

SATURDAY EVENING

The Rev. George Calvert (Community Development Task Force) spoke about the importance of community development investing for projects such as affordable housing, etc.

The Rev. Richard Sales, Moderator of the Southeast Conference, spoke of the attributes of living in the Southeast Conference in the hope of attracting a conference minister.

Mr. Charles Whittemore (NH) asked for more information about "Call to Revival" mentioned on page 86 in the General Synod Program/Worship and Business Book.

Mr. Seth Patterson (OHIO) and the Office for Church in Society called attention to the Justice and Peace Network, mentioning that it addressed critical issues including global concerns, civil rights and hunger and that it provided an opportunity to put faith into action.

Ms. Joan VanderVliet (MASS) invited all women to be a part of the Third National Women's Gathering "Visions and Voices" in Boston, June 27-30, 1996.

The Rev. David Beebe (Stewardship Council) reminded the delegates of a pronouncement suggesting ways people may commit acts of good stewardship.

Mr. Karl Limvere (ND) spoke of the importance of respecting the earth and its resources stating, "Strangers no more, justice no less for those who live on the land."

Mr. Tim Fugman (SD) encouraged people to take part in and support Outdoor Ministries in their conferences.

3. NOMINATING AND SECONDING SPEECHES

Moderator Melendez called attention to General Synod Standing Rules 28-38 in the General Synod Handbook, pages 25-26, especially rule #38, regarding the time allotment and procedures for Nominating and Seconding speeches.

In addition, Moderator Melendez reminded the delegates of the rules regarding printed material for distribution on the floor of General Synod and planned demonstrations as discussed in rules 41 and 44.

Moderator Melendez stated that nominating speeches would be given for the position of Secretary of the Church and called on the Rev. Norman Jackson. Rev. Norman Jackson (HI) nominated Ms. Edith A. Guffey for the Office of Secretary of the United Church of Christ. The seconding speech was offered by Ms. Barbara Everett.

4. GENERAL SYNOD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Moderator Melendez reviewed the process for committees to give their reports and recommendations. He expressed thanks to the Committee Process Team, the Rev. Bob Ullman, Ms. Stella Schoen, and Ms. Janice White, along with Committee Chairs for their work. He asked all Committee Chairs to stand and be recognized.

5. RESOLUTION "SPIRITUAL CARE BY QUALIFIED CHAPLAINS AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF TOTAL HEALTH CARE"

Moderator Melendez recognized the Rev. Nars Palomar (ILL), Chairperson of Committee Five, to begin committee reports. Mr. Palomar referred delegates to the appropriate information and moved the adoption of the Resolution "Spiritual Care by Qualified Chaplains as An Essential Component of Total Health Care."

There was no discussion and the Moderator called for the vote.

95-GS-18 VOTED: The Twentieth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Spiritual Care by Qualified Chaplains as an Essential Component of Total Health Care."

RESOLUTION "SPIRITUAL CARE BY QUALIFIED CHAPLAINS AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF TOTAL HEALTH CARE"

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ seeks to follow Jesus Christ in providing to all a healing presence, an ethical resource, a theological and Biblical framework for understanding and responding to illness and suffering and an example of prayer;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ historically has supported spiritual care as an essential component of total health care;

WHEREAS there is no explicit inclusion of spiritual care in prior General Synod pronouncements, statements, or resolutions concerning total health care;

WHEREAS the need for redressing an imbalance in spiritual care has become increasingly important in a time of mounting emphasis on medical care alone;

WHEREAS ordination to chaplaincy in hospitals and other health care settings has been a recognized practice of the United Church of Christ and its predecessor denominations; and

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WHEREAS there is imminent danger that in the fierce competition for health care dollars in an era of health care reform, hospitals and health care facilities will increasingly lose sight of the patient's total welfare by choosing to eliminate or severely curtail non-revenue producing services such as chaplaincy;

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

reaffirms its historic Christian commitment to the provision of spiritual care as an essential part of total health care, and to so specify in all pronouncements, statements, and resolutions relative to health care, present and future; and

affirms, advocates, and calls upon our congregations, associations, conferences and national bodies to affirm and advocate for the leadership of qualified ordained or ecclesiastically endorsed chaplains and ecclesiastically endorsed pastoral counselors in the provision of spiritual care in health care settings.

Subject to the availability of funds.

6. RESOLUTION "A CALL TO A COVENANT FOR THE FUTURE REGARDING HUNGER IN THE UNITED STATES"

Continuing the report of Committee Five, Mr. Palomar moved the adoption of the Resolution "A Call to a Covenant for the Future Regarding Hunger in the United States."

Ms. Mary Miller (OHIO) spoke in favor of the motion and urged delegates to go back to their local churches to address this issue.

There was no further discussion and Moderator Melendez asked the Synod to vote.

95-GS-19 VOTED: The Twentieth General Synod adopts the Resolution "A Call to Covenant for the Future: Hunger in the United States."

RESOLUTION "A CALL TO A COVENANT FOR THE FUTURE REGARDING HUNGER IN THE UNITED STATES"

WHEREAS I Cor. 11: 20 offers a challenge to those who share in the Lord's Supper, but are concerned only about their own consumption while others go hungry;

WHEREAS Deut. 15:11 commands us to open wide our hands to the poor and needy, not to turn our private or public backs to those who go without;

WHEREAS God's judgment is rendered on societies regarding how the poor, the hungry, the widow, the orphan

are treated-- not on government alone, nor solely on the private sectors, but all of society;

WHEREAS in the last two decades the percentage of population that are undernourished has increased in the U. S. and Africa, while decreasing elsewhere around the world;

WHEREAS almost 2 million women and men over age 65 have to choose between buying food and buying medicine, 1.3 million choose between food or paying rent and other bills, and 1.1 million skip meals because they have no food;

WHEREAS Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project surveys continue to confirm that 5.5 million children under the age of 12 are hungry in the U. S.;

WHEREAS 78% of the poor are women and children;

WHEREAS the growth of Food Banks from being non-existent prior to 1980 currently numbers 185 Food Banks serving 50,000 local feeding agencies across the nation;

WHEREAS 10.4% of the U. S. population is dependent on food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other emergency feeding programs;

WHEREAS 10% of the U. S. population now qualify for food stamps;

WHEREAS AFDC benefits have declined in purchasing power having averaged 66% of the poverty line in 1970, and now only 41.3% in 1991 (the average grant for a poor family in 1992 was \$383 per month);

WHEREAS 18% of all full-time employed persons do not earn enough to raise their family unit above the poverty level;

WHEREAS the proposals to transform U. S. government have been selective in the programs that are to be considered - engaging in set asides of Social Security, defense, Medicare and targeting, disproportionately, programs geared for the benefit of the poor;

WHEREAS the impact of poverty and hunger on the children and youth of this country can only make the creation of a covenant for the future more difficult to achieve, and result in health, educational, and social costs later;

WHEREAS both political parties have refused to look comprehensively at expenditures and revenues, seeking apparently to secure voter support through tax reductions, most of which will benefit the top 20% of the U. S. population;