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1. Jerusalem remain a plural and diverse city both religiously and politically and that no party has the right to change the status of Jerusalem unilaterally;
2. the building of new Israeli settlements in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza cease;
3. Palestinians be permitted to move freely between Gaza, Jerusalem and the West Bank, for jobs, housing, and all services of community and religious life;
4. all governing authorities agree to honor human and civil rights as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations; and
5. all forms of violence and killing cease.

Subject to the availability of funds.

8. RESOLUTION "COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE"

Moderator Dean called on the Rev. Kekapa P. K. Lee (HI), Chair of Committee Seven, for the introduction of two Resolutions from the Committee.

Mr. Lee thanked the Committee for their work and began by explaining that one of the Resolutions assigned to Committee Seven was entitled "Harm Reduction." He said the Committee changed the title to "Compassionate Response to Substance Abuse." Mr. Lee explained the work of the Committee on this Resolution and called on the Rev. Nancy H. Nyberg (ILL), a member of the Committee, to speak to the motion.

John Bathkee and Dianna Niemann-Harris (MO) spoke in support of the Resolution.

The Rev Scott R. Johnson (OHIO) offered a friendly amendment to replace, throughout the document, the word "drugs" with the words "alcohol and other drugs."

This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

The Rev. Dorothy Gager (SE) offered a friendly amendment: in the "THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED," add "to advocate for adequate treatment resources available to all." as a final point.

This was accepted as a friendly amendment and Moderator Dean called for the vote.

97-GS-53 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the resolution "A Compassionate Response To Substance Abuse."

RESOLUTION "COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE"

WHEREAS, we are called to "loose the bonds of injustice" (Isaiah 58:6), to be "removers of the yoke amongst us, and "satisfiers of the needs of the afflicted" (Isaiah 58:9,10); for then the Lord will guide us and we will be "repairers of the

breech" and "restorers of streets to live in" (Isaiah 58:11,12);

WHEREAS, our Teacher and Savior Jesus Christ has commanded us to "love our neighbors as ourselves" (Matthew 22:39); and

WHEREAS, our human family in cities, schools, prisons and homes, especially the poor, the children, and people of color, are coming to great harm, both through destructive alcohol and other drug abuse and through the costly war against alcohol and other drugs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms that it is important to address the devastating impact of alcohol and other drug abuse in our society, and challenges our church and society to:

- confront the root causes of abuse and dependency;
- advocate a spiritual and theological approach to address these issues;
- encourage a healing movement in the United Church of Christ at all settings: local churches, associations, conferences, and national;
- support public policies that expand education, prevention, and treatment, in our prisons and in the wider community;
- seek to reduce the punitive and harmful effects of various societal responses to substance abuse and abusers, including a reduction in the use of incarceration for minor offenses and an increase in the use of additional alternatives to incarceration; and advocate for adequate treatment resources available to all.

Subject to the availability of funds.

9. RESOLUTION "PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX"

Moderator Dean asked Mr. Lee to continue with the report of Committee Seven.

Mr. Lee introduced the final Resolution of the General Synod entitled, "Prison Industrial Complex." Mr. Lee said there was strong support for this Resolution in the Committee and that the Committee celebrated that the church was responding both to the needs of victims and their families as well as to prisoners and their families. Mr Lee reviewed changes made by the Committee.

Moderator Dean asked Mr. Lee if he wished to speak to the motion. Mr. Lee again called on Ms. Nyberg who spoke on behalf of the Committee in support of the Resolution.

The Rev. Heather C. Wickes (OHIO) and the Rev. William C. Schraer (IK) spoke in support of the Resolution.

The Rev. Alfred C. Krass (PSE) said he was concerned that some might see an imbalance in the Resolution toward a support of prisoners rather than equal support for victims. He said that there were places in the Resolution that spoke to support for victims. Mr. Krass offered a friendly amendment to include the word "restitution" after the words "alternative

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sentencing" in the second "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED."

This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Moderator Dean called for the vote on the Resolution.

97-GS-54 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Prison Industrial Complex."

RESOLUTION "PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX"

WHEREAS, we read in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new," and in Hebrews 13:3 "remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured;"

WHEREAS, the U.S. now has 5 million people in the criminal justice system, including over 1.5 million in federal, state, and local prisons and jails and 3.5 million on probation or parole;

WHEREAS, the U.S. has the highest rate of incarceration in the world and the number of people in the U.S. in the criminal justice system will soon surpass the number in higher education;

WHEREAS, African Americans, Latinos and Latinas, and indigenous peoples are disproportionately incarcerated;

WHEREAS, by the year 2010, the majority of all African American men will have been in the criminal justice system at one time in their life if present trends continue;

WHEREAS, the number of incarcerated women has nearly tripled since 1980 and 1.5 million children in the U.S. are now separated from their mothers, although 60 percent of these women were convicted of non-violent crimes;

WHEREAS, spending on prisons and security now approaches our spending on national defense, although serious and violent crimes have dropped for five straight years in a row;

