

4. Household Workers Issue

Moderator David Colwell assumed the chair and recognized Chairman Smith of the business committee. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the original statement on Household Workers. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I on Economic Justice—Household Workers proposed by the small group. The amendment was seconded and there was discussion. It was

73-GS-27 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the alternative statement on Economic Justice—Household Workers.

Whereas, the household workers of America are one of the most exploited, underpaid, overworked and neglected segments of this nation's work force; and

Whereas, the official figures are stated as 1.5 million*, special reports, however, count between two and three million household workers*; and

Whereas, the median wage of a full time worker ranges between \$1,000 and \$2,000 annually; and

Whereas, 200,000 household workers are heads of families, responsible for the support of other adults or children or both, as well as themselves; and

Whereas, household workers rarely receive standard benefits such as sick leave, paid vacations and holidays, and unemployment and workmen's compensation; and

Whereas, household workers are excluded from minimum wage legislation; and

Whereas, one out of every three household workers work more than 40 hours per week; and

Whereas, 9790 of all household workers are women; and

Whereas, approximately two-thirds of the household workers are black, with the remaining third comprised of Mexican Americans, American Indians, other minorities and whites;

Therefore the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges local churches, association, conferences and national Instrumentalities:

1) To give broad support to the struggle of household workers for adequate wages and common working benefits, including paid vacations and holidays, sick leave and workmen's and unemployment compensation;

2) To contact their Senators in support of Bill S1861, which has passed the House of Representatives and is currently in a Senate Sub-Committee. This Bill would provide a Federal Minimum wage coverage for household employees;

3) To utilize our staff and financial resources in locating and enabling the National Committee on Household Employment to develop local household workers associations; and

4) Requests the Task Force on Women in Church and Society to establish as a priority during the next biennium, the economic liberation of household workers. The Task Force should seek to educate the women of the United Church of Christ fellowship who are employers of household workers concerning the economic plight of their sisters and urge their action in the passing of an compliance with the minimum wage law;

5) Requests the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to claim household workers as a vital part of the population of the working poor and to develop educational resources to interpret their plight and build a national network of support for the cause.

6) Requests the Council for Christian Social Action to monitor legislation at the national level and to participate in action to shape a public policy of justice for household workers.

*National Committee on Household Employment, "Why" Pamphlet

5. Center for Social Action Issue

On behalf of the business committee Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation concerning Social Education and Action on page 90, *Advance Materials*, Section III. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative II of the small group. This amendment would include two changes in the original recommendation:

a. The fourth paragraph of Center for Social Action would be changed to:

"Final recommendations from the developmental period (including a name, purposes, organization, and estimated budget for a continuing social action agency) shall be submitted no later than February 1, 1975, to the Executive Council who shall convey these, together with their considerations and recommendations, to the Tenth General Synod."

b. The last paragraph of the original recommendation would be changed to:

"Funding for the Council for Christian Social Action (CCSA) shall cease at December 31, 1973, and the Council for Christian Social Action (CCSA) is directed to transfer all of the functions to the Center for Social Action as of January 1, 1974. The Center for Social Action shall have a budget of its own and be funded through the national payment schedule."

The amendment was seconded and there was discussion. It was

73-GS-28 VOTED: The General Synod approves the adoption of the statement creating the Center for Social Action of the United Church of Christ:

The General Synod creates for a developmental period a Center for Social Action intended to serve for the biennium 1974-75 as: (1) a focal point for Christian social action, and (2) as a developmental body to recommend how social education and action can best be implemented thereafter by and within the United Church of Christ.

As a focal point for Christian social action, it shall receive the function of the Council for Christian Social Action (CCSA); and shall, within the limits of available resources, call the United Church of Christ to a ministry for justice and peace, analyze social issues and suggest strategies for dealing with them in faithfulness to the gospel, provide a presence in Washington, D.C. in behalf of the United Church of Christ, including the utilization of human resources of local United Church of Christ churches, and shall be available to serve an ombuds role for minority groups or individuals.

As a developmental body, it shall in consultation with Conferences and Instrumentalities:

(a) develop plans that will enable the United Church of Christ to continue and strengthen its commitment to Christian social action,

(b) develop means for the coordination of social action programs in the United Church of Christ, and

(c) develop plans for the provision of resources for social action ministries that may be initiated nationally, regionally, or locally;