

the Connecticut Conference "Urging Equal Justice For All, and Particularly As It Affects Dr. James Grant."

Ms. Henderson was recognized and moved to amend the motion to substitute a new resolution for the original. The motion was seconded and there was discussion. In response to questions for clarification it was stated that two witnesses for the prosecution received unusual financial rewards in consideration of their testimony against Dr. Grant and others. This information was not known to the defense at the time of the trial. A new trial is now under consideration by the courts. It was also stated that the church should be concerned that Dr. Grant receive a fair trial. There was continued discussion and it was

75-GS-35 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the resolution Urging Equal Justice for All, Particularly As It Affects Dr. James Grant as amended.

**RESOLUTION URGING EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL,
AND PARTICULARLY AS IT AFFECTS
DR. JAMES GRANT**

WHEREAS the Christian Faith affirms the equality of all persons under the law, and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has historically been a strong advocate of equal justice for all, and

WHEREAS the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ has transmitted to the Tenth General Synod a resolution urging equal justice for all, particularly as it affects Dr. James Grant of Hartford, Connecticut, and

WHEREAS Dr. Grant and his co-defendants were convicted on the testimony of two witnesses who received unusual rewards from the federal government, and

WHEREAS Dr. Grant has received an excessive sentence of 25 years in a North Carolina prison for alleged arson of a riding stable, and

WHEREAS new evidence has been received indicating that these two witnesses committed perjury and that the prosecution withheld vital information from the defense,

THEREFORE the Tenth Synod directs the Executive Council to petition the legal authorities of the State of North Carolina to initiate speedily a new trial for Dr. Grant and his co-defendants, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to other denominations with whom the United Church of Christ has communications, urging their consideration and support.

5. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MARION BROTHERS

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bredeweg. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Bredeweg moved the adoption of the resolution introduced as new business on "Support of the Marion Brothers." Ms. Henderson was recognized and moved to amend the motion to adopt an alternate resolution which would be a substitution for the original resolution including a new title:

"Resolution In Support of Our Brothers Who Are Challenging Solitary Confinement Practices at Marion Federal Penitentiary." The motion was seconded. There was discussion and a motion adopted to include the phrase after the name and address of the Honorable Herbert Kastenmeier, "and Ralph Hurvitz, plaintiff's counsel, c/o Marion Courts Motel, Marion, Illinois 62959." and it was

75-GS-36 VOTED: The Tenth General Synod adopts the resolution in Support of Our Brothers Who Are Chal-

lenging Solitary Confinement Practices at Marion Federal Penitentiary as amended.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OUR BROTHERS WHO
ARE CHALLENGING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT
PRACTICES AT MARION FEDERAL PENITENTIARY**

WHEREAS solitary confinement deprives people of human and sensory contact; and

WHEREAS the Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, consistently uses solitary confinement as a method of control and punishment, sometimes for months, and even for years, and

WHEREAS the Control Units at Marion Federal Penitentiary are comprised, in part, of "boxcar cells" which totally isolate people from the human and natural environment, and

WHEREAS prisoners are placed in solitary confinement without recourse to due process or definite time limits on confinement, and

WHEREAS the Marion Brothers, a group of prisoners who have been held in these units at the Marion Federal Penitentiary, have filed a class action suit challenging the constitutionality of the Control Unit, and

WHEREAS the suit will be tried in the Federal Court at Benton, Illinois, beginning June 30, 1975;

THEREFORE the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, acting out of a strong biblical and historical concern for the rights and humanity of prisoners, goes on record as supporting the efforts of the Marion Brothers to establish just and humane treatment at the Marion Federal Penitentiary, and

FURTHER the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its support for the Marion Brothers in telegrams to the National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers, 6199 Waterman, St. Louis, Missouri 63112; Mr. Norman Carlson, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Robert Kastenmeier, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; Ralph Hurvitz, plaintiff's counsel, c/o Marion Courts Motel, Marion, Illinois 62959; and the chairperson of the Subcommittee on National Penitentiaries of the United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; and that individuals be encouraged to do likewise, and

FURTHER the Tenth General Synod instructs the Counsel to the denomination to proffer a letter-memorandum *amicus-curiae* in support of the lawsuit to the Honorable James Foreman, U.S. District Court, 750 Missouri Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois 62202.

6. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PENAL REFORM

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bredeweg. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Bredeweg referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pp. 53-55 and moved the adoption of the background statement on "Criminal Justice and Penal Reform."

Ms. Henderson was recognized and moved to amend the motion and to adopt an alternative which would constitute a new statement for the original. There was a second to the motion.

The Moderator recognized Wade Kornegay of the business committee who moved to amend the motion to delete the phrases in the last line of the recommendation: "provide the necessary funds" and "for the past four years," and sub-