

advance materials, section III. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation and there was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.

It was

73-GS-48 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on the Freedom of the Press and the Right of the People to Know:

"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." (First Amendment)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Supports actions to preserve freedom of speech and of the press, to protect the people's right to information on matters of public concern and to guarantee access to the means of communication for organizations and individuals;

2. Supports the right of newsmen/women to keep their sources of information confidential, so that the public's right to know may be effectively served;

3. Supports the Fairness Doctrine in Broadcasting as a means whereby individuals and organizations may defend themselves against attacks on their reputations or misrepresentations of their views, the electorate may hear a variety of views on controversial issues and access of minority groups to radio and television may be assured;

4. Calls upon Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to protect the integrity of the Fairness Doctrine and to interpret it broadly;

5. Calls upon Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to prohibit excessive concentration of ownership of mass media in a single community.

6. Calls upon government officials who have taken the oath to preserve and protect the Constitution to demonstrate positively their support of the First Amendment provision guaranteeing freedom of speech and of the press;

7. Calls upon churches, ministers and members of the United Church of Christ: (1) to inform themselves about the operation of the news media in their communities, and to support the media against encroachment on their freedoms; (2) to work for free access to the media by persons of all points of view, so that all sides of public issues may be heard, even when such views are contrary to those commonly held; (3) to promote high journalistic ethics in their communities, and (4) to extend the prophetic voice of the church into the community through the mass media;

8. Calls upon theological seminaries and colleges related to the United Church of Christ to teach the theological imperatives for freedom of religion, speech and the press, and the significance and function of news gathering and dissemination.

9. Calls upon the national Instrumentalities, especially the Office of Communication, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and Council for Christian Social Action, to take appropriate actions, such as issuing public statements, offering legislative testimony and taking legal steps in behalf of these policies, and assisting in the implementation of items 6 and 7, and urges the Conferences and churches to support such actions.

7. Black Ministries Issue

The Moderator recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council who referred the delegates to page 55, *Advance Materials*, Section III. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation and there was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.

The Rev. Reuben A. Sheares, II (ILL) was recognized and he moved an amendment to the motion to add a new second paragraph to alternative I. The motion was seconded and adopted by the General Synod. It was

73-GS-49 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on Black Ministries:

The Ninth General Synod declares the need for priority to a variety of black ministries supported by the whole church; this priority should take form in new personnel, research, planning, and funding to the end that the United Church of Christ may be faithful to an enlarging black constituency.

The General Synod commits itself to black ministries as a priority of the highest order in the United Church of Christ. The General Synod directs the Office for Church Life and Leadership to incorporate this priority into its program, activities and budget.

The General Synod further calls upon the Commission for Racial Justice and the Board for Homeland Ministries to continue to develop, facilitate and implement this priority in consultation with other Instrumentalities, Conferences, Associations and local churches.

8. The Federal Budget Issue

The Moderator recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council who referred the delegates to page 61 of *Advance Materials*, Section III. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation and there was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I. The motion was seconded and there was discussion. It was

73-GS-50 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on the Federal Budget:

In the biblical faith that God calls all people to a life of shalom, of peace and wholeness and unity, and believing with Christ that the stewardship of God's gifts to us must reflect that calling, the Ninth General Synod believes that the role of the federal budget in American life and priorities is critical. As individual American Christians and as a corporate church body we confess that we participate in the legislating of national priorities which represent a tragic disparity with the biblical vision of the peaceable kingdom.

The Ninth General Synod reaffirms and deepens the commitment of the Eighth General Synod to re-evaluate and better balance national priorities. Believing that economic conditions reflect national moral values for good or ill, the Synod is convinced that the shaping, allocating, and spending of the federal budget are crucial Christian concerns, and that the presently overwhelming emphasis on defense spending at the expense of human needs is deleterious to the people of the United States and the world. The budget should reflect an increasing commitment to improving the quality of life at home and abroad, to international instrumentalities for keeping peace and seeking justice, and to de-escalating the arms race.

The General Synod calls upon congregations, Associations, Conferences, and Instrumentalities to engage in study and action with regard to national priorities. This involves an