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distributed. He offered special thanks to the Rev. Linda S. Petrucelli of the United Church Boards for World Ministries for her prompt and compassionate response in sending funds to the conference office.

The Rev. J. David Menchhofer (SE) provided a telephone number to report hate crimes and church burnings: (800) 900-9036.

Ms. Devin Erikson (SW) said that the Church of Peace in Rock Island, IL, has invited persons to participate in its urban workcamp experience as part of its commitment to urban ministry. She said that each workcamp helps to renovate abandoned houses in urban neighborhood areas.

The Rev. Robert W. Ridenour (OHIO), announced that the Southwest Ohio Association is seeking an Associate Association Minister and that he is Chair of the Search Committee.

The Rev. Jon R Prain (ILL) stated that he loved small membership churches and that 60-70 percent of churches in the United Church of Christ are small membership churches. Rev. Prain pointed out that small church members work tirelessly on behalf of the denomination but it seemed as if resources are developed for large churches. Mr. Prain stated that pastors of small churches are paid less, their pensions are smaller and small churches are often under represented on boards. He asked that Synod help to end these injustices.

Ms. Monica Peters (WNI) spoke about a cultural exchange program that is related to the United Church of Christ and is available in Puerto Rico. She said that the program is available through Ryder Memorial Hospital and that the Director is Cesar Coloma, former Chairperson of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. Ms. Peters highly recommended participation in this program.

The Rev. N. V. John (MO) asked delegates to join him in proclaiming the theme for the General Synod.

Assistant Moderator Thomas thanked those who participated in the Speak Out! and announced that the next Speak Out! would take place that evening.

5. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Assistant Moderator Thomas recognized The Rev. William L. Land (OHIO) who rose to a point of Personal Privilege as Vice-chair of COREM, the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries. Mr. Land stated that we had reached a milestone in the history of our church in approving the necessary constitutional changes, but that our work was still not finished because many are still disenfranchised from power.

6. PRESENTATION ON COLONIALISM

Assistant Moderator Thomas called on the Rev. Nozomi Ikuta for a presentation by representatives from Pacific and Caribbean Island nations: Sonia Colón-Flores (Puerto Rico); Ileana Román (Cuba); June Bumanlag (Phillippines); Talalelei "Rick" Loasa (Samoa) and Tyrone Reinhardt (Hawaii). Ms. Ikuta reminded the delegates that the

Twentieth General Synod adopted a resolution regarding the historical significance of 1998, the 100th Anniversary of US Colonialism in Six Island Nations. General Synod then turned its attention to a presentation by people from Pacific and Caribbean Island Nations which demonstrated the impact of the U.S. relationship on the people of these nations.

7. CONTINUATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Assistant Moderator Thomas called on Ms. Andrea Mason, Chair of Committee Five, to present the recommended actions from the committee. Assigned to this committee were the resolutions "Welfare Reform," "Affirming Government's Role to Protect the Common Good," and "Faith and Community in the Midst of Extremism."

Ms. Mason called the attention of the delegates to the changes made in the Resolution "Welfare Reform" and moved its adoption.

Mr. Eric Jatton (MASS) requested that the changes referred to in Ms. Mason's report be distributed to delegates prior to action being taken on this resolution.

Assistant Moderator Thomas acceded to the request and tabled the motion until copies were available.

8. RESOLUTION "AFFIRMING THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE TO PROTECT THE COMMON GOOD"

Assistant Moderator Thomas asked Ms. Mason to proceed with the next item of business from Committee Five.

Ms. Mason called the attention of the delegates to the Resolution "Affirming Government's Role to Protect the Common Good." After noting the editorial changes that had been made in the document, Ms. Mason moved its adoption and spoke to the motion.

97-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the resolution "Affirming Government's Role to Protect the Common Good."

