

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 26

The Ninth General Synod was called to order Tuesday afternoon, June 26, 1973, at 2:00 p.m. by Moderator David G. Colwell.

1. Report of Special Committee on Wilmington Nine Bail

Moderator Colwell called for the report of the special committee on bail for the Wilmington Nine. Mr. Colwell explained that the issue before the General Synod was the motion to adopt the alternative II recommendation of the small group report on Criminal Justice—Human Rights, the Wilmington Crisis. Mr. Colwell explained that the General Synod had already taken certain actions to amend the report but because no progress was being made on the substance of the report and the resolution of the budgetary implications, a special committee was appointed to consider the matter and make a report to the General Synod.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Harry W. Bredeweg of the Executive Council to report for the special committee.

Mr. Bredeweg on behalf of the special committee moved the adoption of the following statement to be added as a substitute to the statement on the Wilmington Crisis. The motion was seconded. There was discussion, and it was

73-GS-65 VOTED: The Ninth General Synod directs the Executive Council to borrow funds up to the amount sufficient to provide bail for the present incarceration of the Wilmington Nine, the interest to be a first charge against priority funds until the loan is repaid.

2. Criminal Justice—Human Rights (Wilmington Crisis) Issue

It was

73-GS-66 VOTED: The Ninth General Synod adopts the following statement as amended on Criminal Justice—Human Rights, the Wilmington Crisis:

Whereas, Mrs. Ann Shepherd, a white 35 year old mother of two children, afflicted with cancer, upon a request made by a United Church of Christ pastor of a United Church of Christ congregation, opened her home to Black oppressed high school students and a United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice community organizer and was incarcerated because she dared to defy the "system" and

Whereas, eight young people (Marvin Patrick, Connie Tyndall, Jerry Jacobs, Willie Earl Vereen, Reginald Epps, James McKoy, William Dallas Wright, and Wayne Moore, six of whom are teenagers and one a Vietnam veteran who received the Purple Heart) receiving guidance from a United Church of Christ minister, the Rev. Eugene Templeton, and under the leadership of a United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice community organizer, believed Galatians 5:1:

"stand fast therefore on liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage",

and were incarcerated because of this belief, and

Whereas, these nine human beings have been unjustly sentenced to prison terms ranging from ten to thirty-one years, and

Whereas, they continue their incarceration under excessive appeal bonds ranging from \$20,000 to \$45,000 each totaling \$350,000 despite the fact that they have been declared indigent by the courts of North Carolina, and

Whereas, the continued incarceration of these human beings represents a serious injury to the concept of equal justice, and

Whereas, the Gregory Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ was the initial intervenor in one of the unjust situations that existed in Wilmington, North Carolina in 1971, among others that existed since 1898 and still exist;

The Ninth General Synod directs the Executive Council to borrow funds up to the amount sufficient to provide bail for the present incarceration of the Wilmington Nine, the interest to be a first charge against priority funds until the loan is repaid.

The Ninth General Synod directs the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice to maintain an ongoing program of organization, training, and mobilization in the Wilmington communities by its staff in cooperation with other agencies of the United Church of Christ.

3. Council for American Indian Ministry Issue

Moderator Colwell recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council. Mr. Smith referred the delegates, for their information, to page 50, *Advance Materials*, Section I, to the paragraph on American Indian Appeal.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Don A. Stahlhut (PNE) who moved the adoption of alternative I of the small group. The motion was seconded. There was discussion and it was

73-GS-67 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the following statement on American Indian Ministry:

1) The United Church of Christ shall continue to recognize the Council for American Indian Ministry as the principal agency for allocating resources to American Indian programs.

2) The new Executive Council shall continue to grant advisory membership to two Council for American Indian Ministries representatives for the 1973-75 biennium and shall develop a long term policy regarding American Indian representation to the Executive Council during the biennium.

3) The United Church of Christ shall continue American Indian Sunday offering in 1974 and 1975 and shall establish long term financial support of ministry among American Indians through normal budgeting methods and increased local awareness and giving.

4) The Council for American Indian Ministries, in consultation with other appropriate church agencies, shall be asked to make recommendations to the Tenth General Synod which would give the Council for American Indian Ministries a more permanent status in the structure of the church.

5) In an attitude of fraternalism, increased representation of Indian people shall be granted in employment and leadership positions in the United Church of Christ.

4. Indochina Reconstruction

Moderator Colwell recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council. Mr. Smith referred the delegates to page 65, *Advance Materials*, Section III and moved the adoption of the recommendation. There was a second to the motion. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I of the small group report which would include changing the title from *Vietnam Reconstruction* to *Indochina Reconstruction*. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to add a third paragraph at the end of the statement. It was