

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 2

69-GS-137 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the foregoing recommended actions on the Washington Office.

Urban Education

Before presenting this section, Mr. Parkerson called attention to a report in today's *The New York Times* concerning Secretary Finch's urging upon President Nixon that there be no weakening in the prompt enforcement of school desegregation guidelines. Mr. Parkerson had prepared telegrams to President Nixon, Secretary Finch and Attorney General Mitchell. He moved that these be sent immediately, it was seconded and

69-GS-138 VOTED: The General Synod directs that the proposed telegrams be sent at once to President Nixon, Secretary Finch and Attorney General Mitchell.

The following telegrams were transmitted.

PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST VOICES ITS PROFOUND CONCERN LEST DESEGREGATION OF THE NATION'S DUAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS BE FURTHER DELAYED FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER THE SUPREME COURT DECLARED THEM UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND FIVE YEARS AFTER THE CONGRESS MANDATED WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL FUNDS FROM SEGREGATING INSTITUTIONS.

WE URGE YOU NOT TO ALLOW DESEGREGATION GUIDELINES TO BE WEAKENED OR PRESENT DEADLINES POSTPONED IN ANY WAY LEST THE NATION'S PROMISE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL ITS CHILDREN BE BETRAYED.

BEN M. HERBSTER, PRESIDENT
JOSEPH H. EVANS, SECRETARY
GIBSON I. DANIELS, MODERATOR

ROBERT H. FINCH, SECRETARY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST APPLAUDS YOUR COURAGEOUS RESISTANCE TO CURRENT EFFORTS TO DILUTE AND DELAY SCHOOL DESEGREGATION GUIDELINES. OUR DENOMINATION HAS PLEDGED ITS SUPPORT FOR ALL CHURCH, CIVIC AND FEDERAL EFFORTS TO GAIN AND TO GUARANTEE RACIAL JUSTICE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION. WE DARE NOT ALLOW ANY FURTHER BETRAYAL OF THE NATION'S BLACK CHILDREN. WE ARE ALSO PETITIONING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

BEN M. HERBSTER, PRESIDENT
JOSEPH H. EVANS, SECRETARY
GIBSON I. DANIELS, MODERATOR

JOHN M. MITCHELL, ATTORNEY GENERAL
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST APPLAUDS THE REPORTED RESISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO CURRENT EFFORTS TO DILUTE AND DELAY SCHOOL DESEGREGATION GUIDELINES. OUR DENOMINATION HAS PLEDGED ITS SUPPORT FOR ALL CHURCH, CIVIC AND FEDERAL EFFORTS TO GAIN AND TO GUARANTEE RACIAL JUSTICE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION.

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WE DARE NOT ALLOW ANY FURTHER BETRAYAL OF THE NATION'S BLACK CHILDREN. WE ARE ALSO COMMENDING THE SECRETARY OF HEW AND PETITIONING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

BEN M. HERBSTER, PRESIDENT
JOSEPH H. EVANS, SECRETARY
GIBSON I. DANIELS, MODERATOR

Before proceeding with the recommendations on Urban Education, Mr. Parkerson called upon the Rev. Edgar R. Edwards of Southern California who observed that there had been requests for sources of the school textbooks mentioned in the third recommendations. He suggested some sources and by agreement these were inserted.

Preamble

The General Synod lifts up as an extremely high priority the plight of children of the poor, trapped in deprived areas, robbed of power and opportunity for a full life. Our education system has failed major segments of the population.

Recommended Action

1. The General Synod calls upon churches and local groups to recruit persons who will develop skills and know-how to press for quality and equality in education through such means as influencing school boards toward decisions better serving the needs of all children and strengthening a sense of the accountability of the schools to the whole community which they serve.

2. The General Synod calls upon the Conferences and Associations to establish staff assignments directed towards public education as well as Christian education.

3. The General Synod suggests that the Council for Christian Social Action make available to interested persons lists of school textbooks which best help racial and cultural understanding and self-respect; (such as the bibliographies available from the national headquarters of the NAACP, New York City, and from the Board of Education, Division of Primary Curriculum and Division of Secondary Curriculum, Los Angeles, California); that the Council for Christian Social Action investigate the funding of scholarships in higher education for potential school administrators from the black community; and that the Council for Christian Social Action and the Division of Christian Education work together in presenting definitive guidelines on public education issues for the 1971 General Synod's consideration.

4. In line with commitments of the Fifth and Sixth General Synods, the General Synod voices its alarm at current prospects for further federal delays in enforcement of school desegregation and any weakening of Health, Education and Welfare guidelines to that end. We urge our people and churches to voice their strong protest to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and their congressmen. We direct the President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this protest of the General Synod to President Nixon and Secretary Finch immediately.

5. The General Synod also calls on the Congress and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to provide more adequate funding for urban school remedial programs (Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act). We deplore the dilution of federal school funds intended for the poor or their diversion to the schools of the affluent. We recommend that our churches direct

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similar communications to their Congressmen.

6. We commend the Council for its pioneering appointment of a staff person in urban education.

69-GS-139 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the foregoing recommended action on Urban Education.

Urban Housing

Recommended Action

1. The General Synod commends our Conferences, Associations, and local congregations which have addressed themselves to the housing needs of limited and lower-income citizens through non-profit and limited dividend sponsorship. We further acknowledge that much more needs to be done by the church and that the free operation of our economy has not provided adequate numbers of houses nor wholesome environments for those citizens with lower incomes. We therefore affirm that this situation constitutes a critical human need and we encourage our Instrumentalities, Conferences, Associations and local churches to:

a. Direct their efforts toward enhancing the human environment, and toward gaining competence in housing and community development. This requires a reordering of priorities in investment, personal deployment, and program funding as to make greater resources available for low-income housing. It means making human values primary in decisions made about zoning, public services, and transportation.

b. Engage ecumenically with other denominational groups, local churches, and community coalitions to achieve the above.

2. The General Synod commends to the Conferences the services of the Council for Christian Social Action's housing consultant.

3. The General Synod supports and calls for implementation of the fair-employment goals of "Project Equality" whenever any United Church of Christ groups are engaged in housing-development activities.

4. The General Synod adopts for itself the statement on "Housing Appropriations" carried in *Advance Reports* as "Appendix F," p. 242.

69-GS-140 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the recommended actions on Urban Housing.

The statement is included in the Appendix.

Publication and Interpretation

Preamble

During the first half of this century the Church felt its task to be that of moving individuals to social sensitivity; and they in turn were to affect the institutions in which they were involved.

However, the perspective of the Church in its response to the gospel has changed with the result that now a different impetus has arisen. This emphasis is a realization that Christians not only must be alerted to the common burdens of society but also must be involved in the bearing of these burdens.

Recommended Action

1. The General Synod commends the Council for Christian Social Action for calling the attention of the people of our churches to basic social issues, and