

## TUESDAY MORNING

and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children;

WHEREAS, genital mutilation has been inflicted on 80 to 100 million girls and young women (another 6000 added each day) in at least 26 African countries and some Asian countries;

WHEREAS, short term results include tetanus and septicemia; and long term results, chronic uterine infection, massive scars that hinder walking, hugely increased agony and danger during childbirth;

WHEREAS, the United Nations has labeled Female Genital Mutilation a violation of human rights;

WHEREAS, Canada has declared women fleeing genital mutilation have grounds for seeking asylum; and

WHEREAS, legislation to make mutilation illegal drags in Congress as the majority of legislators hesitate to "interfere with local customs;"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins with appropriate groups and legislators to urge Immigration officials (Immigration and Naturalization Service) and Board of Immigration Appeals to designate that female genital mutilation (FGM) be considered a type of extreme harm and a violation of human rights, and should qualify one for protection under the Refugee Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod encourages United Church of Christ members to urge legislators to apply 1% of all foreign aid (about \$100 million) to an international commission, led by those who have devoted themselves to struggling against female genital mutilation in their countries. The money would be used for field education and training of village leadership to end female genital mutilation.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 10. RESOLUTION "WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. BASES FROM OKINAWA"

Assistant Moderator Thomas asked Ms. Wade to continue with the final piece of business from Committee Three.

Ms. Wade asked delegates to turn their attention to the Resolution "Withdrawal of U.S. Bases from Okinawa." Ms. Wade stated that the committee was assisted in their deliberations by guests from Okinawa who brought a message of fear and sadness in their own lives. She reviewed the changes that were made in the resolution. Ms. Wade moved the adoption of the resolution.

Ms. Wade called on The Rev. Donald H. Fujioshi (Pacific Island Asian American Ministries) who spoke on the motion.

The Rev. Debrorah Celley (MINN) and the Rev. Tyrone L. Rhinehart (Council for Racial Ethnic Ministries) spoke in support of the motion. Mr. Alan Piper (MASS) and Mr. Isaac

Hilpman (KO) spoke against the motion.

Assistant Moderator Thomas called for the vote.

97-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Withdrawal of U.S. Bases from Okinawa."

### RESOLUTION "WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. BASES FROM OKINAWA"

WHEREAS, the women of Okinawa were instrumental in raising awareness of the negative consequences of militarism;

WHEREAS, although Okinawa Prefecture comprises only 0.6% of the whole Japanese territory, 75% of all military installations in exclusive use by U.S. Forces-Japan are concentrated in Okinawa;

WHEREAS, 90% of Okinawans oppose the presence of U.S. bases on their land;

WHEREAS, through the years U.S. nuclear weapons, poison gas, excessive aircraft noise and the live-firing of military exercises cause serious accidents, physical ailments, fear and psychological damage to civilians especially children, and lasting environmental destruction;

WHEREAS, a major part of the main seaport used for international commercial trade to enhance economic development of Okinawa is occupied by the U.S. military;

WHEREAS, the Okinawan people are asserting their self-determination from U.S. and Japan's military policies;

WHEREAS, U.S. newspapers recently announced that the U.S. will give back about 20% of the land it occupies on Okinawa, including Futenma Air Base; experienced Okinawans do not believe U.S. promises since Okinawa military bases have been put on closure lists before, and some remain active nearly twenty years later;

WHEREAS, the closing of Futenma is merely rotating the soldiers and installations to other locations in Okinawa and does not represent gradual removal; and

WHEREAS, our partner church, the United Church of Christ in Japan (the Kyodan), and the Okinawa District Assembly of the Kyodan have issued several public statements calling for the removal of all U.S. military bases from Okinawa;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the U.S. government to implement immediately a phased removal of all U.S. military bases and personnel from Okinawa and a clean-up of remaining environmental pollutants;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all members of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to support the present prefectural and local governments of Okinawa and the vast majority of the Okinawan people in their unceasing efforts to achieve the

