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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 --

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and on the examples of Jesus Christ's ministry which expressed God's intent through acts of love and justice, we must be committed as a church to a mission of Shalom and to a lifestyle compatible with that mission;"

WHEREAS, essential elements of a health ministry/parish nursing program include (but are not limited to):

- a philosophy of health and wholeness as a part of the faith community's mission,
- a designated person or team to be concerned about health ministry,
- a commitment to continued learning regarding health and wellness issues,
- a process to develop and evaluate health and wholeness goals and objectives,
- health education and programming according to assessed health needs of the congregation,
- awareness of health and wellness celebrations designated in the UCC calendar;

WHEREAS, General Synod Eighteen (June, 1985) adopted the "Mission Statement on Health and Welfare" which states that:

It is clear that the whole church is involved in this mission (in health and welfare). Whether represented in local churches, associations, conferences, or national level bodies the whole church is itself the creation of God's compassionate mercy in Christ, and as such, the instrument of God's intention for all humankind. (II Corinthians 5:13-21);

WHEREAS, good health is a part of God's intention for all people, health involves the whole person -- body, mind, and spirit and healing and health care are valid ways of proclaiming the Gospel and ministering in the name of Jesus Christ;

WHEREAS, the Gospel proclaims that health is a relationship to God set forth in Baptism and Holy Communion in which God makes wholeness as the Divine Gift.

WHEREAS, the wholeness ascribed by God as a gift recognizes that illness and disability exist, but the presence of these does not define the individual in the sight of God, or limit the ability of such individuals to be in a whole relationship with God; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls certain of its members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the church for which ecclesiastical authorization is recognized by commissioning, licensing, and ordination; health ministers and parish nurses may feel called to one of these authorized ministries;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-first General Synod encourages local congregations to develop/include in their mission a commitment to health and wholeness, engage health and wholeness issues through an ongoing health cabinet/health ministry team, and consider the implementation of a health ministry/parish nurse program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and Office for Church Life and Leadership, in conjunction with conferences, United Church of Christ seminaries, the Council on Health and Human Services Ministries and local congregations, to begin and/or continue to develop resources that support the development and enrichment of health ministry programs in local churches;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-first General Synod calls upon conferences and associations to:

1. establish or designate a body to address health and human service issues confronting members and their communities; and
2. recognize health ministry and parish nursing as a specialized ministry; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-first General Synod calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership to recognize and consider including health ministry/parish nursing in the listing of specific church-related ministries qualifying for commissioned ministry, and to consider developing guidelines and educational standards to be included in the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry.

Subject to the Availability of Funds.

14. RESOLUTION "RECLAIMING THE ROLE OF PASTOR AS TEACHER"

Mr. Crenshaw continued the report of Committee Eight as General Synod turned to the Resolution "Reclaiming the Role of Pastor as Teacher."

Mr. Crenshaw explained changes to the original document made by the committee and moved that the Twenty-first General Synod adopt the Resolution "Reclaiming the Role of Pastor as Teacher."

The Rev. Anthony B. Robinson (WASH) suggested an amendment that a new bullet point be inserted between the last and next-to-last point on page 3: "● The officers of the Church model and exercise a sound teaching ministry during General Synod, and in other settings and events in the life of the United Church of Christ." Mr. Robinson spoke to the amendment.

On behalf of the committee, Mr. Crenshaw accepted this as a friendly amendment.

The Rev. Homer E. Royer, Jr. (PSE) suggested an amendment to add, to the sixth point from the end, the words, "Associations and/or Conferences," before the words, "to encourage Pastors." This would read, "Congregations, associations and/or conferences to encourage..."

The committee accepted this as a friendly amendment.

Assistant Moderator Thomas called for the vote.

97-GS-47 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Reclaiming the Role of Pastor as Teacher."