

TUESDAY MORNING

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."

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RESOLUTION "RECLAIMING THE ROLE OF PASTOR AS TEACHER"

WHEREAS, there is great longing in the human heart and among peoples of the earth for meaning and purpose and for liberating truth and power for our lives;

WHEREAS, people long to know the scriptures, to become articulate about faith, and to see more clearly the relationship between the Bible and the realities of the world;

WHEREAS, we recognize the urgent need of persons, churches and institutions of the church to rediscover and understand the language of faith and to reclaim its transforming and reconciling power;

WHEREAS, good teaching engages the community of faith in dialogue that fosters development of vibrant and active faith;

WHEREAS, the church and its clergy are looked to by many for vision, direction and courage;

WHEREAS, those planning for education in the local church rely heavily on the Pastor to provide leadership, training and knowledge of current resources for the development of educational opportunities;

WHEREAS, the teaching ministry has at its heart the service of learning, all people engaged in ministry are, by position and authority, teachers;

WHEREAS, the role of the pastor as teacher is to help the community of faith integrate our Biblical and faith stories with the memories and shared stories of its members in ways that transform lives and bring new life to the church;

WHEREAS, clergy ordained in the United Church of Christ have been called particularly to minister both as Pastor and Teacher, and take vows to do so; and

WHEREAS, appreciation of education and the pastor's understanding of her/his role in the process requires intentional training and continued renewal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on:

- Clergy to reclaim with new passion and commitment their historic role as Teacher integral to the role as Pastor;
- Pastors to make a special effort to recognize the inter-relationship between the teaching, worship, preaching and pastoral ministries;
- Pastors to engage in a process of life-long learning, in order to effectively lead the congregation in its educational ministries, thereby setting the example for congregations as to the importance of continuing education;
- Congregations, Associations and Conferences to

develop policies to support and encourage Pastors in that quest by providing the necessary resources for study time, scholarship aid and opportunities for continuing education;

- Congregations, associations and/or conferences to encourage Pastors to participate in sabbatical leaves, recognizing that process can refresh, renew, energize and revitalize both Pastors and Congregations;
- Associations and Conferences to call a Minister for Education who will help support, guide and nurture the educational ministries of the churches within its area thereby modeling for churches the importance of intentional educational ministries;
- The Division of Education and Publication of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to continue to provide staff and teaching resources that will support and encourage the clergy in their teaching ministries;
- The Division of Education and Publication of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to work with the seminaries related to the United Church of Christ to develop course requirements that assist Pastors in forming faith communities of educational reflection and in acquiring teaching skills;
- The Office for Church Life and Leadership along with Conference and Association Church and Ministry Committees;
 1. to emphasize that the call to Ordained Ministry includes a call to teach as well as to pastor and
 2. to develop clearer guidelines on how this calling to teach informs expectations in the training and standing of Pastors;
- 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.;
- The United Church of Christ in all its settings, to seek, name and use to the fullest, the teachable moments of our life together.

Subject to availability of funds.

15. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Assistant Moderator Thomas recognized the Rev. Bruce Salter (ILL) who said that he has a disability; he is color blind. He asked that consideration be given to not referring to papers based on the color.

16. COMMUNITY BUILDING: FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

Assistant Moderator Thomas called on the Rev. De Jong and the Rev. Grundy to lead the Synod in Community Building.