

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 2

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

GUN CONTROL—HOUSING APPROPRIATIONS

Gallup polls have shown that the vast majority of American citizens now favor increased federal gun controls, with stricter legislation commended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Crime Commission, and the General Board of the National Council of Churches;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ call upon the United States Congress to pass legislation providing further gun controls along the following lines:

1. The licensing, after appropriate qualifying examination on a periodic basis, of all gun users in order to prevent possession of guns by convicted felons, drug addicts, mental incompetents, and minors; with a ban on the sale of ammunition except to licensed gun users.

2. Limitation of hand guns to persons whose occupation requires them to possess a hand gun for self-protection.

(69 GS 100)

HOUSING APPROPRIATIONS

A resolution of the Council for Christian Social Action

adopted by the Seventh General Synod

July 2, 1969

WHEREAS the United States Congress in 1968 enacted legislation which approved a greatly increased and enlarged program of housing for the next few years, and

WHEREAS the previous and present housing for people of low and middle income has not kept pace with the increasing population and the deterioration of present structures, and

WHEREAS the crisis in our nation, especially in our cities, continues unabated until the nation can provide jobs, schools, and housing to meet the needs of the disadvantaged, and

WHEREAS the appropriations for housing enacted by the previous session of Congress were far from adequate to enable the legislation enacted or to meet the nation's needs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ petition the President of the United States, Richard M. Nixon, and the members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to take such steps as may be needed to provide funds and financial resources to implement the programs for housing which have been authorized and which are so essential to meet the nation's urgent needs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conferences and other Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ be urged to take action in support of this resolution.

(69 GS 140)