

MONDAY MORNING

Mr. Daniel Caplan (CAC) spoke about the banning of landmines.

Ms. Catharine C. Bryant (NY) asked for support of churches to provide resources for continuation of vital ministries.

Moderator Dean announced that the next Speak Out! will be held at the following Plenary and that Mr. Dick Sparrow would be available immediately following this Plenary for those who wish to sign up.

4. RESOLUTION "CHURCH BURNINGS"

Moderator Dean called the delegates attention to page 149 of the Program, Worship and Business Book and reminded the delegates that the Committee of Reference Report, which was approved at the Friday Plenary, referred three resolutions directly to Plenary for action. Two of these have been acted on and the next resolution is the third and final one.

Moderator Dean called on Ms. Iris M. Branch (CONN), a member of the Business Committee, to present the last of the three resolutions.

Ms. Branch referred the delegates to page 149 of the Program, Worship and Business Book and moved the adoption of the Resolution entitled "Church Burnings."

Moderator Dean asked if anyone would like to speak to the motion. Ms. Branch called on Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, the Executive Director of the Commission for Racial Justice, to speak to the motion.

The following persons also spoke to the motion: the Rev. Linda S. Petruccelli, United Church Board for World Ministries; the Rev. Bennie Campbell, First Thankful Baptist Church, Estill, South Carolina; and Ms. Anne Ariail, Southeast Conference Disaster Relief. All spoke in support of the resolution and thanked the church for its response with financial aid and with help in rebuilding the burned churches.

Moderator Dean asked for discussion.

Mr. Scott Shippy (ILL) proposed a friendly amendment to change line 56, removing "the" and adding "those engaged in the ministry of..." Ms. Branch accepted this as a friendly amendment.

The Rev. Doris L. Dunn (CA NV, N.) proposed a friendly amendment to the first "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED," line 45, adding the words, "and the racist investigations that followed." Ms. Branch also accepted this as a friendly amendment.

There was no further discussion and Moderator Dean called for the vote.

97-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Church Burnings."

RESOLUTION "CHURCH BURNINGS"

WHEREAS, at least 124 predominantly African American

churches have been engulfed in flames as a result of arson;

WHEREAS, the National Council of Churches has declared the church burnings "a national disaster and a national disgrace;"

WHEREAS, these cowardly acts of destruction of houses of worship are a threat to all of God's people every where;

WHEREAS, the horror of these tragic fire bombings has drawn together people of good will and many faiths to re-commit ourselves to rebuilding these churches and to ending racism in our nation;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a long and noble history of working against racial injustice and of responding to acts of racism in church and world;

WHEREAS, hundreds of United Church of Christ local churches and thousands of UCC members have participated in the rebuilding of these churches through generous donations of funds, materials and time;

WHEREAS, United Church of Christ instrumentalities and conferences have donated funds and staff resources to the interfaith rebuilding efforts; and

WHEREAS, media coverage has all but ended, African American churches continue to burn;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod decries the burnings of all churches, particularly those burned as acts of racist violence, and the racist investigations that followed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to continue to speak out against these horrible acts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod calls upon the Commission for Racial Justice, the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Board for World Ministries and other instrumentalities to continue to work on behalf of those engaged in the ministry of rebuilding these churches; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod thanks all who made donations to the rebuilding effort, including every United Church of Christ local church and every member who made donations of time and money and asks for continued support of the efforts of the National Council of Churches as it responds to the church burnings.

Subject to the availability of funds.

5. CONTINUATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL/EXTENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS

Moderator Dean called on Ms. Brenda Allen and asked that she continue the report of the Executive Council.

Ms. Allen announced that there were two actions to place