

MONDAY MORNING

RESOLUTION "CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF WITNESS AND SERVICE BY THE COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY (CAIM)"

WHEREAS in 1970 the United Church of Christ established the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) as its national body responsible for American Indian ministry and witness;

WHEREAS the General Synod, in 1975, voted support for the Council for American Indian Ministry and joined with CAIM in the call for recognition and enforcement of American Indian treaty rights;

WHEREAS the General Synod, in 1977, encouraged the establishment of an Office of Indian Justice within the Council for American Indian Ministry;

WHEREAS the General Synod, in 1979, affirmed its commitment to CAIM as an integral component of the Church's witness by guaranteeing a proportion of the Neighbors in Need offering for the support of the Council for American Indian Ministry;

WHEREAS in 1987, the General Synod adopted a statement of penitence and the hope of reconciliation between American Indian and non-Indian people, took action calling for church-wide involvement in the life and death struggle against alcohol, drug and inhalant abuse, and adopted a pronouncement and proposal for action which established the Council for American Indian Ministry as the "General Synod's primary national body and resource to the Church on issues relating to American Indians;"

WHEREAS the General Synod, in 1991, adopted a resolution calling for new beginnings after 500 years of American Indian and Euro-American contact and directed the Council for American Indian Ministry to convene the first national gathering of American Indian members of the United Church of Christ to chart the course of United Church of Christ American Indian Ministry into the 21st Century;

WHEREAS the General Synod, in 1991, also adopted a resolution calling for an end to the negative stereotyping of Native Americans in sports, the media, place names and commerce;

WHEREAS the General Synod, in 1993, acted in support of legislation which would provide freedom of religion for American Indians; and

WHEREAS for twenty-five years the Council for American Indian Ministry has demonstrated the importance and value of American Indian self determination and authority in its faithful work of ministry in American Indian communities and throughout the wider Church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ celebrates the Council for American Indian Ministry's twenty-five years of witness and service in American Indian communities and throughout the United Church of Christ;

anticipates with the Council for American Indian Ministry the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the embodiment of the new beginnings initiated by the 1995 National Gathering of American Indian Members of the United Church of Christ; and

pledges its continued spiritual, organizational and financial support for the Council for American Indian Ministry as it develops ways of witness and service appropriate for American Indian ministry in the coming years and into the next century.

Subject to availability of funds.

6. RESOLUTION "CONCERNING THE CHURCH AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) OF 1990"

Assistant Moderator Debney called on Ms. Peggy Bronson (IOWA) who moved the adoption of the Resolution "Concerning the Church and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990." The resolution is located on page 155 of the Program/Worship and Business Book.

Ms. Bronson called on the Rev. Susan Lyon (CONN), Executive Director of the National Committee on Persons with Disabilities, to speak to the motion.

Ms. Lyon requested that voice be granted to the Rev. Harold Wilke, past national staff person, who wished to speak to the motion. The request was granted by consensus.

Mr. Wilke spoke in support of the resolution and urged its passage.

The Rev. David McMahill (MINN) offered a friendly amendment to delete the words "in a unique way" after the word "God" in the second column, line 3. The amendment was accepted.

The Rev. Don Severson (CPC) offered a friendly amendment to add the words "Conferences and Associations" after the word "instrumentalities" in column 2, line 19. The amendment was accepted.

There were no further changes or discussion and the Moderator called for a vote.

95-GS-30 VOTED: The Twentieth General Synod adopts the resolution entitled "Concerning the Church and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990."

MONDAY MORNING

RESOLUTION "CONCERNING THE CHURCH AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) OF 1990"

WHEREAS the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became the law of the land in July, 1991 and by its definition and provisions requires that 50,000,000 Americans with a broad range of physical and mental disabilities be given access to buildings, information, programs, and services outlawing any kind of discrimination based on physical or mental disability;

WHEREAS the provisions of the ADA do not legally bind most religious institutions, organizations, or local churches;

WHEREAS the Eleventh General Synod voted the resolution, on the Church and Persons with Handicaps; the Twelfth General Synod voted the Proposal for Action on the Church and Persons with Handicaps; and the Fifteenth General Synod voted the resolution, Full Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the Life of the Church;

WHEREAS the spirit of the ADA is in keeping with the commitment of the United Church of Christ to justice for all people, yet the majority of the United Church of Christ church related buildings, information, programs, and services remain out of reach for most persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS through the continued inaccessibility of our buildings, our worship, and our business, we are actively denying God admission to our hearts, even as God knocks ceaselessly at the door;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod:

Affirms that each person is created in the image of God and that persons with disabilities of all ages incarnate the nature and presence of God;

Affirms that as often as we let barriers stand between persons with disabilities and the work of the Church, we intentionally turn our back on our Creator; and

Affirms that part of the Body of Christ, manifested in the United Church of Christ is disabled and less whole when any of its members are denied worship or church programming because of the inaccessibility of our buildings or the more invisible attitudinal barriers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on all boards, instrumentalities, Conferences and Associations, related bodies and member congregations of the United Church of Christ to embrace the spirit of the Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA) and hold themselves morally bound by the provisions of this act.

Subject to the availability of funds.

7. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The Rev. Ralph Quellhorst was granted a moment of personal privilege. He spoke about the Rev. Harold Wilke's leadership in bringing national and international attention to the needs of persons with disabilities. Mr. Quellhorst expressed deep appreciation for Mr. Wilke's leadership which the delegates affirmed by a standing ovation.

8. RESOLUTION "ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS"

Assistant Moderator Debney called on Ms. Patricia Allen Morgan (VT) of the Business Committee who moved the adoption of the Resolution "On the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations." She pointed out that the resolution is located on page 158 of the Program/Worship and Business Book.

Ms. Morgan called on the Rev. David Hansen (WIS), Chair of the Directorate of the Office for Church in Society, who spoke to the resolution, described the work of the United Nations and celebrated the work of Ms. Verna Rapp Uthman whose life and work has embodied the work of the United Nations.

There was no discussion.

95-GS-31 VOTED: The Twentieth General Synod adopts the Resolution "On the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations."

RESOLUTION "ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS"

WHEREAS the God made known to us in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, calls us continually to resolve peacefully the conflicts that arise between and among peoples, to repent of the human brokenness under which we all suffer, and to rejoice in the ministry of reconciling ourselves to one another and to God;

WHEREAS in 1995 the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations will be commemorated;

WHEREAS 1995 will mark 50 years since the end of World War II, the initiation of the atomic era, the beginning of the Cold War, and the talks which led to the adoption of the International Bill of Human Rights;