WHEREAS, the Eleventh General Synod called for a moratorium on the construction of new prisons and jails;

WHEREAS, our nation's prison industrial complex now includes operation of prisons by private companies and Wall Street investment houses compete to underwrite private tax-exempt bonds while small rural communities increasingly look to the prison industry to replace lost farm-related and unskilled blue-collar jobs;

WHEREAS, present economic disparities continue to widen the gap between the rich and the poor in our society, creating a climate in which violent crime and drug addiction flourish;

WHEREAS, mounting evidence demonstrates that there is significant economic and racial bias in surveillance, arrests, convictions, and sentencing;

WHEREAS, the majority of those incarcerated in the last fifteen years are serving time for drug-related offenses;

WHEREAS, the present prison system focuses on punishment and degradation rather than on "correction" or rehabilitation, as evident in the re-establishment of chain gangs and diminished educational, social, and training opportunities for prisoners; and

WHEREAS, the church must enable people to recognize that the violence of prison life promotes violence rather than public safety;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its opposition to the growth in the prison population and the rapid construction of prisons. It calls upon churches, associations, conferences, and the national setting of the United Church of Christ to become more conscious of, and prophetically responsive to, the growing prison industrial complex in the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod requests the Commission for Racial Justice, Office for Church in Society and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to create a task group which monitors and reflects on the scope of the issues involved and:

1. recommends methods of involvement for local congregations in issues related to prisons;
2. enables local churches and conferences to:
 - a) develop a theology of transformation based on justice, rehabilitation, and empowerment;
 - b) raise the church's consciousness of the social, racial, and economic inequities which engender crime and violence; and
 - c) monitor state criminal justice and sentencing laws; advocate caps on prison populations; advocate a moratorium on construction; and promote budget policies devoted to rehabilitation, education, and empowerment rather than punishment;
3. provides a clearinghouse for prison related initiatives in and for local congregations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod calls on local churches to:

1. be open and supportive of prisoners' families including welcoming them into membership and fellowship in our churches;
2. encourage and support volunteers who offer services both to prisoners and their families and to victims of crime and their families;
3. develop, support, and participate in community drug prevention and treatment programs;

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4. learn and advocate alternative sentencing and restitution programs which are beneficial and restorative to victims, offenders, and communities;
5. provide trained leaders who can mediate conflicts and advocate for alternative sentencing and restitution;
6. talk with prison chaplains to discern ways local congregations might become actively involved in prison ministries;
7. become resources for helping those recently released from prison to re-enter the community;
8. enable interested people to become court observers and to offer legal services to those accused of crime; and
9. celebrate and share the stories of local congregations who are doing these ministries already.

Subject to the availability of funds.

10. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The Rev. Dr. Earl D. Miller (Stewardship Council) requested a Point of Personal Privilege and expressed appreciation to delegates for their more than 300 responses to the form titled "More Than A Budget" that was distributed during the morning session, following the open hearing on the budget. Mr. Miller said that, of those returning the survey, 70% said they would increase their giving for next year; 60% said they would talk with the decision-makers in their congregations about "giving"; and 87% said they would work with conferences in the task of stewardship.

Moderator Dean congratulated the delegates on completing business on every Resolution. The delegates celebrated with a round of applause.

11. COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY PRESENTATION

Moderator Dean called on the Rev. Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo (MINN), from the Council on American Indian Ministry (CAIM), for a ceremony of Gift Giving.

Ms. Helgemo shared with the Synod a tribal tradition of almost all tribes, the Giveaway. She stated that in many of these traditions, wealth is not determined by how many things they have accumulated, but wealth is determined by generosity. Ms. Helgemo said that a "Giveaway" is an event that is an important part of most of the ceremonies of Native American Tribes and that the summertime is a big "Giveaway" season. She noted that, this summer, the churches and individuals of the Council for American Indian Ministry were pleased to have their own "Giveaway" at General Synod.

Ms. Helgemo explained that, in 1995, CAIM had its first National Gathering on the campus of an Indian educational institution, the United Tribe School in Bismark, North Dakota. She remarked that this event would not have been possible without the generous support of the conferences of

the United Church of Christ. In several tribal languages, Ms. Helgemo thanked the conferences for their support.

Gifts were given to a representative of each conference. The delegates expressed their appreciation with a standing ovation.

12. MAKE A DIFFERENCE! PRESENTATION

The Moderator called upon Ms. Barbara Everett, Associate Director of Special Giving, to report on behalf of the Make a Difference! campaign.

A video presentation, prepared by the Office of Communication, reported \$19 million of the \$30 million goal had been pledged to date. Seven conferences have exceeded their goals and completed their campaigns.

13. FINAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (Includes The Adoption of The Biennial Budgets)

Moderator Dean called on Ms. Brenda Allen (SOC) to continue the Executive Council report.

14. BIENNIAL BUDGET

On behalf of the Executive Council, Ms. Allen moved the adoption of the biennial budget, as presented, on pages 185-204 of the Program, Worship and Business Book.

There was no discussion and Moderator Dean called for the vote.

97-GS-55 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Biennial Budget as presented.