

## 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

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73-GS-68 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on Indochina Reconstruction as amended:

*Whereas* the United Church of Christ continues its emphasis on peace as a commanding priority,

*Whereas* military action has contributed to the polarization, fragmentation, and impoverishment of the peoples of Indochina and to the displacement of millions of people there, and

*Whereas* the pitiful plight of thousands of American-Indochinese children constitutes a most tragic and pointedly challenging aspect of the brutalization of human beings by the war,

The Ninth General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ to expand its financial support of ecumenical action for reconciliation, healing, and reconstruction in Indochina which will reflect our responsibility to undergird Indochina efforts to deal with the tragic aftermath of the war.

The Ninth General Synod

1. calls upon the churches to respond with gifts identified for the **FUND FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND RECONCILIATION** in Indochina;

and

2. calls upon the churches and individual members to join the Synod in urging the Congress of the United States to provide major assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation throughout Indochina.

3. calls upon the churches and individual members specifically in urging Congress to initiate and pass legislation providing American-Indochinese children with adequate care, housing, education and provision for adoption where needed.

### 5. Prisoners of War in South Vietnam Issue

Moderator Colwell stated that the small group that developed the statement on Indochina Reconstruction had referred to it the subject of Prisoners of War in South Vietnam. The small group recommends that this matter be referred back to the business committee. It was

73-GS-69 VOTED: The General Synod refers the overture on Prisoners of War in South Vietnam back to the business committee for such action as may be appropriate.

### 6. Ecumenical Stance of the United Church of Christ

The Moderator reminded the General Synod that at the previous session an amendment to the motion to adopt alternative I of the small group report had been made and seconded. However, the amendment was of such length and detail that the matter was postponed to enable the business committee to have the amendment duplicated and distributed to the delegates. The Moderator recognized the Rev. Scott S. Libbey (IOWA) who made the motion to amend to speak to the amendment which is as follows:

That the Synod adopt Section I, Theological Affirmations and Call.

That the Synod adopt Section II, paragraphs 1-15, with changes as follows:

Paragraph 1. Amend the last sentence of this paragraph to read: "We request Conferences, Associations and churches of the United Church of Christ to make this recognition tangible."

Paragraph 2. Amend to read: "We pledge ourselves as a communion to strengthen the mission and witness of the

conciliar movement as expressing the wholeness of Christ's Church."

Paragraph 2B. Amend to read: "We support the allocation of the minimum askings for the central budgets of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches for 1974 and 1975.

Paragraph 4. Delete and amend to read as follows: "We declare our support for coalitions, consortia and clusters as appropriate vehicles for specific interchurch programs and projects, and conciliar organizations. Delete paragraphs 4A and 4B.

Paragraph 7A. Delete in line 2 the parenthetical phrase "(from priority funds if necessary)"

Paragraph 11A. Amend to provide recommendation for an administrative secretary instead of a full time ecumenical officer as proposed in the original Commission on Christian Unity report to the General Synod.

Amend following reference to Paragraph 4 which concludes "delete Paragraph 4A and 4B, STRIKE the remainder of alternative I, replacing with:

Paragraph 6—delete

Paragraph 7—delete A & C

Paragraph 9—amend to read: "We affirm, as recommended policy for Ministry and Mission related to the United Church of Christ, a continuation of our commitment to exploring the possibility of planning and conducting new projects and new programs with one or more of our partner communions.

Paragraph 10. Amend to read: "We request the Council on Mission Priorities to review and evaluate programs funded by the Executive Council, Instrumentalities, Commissions and other agencies of the United Church of Christ, including Conferences, using criteria which will reflect the priority judgments of the Ninth General Synod, including our commitment to ecumenical responsibility; and further that the Council on Mission Priorities be requested to report to the Tenth General Synod.

Paragraphs 11-15. Amend—refer to Executive Council and the Commission on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Study and Service for consideration and directing the Executive Council to address these recommendations with utmost seriousness.

Mr. Libbey gave the rationale for the amendment. It was seconded and there was discussion. It was

73-GS-70 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the amendment to alternative I.

It was

73-GS-71 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the alternative I statement on Ecumenical Stance of the United Church of Christ as amended.

### 1. THEOLOGICAL AFFIRMATION AND CALL

Humanity is broken and divided yet one. The Church of Jesus Christ is broken and divided yet one. The ecumenical commitment of the Church to mission and unity is to symbolize through its worship, its communal and structural life, and its work in the world the Christian union which points toward the larger union of creation. Its task is to work in effective mission to heal dehumanizing divisions and to realize more fully the universal human community which is proclaimed in the reality and the hope of the Kingdom of God.

The ultimate personal identity of each individual is that of a human being, created and loved by God, and part of His