

SATURDAY EVENING

ministry; facilitate a system of placement that is responsive to the needs and the gifts of the Local Church as well as being sensitive to the needs and the gifts of the clergy; and collaborate with the Seminaries, Conferences, and Instrumentalities, in addressing questions which are important to the integrity and purpose of the Church.

8. RESOLUTION "ON THE NEED FOR EDUCATING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE"

Moderator Melendez introduced Ms. Tara Barber, Chairperson of Committee Seven, who expressed thanks for the work of the committee. The work of this committee involved new business introduced on Thursday evening. She directed delegates' attention to the materials in packet B. Ms. Barber spoke to the work of the committee and moved for the adoption of the Resolution "On the Need for Educating Members of the United Church of Christ About the Principle of Separation of Church and State."

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

95-GS-21 VOTED: The Twentieth General Synod adopts the Resolution "On The Need for Educating Members of the United Church of Christ About the Principle of Separation of Church and State."

RESOLUTION "ON THE NEED FOR EDUCATING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE"

WHEREAS a strongly articulated sentiment exists in the United States to reinterpret radically the principle of Separation of Church and State;

WHEREAS such radical reinterpretation of the First Amendment repudiates the Separation Principle as it has been affirmed in many Supreme Court decisions;

WHEREAS this radical reinterpretation constitutes a threat to the religious freedom guaranteed in this country by the Constitution and Bill of Rights;

WHEREAS we believe that churches are strengthened, not weakened, by the principle of Separation of Church and State;

WHEREAS members of the United Church of Christ lack information about the value, significance, and benefits of the Separation Principle, a lack of information often prompted by the poor coverage of these issues in the general media;

WHEREAS educating our members will aid in combating some of the erroneous information promoted by powerful religious forces which control significant radio, television and print resources; and

WHEREAS as people of Christian faith within a multicultural nation, we believe that we have a responsibility to protect the right of all to believe and worship as conscience dictates, and to oppose efforts to have government at any level support or promote the financial or other needs of religious institutions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges its membership to organize educational study groups within congregations for the purpose of examining the principle of Separation of Church and State;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges that workshops be organized and held at Association meetings, Conference meetings and national gatherings for the purpose of examining the principle of Separation of Church and State;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these study groups and workshops devote their attention to current threats to the principle of Separation of Church and State emerging from school boards, state legislatures and the Congress of the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ regularly work with Conferences and Associations in improving the conversation with and among local congregations about any pertinent issues related to the principle of Separation of Church and State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all settings of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to take an active role in the public discourse, discussing the principle of Separation of Church and State and the role of religion in society.

Subject to the availability of funds.

9. RESOLUTION "SUPPORTING A PERMANENT UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR WORLDWIDE EMERGENCY DISASTER RESPONSE"

Moderator Melendez asked Ms. Barber to continue the report of Committee Seven. Ms. Barber called the attention of the delegates to the Resolution "Supporting a Permanent United Nations Fund for Worldwide Emergency Disaster Response." Ms. Barber spoke in favor of the Resolution and moved its adoption.