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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,

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intimidation, fear, sexism, anti-Semitism, and homophobia, with resultant loss of community;

WHEREAS, we are called as God's partners in Christ's service to proclaim and teach the Gospel of compassion and God's love for all (Mt. 28:19-20);

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ calls us to respond to hatred with love, (Matt. 5:43-45) it is incumbent upon us as Christians to preach a Gospel of love and peace as modeled by Christ, who died that all might be redeemed; and

WHEREAS, those who belong to hate groups are also those for whom Christ died;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod encourages conferences, associations, congregations, agencies and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to join in active identification of and education about such extremism and the injustices and fears which feed it within our communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod requests the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to develop a variety of resources with a biblical and theological foundation to equip churches and individual Christians to respond to extremism;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod also encourages peaceful and just public opposition to extremism whenever the need arises; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod call on all members of the United Church of Christ to witness to their faith in the midst of extremism.

Subject to the availability of funds.

10. LIVING THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Assistant Moderator Thomas called on the Rev. Barbara Brown Zikmund.

Ms. Zikmund presented General Synod with the "Living Theological Heritage," a set of seven volumes delineating the historical tradition of the United Church of Christ. This work gathers into one place all our history and heritage as a denomination. Ms. Zikmund introduced the Revs. William Hulteen, Thomas Dipko and Shelby Rooks as persons who have been instrumental in the production of these volumes.

11. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Assistant Moderator Thomas called upon the Rev. Pat De Jong and the Rev. Christopher Grundy for community building. They led General Synod in singing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "When the Saints Go Marching In."

12. INSTRUMENTALITY PRESENTATION

Assistant Moderator Thomas called upon the Rev. David Hirano, Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for World Ministries, to begin the Instrumentality

Presentation.

Mr. Hirano began the presentation by leading General Synod in singing "Salidummay." The Instrumentality Presentation consisted of stories told in person and on video by persons whose lives had in some way been affected by the work of the national instrumentalities. Following each presentation, General Synod joined in a litany lead by the executives of the instrumentalities. A small booklet containing the testimonies, presented in person or by video, was made available to delegates.

13. RESOLUTION "WELFARE REFORM"

Assistant Moderator Thomas asked Ms. Andrea Mason, Chair of Committee Five, to return for discussion and action on the Resolution "Welfare Reform." Copies of the changes to the resolution were distributed to delegates. Ms. Mason again reviewed the changes.

Assistant Moderator Thomas asked for discussion.

Ms. Lori Ann Bertram (MASS) offered a friendly amendment to add the words, "and victims of domestic violence," in the first and third "WHEREAS" phrases. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

The Rev. Alfred C. Krass (PSE) offered a friendly amendment to add the words, "working with food banks, local food pantries, hunger coalitions, and Bread for the World to eliminate hunger" at the end of the first "BE IT RESOLVED."

Ms. Noelle Damico (NY) offered a friendly amendment: delete the words, "ministry challenges and opportunities," in the last "WHEREAS" and substitute the words, "poverty, hunger, illness and violence," to read: "WHEREAS, it is our Christian calling, as the church of Jesus Christ and as persons, to respond to the poverty, hunger, illness and violence created by the implementation of this Act;"

Both of these latter amendments were accepted as friendly amendments.

Assistant Moderator Thomas called for the vote.

97-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Welfare Reform."

RESOLUTION "WELFARE REFORM"

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PWRA), commonly known as the "1996 Welfare Reform Act", over the next five years threatens millions of children and their families with poverty and homelessness--particularly mentally and developmentally challenged children, children of legally resident immigrants, and victims of domestic violence;

WHEREAS, state, federal, regional and local governments are increasingly calling upon the private and religious sectors to collaborate in accomplishing the positive goals of this