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encourages all local churches of the United Church of Christ to be advocates in their communities to see that the Fourth Amendment protections are justly guaranteed for all persons by:

Calling upon political leadership at all levels of government - national, state, and local - to make vigilant and constant efforts to enforce the Fourth Amendment's protection for all persons;

Calling upon Police Departments in particular, through their selection, training and monitoring, discipline and enforcement procedures, to seek diligently to dismiss from their ranks those police who fail to protect individuals' Fourth Amendment rights;

Encouraging any constructive changes in police policy and procedures, including the training of special enforcement task forces in order to address the concerns of this resolution; and

Urging the city administration in all cities to make earnest, diligent and untiring efforts at dialogue with the leaders and the people of minority neighborhoods so that a relationship of trust can be restored.

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

16. BLESSED INTERRUPTIONS

Assistant Moderator Norman-Richardson called on Ms. Valerie Tutson for a "Blessed Interruption." Ms. Tutson led the Synod in prayer and song.

17. RESOLUTION "LICENSED AND ORDAINED MINISTRIES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST"

Assistant Moderator Norman-Richardson called on Ms. Cathleen Starck Wille, Chair of Committee 11, to introduce the resolution "Licensed and Ordained Ministries in the United Church of Christ." She reported the Committee asked her to emphasize that the purpose of this resolution is for dialogue with the hope for possible future action. Ms. Wille therefore commended the resolution to the Synod as an invitation for dialogue.

Ms. Wille explained there was a large amount of discussion generated by the consultants; notably Rev. William A. Hulteen, Jr., who feels very strongly about this particular resolution, and other concerned persons who spoke to the committee during the Soundings and the hearing time of the Committee Process. She stated

that there is a clear mandate for dialogue about the issues related to licensed and ordained ministries. She stated one concern of the Committee was to insure that future dialog would include the input of associations, conferences, seminaries, as well as others affected by future decisions and actions which will come from this dialogue. Therefore, in response to that concern the Committee added the words "and other affected persons" to several of the points in the "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED." The Committee had another concern not to lose the research and dialogue which has already been generated by the Office for Church Life and Leadership; therefore, the committee added the "BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED" which expresses this reminder at the end of the document. Ms. Wille moved the adoption of the resolution.

Speaking for the resolution Ms. Wille stated that many Conferences have already developed programs which establish several paths of preparation for authorized ministries and these programs differ widely from one Conference to another. She pointed out that the programs established meet local and regional needs elicited by circumstances outside our normal operating guidelines and meet the need of an apparent shortage of clergy. In addition because we are a covenantal church where clergy may seek standing in another association and now clergy from our ecumenical partner churches may seek standing in our placement system, there is a need for dialogue about mutual recognition about ministerial standing. She stated the Committee was frustrated over the fact that it will take another biennium before action can be taken on these issues; therefore, the Committee recommends with some urgency that the Synod vote to support this resolution so that the on-going dialogue can be expanded to settings which will involve more people for implementation of faithful alternatives to our understanding of authorized ministries.

Rev. Benjamin D. Motz (PSE) offered an amendment to insert a fourth point between the current third and fourth point which reads: "Calls upon local churches, conferences, seminaries, and other affected parties to work together over the next biennium with the Office for Church Life and Leadership and its successor to dialogue about how to empower, enable, and encourage potential ordained ministerial candidates to discern a call and complete a Master of Divinity degree, and this dialogue shall have priority in time, effort, and resolve over discussions concerning alternative routes to ordination;"

Mr. Motz spoke to the amendment stating his concern for local churches and the pastoral leadership of our church. He explained the intent of this amendment is

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to add an important piece to the table of discussion brought by Office for Church Life and Leadership which is the issue of empowering and enabling those who have a call to ordained ministry to pursue a Master of Divinity. Mr. Motz stated this is a better way to make the changes necessary so those people who have a call to be able to pursue the call. He stated the purpose of this amendment is to help us to make sure we do not spend too much time on the wrong road.

Two persons spoke in opposition to the amendment.

Assistant Moderator Norman-Richardson called for the vote on the amendment.

99-GS-60 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod defeats the amendment.

Rev. David J. Ackerman (PW) proposed amendments to the fourth and fifth points as follows: in the fourth point after the words "settings of the church" insert a comma and add a parenthetical phrase "(including our ecumenical partners)," delete the words "paths of" and then after the words "educated clergy" insert a period and delete the remainder of the fourth point. In the fifth point insert a period after the words "licensed ministry" and delete all that follows.

