

## MONDAY EVENING

The amendment was defeated.

Ms. Mary Alice Shepard (CPC) of Committee Nine proposed a friendly amendment in the first "THEREFORE, BE IN RESOLVED:" after the word "marriage," insert the words "and other covenanted relationships." The amendment was accepted.

The Rev. Lillian F. Daniel (CONN) called the question and the vote was taken on the main motion.

97-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Fidelity and Integrity in All Covenanted Relationships."

### FIDELITY AND INTEGRITY IN ALL COVENANTED RELATIONSHIPS

WHEREAS, the Eighteenth General Synod established the responsibility of the church's recognized leaders "to embody the good news of the gospel," and "to be above reproach, blameless, of unimpeachable character;"

WHEREAS, the *Manual on Ministry* specifies in the Ordained Minister's Code, "I will not use my position, power, or authority to exploit any person," and "I will live a life which honors my commitments to my family;"

WHEREAS, we live in an age in which commitments to relationships within work, church, family, and community are essential to our life as a society;

WHEREAS, we live in a world often characterized by adultery, promiscuity, sexual violence and pornography that have compromised our journey toward human wholeness and human responsibility, contributing to and perpetuating a culture in which children, women and men are demeaned and sexually abused;

WHEREAS, we are all made in God's image, as persons loved by God, and are called to accept ourselves and our sexuality fully; and

WHEREAS, as Christians we live by the teachings of Jesus Christ and our Christian faith is the foundation of our values in human relationships;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates to the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Columbus, Ohio, July 3-8, 1997, reaffirm that the standard for sexual and relational behavior for members of the United Church of Christ is fidelity and integrity in marriage and other covenanted relationships, in singleness and in all relationships of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod refers the Resolution "Fidelity And Integrity in All Covenanted Relationships" to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Office for Church Life and Leadership, the Office for Church in Society, and the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, and encourages the development of a church-wide dialogue on these matters, with a report to the Twenty-second General

Synod in 1999.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 9. RESOLUTION "FIDELITY AND CHASTITY AMONG CLERGY"

Ms. Norman-Richardson directed the delegates to page 163 of the Program, Worship and Business Book for the next resolution. She shared the work and thoughts of the Committee regarding this resolution. Ms. Norman-Richardson then moved that General Synod take no action on the Resolution "Fidelity and Chastity Among Clergy."

Ms. Norman-Richardson said that the recommendation of no action was not a unanimous vote of Committee Nine, but it was an overwhelming majority. She pointed out the concerns of the committee about the resolution and stated that only non-action invites and allows the fullest expression of diverse viewpoints on these issues in future conversations. She stated that no action is the only action that will not push anyone away from the table of conversation and discernment.

Assistant Moderator MacDonald asked for discussion. There was no discussion and Assistant Moderator MacDonald called for the vote.

97-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod takes no action on the Resolution "Fidelity and Chastity Among Clergy." [*The complete text of the Resolution "Fidelity and Chastity Among Clergy" is located in Appendix C.*]

### 10. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Assistant Moderator MacDonald invited the Rev. Patricia De Jong and the Rev. Christopher Grundy to lead General Synod in a time of Community Building.

### 11. RESOLUTION "PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF SEMINARIANS' EDUCATIONAL DEBT"

Assistant Moderator MacDonald called upon Ms. Cathleen Starck-Wille to report on the work of Committee 12. Ms. Starck-Wille thanked the committee for their work during this General Synod and directed the delegates' attention to the materials pertaining to this resolution. She moved the adoption of the Resolution "Prevention and Reduction of Seminars' Educational Debt." Ms. Starck-Wille yielded her time to Mr. Benjamin Motz (PSE) and the Rev. Gina VanNuyes (IK).

Discussion followed.

The Rev. Jon Prain (ILL) offered a friendly amendment to add the words, "which was adopted by," after "Fair and Just Compensation," in the seventh point. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Joel S. Pretz (PW) called the question and discussion ended.

97-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts