

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

WHEREAS, English law, which is the foundation of law in the United States, was designed for men and lacked protection for women against abusive partners;

WHEREAS, today in the 1990's women who have been battered emotionally and physically have become a national concern;

WHEREAS, impoverished and/or minority prison inmates, who make up a majority of the female prisoners in the United States, have little or no support in their defense;

WHEREAS, some women received stiff sentences in the early 1980's when courts rarely heard mention of battered women's syndrome and few lawyers offered a plea of self-defense since a woman's action in response to chronic abuse might be an admission of a motive and thus a crime that was pre-meditated;

WHEREAS, few battered women who are incarcerated have criminal histories; few pose the risk of repeating their crimes; and lengthy incarceration of such battered women is costly and inhumane; and

WHEREAS, a pattern for "clemency" has been established by such states as Ohio, where former Gov. Richard Celeste in 1990 granted mass clemency for 25 battered women convicted of assaulting or killing the abusers in their lives, and in 1991 clemency for eight inmates was granted by Gov. William Schaefer of Maryland, sparking drives to review sentencing of battered women in 28 states;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Members of United Church of Christ churches join with appropriate groups in requesting the governors and legislators of their respective states to:

1. Re-examine evidence in original sentencing of battered women who fought back by killing or assaulting their abusers;
2. Seek out battered women prison inmates and, when appropriate, help them apply for clemency;
3. Create legislation to provide adequate funding of agencies that could facilitate justice for women who are incarcerated for killing or assaulting their abusers;
4. Contact their respective state Directors of Criminal Justice and request that justice be done by identifying battered women serving sentences for killing or assaulting those who battered them and by giving special consideration to them for early release, thus having a two fold effect:
 - a. giving back the life of a person who is not a threat to society and

b. facilitating renewal of broken families;

5. Contact their respective state Offices of Court Administration and request a sensitivity training program on battered women be given to all sitting judges who may hear such cases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United Church of Christ churches investigate the resources in their areas for serving the needs of imprisoned battered women;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coordinating Center for Women, the Office for Church In Society, and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries resource this issue and facilitate the implementation of this issue in conferences.

Subject to the availability of funds.

22. RESOLUTION "JUST PEACE CHURCH OPPOSES NATO STRATEGY SHIFT"

Moderator Ruhe recognized Ms. Florence Karlstrom, Chairperson of Committee Seven, for the final item of business from this Committee. Ms. Karlstrom moved the adoption of the resolution "Just Peace Church Opposes Nato Strategy Shift."

Rev. Donald Freeman, Business Committee, reported that the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) churches have acted in favor of a similar resolution, and urged the delegates to join in solidarity by affirming this action.

93-GS-81 VOTED: The Nineteenth General Synod adopts the resolution "Just Peace Church Opposes Nato Strategy Shift."

RESOLUTION "JUST PEACE CHURCHES OPPOSE NATO STRATEGY SHIFT"

Background

Peace and Economic Justice was the theme for a 1992 Consultation of members of the Penn Central Conference and its partners in the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) in the Berlin-Brandenburg and Rhineland Regional Churches. They discussed the significance for today of the basic church documents: "Confessing for Peace" by the Federation of Evangelical Churches in the German Democratic Republic (1987) and the UCC Just Peace Pronouncement (General Synod 15, 1985) as well as the UCC Pronouncement on Christian Faith: Economic Life and Justice (General Synod 17, 1989). Their common conviction about the "window in history" which is given "to take the way toward complete nuclear disarmament and toward overcoming the institution of war" led the partner churches to speak out against the strategy shift by NATO away from defense of Europe toward global military

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intervention. This shift has been described by the General Secretary of NATO as "cooperation with the USA in order to represent its (Europe's) interests successfully beyond its own territory" based on "the concentration of all available resources of the industrialized nations in order to overcome the new problems emerging from the population explosion, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the shortage of energy and raw materials and the increasing migration streams." (Manfred Woerner, Europa - Archil, No. 1, 1992, PP 5-6). At the consultation, the UCC and EKU partners agreed to ask their Synods to speak out against this strategy which was seen as maintaining and protecting economic injustice of the North against the South.

Biblical and Theological Basis

The UCC and EKU partners stated: "We hold fast to the biblical witness that peace is the fruit of justice (Isaiah 32-17)... As disciples of Jesus we are called to proclaim good news to the poor and to oppose threats against them." They quoted from the Just Peace Pronouncement that the task of the church is to be "a real countervailing power against those forces which divide, which perpetuate human enmity and injustice, which destroy."

Text of Resolution

WHEREAS, both the UCC and the EKU have committed themselves to friendship, justice, and common security from violence; and

WHEREAS, our EKU partners in Berlin-Brandenburg and the Rhineland have alerted us to the dangers to justice and peace in the new NATO strategy which allows global military intervention on behalf of the economic interest of the industrialized nations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod deplores the new NATO strategy of global military intervention on behalf of the economic interests of the industrialized nations and directs the UCC president to speak out clearly against this strategy and USA support for it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod requests the Office for Church in Society and the United Church Board for World Ministries to mobilize concern and support on this issue through their advocacy networks and to prepare resource materials to inform UCC congregations and provide guidance for them to take action;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod gives encouragement and support to its EKU partners in their opposition to the change in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany which

would make possible a world-wide use of their armed forces;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod reaffirms its opposition to military intervention by the USA for the purpose of protecting economic interests of the industrialized nations and reaffirms its support for non-violent means of resolving conflicts.

Subject to the availability of funds.

23. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Moderator Ruhe requested the Secretary to enter the report of the Credentials Committee into the written minutes. The report which follows was submitted by Mr. John F. Shaw (CONN), Chair of the Credentials Committee:

General Synod Registration	2662
Voting Delegates	744
Registered Visitors	1372
Honored Guests	13
General Synod Staff	66
Ecumenical Guests	23
Voice Without Vote	36
Ecumenical Delegates	4
Staff (Nat'l. and Conference)	311
Associate Delegates	94

24. AMENITIES RESOLUTION

Moderator Ruhe recognized Ms. Carol Fujita and The Rev. Lorain Giles, Co-Chairs, Program and Planning Committee who introduced two resolutions:

AMENITIES RESOLUTION I

WHEREAS, the Missouri and Illinois South Conferences have provided thousands of hours of volunteer service to this General Assembly / Synod in its planning and execution;

WHEREAS, the Missouri and Illinois South Conferences have made our lives infinitely easier during this past week by their behind-the-scenes work on the plenary floor, in committees, in the General Synod Office, in our hotels, in local churches, and even with jazz in the hallways;

WHEREAS, Sheldon Culver Schippel from our church and Bill Briggs from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have served loyally and efficiently as Co-Chairs of the Joint Local Arrangements Committee, whose cabinet included UCC members: Clarice Gladney, Walter Gerth, William Whicher, Duayne Meyer, Marilyn Breitling, Anita Ullman, Roy Fressel, Lee Tyler, Donald Driemeier and Betty Rieso; and