

## 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