

Synod the report of the Rev. Donald L. Benedict on the Emphasis on the Church and Urbanization as one way of implementing item 2. (see Appendix 13)

4. Words of Appreciation by Chairmen Dorothy Hackett and George O. Kirk

Mrs. Hackett expressed her appreciation to the former members of the Committee and stated a new committee has been formed for the next biennium to include pastors, laymen, and representatives from the Instrumentalities. She asked the Synod's blessings and best wishes for the success of this committee.

Mr. Kirk thanked the report committee members who had acted as General Synod Report Committees and the delegates for the hard labor put into these reports and the keen insight which all have shown in considering these reports in this Synod.

5. Report on Integrated Quality Education as Re-introduced and Adopted

The report on Integrated Quality Education from the Report Committee on the Council for Christian Social Action was re-introduced. The report as adopted follows:

INTEGRATED QUALITY EDUCATION

The Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ called for "the support and expansion of necessary public services such as schools . . ." The Third General Synod called for "the elimination of segregation and discrimination in every aspect of our common life . . ." The Fourth General Synod called for commitment in the struggle of our fellowmen, "To get the best schooling possible, even if desegregation upsets educational tradition . . ." We, the Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ now declare ourselves committed to integrated quality education in all public schools both north and south.

The United States Supreme Court has declared that segregated education is inherently inferior and un-Constitutional. We declare that *de facto* segregation by custom, intention, chance, or community acquiescence is undesirable, unfair, and unacceptable to American ideals and goals. We further declare that such *de facto* segregation affects not only our Negro brethren, but other culturally deprived members of our society, as well as all the rest of society.

Not only do we hold that integrated public education is superior to segregated, but that integrated education supports and strengthens the achievement of quality education. Integration in education stimulates increased attention to training of teachers, opens new possibilities of more effective use of school time and school facilities, and encourages enrichment of the curriculum by including the contributions of racial minorities to our history and culture.

We further declare that segregated education inadequately prepares children for life in our pluralistic society. It also violates our religious teaching that we are members one of another created to live in community.

In the achievement of integrated quality education in our communities and throughout our nation this Fifth General Synod calls upon the churches, Conferences, and instrumentalities:

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- 1) to examine the problems related to desegregation and improvement of public education in their community, county, state and nation;
- 2) to consider carefully possibilities and proposals for specific next steps;
- 3) to work with school boards and community organizations to achieve integrated quality education, not in the far future but now;
- 4) to help secure public officials, school authorities, and civic leadership who will work for and support integrated quality education.
- 5) to witness to their commitment to integrated quality education by implementing such a program in their local church schools, to achieve an end to *de facto* segregation within the educational program of the United Church of Christ.

The General Synod commends to the churches the counsel and assistance of the Council for Christian Social Action, the Board for Homeland Ministries, and the Committee for Racial Justice Now.

The United Church of Christ has long been concerned with both integration and quality education in its policy statements, its educational materials and programs, its publications and its public actions. Integrated quality education is now essential to the achievement of racial justice and economic opportunity. To the achievement of these ends we renew our dedication, and to the achievement of integrated quality education in our communities and nation we pledge our earnest efforts and enduring support.

6. Actions on the Report on Integrated Quality Education

65-GS-269 VOTED: To amend the second paragraph of the report by adding "We further declare that such *de facto* segregation affects not only our Negro brethren, but other culturally deprived members of our society, as well as all the rest of society.

65-GS-270 VOTED: To add an item 5 under the recommendations to read: "To witness to their commitment to integrated quality education by implementing such a program in their local church schools, to achieve an end to *de facto* segregation within the educational program of the United Church of Christ.

65-GS-271 VOTED: To reconsider the second paragraph.

65-GS-272 VOTED: To amend the amendment by deleting the words "economically and."

65-GS-273 VOTED: To adopt the amendment as amended.

65-GS-274 VOTED: To adopt the report on Integrated Quality Education.

Upon motion by the Rev. Ned Burr McKenney, it was

65-GS-275 VOTED: General Synod requests the Council for Christian Social Action, either alone or in cooperation with other appropriate agencies, to ascertain by firsthand investigation the facts concerning the problems involved in wages, civil liberties, administration of the poverty program, protection of surface rights, and related matters, in eastern Kentucky and to initiate action in concert with the several Instrumentalities.