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complete removal of U.S. military bases and U.S. military personnel in Okinawa Prefecture and to return these lands for peaceful, people-oriented development;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the President of the United Church of Christ in consultation with the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the U.S. Secretary of State, the U.S. Secretary of Defense, the Prime Minister of Japan, Governor Ota of Okinawa and all representatives and senators in Washington, D.C., and the Okinawa district assembly of the Kyodan.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 11. GENERAL SYNOD COMMITTEE REPORTS - (continued)

Assistant Moderator Thomas called on Mr. Antoine Crenshaw (ILL), Chairperson of Committee Eight, to present their recommended actions. Assigned to this committee were: "Bylaw Change Request," page 123 of the Program, Worship and Business Book; "Reclaiming the Church's Ministry of Health and Healing," page 172 of the Program, Worship and Business Book; and "Reclaiming the role of Pastor as Teacher," page 174 of the Program, Worship and Business Book.

### 12. PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

Mr. Crenshaw thanked the committee and briefly described the work of Committee Eight. Mr. Crenshaw moved, on behalf of Committee Eight, that the Twenty-first General Synod adopt the proposed amendment to the "Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, paragraph 227."

Mr. Crenshaw called on Mr. Donald Holcomb (United Church Board for World Ministries) to speak to the motion stating that the United Church Board for World Ministries made the request upon recommendations of its Futures Committee which considered stewardship and other issues. Mr. Holcomb said that the Board would want to proceed with this Bylaw change in the event restructuring was delayed.

The Rev. Jeffrey S. Spencer (WASH) asked for clarification of "corporate member of the General Synod." Mr. Holcomb explained that it should read "corporate member of the United Church Board for World Ministries."

The Rev. Charlotte Franz (MINN) proposed an amendment to the main motion so that in the recommendation section it reads "that the General Synod refer this Bylaw amendment to the Executive Council so that Executive Council, acting as Synod ad interim, can act on the proposed change at a later date as needed."

Ms. Franz spoke to the amendment stating that when bylaws are voted they go into effect immediately and what is needed is a way to accomplish this action if the restructuring is delayed. The amendment accomplishes this.

This amendment was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Assistant Moderator Thomas called for the vote.

97-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod refers the proposed amendment to the United Church of Christ Bylaws, Paragraph 227 to the Executive Council, as the General Synod ad interim, to act on the amendment as needed.

The proposed amendment to be considered as needed reads "The corporate membership of the United Church Board for World Ministries shall consist of ninety-nine corporate members of the United Church Board for World Ministries of whom thirty-three shall be elected at each biennial session of the General Synod for terms beginning with the opening of the next biennial meeting of the Corporation and ending with the opening of the fourth subsequent biennial meeting of the Corporation. The number..."

### 13. RESOLUTION "RECLAIMING THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HEALING"

Assistant Moderator Thomas called on Mr. Crenshaw to present the recommended action from Committee Eight on the Resolution "Reclaiming the Church's Ministry of Health and Healing."

Mr. Crenshaw shared changes that were made by the committee and moved on behalf of Committee Eight that the Twenty-first General Synod adopt the Resolution "Reclaiming the Church's Ministry of Health and Healing."

Ms. Billie Louise Benson, Chair of the National Committee on Persons with Disabilities, spoke to the motion.

The Rev. Kevin Fruchtl (PNE) spoke in favor of the motion.

The Rev. Alfred C. Krass (PSE) offered a friendly amendment to the second "WHEREAS" changing the words "with" to "which" following the words "Christ's ministry." This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Assistant Moderator Thomas called for the vote.

97-GS-46 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Reclaiming the Church's Ministry of Health and Healing."

### RESOLUTION "RECLAIMING THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HEALING"

WHEREAS, recognizing many illnesses and premature deaths may be prevented by lifestyle choices and belief systems, (i.e. diet, exercise, substance abuse, violence, and risk-taking behaviors), health ministers/parish nurses integrate current medical and behavioral knowledge with the belief and practices of a faith community to prevent illness and promote wholeness;

WHEREAS, the UCC Statement of Health and Welfare (1985) states that, "Based on our understanding of Shalom - of God's intent for harmony and wholeness within creation --