

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-

stitute "implement this program within the proposed 1976-1977 budget." The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted.

The Moderator recognized Rebecca Kutz (OH) who moved to amend the motion by adding a new statement to the Strategies Section: "Develop and support programs which combat injustices with regard to victims and persons accused of rape." The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion lost by a standing count: 294 YES, 349 NO.

The Moderator recognized James Fridley (IA) who moved to amend the motion by deleting the first WHEREAS in the statement and substitute a new theological statement: "Before us is the heritage of God's prophet crying for justice in the midst of oppression. You people hate anyone who challenges injustice and who speaks the whole truth in court. You have oppressed the poor and robbed them of their grain. You persecute good men, take bribes, and keep the poor from getting justice in the courts. Amos 5, TEV. Amos called his people to be responsible to the needs of the oppressed and disadvantaged. He attacked the social order, summoning the people to meet God's mandate that . . . justice flow like a stream and righteousness like a river that never goes dry . . . Amos 5, TEV, and,

WHEREAS Jesus Christ spoke in the power of God to preach the Good News to the poor . . . to proclaim liberty to the captives (and) to set free the oppressed . . . Luke 4, TEV and, in Matthew 25, Jesus equates acceptance into his kingdom with the necessity of his people to care for the needs of others saying, "I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me." With the same devotion that God loves us, we must now continue to face this need, and,"

The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was lost. There was further discussion, and it was

75-GS-37 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the alternative statement on "Criminal Justice and Penal Reform" as amended.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PENAL REFORM

WHEREAS The bible heritage and mandate of both the Old and New Testament call for just and responsible treatment of the disadvantaged and oppressed: "You people hate anyone who challenges injustice and who speaks the whole truth in court. You have oppressed the poor and robbed them of their grain . . . You persecute good men, take bribes, and keep the poor from getting justice in the courts." (Amos 5: 10-15), and

WHEREAS it is the purpose of the criminal justice system in the United States to help deter crime and, when a crime has been committed, to deal justly and humanely with both the victim and the accused through due process of law, with equal justice equally applied, and

WHEREAS the current application of the criminal justice system in the United States is frequently punitive and prejudicial toward lower income and minority groups, which now constitute the bulk of the prison population, and

WHEREAS there is a growing public awareness of the current staggering cost and ineffectiveness of our criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS the Federal Bureau of Prisons master plan to construct sixty-six new federal prisons offers little in alternative treatment procedures, and

WHEREAS the Eighth and Ninth General Synods of the United Church of Christ mandated a national program of reform directed at criminal judicial and penal systems, and

WHEREAS the Tenth General Synod affirms and recognizes the accomplishments of the Criminal Justice Priority Program which was instituted to fulfill that mandate,

THEREFORE the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the following goal, objectives and strategies for the 1976-77 biennium:

GOAL:

To maximize the involvement of the United Church of Christ its agencies, Conferences, Associations, and local congregations in a national campaign to promote progressive changes in the American Criminal Justice and Penal System.

OBJECTIVES:

1. The educating, training and mobilizing of the various agencies, Conferences, Associations, and local congregations of the United Church of Christ.
2. Developing co-operative efforts with other denominations through the individual denominations and the National Council of Churches.
3. The organizing and mobilizing of community groups, organizations, political leaders, students, professional groups and others to develop a nationwide movement to bring about the reformation of the criminal justice system.

STRATEGIES:

1. Conduct public hearings and investigations into the administration of justice and accompanying abuses with organizing and mobilizing efforts on the local level to redress these abuses.
2. Develop model programs that provide alternatives to incarceration.
3. Develop model programs in the field of juvenile justice.
4. Develop legislative proposals that promise to remedy the present abuses of the criminal justice system.
5. Publish on a regular basis Criminal Justice Issues and other research and investigative reports that inform and educate the constituency of the United Church of Christ and the general population to specific abuses of the criminal justice system.
6. Initiate legal actions where necessary to bring about relief through the nation's courts and administrative agencies, i.e., Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Treasury Department (revenue-sharing).
7. Cooperate with local congregations, Associations, and Conferences of the United Church of Christ to increase their active involvement in criminal justice and crime prevention concerns on the local level.
8. Others as may be deemed appropriate.

THEREFORE the General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ to give the Criminal Justice Priority Team the mandate to continue this most effective and essential program and to implement this program within the proposed 1976-77 budget.