This was not received as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Ackerman spoke to the amendment stating he is aware that different Conferences have different arrangements for authorizing their ministries and in the Penn West Conference many small churches struggle to afford a full-time pastor and it is easier for many of these churches, they believe, to find the least costly leadership they can. In a number of cases they may call someone without a Master of Divinity degree from a seminary recognized by the National Association of Theological Schools or they may call someone who is ordained in an independent ecclesial tradition. He continued stating that congregations are sometimes tempted to pressure associations to ordain licensed ministers and have them serve as pastors because of cost concerns. This fails to challenge these churches to consider options and avenues of pursuing full-time ministry. He stated his concern that the wording in these two points leads the study in a way that may be harmful to the churches in our Conference.

Two persons spoke in opposition to the amendment. Seeing no one to speak in favor of the motion, Assistant Moderator Norman-Richardson called for the vote on the amendment.

99-GS-61 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod defeats the amendment.

Mr. Motz offered an amendment to the fourth point in line 10: following "partners and. . ." add the word "discuss" and change the word "provision" to plural. The sentence will now read "partners and discuss making provisions for persons who do. . ." This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Following more discussion, Rev. Matthew W. Noffke (WIS) moved the previous question.

99-GS-62 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod voted to close debate on the main resolution.

Assistant Moderator Norman-Richardson called for the vote on the main resolution.

99-GS-63 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod adopts the Resolution "Licensed and Ordained Ministries in the United Church of Christ."

LICENSED AND ORDAINED MINISTRIES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, the Church of Jesus Christ is called in every generation to call forth and equip faithful and effective leadership, honoring our various traditions while responding to current contextual needs;

WHEREAS, there are a variety of understandings and practices related to ordained and licensed ministries within the United Church of Christ; and the traditions present in the United Church of Christ have various ways of recognizing and nurturing persons for ordained and licensed ministry;

WHEREAS, responses to two discussion papers and over a dozen consultations revealed support for:

- a) making changes and/or providing further clarifications of current understandings of licensed ministry;
- b) providing multiple paths that could lead to ordination in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ, including licensed ministry in some circumstances;
- c) strengthening knowledge of and appreciation for the United Church of Christ among candidates preparing for any authorized ministry; and

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- d) finding ways by which candidates for licensed and ordained ministries can demonstrate their suitedness for ministry;

WHEREAS, United Church of Christ seminaries play a crucial role in the education of persons preparing for an authorized ministry of the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ values a variety of ways through which learnedness can be demonstrated and life-long learning cultivated;

WHEREAS, academic accomplishment, while highly valued, is not in itself the sole demonstration of suitedness for ministry;

WHEREAS, associations are responsible for the authorization of ordained, commissioned and licensed ministries; and conferences are responsible for working with placement-related matters within their bounds; and

WHEREAS, the Office for Church Life and Leadership develops and provides resources to assist associations, conferences, seminaries and individuals in matters related to ministerial authorization and placement;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod:

- calls upon associations, conferences and seminaries and other affected bodies to work together with the Office for Church Life and Leadership and its successor to articulate church-wide theological understandings regarding the nature and purpose of ministries requiring authorization by the United Church of Christ and the relationship among the authorized ministries, including the possibility of bringing a Pronouncement and Proposal for Action to the General Synod;
- calls upon associations, conferences and seminaries and other affected bodies to work together with the Office for Church Life and Leadership and its successor to explore ways to strengthen knowledge of and appreciation for United Church of Christ history, theological identity, polity and practice of ministry on the part of those persons preparing for an authorized ministry in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ;
- calls upon associations, conferences and seminaries and other affected bodies to work together with the Office for Church Life and Leadership and its successor to explore ways to strengthen the in-care process and the church's expectations of its

candidates for all authorized ministries of the church;

