

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTION

that incarceration has been neither a rehabilitative agent nor an effective deterrent to future crimes. In testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency in 1969, juvenile center administrators testified that it would be better if many delinquents were never apprehended because they deteriorate rather than improve under the guardianship of the state. Youth reformatory centers and prisons have served to alienate inmates and create problems for the ex-inmates.

The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. urges state legislators to introduce in their own legislatures plans similar to the Massachusetts model which places youthful offenders in private residential centers, foster homes and family style group homes

2. urges the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to allocate a substantial portion of its budget to the development of alternatives to youth incarceration

3. urges conferences and national agencies of the United Church of Christ to provide models and other assistance to local congregations interested in the development of alternatives to incarceration in the church's community

4. recommends community control of local youth rehabilitative centers

5. urges state legislators to adopt legislation forbidding the housing of youth inmates with adults

6. directs the Criminal Justice Priority Team to be responsible for the implementation of an on-going program in the development of alternatives of youth incarceration.

### 15. Welfare Issue

The committee proposed that the Welfare Issue be referred to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and it was

73-6EC-16 VOTED: The Executive Council commends the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries for its readiness to work in the area of welfare rights and refers to that Board alternative II developed within the Ninth General Synod:

The Ninth General Synod calls upon the UCC churches and members to strengthen their efforts towards welfare reform and the guarantee of an adequate income for all Americans and in these efforts recognizes two foci as essential:

1. that of legislative reform on a state and federal level directed toward the guarantee of a humane standard of living for all Americans,

2. the support and advocacy for bona-fide welfare rights groups, made up of the poor themselves, who seek to have their grievances redressed,

3. the development of new efforts to establish a better understanding (particularly within the UCC) of alternative economic approaches and programs to deal with creating opportunities for a broader accumulation of wealth and income—encouraging throughout the church, education for the responsible use of economic power.

### 16. Health Concerns Issue

The committee proposed that the alternative I on Health Concerns be referred to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and it was

73-6EC-17 VOTED: The Executive Council refers to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries alternative I

of the proposed resolution on Health Concerns developed within the Ninth General Synod:

The Ninth General Synod endorses the following statement of the World Health Organization:

Enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, or economic and social conditions;

The Ninth General Synod further calls upon its constituent bodies and individual members to work toward the improvement of the health care system in the United States which is as nearly as possible designed to achieve this standard, acknowledging that the characteristics of such a health care system should include:

1. Comprehensiveness of services, including health-building, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, long term care and catastrophic care.

2. Availability and accessibility to *all* persons, regardless of income, residence, or other factors.

3. A delivery system which provides for cost efficiency, quality care, maximum utilization of manpower and talent, continuity of care for individuals and families, and responsiveness to consumers, including rich, middle class, and poor.

4. A financing mechanism which is fair, equitable, efficient, which applies broad social insurance principles, and which is administered in such a way as to provide incentives for desirable individual health care practices as well as optimal delivery systems.

5. Adequate provision of support systems, including planning, research, education and training, manpower deployment, and facility maintenance and development.

6. The right of the patient to choose his or her own physician is an essential part of health care and this right must be protected if the patient so desires.

7. Compassion for the sick is of such importance that it should be insured even at the expense of efficiency and saving of money.

The Ninth General Synod requests the Division of Health and Welfare of the Board for Homeland Ministries to prepare adequate study material and program suggestions which would help local churches and groups improve health care programs in their communities.

### 17. U.S. Government Experimentation with Human Life (The Tuskegee Study) Issue

The committee proposed the adoption of the policy statement developed by the small group at the Ninth General Synod, and it was

73-6EC-18 VOTED: The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod, adopts the statement on U.S. Government Experimentation with Human Life developed within the Ninth General Synod:

The United Church of Christ through its many agencies and throughout its history has expressed its support for the struggle of any people to be liberated from those things that suppress and deny human dignity, health and happiness.

The infamous Tuskegee Study which was conducted by the United States Government represents a cruel and inhuman act that resulted in the needless death of over 100 Black victims of syphilis. These deaths occurred over a period of 40 years. The experimentation on 412 Black men, victims of the disease, represents a callous concern of the United States Government for the welfare of Black people in particular and

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTION

the poor and oppressed in general. The Study itself was illegal and a violation of basic human rights (the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness) and suggests that the United States Government was engaged in an insidious practice against a people who were unable to control fully their life and destiny.