RESOLUTION "AFFIRMING GOVERNMENT'S ROLE TO PROTECT THE COMMON GOOD"

WHEREAS, General Synods of the United Church of Christ have repeatedly expressed concern for people and the world by supporting laws to safeguard consumers, workers, and those who suffer discrimination; to protect public health and the environment; and to guide economic and social activities for the common good;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon local congregations, Associations, Conferences, and national settings of the church, as well as interest groups and institutions related to the United Church of Christ, to support the following guidelines for sustaining, reforming, improving, and enforcing laws and regulations:

1. It is an appropriate activity of government to establish

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laws to preserve and improve the common good, including laws to protect consumers, to protect against discrimination, to protect the environment, to protect public health, to ensure fair labor practices and safety for workers, to create economic opportunities for low-income and marginalized people, to protect those who have no reasonable chance of meeting their own needs and to ensure fair business practices.

2. Laws which support and preserve the common good should be made effective through the timely establishment and implementation of appropriate regulations. The creation of regulations should allow a sufficient time for public comment and otherwise encourage appropriate public participation. Such regulations should not be unreasonably expensive to enforce and should be as understandable as possible.
3. Enforcement of laws and regulations should be fair. Those responsible for enforcement should have sufficient resources for effective and timely action.
4. Legislation, regulation and enforcement practices should be based upon the best information available. The process of gathering information and estimating consequences should not be unduly burdensome or expensive and should not create long delays in implementation.
5. Penalties and sanctions for non-compliance with laws and regulations should generally be commensurate to the level of damage done to the common good and to individuals who are most affected by non-compliance. The awarding of punitive damages and the awarding of legal fees may be appropriate parts of penalties.
6. The right to private property and the right to engage in economic activity are important rights and should not lightly be abridged by governmental action. However, private property rights and the right to engage in economic activity are not absolute rights that are independent of the common good or the integrity of creation, justice and peace.
7. The appropriate goal of regulation is neither more nor less regulation in general but rather appropriate and efficient regulations based on laws passed in the common interest. There should be no general moratorium on regulatory activity, no "regulatory budget," nor any general constraint upon the effectiveness of regulatory and enforcement activities.
8. Laws and regulations should not selectively harm people based on their circumstances. In laws or regulations intended to serve everyone there should be no adverse effect because people happen to live in rural or urban areas, nor on the basis of religion, age, disability, race, ethnicity, sexual or gender orientation, or economic status.
9. When laws and regulations are aimed at providing resources or services to the public, such as assisting entry into the work force, there should be appropriate

guarantees that individuals will have recourse, including a private right of action in appropriate courts to secure these benefits when they have wrongfully been denied.

10. The writing, reviewing and interpretation of regulations and their enforcement should not be contracted out to private organizations.

Subject to the availability of funds.

9. RESOLUTION "FAITH AND COMMUNITY IN THE MIDST OF EXTREMISM"

Assistant Moderator Thomas asked Ms. Mason to continue and she called the attention of delegates to the Resolution "Faith Community in the Midst of Extremism. Ms. Mason pointed out editorial changes and moved the adoption of the resolution.

Assistant Moderator Thomas asked for discussion.

The Rev. Alfred C. Krass (PSE) spoke in support of the resolution noting the need to work with organizations already engaged in this work.

There was no further discussion.

97-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Faith and Community in the Midst of Extremism."

RESOLUTION "FAITH AND COMMUNITY IN THE MIDST OF EXTREMISM"

WHEREAS, there is a long-standing tradition within our United Church of Christ to stand for justice and against oppression;

WHEREAS, General Synods of the United Church of Christ have affirmed the dignity and worth of all God's people, upheld the victims of injustice, opposed racism, anti-Semitism and hatred in all its forms;

WHEREAS, the Apostle Peter declared: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God." (Acts 10:34-35);

WHEREAS, we recognize that in our midst there are groups which exist whose purpose is to stand in direct opposition to our calling expressed in 2 Timothy 4:1-5;

WHEREAS, these groups within our nation and our world are involved in such things as: corruption of Scripture, division of persons with regard to race and color, the goal of establishing a white supremacist society, the overthrow of elected government officials at all levels, subversion of due process, violent attacks on persons of color, Jews, gays, lesbians, organization of militia, abuse of Constitutional Rights to disenfranchise others, renouncing existing judicial authority, and establishing common law courts;

WHEREAS, such activities create an atmosphere of racism,