We affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord of the church and that the church is upheld by the Holy Spirit. We are united in Christ despite our differences and disagreements. We confess that we are bound together by Christ and that to break fellowship with one another because of our views is to cause a grievous wound in the body of Christ;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod calls upon the members of the church to accept one another in the face of differences of conviction, show respect for one another as sisters and brothers in Christ, and act in ways that will build up the life of the community.

Subject to the availability of funds.

93-GS-77 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the Amendment by Substitution submitted by Ms. Sherry Keiter.

Ms. Christine Rider (CA NV, N) moved to amend the previous amendment by deleting the first 7 paragraphs, and changing paragraph 8 to read: "Whereas we acknowledge that in discussion of difficult issues we within in the church have too often engaged in," etc. Following a second to the motion, Ms. Rider spoke to the amendment.

93-GS-78 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod defeats the proposed amendment.

The Rev. Peter Kakos (MASS) moved the previous question and the Nineteenth General Synod voted to close debate.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

93-GS-79 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the resolution "A Call to Consider Issues Relating to Resolution 91-GS-67, Concerning the Gifts of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals for Ministry" as amended.

**RESOLUTION "A CALL TO CONSIDER ISSUES
RELATING TO
RESOLUTION 91-GS-67, CONCERNING THE GIFTS
OF
GAYS, LESBIANS AND BISEXUALS FOR
MINISTRY"**

WHEREAS, some of the issues involved in Resolution 91-GS-67 have raised concern among many of us and are such that we have not been able to arrive at unanimity about them;

WHEREAS, Resolution 91-GS-67 has caused polarization within the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, Resolution 91-GS-67 calls for "disciplined dialogue in which the biblical and theological foundations for congregations to be open and affirming of gay, lesbian and bisexual people are prayerfully discussed";

WHEREAS, the need for articulating what we can affirm together about issues, while recognizing our differences, is critical for the unity of the church;

WHEREAS, some have felt that there was not time at the Eighteenth General Synod for Resolution 91-GS-67 to be prepared in such a way as to express sufficiently our common ground;

WHEREAS, Resolution 91-GS-67 was a reformulation by a General Synod Committee and this reformulation was done so as to say the opposite of the original resolution;

WHEREAS, we are grateful that the standing rules of General Synod Nineteen have been modified to guarantee consideration of the original intent of a resolution; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that in discussion of 91-GS-67 and related resolutions, all sides within the church have too often engaged in polemics which have not built up the church and we lament practices such as:

- a) speaking of those who take an opposing view in a manner which is demeaning or exclusive;
- b) focusing only on the most extreme statements made of opposing views; and
- c) attempting to impose the will of one group upon others by questionable means in the conviction that all truth is on one side;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we confess that we all, of whatever point of view, have taken part in such practices, whether actively or by silent assent, and that

they are destructive of our unity in Christ. We repent of such actions and call upon us all to engage in discussion about faithful discipleship in a manner more consistent with seeking the mind of Christ;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm the unity of the church as the body of Christ given by the will of God and established eternally in God's grace. We believe that the church does not consist merely of individual members or of their collective views. We affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord of the church and that the church is upheld by the Holy Spirit. We are united in Christ despite our differences and disagreements. We confess that we are bound together by Christ and that to break fellowship with one another because of our views is to cause a grievous wound in the body of Christ;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod calls upon the members of the church to accept one another in the face of differences of conviction, show respect for one another as sisters and brothers in Christ, and act in ways that will build up the life of the community.

Subject to the availability of funds.

**21. RESOLUTION "RE-EVALUATION OF THE
SENTENCES OF BATTERED WOMEN IN US
PRISONS"**

Moderator Ruhe called Ms. Inez Luna, Chairperson of Committee Six, to complete the report of the Committee. Ms. Luna moved the adoption of the resolution "Re-Evaluation of Sentences of Battered Women in US Prisons." Ms. Luna yielded her time to Rev. Debra Valentine (MINN) who spoke in support of the resolution.

93-GS-80 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the resolution "Re-Evaluation of the Sentences of Battered Women in US Prisons."

**RESOLUTION "RE-EVALUATION OF THE
SENTENCES OF BATTERED WOMEN IN U.S.
PRISONS"**

WHEREAS, in Isaiah 42:6-7, we who believe are asked to "be a light to all peoples...to open eyes that are blind, to bring captives out of prison;"

WHEREAS, in Luke 4:18, Jesus calls us to minister to those who are in prison and to set at liberty those who are oppressed;

WHEREAS, theologically, true justice is in freeing the prisoner of sin, abuse, fear, and in freeing those who are in prison for actions deemed wrong by a society who mis-defines the crime;