- calls upon associations, conferences and seminaries and other affected bodies to work together over the next biennium with the Office for Church Life and Leadership and its successor to engage various settings of the church in dialogue about paths of preparation for ordained ministry that will meet the needs of a changing church while remaining faithful to the tradition of valuing an educated clergy, drawing on dialogue with our ecumenical partners and discuss making provisions for persons who do not have a Master of Divinity degree;
- calls upon associations, conferences and seminaries and other affected bodies to work together over the next biennium with the Office for Church Life and Leadership and its successor to clarify definitional work regarding licensed ministry, explore the possibility of its being a path which may, in some circumstances, lead to ordained ministry and adapt current materials to allow for an extended schedule of license renewal;
- calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership and its successor to report to the Twenty-third General Synod and to bring any recommended Constitution and/or Bylaw revisions related to ministries requiring authorization by the church to the Twenty-fourth General Synod; and
- calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership and its successor to continue revision of the *United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry* and to do so in a way that honors and addresses the broad affirmations growing out of the Ministry Issues consultations, the feedback on discussion documents, and lifts up theological foundations and church-wide theological understandings of the nature and purpose of those ministries requiring authorization by the church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod calls upon those undertaking future work to review needs assessments done up to this point and to ascertain the adequacy of that work when addressing the issues being raised by this resolution.

All of this work is to be done in a way that is attentive to the ecumenical relationships and commitments of the United Church of Christ, that actively attends to the United Church of Christ's commitment to being a multiracial and a multicultural church, accessible to all, and that honors values widely affirmed in the United Church of Christ.

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

18. RESOLUTION "VIOLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS-BEGINNING AN ENDING"

Assistant Moderator Norman-Richardson called on Moderator Denise Page-Hood for the remaining business.

Moderator Hood called on Ms. Gynii Gilliam (CPC) for the recommended actions from Committee One.

Ms. Gilliam presented the Resolution "Violence in Our Schools - Beginning an Ending." Ms. Gilliam located the resolution for the delegates, described the process used by the Committee, explained the corrections made to the document and moved its adoption.

Ms. Gilliam spoke to the resolution explaining that the Committee addressed the issue of adding language referring to gun control and decided to stay within the spirit of the writer's intent of addressing issues of violence. Ms. Gilliam deferred her remaining time to Ms. Michele Bagby (CA NV,N), a Committee member.

Ms. Bagby said it was her special joy to share this resolution with the General Synod because she has met a prophet and her name is Erin Stephens. Ms. Bagby explained that Ms. Stephens graduated from high school three weeks ago and is a member of the First Congregational Church of Northeast California. This resolution comes from Erin, her church and its youth as a result of their journey together in faith and grief after the shootings at Columbine High School. Ms Bagby shared a reading from Erin.

Mr. Jason Henderson (NH) proposed a friendly amendment in the last point of the "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED" insert the word "individuals" following "Call upon" so the last point would read "Call upon individuals, Local Churches, . . ." This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Ms. Kelly Carter (RM) moved to strike the poem from the resolution stating that we should be about healing, reconciliation through Christ and forgiveness, not wishing for more torture for those who did the shootings.

99-GS-64 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod strikes the poem and the last sentence of the previous paragraph from the Biblical/Theological/Ethical Rationale.

Moderator Hood called for The Order of the Day stating the discussion on this resolution will be continued in the next plenary.

19. REFLECTION

Moderator Hood called on Dr. Mary Luti and Rev. Norman W. Jackson to reflect on the proceedings.

Mr. Jackson acknowledged possible resentment about interrupting that very important and solemn kind of deliberation and suggested that "For Such a Time As This. . ." it is appropriate to keep the order of the day and stop to think theologically about what we are doing. Mr. Jackson reviewed that we have revealed who we are at such a time as this and we have heard what the world is like to which we are addressing the mission of God. He suggested that "for such a time as this" points both to us, the depth of our faith, and to the nature of this hostile world in which we live.

Ms. Luti related that she overheard the conversation of a visitor who said "Resolutions? They are a dime a dozen." The visitor also said "Resolutions never change anything." The visitor went on to say "Resolutions don't go anywhere on the local level anyway." She said there may be some truth in those comments. She invited all to gratitude and to offer thanks as a people who have been voted into existence to be reckoned with by God's resolve to welcome in Jesus Christ and offered a resolution:

WHEREAS, we know Christ;
WHEREAS, the Spirit moves us to love Him;
WHEREAS, by God's grace we share His mission;
WHEREAS, we hold that treasure in clay jars;
WHEREAS, we believe, God help our unbelief;
THEREFORE let us be resolved.

Moderator Hood thanked Ms. Luti and Mr. Jackson at the conclusion of the reflection.

20. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

Moderator Hood called on Ms. Edith A. Guffey, General Synod Administrator, for announcements. Following announcements Moderator Hood declared the Tenth Plenary of the Twenty-second General Synod to be complete and in recess until 2:30 this afternoon.