

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTION

C. Concern for persons of special need

1. Physical
2. Emotional
3. Special

D. Affirmation of responsible student freedom, dignity and initiative

II. Community involvement

A. Development of tools for the improvement of

1. Church/School relationships
2. Community/School relationships
3. Family/School relationships
4. Collegiality among students, faculty, administrators and Boards of Education

B. Relationship of school system to the larger society

C. Church and church members as advocates.

20. Declaration of Interdependence under Urban Priorities Issue

The committee proposed that this issue be referred to the appropriate committee of the Executive Council for study in light of its implications for major priority funding, and it was

73-6EC-21 VOTED: The Executive Council refers alternative I of the Declaration of Interdependence under Urban Priorities to the Planning and Correlation Committee of the Executive Council for study in light of its implications for major priority funding:

Our nation has established, and it shall remain as part of our legacy to humanity, patterns of political democracy to sustain the common life, to give voice to freedom and loyal opposition, and to participate in decisions that affect our destiny. But the evil of discrimination by race, sex and class clouds our vision and rends the fabric of our common life. We have yet to develop the covenants of *economic democracy* pertinent to our new conditions and necessary for the survival of *political democracy* in an urbanizing world.

We have allowed our urban areas to symbolize decay, despair and disease instead of power, potential and participation. We have indulged our freedoms by isolating our human and natural resources in private enclaves for gain instead of planning for the total life of communities and the mutual benefit of all citizens. We have harrassed and degraded those who cannot work instead of providing for basic needs. We have turned the work of many into a drudgery instead of allowing people to fulfill themselves, provide for their families, and contribute to the common welfare in creative production and service. We have allowed under-employment, inadequate wages, insufficient training, and outright discrimination to compound alienation. We have committed the poor and working people to sub-standard housing instead of using our economic resources to provide decent, attractive, and healthful living conditions within the means of all citizens. We have withheld full health care from those unable to meet escalating medical costs, instead of bringing health care to the people in accessible ways. These things we have done—not because we wanted to but because we have neither thought out nor lived out the logic of our faith, nor the implications of our democracy, under the conditions of urban and metropolitan existence.

Whereas the urban crisis entails problems and solutions for society that are beyond our control both individually and as a Synod, and

Whereas we must react out of our Christian teachings and their impact on our lives,

Therefore, be it resolved that the General Synod, the Executive Council, the Board for Homeland Ministries, and other Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ shall give *major* priority in funding and programs to Urban concerns and ministries, and shall be held accountable to the Tenth General Synod for providing a thorough and comprehensive evaluation of its activities and expenditures in regard to this priority.

21. Self-Government for the District of Columbia Issue

The committee proposed the Executive Council adopt the statement on self-government for the District of Columbia, and it was

73-6EC-22 VOTED: The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod, adopts the statement on Self-Government for the District of Columbia:

Whereas the residents of the District of Columbia are still the only citizens residing in a major municipality of the United States without self-determination, a contradiction of the democratic process, negating liberties and justice and equality of citizenship,

Be It Resolved that the Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, believing in the rights and freedom of all peoples, endorses, supports and urges the Congress of the United States to pass legislation giving the citizens of the District of Columbia the right to full self-government.

22. Urban Priorities—Housing Issue

The committee proposed the Executive Council adopt the statement on housing, and it was

73-6EC-23 VOTED: The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod, adopts the statement on Housing and refers it to the appropriate agencies of the United Church of Christ described therein:

The Executive Council, acting for Ninth General Synod, affirms the right of all citizens to have reasonable access and opportunity to live in decent housing conditions as a matter of moral responsibility implicit in the Christian faith. It asks the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Council for Christian Social Action, Conferences, Associations and other Instrumentalities and congregations, to take the lead in helping church members to understand the mission and ministries required to alleviate the inequities in present housing programs and to devise ways in which more adequate housing opportunities may contribute to personal growth, family stability, and a sense of a caring community among our people.

The Executive Council deplors the present federal moratorium on all subsidy programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and urges its immediate removal, together with steps to eliminate corruption and inefficiency in administration of housing programs. The Executive Council requests that future federal housing programs continue to enable churches, through non-profit sponsorship and other appropriate means, to exercise an effective ministry in housing for low and moderate income families with more adequate funding. The Executive Council urges restoration of the former direct loan program for elderly housing.

23. Drugs Issue

The committee proposed the Executive Council refer the Alternative I statement on Drugs to the United Church Board