

MONDAY AFTERNOON

He stated that in a few weeks the American Samoans will vote on the same document which will bring together both communions. Mr. Sherry and the guests signed the partnership agreement. Rev. Elisara brought greetings from the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa. He shared the history of the church and thanked the delegates for their support.

The delegates responded with a standing ovation.

The Synod granted the privilege of voice to Rev. Grant Shao Chi Lee (HI) who spoke and led the Synod in a brief litany with Rev. Sapaaga. The litany ended with a song.

7. BLESSED INTERRUPTION

Moderator Hood called upon Rev. Christopher R. Grundy (KO) to lead the delegates and visitors in a time of community building.

8. ELECTION RESULTS

The Moderator announced the results of the elections as follows:

John H. Thomas
General Minister and President
646 Yes, 56 No, 8 Abstentions

Dale L. Bishop
Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries
677 Yes, 15 No, 5 Abstentions

José A. Malayang
Executive Minister, Local Church Ministries
659 Yes, 47 No, 7 Abstentions

Edith A. Guffey
Associate General Minister
698 Yes, 12 No, 2 Abstentions

Bernice Powell Jackson
Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries
667 Yes, 29 No, 17 Abstentions

9. WELCOME OF NEW OFFICERS

Moderator Hood recognized Mr. Sherry to welcome the officers-elect.

Mr. Sherry invited the new officers-elect to join him on the stage. The delegates welcomed the newly elected officers with extended applause and a standing ovation. Mr. Sherry charged them with the responsibility of leading the Church into the next century, and asked for

God's blessing upon these new leaders. He closed with prayer.

10. NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

The Moderator announced the names of the persons elected to the Nominating Committee.

Class of 2005-Clergy
Betsy Bruaw (PC), Valentino Lassiter (OHIO), Ken Siladi (CONN)

Class of 2005-Laypersons
Margaret Ellis (SOC), Jordan M. Patterson (HI), Katie Tabler (IK)

Class of 2001-Historically Underrepresented Groups
Winifred Boub (CAIM), Mary J. Fairley (MRSEJ), Wilfredo Torres Mercado (CYAAM)

Class of 2003-Historically Underrepresented Groups
Diane Darling (The Coalition), Clifford John (UBC), Mildred Pruna, (CHM)

Class of 2005-Historically Underrepresented Groups
Doris Dunn (NCPWD), David Mann (COREM), Tyrone Reinhardt (PAAM)

11. RESOLUTION "THE LEGACY OF U.S. ATOMIC TESTING IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS: U.S. ACCOUNTABILITY"

Moderator Hood recognized Rev. John M. Gantt to present the work of Committee 14.

Rev. Gantt directed the delegates' attention to the packet which held the material. He asked the delegates to make the following corrections:

On the page 1, column 2, line 24, the phrase "2-3 times higher" should be "2-30 times higher.

On the page 2 lines 5 and 7, the word "successors" should be "successor."

Rev. Gantt reported some of the information the committee had learned regarding this issue. He then moved the adoption of the Resolution "The Legacy of U.S. Atomic Testing in the Marshall Islands: U.S. Accountability."

Mr. Gantt stated that Committee 14 appreciated the resources available and were blessed by the courage, compassion and patience of Mr. Rumo-rati Ten Ten, a

MONDAY AFTERNOON

pastor on the Marshall Island of Kilibati, and Mr. Johnny Johnson, also from the Marshall Islands.

Mr. Gantt yielded his time to Johnny Johnson from the Marshall Islands, who was granted Voice without Vote for the purpose of speaking to this issue.

Mr. Johnson stated he was a member of the United Church of Christ in the Marshall Islands which was begun by missionaries of the BCFM and he is a consultant to the Bikini Counsel. He explained the history of testing in the Marshall Islands and life on Kili Island as a result of the U.S. nuclear testing program. He stated that after 53 years the people of the Marshall Islands are still waiting for the promise to be fulfilled. He quoted from Jeremiah 29:11. Mr. Johnson urged passage of this resolution and support for the resolution on global warming as the rising sea levels are threatening all island nations.

Rev. Ronald Fujiyoshi (PAAM) spoke in favor of the resolution. Mr. Fujiyoshi explained that after sharing this resolution with the Marshallese church in the Marshall Islands and even government officials there was a warm response and the Marshall Islanders feel that after this long now the church is responding.

Rev. William E. Miles (WIS) offered an amendment in the second "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED," adding the words "each member of the United States Congress" after the words "Secretary of State." The amendment was accepted by the Committee as a friendly amendment.

Several persons spoke in support of the resolution, including Rev. Henry K. Boshard (HI), Ms. Helen Bajo (HI), Rev. Saitumua Tafaioalii (RM) and Rev. John Henry Scott, III (CONN).

99-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod adopts the Resolution "The Legacy of U.S. Atomic Testing in the Marshall Islands: U.S. Accountability" as amended.

