

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 2

25,000 years. We must begin to wage tomorrow's struggles with more than yesterday's strategies.

### *Recommended Action*

1. The General Synod reaffirms the need for continued and strengthened efforts by the International Relations Committee of the Council for Christian Social Action to involve Conferences and local congregations in education and action towards this new internationalism.

2. The General Synod recommends that the Council for Christian Action form a Committee on a New China policy for the 1970's. This Committee would report to the 1971 General Synod.

3. The General Synod authorizes the Council for Christian Social Action to bring to the attention of congregations a program of education and action on the Middle East dispute.

69-GS-135 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the foregoing recommended actions on International Relations.

## **Economic Life**

### *Preamble*

The ever-present condition of poverty that exists among God's people the world over calls each of us as responsible Christians to continue our actions against poverty as a high priority of the United Church of Christ. This action must not be just for this biennium, but must continue until all inequities in economic life are erased and all men may stand erect with an adequate income to meet the needs of his family.

Each man must achieve his own potential in his own way, but it is our responsibility and our God-given duty to help equip him for this task.

The Council for Christian Social Action has labored diligently, and often effectively, in this area in response to the wishes of the Sixth General Synod and has continued to fight against poverty as a high priority of the United Church of Christ. The Council has supported federal, state and community endeavors such as the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Southwest Alabama Farmers' Co-operative Association and the Appalachian Volunteers as well as other projects aimed to help the underprivileged in our national and world community.

We cannot live aloof in luxury while others are reduced to live in poverty; we cannot be satisfied with plenty while two-thirds of the world's populace go to bed hungry. We cannot ignore the economic ills of the worldwide community and still be the body of Christ.

### *Recommended Action*

1. The General Synod supports the continuation, improvement and expansion of more effective anti-poverty programs; full participation of the poor in all programs effecting them; humane and adequate policies in public welfare and social insurance programs; the study of the negative income tax as one possible solution to the creation of an adequate annual income for the poor; development of programs to hasten economic growth and maximum employment.

2. The General Synod continues to encourage the Council to seek ways to secure adequate income and training and employment opportunities for those on public assistance and on the poverty income level.

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3. The General Synod urges the Council to seek the opportunity and resources to mount a nationwide effort to secure appropriate legislation and public policies that will deal effectively with poverty.

4. The General Synod instructs the Council to exert increasing pressure on trade unions, employers and on the Federal government to implement the federal laws that give equal job opportunities regardless of race.

5. The General Synod instructs the Council to seek and distribute throughout the Church information concerning creative and constructive ways to open the whole economy to the whole community by better use of church resources.

69-GS-136 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the foregoing recommended actions on Economic Life.

### **Washington Office**

#### *Preamble*

The Washington Office has labored diligently and effectively to keep the Council for Christian Social Action members and workers informed of social issues throughout the nation. The goal of the Washington Office is not to be a lobbyist but to build bridges and provide two-way exchanges of information between the people and their congressional representatives and administrative agencies. This they have done effectively and have on many occasions represented the Council for Christian Social Action with statements and convictions before congressional hearings. The voice of our people has been heard on Capitol Hill and testimonies from Congressmen have shown their appreciation.

There should be a greater indication of response on the part of our United Church of Christ and its members on the great issues of our time—peace, war and domestic problems of adequate income, housing and health; for 2,000,000 members can become a mighty force.

#### *Recommended Action*

1. The General Synod commends the Council for Christian Social Action and encourages it to continue the effectiveness of the Washington Office; to report to Conferences and churches what is taking place in the legislature, as well as to inform the policy makers as to the intent and interest of the United Church of Christ in the programs affecting our nation and world community.

2. The General Synod urges the Council to continue its service of scheduling governmental and non-governmental speakers and discussion leaders for church groups visiting the nation's capitol, if possible to expand this service to United Church of Christ families visiting the capitol in order to help them become knowledgeable of governmental structures and programs which effect them.

3. The General Synod urges the Council for Christian Social Action to help disseminate information about lobby groups which are working for or against the public interest.

4. The General Synod encourages all Conferences and churches to subscribe to the "Washington Report" and to use effectively the information important to Christian citizens.

5. The General Synod encourages the Council through its "Washington Report" to provide information about specific cases where federal laws are being violated in our nation and to suggest procedures for correcting these illegal practices.