

## SATURDAY EVENING

of renewal and celebration and a moment when we truly see our oneness in Christ Jesus. He asked those who were able to stand and sing the Doxology.

Following a final round of applause, Moderator Dean recognized the Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree (CONN) for a Point of Personal privilege. Ms. Crabtree recognized the Rev. John Thomas for the unstinting work and leadership he has provided in helping to make this great event possible. General Synod thanked Mr. Thomas with an extended round of applause.

### **8. RESOLUTION "DECLARATION OF INTENTION TO WORK TOWARD PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST"**

Moderator Dean called on The Rev. Duane R. Rhoadarmer (NEB) to present the recommended actions from Committee 13, "The Declaration of Intention to Work Toward Partnership Between the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa and the United Church of Christ," and "The Cloning of Mammalian Species."

Mr. Rhoadarmer spoke of the work of the committee regarding the resolution on a partnership between the United Church of Christ and the Congregational Church in American Samoa. After explaining the modifications made to the original resolution, Mr. Rhoadarmer moved the adoption of the resolution.

There was no discussion.

97 GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Declaration of Intention to Work Toward Partnership Between the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa and the United Church of Christ."

### **RESOLUTION "DECLARATION OF INTENTION TO WORK TOWARD PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST."**

WHEREAS, God calls the Church to find ways to give visible expression to the unity of Christ's Church in response to the prayer "that they may all be one;" and

WHEREAS, there has been a growing relationship between members of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa and the United Church of Christ, both in the Pacific and in North America; and

WHEREAS, following the Second World War many members of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa left American Samoa to live in Hawaii and North America, and established local churches relating to both the United Church of Christ and the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa; and

WHEREAS, since 1984 the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa has expressed its desire to be in closer

relationship to the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, both churches are members of the World Council of Churches; and

WHEREAS, leaders of both churches, meeting in Hawaii in May of 1996 declared their commitment to "work together to develop a relationship as mutual partners in God's mission;" and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa adopted a resolution in July, 1996, approving a relationship with the United Church of Christ as mutual partners in God's mission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ gratefully receives the action of the General Assembly of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ declares its intention to work toward partnership with the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in this process we will, together with the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa and the Samoa Congregations in the United Church of Christ,

- seek to share resources for ministry,
- work toward the recognition of each other's ministries and respect for each other's traditions,
- learn from each other about our cultures, our ways of being church, and how we view the Eternal,
- identify what we need from each other so that our churches will be both giving and receiving churches,
- work so that the whole church will be built up, the mission of God will be done and the vision of a world of justice and peace will become a reality; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church Board for World Ministries, in consultation with the Office of the President, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and the Office for Church Life and Leadership, be requested to provide administrative support for implementing this process.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### **9. RESOLUTION "THE CLONING OF MAMMALIAN SPECIES"**

Continuing the report of Committee 13, Mr. Rhoadarmer introduced the Resolution "Cloning of Mammalian Species,"

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stating that the committee had been resourced by Dr. Olivia White, Professor of Genetics at the University of North Texas. Mr. Rhoadarmar pointed out the addition made to the resolution, moved its adoption and spoke to the resolution.

The Rev. Marjorie H. Davis (CONN), member of the Science and Technology Group of the United Church of Christ, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Benjamin Motz (PSE), asked for clarification as the first Whereas which states that cloning raises theological questions and in the sixth whereas it states that cloning is theologically permissible.

The Rev. Carla A. Gilbert (CPC) moved to amend the resolution by adding at the beginning of the resolution, these words, "Be it Resolved that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ opposes human cloning and supports legislation to ban cloning for reproductive purposes, at least for the foreseeable future."

Mr. Eric Steiner (IK) and Mr. Alan Piper (MASS) spoke against the amendment. No persons spoke in support of the amendment.

Following a question as to whether this should be considered a substitute motion Moderator Dean called for the vote. The amendment failed.

Moderator Dean returned the attention of the delegates to the main motion.

Mr. Benjamin Motz (PSE) spoke again of his need for clarification about the contradictory statements that cloning is theologically permissible in one place and yet cloning raises theological questions in another place.

Mr. Scott Shippy (ILL) proposed an amendment to delete the words "and theologically" from line 7, to help clarify this concern. Discussion continued on the amendment and the Rev. David A. Stewart (MICH) called the question. Mr. Dean asked for a vote on the proposed amendment. The amendment failed.

Mr. David A. Stewart offered a friendly amendment to delete the word "is" between the words "species" and "morally" and substitute the words "may be," to read "WHEREAS, the cloning and research of non-human mammalian species may be morally and theologically permissible...."

This was accepted as a friendly amendment. Moderator Dean called for a vote on the main motion.

97-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "The Cloning of Mammalian Species."

