

## XII, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

3. **CORPORATE WITNESS IN DECISION-MAKING:** to bring the corporate witness of the churches to bear upon the processes of executive and legislative decision-making in matters of foreign aid and trade, population policy, food assistance, and agricultural development.

4. **CONTINUING STUDY:** to engage in a continuing process of study and education with regard to the fundamental assumptions and motives of international development and the effectiveness of alternative policies and programs in their responsiveness to human need.

5. **DIRECT PARTICIPATION:** to increase the resources and effectiveness of the churches' direct participation in world service and development projects.

6. **STYLE OF LIFE:** to manifest a style of life as persons and as institutions which does not cater to our own indulgences at the expense of our neighbors' necessities.

7. **MINISTRY OF LAY GROUPS:** to magnify the ministry of the laity in such fields as farming, teaching, business, labor and health, by increasingly enlisting these vocational groups in education and action programs for international development which are appropriate to their competence and influence.

8. **DEVELOPMENT AS VOCATION:** to inspire and nurture careers in international development as special callings worthy of our finest men and women.

### **A Pronouncement on Selective Conscientious Objection**

Whereas the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, in keeping with the tradition of both the Evangelical and Reformed and the Congregational Christian Churches, has affirmed that "every Christian has the right and the responsibility to make his daily decisions in the love of God and in obedience to His living Word"; and

Whereas the General Synod has by resolution previously taken action to "affirm its recognition of the right of conscientious objection to participation in or support of war," to "extend moral and spiritual support to the members of its constituent congregations who for conscience' sake seek exemption from military service and elect the alternative of civilian national service provided in the law," and to "call upon its pastors and congregations to hold closely within the fellowship of the church those who take this position"; and

Whereas there are, both within and without the fellowship of the United Church of Christ, persons who do not renounce the use of military force as in itself inconsistent with their understanding of their moral obligation but at the same time are persuaded on grounds of conscience that war under given particular circumstances is wrong and that, therefore, they cannot under these conditions engage in military service; and

Whereas they are led to this conclusion by such factors as their belief that the nation has not adequately explored peaceful means of settling international disputes, that the aims of a particular war cannot be ethically justified; that the means used for the prosecution of the war violate the moral standards which should prevail among nations, or that the probable evil consequences would greatly outweigh the hoped for good; and

Whereas such a decision, taking into account the many dimensions of the situation and of the individual's obligations, is a valid expression of a Christian's responsibility to make his daily decisions in the love of God and in obedience to his living Word; and

## XII, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Whereas conscientious objectors are in any case required to substantiate their position before local draft boards, the burden of proof resting upon the individuals taking this position:

Therefore be it resolved that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognize the right of conscientious objection to participation in a particular war or in war waged under particular circumstances, as well as the right of conscientious objection to participation in war as such; and

Be it further resolved that the General Synod remind those who are disposed to take this position that they ought not to do so lightly but only after careful examination and weighing of their own motives, the moral issues at stake including their proper obligations to the nation as an instrument of justice and order, the social as well as personal consequences of their decision, and their readiness to accept military or civilian service of equivalent time, risk, and personal inconvenience if afforded them, or else such penalties as may be legally imposed; and

Be it further resolved that the General Synod call upon pastors, congregations, Conferences, officers, and Instrumentalities of the Church, and specifically upon the Council for Christian Social Action, to provide information, assistance, and counsel for those who take this position in order that they may both maintain the integrity of conscience and find suitable alternative means for discharging their obligation as citizens in a time of national emergency or danger; and

Be it further resolved that the General Synod urge the Congress of the United States to amend the Selective Service Act to provide suitable alternatives of military or civilian service for those who on grounds of conscience object to participation in a particular war.

### ***13. Actions on the Report of the Committee on Pronouncements***

67-GS-197 VOTED: That the pronouncement on Justice and International Development be adopted by this Sixth General Synod.

During discussion of the pronouncement on Selective Conscientious Objection the time for the Order of the Day arrived. It was

67-GS-198 VOTED: To extend the time of the afternoon session so that debate on the pronouncement on Selective Conscientious Objection could be completed.

67-GS-199 VOTED: That the pronouncement on Selective Conscientious Objection, as revised by the CCSA, and as placed in the hands of delegates in Cincinnati by the Report Committee on Pronouncements, be adopted by this Sixth General Synod.

A division of the house was called for. The results of the tally showed 305 in favor of adopting the pronouncement and 142 against.

### ***14. Closing Prayer***

The following prayer was offered by Mrs. Robert S. Smith of Durham, North Carolina:

“Dear God, for the privilege of being present for this inspiring meeting, for the stimulating reports, messages and discussions and for thy continuing presence, we are grateful. In this time of crisis and challenge, help us to be courageous, strong, active Christians. Take away our indifference and apathy, our selfishness and pettiness. Lead us to an understanding of the