

ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL on business referred to it by the Ninth General Synod

The Executive Council, meeting in St. Louis, Mo., on June 27-28, 1973, appointed a committee to review the issues referred to the Council by the Ninth General Synod in its vote of referral 73-GS-85, at the close of the final session on Tuesday evening, June 26, 1973. In each instance the committee reviewed the original recommendation, the alternative(s), and the computer read out on the original and any alternatives. The committee proposed recommendations to the Executive Council for its deliberation and decision. The Executive Council took the following actions.

1. Resolution on Cuba

The committee proposed the adoption of the alternative II statement on Cuba, and it was

73-6EC-2 VOTED: The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, adopts the statement on Cuba:

Because our Lord commends the peacemakers;

Because to us is entrusted the message of reconciliation;

Because we believe that all persons are members of the family of God;

Because governmental policies have caused hardships and estrangement between the peoples of Cuba and the United States;

Because contacts between our countries are improving in spite of fundamental differences in government, philosophy and policy; and

Because we believe the United States policy and attitudes toward Cuba should move toward the reconciliation of existing differences;

In Christian concern the Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, therefore respectfully urges the governments of the United States and Cuba to resume diplomatic relations and to work for friendship, trade and mutual assistance.

2. The Burundi and Rwanda Conflicts Issue

The committee proposed the adoption of the original statement on the Burundi and Rwanda Conflicts, and it was

73-6EC-3 VOTED: The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, adopts the original statement on the Burundi and Rwanda Conflicts.

The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in the U.S.A., *recalling* the many-layered involvement of the churches of our tradition in the service of Africa, beginning in 1835;

reaffirming in a separate resolution our denomination's commitment to work with all vigor for freedom and justice for black Africans wherever they are still under white domination;

records its equal concern for the welfare of any black people suffering at the hands of any other group whatsoever;

recognizes with profound anguish that respected news sources have recently reported that genocidal actions on a vast scale are occurring in the central African countries of Burundi and Rwanda;

requests the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in August to cooperate with the All Africa Conference of Churches in bring-

ing the full exposure of ecumenical investigation to bear upon the internal Burundi and Rwanda conflicts, with a view to ecumenical intervention in behalf of the life, liberties and human rights of the suffering parties; and

further requests the Central Committee to offer guidance to all member churches of the World Council of Churches that desire to make use of available channels for action in their own countries vis-a-vis governments and business institutions, seeking to mobilize international pressures to halt such genocidal actions and promote the peaceful resolution of the conflicts which have engendered them.

The Executive Council, acting for the Ninth General Synod, as it awaits ecumenical initiatives to bring peace to the afflicted societies of Burundi and Rwanda, *encourages* the United Church Board for World Ministries to proceed at once with every possible relief ministry in behalf of the victims and survivors of this troubled area, and *urges* the people of our churches to support such ministries generously.

3. The United Nations Issue

The committee proposed that the Executive Council take no action on the statement since it is a reaffirmation of existing policy and that the program implication statements be referred to the appropriate agencies of the United Church of Christ. It was

73-6EC-4 VOTED: The Executive Council takes no action on the recommendation on "The United Nations" because it is a reaffirmation of existing policy, and that items 1-6 of the program implications be referred to the appropriate agencies as identified therein.

The recommendation:

The Ninth General Synod reaffirms its support of the United Nations as an instrument of world peace and human development. It requests the Instrumentalities and Conferences to develop ways by which the United Church of Christ may relate in a more vital way to United Nations issues and through which United Church of Christ members may become informed supporters of its work.

Program Implications

1. The Board for Homeland Ministries, the Council for Christian Social Action, and the Board for World Ministries are requested to explore and take action upon the most appropriate forms of relationship to the U.N. and other international peacekeeping agencies. Ecumenical relationships should not be overlooked.

2. The Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ concerned with public policy and transnational affairs are encouraged to make use of information and opportunities afforded by the United Nations and its Agencies.

3. The Instrumentalities and Conferences of the United Church of Christ engaged in educational programs are encouraged to include concern for the support of the United Nations and appropriate observance of United Nations Day on October 24th.

4. The Interstaff Peace Committee of the United Church of Christ is urged to use appropriate media to help the congregations become involved in and informed about the United Nations. Involvement could be accomplished through a congregational representative in the U.N. association.