### RESOLUTION "THE CLONING OF MAMMALIAN SPECIES"

WHEREAS, the announcement in February, 1997, of the birth of Dolly, the cloned sheep, raises important ethical and theological questions; and

WHEREAS, Dolly's birth announcement drew to the attention of the general population the likelihood that human cloning technology will be developed within the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, President Clinton and the National Bio-Ethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) have called for the opinions of religious leaders in preparing its Presidential Report; and

WHEREAS, President Clinton and the NBAC have called for a ban on the public funding of human cloning research, and the President has called for legislation prohibiting the public funding of human cloning research; and

WHEREAS, a ban on public funding of human cloning research (specifically pre-embryo research) will serve to reduce public discussion on the ethics of such research, because it would only then be carried out in private laboratories; and

WHEREAS, the cloning of and research on non-human mammalian species may be morally and theologically permissible, provided, that animals be treated humanely and that needless suffering is avoided; and

WHEREAS, the cloning of non-human mammalian species raises new concerns about a diminishing respect for these animals; and

WHEREAS, such results are in conflict with a stand taken by the Seventeenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Sixteenth and Seventeenth General Synods of the United Church of Christ have affirmed the importance of the church's role in religious and public debate on genetic engineering; and

WHEREAS, the ability to clone animals and the potential to clone humans raises profound theological and ethical questions; and

WHEREAS, the ability to clone animals and to potentially clone humans holds significant potential to create further forms of injustice in our world;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, and other bodies as appropriate to provide leadership and resource materials for education and discussion about the theological and ethical issues at stake concerning human and non-human mammalian cloning and related areas, such as human pre-embryo research and human germ-line experimentation, through the following means: the continued financial and staff support of the United Church of Christ Ad Hoc Committee on Genetics; the production of resource materials for use by the church -- particularly for parish based educational programs; the development of policy recommendations for the denomination, ecumenical community, and state and national legislatures; and, to have the United Church of Christ Ad Hoc Committee on Genetics

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report back to the Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ through the appropriate instrumentalities with a policy statement and proposal for action concerning the cloning of humans and non-human mammalian species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to President William J. Clinton, the appropriate Congressional Committees, and the National Bio-ethics Advisory Commission.

Subject to the availability of funds.

IMPLEMENTATION: Implementing bodies are responsible for developing strategies and programs that will fulfill the vision and intent of this resolution.

### 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

Moderator Dean called on Ms. Edith Guffey for announcements.

Following announcements Moderator Dean declared the Fourth Plenary of the Twenty-first General Synod to be complete following Evening Prayers.

### 11. HONORING THE MINISTRY OF VALERIE E. RUSSELL

Moderator Dean invited Ms. Edith Guffey to begin the time celebrating the ministry of Ms. Valerie Elaine Russell, who was the Executive Director of the Office for Church in Society from February, 1992, until her death in February of 1997.

Ms. Guffey spoke of Ms. Russell's life and impact on the church. Ms. Kikue Takagi presented the Just Peace Award posthumously to Valerie E. Russell. The award was accepted

by the Rev. Paul Sherry on behalf of the United Church of Christ. Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson led General Synod in a prayer of thanksgiving for the ministry of Valerie Elaine Russell.

### 12. EVENING PRAYERS

The Rev. Paul Crow read scripture from John 11:17-27. The Fisk Jubilee Singers provided the evening meditation in song. Liturgist for Evening Prayers was Ms. Zaida Pérez. The plenary adjourned at 9:49 PM by previous action.

## SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 6, 1997

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Frank Thomas called the Fifth Plenary of the Twenty-first General Synod to order at 8:30 AM.

### 2. THE COLOR OF FEAR

Assistant Moderator Thomas recognized Ms. Vicki Beckman, chair of the Program and Planning Committee for the Twenty-first General Synod. Ms. Beckman stated that in an effort to continue the work of the United Church of Christ to become a multiracial and multicultural church, the morning Plenary was devoted to confronting racism. Ms.

Beckman introduced Lee Mun Wah, the producer of the video *The Color of Fear*. Mr. Lee addressed General Synod on issues of race and racism. Following the viewing of the video, *The Color of Fear*, Mr. Lee led the delegates and visitors in discussion.

Following Mr. Lee's presentation, Mr. Thomas invited President Sherry to offer prayer.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

Assistant Moderator Thomas called on Ms. Edith Guffey for announcements. Following announcements Mr. Thomas declared the General Synod to be in recess.

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 6, 1997

### 1. FISK JUBILEE SINGERS CONCERT

The Twenty-first General Synod, joined by visitors from area churches, gathered for worship and celebration at 2:30 PM in the Columbus Convention Center. The Rev. Paul H. Sherry, President of the United Church of Christ, and the Rev. Ralph Quellhorst, Conference Minister of the Ohio Conference, brought greetings and words of welcome. The Fisk Jubilee Singers, under the direction of Paul T. Kwami, began the afternoon celebration with a concert.

### 2. 40TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO

The video, "*Celebration: 40 Years of Faith*," produced

by the Office of Communication, was shown to celebrate of the Fortieth Anniversary of the United Church of Christ. A booklet, commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Christ and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Missionary Association was distributed to delegates and visitors.

### 3. WORSHIP

The sermon, entitled "Dream On Sweet UCC," was delivered by the Rev. Robin R. Meyers, pastor of Mayflower United Church of Christ, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.