

TUESDAY MORNING

17. GENERAL SYNOD COMMITTEE REPORTS - BLOCK M

Assistant Moderator Thomas called on The Rev. Scott F. Curfman (ND) to present the recommended actions from Committee 10. Assigned to this committee were the Resolutions: "Securities and Exchange Commission Shareholder Resolution Policy," found in the New Business material and "Fair and Just Compensation: A Report to General Synod Twenty-One" found in the Program, Worship and Business Book, page 113.

Mr. Curfman briefly described the work of the committee and helped delegates locate the text of the recommended actions in the printed material. Mr. Curfman moved, on behalf of Committee 10, that the Twenty-first General Synod adopt the Resolution "Securities and Exchange Commission Shareholder Resolution Policy."

Mr. Curfman spoke to the motion.

The Rev. Harold C. Smith (CONN) and Mr. Richard Conser (ILL) spoke in support of the motion.

The Rev. James E. Foucher, Jr., (FLA) suggested that delegates strike the second paragraph of the suggested attached letter.

Mr. Curfman explained that the letter was a recommended letter and was not a part of the action requested from the General Synod. Mr. Foucher stated that, if this letter is used, he encouraged that the second paragraph be deleted.

Assistant Moderator Thomas called for the vote on the main motion.

97-GS-48 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Securities and Exchange Commission Shareholder Resolution Policy."

RESOLUTION "SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION SHAREHOLDER RESOLUTION POLICY"

WHEREAS, the agencies of the United Church of Christ and other religious bodies have traditionally used shareholder Resolutions as vehicles to call for changes in business practices and as witness to Christian conscience;

WHEREAS, recent actions by the Securities Exchange Commission have denied shareholders the right to bring such Resolutions to shareholder meetings,

WHEREAS, four national United Church of Christ Instrumentalities [viz., United Church Board for Homeland Ministries; Pension Boards, United Church of Christ; United Church Board for World Ministries and the United Church Foundation], which hold major investments in stock have reviewed this resolution and endorsed it either by votes by the board of directors (sic, trustees) or through formal consideration by executive administrative staff actions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all entities in the

United Church of Christ whose investments include stock (and are thus shareholders in corporations) recognize the critical nature of the SEC Ruling excluding shareholder resolutions on issues relating to employment. The national instrumentalities, therefore, join together to encourage all Conferences, Local Churches and members of congregations, who hold stock investments, to write to the members of the Securities and Exchange Commission (with copies to their Congressional representatives and to the President of the United States), urging them to reverse the "Cracker Barrel decision" and, once again, allow resolutions on employment policies and practices which address significant social issues to be included on Proxy Statements for annual shareholder meetings.

Subject to the availability of funds.

18. RESOLUTION "ACCESS TO THE AGE OF COMPUTER INFORMATION"

Assistant Moderator Thomas called on Mr. Curfman to present the recommended action from Committee 10 on the Resolution "Access to the Age of Computer Information."

Mr. Curfman shared changes made to the original document and moved, on behalf of Committee 10, that the Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Access to the Age of Computer Information."

Mr. Curfman spoke on the motion.

The Rev. Arthur L. Cribbs, Jr. (Office of Communication) and the Rev. Bennie Whiten, Jr. (MASS) spoke in support of the motion. A person from the National Committee of Persons with Disabilities suggested that it be made explicit that access for all people included specific concern for all people with disabilities, including the visually impaired.

Assistant Moderator Thomas called for the vote.

97-GS-49 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Access to the Age of Computer Information."

RESOLUTION "ACCESS TO THE AGE OF COMPUTER INFORMATION"

WHEREAS, multimedia technologies involving a linkage of computers, telephone modems, fax machines, cable, mobile phones, television, teleconferencing and video conferencing will shape our future way of life;

WHEREAS, these tools will enable the creation of "virtual workplaces" not bound to location but requiring certain skills, and these workplaces will account for a large percentage of the new jobs in the U.S. by the year 2010;

WHEREAS, social analysts are already using the terms "the information rich" and "the information poor" in describing our society;

WHEREAS, new technological development has accounted