1. The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, vigorously condemns the action of the United States Government in authorizing and implementing the infamous Tuskegee Study;

2. calls upon all of its agencies to inform and educate their constituency concerning the ill-fated, ill-advised, inhuman and brutal Tuskegee Study;

3. calls upon the United Nations through its Commission on Human Rights to fully investigate this and other rampant charges of genocide against the poor and dispossessed people by the United States Government;

4. urges the Black community or any other people not to participate in any scientific or social studies conducted by the United States Government which would be injurious to their mental, social and physical well being;

5. urges the appropriate professional associations to attempt to prevent future experimentations of this sort; and

6. strongly urges the Congress of the United States to pass legislation requiring the appropriate agency of the United States government, i.e., the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, to make reparations to the victims and surviving families;

7. urges the Congress of the United States to investigate and act to prevent the recurrence of any similar programs.

### 18. Behavior Modification Experimentation Issue

The committee proposed that the Executive Council adopt as a statement of policy the alternatives on Behavior Modification developed within the Ninth General Synod, and it was

73-6EC-19 VOTED: The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, adopts as a statement of policy the alternatives on Behavior Modification developed within the Ninth General Synod:

1. The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, expresses its outrage and condemnation of psycho-surgical procedures to modify behavior of prisoners for experimental purposes or for discipline and punitive purposes.

2. The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, urges the Conferences, Associations and local churches to alert prisoners of their freedom of choice regarding participation in medical experimentation designed to alter their behavior.

3. The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod, urges the Criminal Justice Priority Team to make available to the constituency of the United Church of Christ research information on recent developments regarding modification of behavior of prisoners through experimentation.

4. The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod, urges the U. S. Bureau of Prisons, the U. S. Congress, the President of the United States, and the appropriate bodies of state, commonwealth, and local governments to take action to halt the cruel and inhuman practice of dehumanizing experimentation for the purpose of psycho-surgical behavior modification.

5. The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod, urges the appropriate professional associations to attempt to prevent future experimentations of this sort.

6. The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, urges the U.S. Congress and State and Commonwealth Legislatures to pass legislation preventing future dehumanizing behavior modification experimentation on prisoners.

### 19. Public Education Issue

The committee proposed the alternative I on the Public Education Issue be referred to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and it was

73-6EC-20 VOTED: The Executive Council refers to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries the alternative I on Public Education developed within the Ninth General Synod:

The Church has an historic concern for humanity within and beyond itself. The United Church of Christ has specifically committed itself to justice and human dignity.

Because Public Education is most significant in the creation of a just and humane society, the Ninth General Synod directs the BHM to assume leadership during the next biennium in a denomination-wide effort to sensitize Conferences, Associations, and local churches to fostering the following goals in Public Education:

1. The preparation of persons committed to the formation of the public and dedicated to its service.

2. The preparation for life in an interdependent international community, at once pluralistic and unitary.

3. The liberation and nurture of individual capacities, interests, objectives and sense of worth.

4. The discovery and effective use of the best instructional theories, techniques and materials, with the real human effects as the guide to excellence and effectiveness.

5. The development of a process for policy planning and administration open to effective participation by affected groups, thereby mirroring the commitment to participation and public responsibility that the schools should teach us as the proper work of free persons.

6. The release of new knowledge, capacity for change and re-forming energy into the life of society.

7. Access for all persons and groups to an educational experience that equips for a life of public responsibility and individual achievement to the full limit of individual interests and capacities.

8. Financial support adequate to attract competent teachers and administrators and provide an optimum learning environment for every child.

Specific emphasis shall be placed upon:

1. Attitudes, behavior, and style.

A. Sex education

1. Programs fostering a sense of the whole person

2. Understanding the responsibilities of freedom

3. Elimination of inaccurate information

B. Elimination of racial, ethnic, religious, and sexual discrimination and prejudice as found in

1. Curriculum

2. Teaching and administration staff and deployment thereof

3. Counseling