

**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;

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WHEREAS the churches supported the founding of the United Nations and have continued to support the United Nations' ongoing work, originally through the Federal Council of Churches' Commission on a Just and Durable Peace, and subsequently through the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, the World Council of Churches and denominational efforts;

WHEREAS in 1944, both the Evangelical and Reformed General Synod and the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches voted to support the creation of the United Nations and the Congregational Christian Council on Christian Social Action presented 220,000 signatures of members supporting the United Nations;

WHEREAS the "Six Pillars of Peace," adopted by the Federal Council of Churches' Commission on a Just and Durable Peace in 1942 and affirmed by the predecessor denominations of the United Church of Christ, continue to be vital principles for today:

1 ...peace must provide the political framework for continuing collaboration of the United Nations and, in due course, of neutral and enemy nations.

2 ... peace must make provision for bringing within the scope of international agreement those economic and financial acts of national governments which have widespread international repercussions.

3 ...peace must make provision for an organization to adapt the treaty structure of the world to changing underlying conditions.

4 ...peace must proclaim the goal of autonomy for subject peoples and it must establish an international organization to assure and to supervise the realization of that end.

5 ...peace must establish procedures for controlling military establishment everywhere.

6 ...peace must establish in principle, and seek to achieve in practice, the right of individuals everywhere to religious and intellectual liberty; and

WHEREAS in the year 1995, the mission of the United Nations will be manifest in the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the United Nations Year of Tolerance;

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

Invites people of faith to welcome and embrace this 50th Anniversary Year through study, reflection, renewal, new

visioning and recommitment, and commits itself to full participation, noting in particular the themes adopted by Friendship Press for 1995 on Europe and the United Nations;

Calls upon members and churches to join actively in related activities, summoning renewed vigor in commitment to justice, peace and the integrity of creation;

Calls upon the United Church of Christ to support efforts of the National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches to provide leadership to the Global Christian community in recognizing this occasion and its significance;

Calls upon the U.S. government to renew its full commitment to the United Nations as a primary channel for conflict resolution and for response to global problems;

Calls upon the U.S. government to meet its full financial obligation to the United Nations in a timely manner;

Calls upon members and churches of the United Church of Christ to advocate U.S. ratification of: 1) the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; 2) the International Convention on the Rights of the Child; 3) the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and 4) the American Convention on Human Rights;

Calls United Church of Christ members and churches to education and advocacy informed by the goals of the World Summit on Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and to support the International Year of Tolerance by joining efforts to implement the General Synod Nineteen Pronouncement "Calling the United Church of Christ to be a Multiracial/Multicultural Church;"

Calls upon the UN member states to recommit themselves to the principles outlined in the preamble to the Charter and to the purposes stated in Article I of the UN Charter:

...to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to promote cooperation among nations for the purpose of solving international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to serve as a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these common ends;

Commits the United Church of Christ to work with other denominations, faith communities and ecumenical bodies to support the principles and goals of the United Nations, particularly through the collaborative efforts or partnership initiatives of the Office for Church in Society and the

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United Church Board for World Ministries in non-governmental representation at the United Nations; and

Calls upon all United Church of Christ members to pray for and support the United Nations in its diplomacy, peacekeeping, peace-making, peace-building agenda and in its work for social justice and economic development.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 9. ELECTIONS

Assistant Moderator Debney called on the Rev. Lorain Giles, Vice Chair of the Executive Council, who explained the work of the Nomination and Election Committee of the Business Committee. Ms. Giles also introduced the members of the committee, Mr. Kenneth Brown (CAC) and Ms. Vicki "Ruth" Beckman (RI) and thanked them for their work.

Ms. Giles assisted delegates in finding the biographical data on the nominees on pp. 109-146 of the Program/Worship and Business Book.

Mr. Brown explained the procedures for elections, and moved that the Twentieth General Synod elects by acclamation all the nominees for uncontested Offices and Boards, including Edith Guffey as Secretary of the United Church of Christ, as presented to the General Synod in the report of the General Synod Nominating Committee.

95-GS-32 VOTED: The Twentieth General Synod elects by acclamation all the nominees for uncontested Offices and Boards, including Edith Guffey as Secretary of the United Church of Christ, as presented to the General Synod in the report of the General Synod Nominating Committee.

Assistant Moderator Debney called on Ms. Edith Guffey to conduct the balloting for the contested offices (Nominating Committee). Ms. Guffey thanked the delegates for an opportunity to serve a second term as Secretary. She then explained the balloting process including assurance that the sequence of names on the ballot had been varied in accordance with Standing Rule 35. Ms. Guffey stated that the election results would be reported at the Ninth Plenary on Tuesday morning.

### 10. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE

Assistant Moderator Debney explained the procedure for dealing with Committee Fifteen's report which focuses on the Committee on Structure Report. Assistant Moderator Debney called on the Rev. Laurie Etter (CONN), Chairperson of Committee Fifteen who presented the process Committee Fifteen had used in considering the report.

Following the initial presentation of Committee Fifteen's report, the delegates entered into a "hearing mode" for forty minutes to allow for members of the Committee on Structure to respond to questions. Upon the recommendation of Assistant Moderator Debney, Voice without Vote was granted to members of the Committee on Structure by consensus.

The discussion continued in the hearing mode and Ms. Etter directed the delegates to the printed documents related to Committee Fifteen's report. She commented on Committee Fifteen's role and on how the vast majority of comments fell into five basic categories:

1. Questions to the Structure Committee;
2. Questions related to groups that people wanted to make sure were included in transition and structure;
3. Editorial changes ;
4. Budget concerns & questions; and
5. General comments and opinions.

Ms. Etter invited members of Committee Fifteen to stand and delegates responded with a warm round of applause.

Ms. Etter noted two corrections on the green sheets in Packet E. The words "Transition Team" on p. 19, line 22, should read "Transition Coordinating Committee." The same correction also occurs on p. 21, line 21.

Ms. Etter also noted that because Committee Fifteen had deleted Appendix A on budget considerations, the reference to Appendix A on p. 18 of the original report, line 41, should be omitted.

The delegates responded with comments and questions.

The Rev. David McCurdy (ILL) noted that on p. 21, line 51, following the words "United Church of Christ" the words "who will be" should be added. This addition was accepted as an appropriate addition.

Assistant Moderator Debney called the hearing mode to a close and asked Ms. Etter to proceed with the formal motion of Committee Fifteen. Prior to an official motion, Ms. Etter invited the Rev. Lavon Bayler (ILL) to offer prayer.

Ms. Etter on behalf of Committee Fifteen moved adoption of Recommendation 1.

The Rev. Daniel Caplan (CAC) offered the following friendly amendments. Add the words "working toward a church that is accessible to all" to p. 7, after line 51, Local Church Ministries in the Committee's report; and in the original report to p. 8, line 34, after Wider Church Ministries; and to p. 9, line 18, after Justice & Witness Ministries. In addition, add the words "providing for full