THE LEGACY OF U.S. ATOMIC TESTING IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS: U.S. ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, in the Old Testament the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to the Israelites: When a man or a woman wrongs another, breaking faith with the Lord that person incurs guilt and shall confess the sin that has been committed. The person shall make full restitution for the wrong, adding one fifth to it, and giving it to the one who was wronged." (Numbers 5:5-7 NRSV) And in the New Testament Zacchaeus stood

there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." (Luke 19:8 NRSV)

WHEREAS, the Marshall Island government has indicated that new information on the health of its people exposed to radiation from atomic and nuclear testing in the Marshalls requires more just compensation and expansion of medical care than the \$150 million trust fund provided in the Compact of Free Association;

WHEREAS, evidence from recently declassified U.S. government reports and studies shows that many more Marshall Islanders were exposed to nuclear fallout from the 67 U.S. atomic and nuclear tests than American negotiators admitted when the compensation package in the Compact was negotiated in the early 1980's;

WHEREAS, many questions are arising about the accuracy of medical research done by U.S. Government labs on Marshall Islanders who were exposed to fallout from atomic and nuclear testing;

WHEREAS, although the U.S. Government provided full compensation to Americans citizens living downwind of the Nevada Test Site, Marshall Islanders have not received more than 61 percent of their total awards because the compensation level is inadequate;

WHEREAS, fully one-third of the 1,574 Marshall Islands recipients of nuclear test awards have died without receiving full compensation;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government provided full compensation to American citizens living in a significantly larger area compared to the Marshall Islands, despite the fact that the total tonnage of U.S. tests in the Marshall Islands was almost 100 times greater than the yield of tests at the Nevada Test Site;

WHEREAS, documents now show that the people of Ailuk and other nearby islands were exposed to dangerous amounts of radiation, yet purposely were not evacuated;

WHEREAS, the Marshall Islanders are increasingly becoming aware that Islanders were not evacuated DESPITE information that prevailing wind would blow fallout over a number of inhabited islands and that they were likely being used as "guinea pigs" in radiation studies;

MONDAY AFTERNOON

WHEREAS, U.S. Government representatives deceived the people of Bikini Atoll by telling them that their island would be used "for the benefit of mankind;"

WHEREAS, the March 1, 1954, "Bravo" hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll was detonated despite weather reports the previous day that winds were blowing to the east toward the inhabited atolls of Rongelap, Utrik, Ailuk and others;

WHEREAS, a 1985-1989 health survey in the Marshall Islands revealed cancer rates 2 to 30 times higher among Marshall Islanders than in the U.S.;

WHEREAS, a nationwide survey of thyroid problems in the Marshall Islands in the mid-1990's by doctors from Tohoku University in Japan confirmed a high rate of thyroid disorders among Marshall Islanders;

WHEREAS, the economic provisions of a Compact of Free Association implemented in 1986 will expire in 2001 and are up for renegotiation in 1999;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government has not yet apologized to the Marshallese people for the death of Marshallese citizens and for the damage done to the homeland and people;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is the main religious denomination in the Marshall Islands;

WHEREAS, there are many United Church of Christ Marshall Islanders in Hawaii and other western states;

WHEREAS, the \$150 million trust fund provided in a Compact of Free Association with the Marshall Islands is woefully inadequate and not just compensation for the health injuries and deaths caused by U.S. nuclear testing to the population and the loss of their use of their atolls because of radiation contamination since 1946; and

WHEREAS, U.S. funding for medical surveillance and treatment programs is inadequate to meet the needs of the exposed population in the Marshall Islands;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the United Church Board for World Ministries and its successor to work closely with the Marshallese people, our ecumenical partners, and the Office for Church in Society and its successor to bring about an official apology and full redress including all necessary funding from the U.S. Government; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the U.S. Attorney General, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and each member of the U.S. Congress, with copies to the Republic of the Marshall Island Embassy Office in Washington, D.C., and to the people in the Marshall Islands.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

12. RESOLUTION "ENDING THE STRANGLEHOLD OF GLOBAL DEBT ON IMPOVERISHED NATIONS"

The Moderator asked Mr. Gantt to present the next piece of business from Committee 14.

Mr. Gantt presented the Resolution "Ending The Stranglehold of Global Debt on Impoverished Nations" and moved its adoption. Mr. Gantt reported some of the information the delegates had learned regarding the impact of the global debt on impoverished nations, as well as the history of the church in addressing this issue. Mr. Gantt yielded his time to Ms. Dorothy G. Berry (KO), the resource person to the Committee.

Ms. Berry told the delegates that for the last 20 years the distribution of wealth throughout the world has become more and more inequitable and that the debt burden on the most impoverished nations in our world becomes more and more crushing despite their best efforts to meet their obligations. She continued, stating that those most adversely effected have been the desperately poor in these nations, deprived of basic food needs, adequate health care and basic education. Ms. Berry spoke about the biblical concept of debt forgiveness that we know as Jubilee and is reaffirmed by the prayer of Jesus in which constantly we pray "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" that has caught the imagination of the world.

Ms. Berry reported that at the Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Zimbabwe more than 300 churches voted decisively to see cancellation of these debts. In Europe the churches have collected 19 million signatures supporting debt cancellation and their anxious question is "Where are the American Christians?" She urged passage of the resolution.

Rev. Wallace Ryan Kuroiwa (OCIS), Executive Director of the Office for Church in Society, spoke in favor of the resolution asking delegates to imagine paying back-breaking debt for loans their great-