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grandparents were encouraged to take, received no benefit from and which prevented them from maintaining the basic necessities of life for themselves and their families. He stated that that is precisely what citizens of the poorest countries in our world are forced to endure. Rev. Kuroiwa urged support of the resolution.

Rev. James R. Smucker (WASH/CJA) and Rev. John R. Deckenback (CAC) also spoke in support of the resolution.

There was no further discussion and Moderator Hood called for the vote.

99-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod adopts the Resolution "Ending the Stranglehold of Global Debt on Impoverished Nations."

ENDING THE STRANGLEHOLD OF GLOBAL DEBT ON IMPOVERISHED NATIONS

WHEREAS, delegates from over 300 national churches at the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, in December 1998, unanimously voted to "Let the Trumpet Sound a Jubilee Call to End the Stranglehold of Debt on Impoverished Peoples;"

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ seeks to be in solidarity with those who have taken up this international call to address the crushing burden of global debt;

WHEREAS, this indebtedness of the poorest nations of the world has escalated to such a degree as to make repayment impossible;

WHEREAS, such indebtedness imposes an unjust burden on people struggling for the basics of existence, with an unequal burden falling primarily on women and children;

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations of the debt management are placed in the powerful hands of the wealthiest nations and their institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which have focused on debt repayment rather than debt cancellation; and

WHEREAS, the debtor nations are not included in the decision-making regarding lending and debt repayment, placing these nations in an unjust and unfair position concerning their own destiny;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, July 1-6, 1999, encourages its members, congregations, associations, conferences to be involved in the Jubilee 2000 campaign, and calls upon them to strive to:

1. Work for the cancellation of the major debt of the most severely impoverished nations by the end of the year 2000, enabling their economies to experience new life;
2. Encourage the institutions involved in granting loans and debt repayment to devise policies aimed at preventing future debt crises and to include the debtor nations in the formulation of said policies;
3. Call upon the leaders of the richest countries, the commercial banks, the IMF, the World Bank, regional and international financial institutions to cancel these debts in a way that benefits the ordinary citizens of the countries and without conditions that would perpetuate and/or deepen poverty; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, to commend the Office for Church in Society and the United Church Board for World Ministries for their work on Jubilee 2000 and urge that they and their successors continue their work to cancel the debt;

To urge the President or General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and the Council of Conference Ministers to give strong leadership to encourage Jubilee 2000; and

To encourage the local churches to study and become advocates for Jubilee 2000.

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

13. RESOLUTION "GLOBAL WARMING"

The Moderator called on Rev. Gantt for the final piece of business from Committee 14.

Rev. Gantt presented the resolution entitled "Global Warming" and on behalf of the Committee moved its adoption. Rev. Gantt spoke for the motion reminding delegates of the history of the United Church of Christ in responding to environmental issues. A short video presentation, narrated by Maya Angelou, highlighted some of the issues raised because of global warming.

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WHEREAS, Rev. Rodney L. Mundy recruited and coordinated technical support volunteers who initiated the use of lap top computers in committees;

WHEREAS, the Office of Communication has provided audio visual coordination with the able assistance of Ms. Barbara Fryman;

WHEREAS, the sign language interpreters and Spanish language translators have provided invaluable services;

WHEREAS, Ms. Christina L. Chapple provided technical support in the office and in preparing papers;

WHEREAS, the Parliamentarians, Dr. Annie Wynn Neal and Mr. Malcolm C. Bertram, provided thoughtful advice to the Moderators and were helpful to the delegates, in making parliamentary process accessible and workable;

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan M. Sanders, with her experience and expertise, organized ways for the Synod to be of service in the Providence area;

WHEREAS, Mr. Phil Porter, Rev. Christopher Grundy and Ms. Valerie Tutson helped us to move, to relax and to rejoice in the midst of our work;

WHEREAS, Rev. Norman "Jack" Jackson and Dr. Mary Luti illuminated our thoughts with their insightful reflections and responses;

WHEREAS, the Youth Stewards with their nimble legs and their wonderful dancing moved about the floor with ease and expediency;

WHEREAS, the Stage Manager, Mr. Terry White, courteously moved persons into place and guided them to their places before us;

WHEREAS, Rev. Selena L. Blackwell of the Urban Ministries Network coordinated the Chaplains who were quietly and faithfully present with sympathy and listening ears;

WHEREAS, the Worship Committee: Rev. Thomas E. Dipko, Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, Rev. Wallace Ryan Kuroiwa, Rev. Lois M. Powell joined and assisted at Synod by Rev. Pat de Jong, Rev. Raymond Hargrove and Rev. Luis Pérez, along with Mr. Arthur Clyde and Rev. John H. Thomas, provided us with ways to seek God's presence in our midst and to draw upon the Spirits and gifts in Bible study and worship with Rev. Jana Norman-Richardson;

