

## SUNDAY EVENING

- different ways of giving in partner churches globally;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to invite giving by articulating and claiming a clear vision of how each setting engages in God's mission;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod calls upon congregations, associations, conferences, national ministries and institutions related to the church to be well focused in their invitation to give, to share the stories that more closely connect the giver with the face of mission, to be prompt in thanking givers, and to be accountable for the use of money given;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod directs the Stewardship Council to introduce and test, in partnership with conferences, the concept of giving through a special mission opportunities catalog, based upon appropriate guidelines, looking at initial results after two years. The use of such a catalog throughout the church would be done with Executive Council approval;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod directs the Stewardship Council, in partnership with the All-Church Offerings Committee of the Executive Council, to redesign the current All-Church Offerings and Special Appeals with a view to making the new Special Mission Offerings easily promoted, widely inviting, consistent with new structural realities, and able to invite giving that enables special mission to be undertaken, while maintaining our priority on Our Church's Wider Mission (Basic Support), and allowing for local churches' special offerings. The re-design is to be completed by the spring of 1999 with approval of any changes, including the timeline for implementation, to be made by the General Synod in 1999;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod directs the Stewardship Council to work with several conferences in partnership to test a way of inviting individuals to give directly to our common ministry and mission through Our Church's Wider Mission. This testing shall last at least two years and any changes made as a result will be done with the approval of the Executive Council;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod directs the Stewardship Council to work with the seminaries of the United Church of Christ in developing a plan for renewed support of the seminaries in their work of theological education and the training of pastors and leaders for the church, based on the 1975 action of the Tenth General Synod;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod directs the Stewardship Council to continue to work on a comprehensive plan to invite the whole church to faithfully give and receive in ways that:

- faithfully engage in God's mission
- ensure the vitality of the church, with an interim report to the General Synod in 1999 and a final report for General Synod action in 2001; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that together, as a community of faith, the United Church of Christ commits itself to a new vision of giving, so that:

- our giving helps to connect us to one another, rather than divide us, and
- our giving connects us with God, with Jesus Christ who embodies God's mission, and with the Holy Spirit.

Subject to the availability of funds.

Assistant Moderator MacDonald called on the Rev. Earl D. Miller, Executive Director of the Stewardship Council. Mr. Miller asked the delegates to read together the theological statement that undergirds this new vision of giving.

#### 4. PRESIDENT'S CANDIDATE SPEECH

Assistant Moderator MacDonald called on the Rev. Paul H. Sherry, President of the United Church of Christ, for his candidate speech. *[The complete text of President Sherry's speech is located in Appendix B.]*

#### 5. TREASURER'S CANDIDATE SPEECH

Assistant Moderator MacDonald called on the Rev. Doris Powell, Director of Finance and Treasurer, to give her candidate speech. *[The complete text of Ms. Powell's speech is located in Appendix B.]*

Assistant Moderator MacDonald thanked each candidate and reminded the delegates that the election will take place during the Monday morning Plenary.

#### 6. RESOLUTION "AFFIRMING DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN AN EMERGING GLOBAL ECONOMY"

Assistant Moderator MacDonald called on the Rev. Luis A. Pérez to present the recommended actions from Committee 11. Mr. Pérez spoke of the work of the committee and asked committee members to stand for recognition. He noted changes in the proposal and then moved the adoption of the Resolution "Affirming Democratic Principles in an Emerging Global Economy." Mr. Pérez spoke to the motion.

97-GS-18 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Affirming Democratic Principles in an Emerging Global Economy."

#### RESOLUTION "AFFIRMING DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN AN EMERGING GLOBAL ECONOMY"

WHEREAS, The United Church of Christ has spoken consistently for a biblically-based and just approach to economic relationships nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, national and international economic changes today affect the traditions and values of civil liberties and political democracy in the United States and around the world;

## SUNDAY EVENING

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod reaffirms the heritage of the United Church of Christ as an advocate for just, democratic, participatory and inclusive economic policies in both public and private sectors, including:

the responsibility of multinational corporations and international financial institutions to respect and hold themselves accountable to fundamental human rights, particularly with regard to child labor, employment of minorities, and wages that are adequate for local costs of living;

the responsibility of workers to organize for collective bargaining with employers regarding wages, benefits, and working conditions, and the responsibility of employers to respect not only worker rights but also workers' dignity, and to create and maintain a climate conducive to the workers' autonomous decision to organize;

the responsibility of collective bargaining units, such as unions, to respect their members and encourage their participation in further efforts to democratize, to respect and hold themselves accountable to fundamental human rights, and to reform and expand the labor movement domestically and abroad;

the responsibility of governments at all levels to foster a more democratic system by seeking balance among the rights and interests of citizens, workers, and corporations; and to support existing as well as to facilitate the creation of new participatory community institutions for developing jobs and caring for people;

the responsibility of businesses, governments, and communities to share responsibility for protecting the earth's environment;

the responsibility of businesses, governments, and communities to support affirmative action for all who have traditionally been denied rights in the workplace;

the responsibility of all citizens to be informed participants in the political process at all levels and to form community organizations and associations to express common interests and achieve common goals in such areas as economic planning, neighborhood development, public education, and health care;

the responsibility of religious bodies to provide moral and ethical guidance for individuals and society in ways that respect other religious traditions and resist authoritarian powers and principalities wherever they appear;

the responsibility of The United Church of Christ in covenant with all churches and church institutions to practice principles of economic democracy which foster justice and participation in its own ministries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of The United Church of Christ commends this resolution to the churches, associations, conferences, instrumentalities, and institutions of The United Church of

Christ as a basis for their own policies and their ministries of social witness.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 7. RESOLUTION "CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM"

Assistant Moderator MacDonald asked Mr. Pérez to continue the report of Committee 11.

Mr. Pérez directed the delegates to the appropriate information and moved the adoption of the Resolution "Campaign Finance Reform." There was no discussion.

97-GS-19 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Campaign Finance Reform."

#### RESOLUTION "CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM"

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches us: "You shall not pervert justice, you shall not show partiality, and you shall not take a bribe ... justice, and only justice, you shall follow ..." (Deuteronomy 16:19-20), and we are reminded in the parable of the lost sheep of the importance of every person (Matthew 18:12, Luke 15:4); and Jesus reminds us that "if anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35);

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ Constitution states: "The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls the whole church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel in church and society;"

WHEREAS, trust in our democratic process is threatened by the present system of financing campaigns for public office which allows businesses and political action committees to contribute at least twice as much as individuals and allows for the appearance of improper influence in the legislative process by large contributors, and correspondingly discourages participation by persons of lesser means;

WHEREAS, candidates spend an inordinate amount of time raising increasing amounts of money rather than speaking with the people about issues that affect our common life; and

WHEREAS, over 20 states have public financing legislation, and recent studies have shown that campaign finance reform legislation enjoys broad bipartisan support and that such legislation would enable qualified persons of limited means to be candidates for public office;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ is in support of legislation which seeks more equitable campaign financing, through, but not limited to, the establishment of a voluntary fund from which candidates for public office may equally receive campaign and media funding, and through a significantly reduced cap on contributions which applies equally to businesses, PACs and individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General