WHEREAS, Rev. Linda Gruber has ably served as leader of the Business Committee;

WHEREAS, Rev. Don Manworren of the Disciples of Christ willingly and cheerfully assisted in all manner of ways in helping us;

WHEREAS, our Moderators, the Honorable Denise Page Hood; Mr. Robert Frieberg and Rev. Jana Norman-Richardson provided leadership in all of our business, both serious and lighthearted;

WHEREAS, the Administrator of the General Synod, Ms. Edith A. Guffey, who is also Secretary of the Church, has overseen and managed all that needed to be done at Synod with graciousness, insight and good humor;

WHEREAS, you, the delegates of this General Synod, have worked hard and thoughtfully on all of the business before you and have lent your wisdom, as well as your commitment, during committee and plenary sessions, as well as in work projects and workshops; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Program and Planning Committee and the Vice-chair of the Executive Council offers an apology to any persons whom we might have forgotten in this resolution, especially those who are part of the registered General Synod staff;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod provides a standing acclamation to these faithful servants and friends in recognition of their untold hours of service and diligence in support of the work of this General Synod.

14. RESOLUTION "GLOBAL WARMING"

Moderator Hood shared with the delegates that she had reconsidered the issues brought before her prior to the Amenities Resolutions, and it was determined that the business could be accomplished in about six minutes. With the Synod's approval, she then recognized Rev. John M. Gantt (OHIO), Chair of Committee 14.

Mr. Gantt reminded the delegates of the amendment to the Resolution "Global Warming" which had been proposed Monday afternoon. He stated that initially there was confusion regarding where the substitute paragraph would go, and that is why it was not considered a friendly amendment on Monday. Since then, clarification had been made, and the Committee was prepared to accept the substitute paragraph as a friendly amendment. Mr. Gantt restated the amendment to replace the sixth "WHEREAS" with the

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following: "WHEREAS, such gases released into the atmosphere absorb some of the out-going infrared radiation from the surface of the earth causing the atmosphere to warm."

The amendment was accepted as friendly.

Moderator Hood called for the vote:

99-GS-74 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod adopts the Resolution "Global Warming" as amended.

GLOBAL WARMING

WHEREAS, General Synod has voted broad environmental resolutions and the Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace (ICJP) priority in the distant past but these broad policies do not give specific or timely policy guidance on current environmental issues such as global warming;

WHEREAS, the Bible is clear in its call to us to be caretakers ("stewards," and "managers" in the NRSV) of God's creation (Genesis 2:15), and in the covenant between God and Noah and "every living creature" we are called to care for God's creatures and to protect the means of creation that we may "be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 9:1);

WHEREAS, Psalms 24 declares, "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," we human beings do not possess the earth but are called to care for it as good stewards;

WHEREAS, the industrialized nations are the main producers of gases that cause global warming and the United States, with only 4% of the world's population, still emits 22% of these gases;

WHEREAS, 2,500 scientists of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have concluded that these human-made gases are causing the earth's temperature to rise and these scientists project an increase of 2-6 degrees Fahrenheit during our children's lifetimes;

WHEREAS, such gases released into the atmosphere absorb some of the out-going infrared radiation from the surface of the earth causing the atmosphere to warm;

WHEREAS, such gases released into the atmosphere block the natural reflection of the sun's radiation from the earth back into space and thus cause a "greenhouse

effect" just as our cars heat up when left in the sun with windows closed;

WHEREAS, the continued release of greenhouse gases will cause devastating effects on agriculture and natural ecosystems, the flooding of coastal regions and island nations, increased volatility of weather patterns with severe heat waves and storms, migration of tropical insects, diseases, deforestation, desertification and displacement of human populations; and

WHEREAS, 160 nations agreed to a binding treaty to reduce greenhouse gases in December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

recognizes the dangers of global warming and our biblical mandate as stewards of God's creation to be diligent in our efforts to decrease the emission of greenhouse gases;

affirms the greater responsibility of industrial nations and especially the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

encourages local churches, Conferences and national agencies to engage in efforts to educate and advocate for ratification of the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty and to address their own lifestyles (institutional and personal) to assure the minimum production of wastes that threaten the environment;

urges all members of the United Church of Christ to contact their U.S. Senators affirming the need to ratify this treaty as a first step in meeting the threat of global warming;

urges governmental representatives to support legislation that regulates and reduces pollution and provides for alternatives to the burning of fossil fuels; and

calls on the Office for Church in Society and the United Church Board for World Ministries and its successors to keep the global warming issue as a high priority in their educational and advocacy efforts.

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