

**32. STATEMENT ON BLACK CHURCH DEVELOPMENT**

The Moderator recognized Dr. Washburn. On behalf of the business committee, Dr. Washburn moved the adoption of the Statement on Black Church Development in the United Church of Christ. The motion was seconded. Mrs. Breitling was recognized and moved to amend the motion to adopt an alternative statement on Black Church Development in the United Church of Christ. The motion was seconded.

It was

75-GS-91 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the alternative statement on Black Church Development in the United Church of Christ:

**BLACK CHURCH DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Since its inception in 1961, the United Church of Christ has earned a most deserved reputation as an inclusive and open church. It has mobilized its resources in a diligent effort to proclaim freedom, liberty and justice to those who are victimized and oppressed. Our church has been in the vanguard among those seeking to rectify societal problems.

Delegates to the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in June, 1973, voted the following recommendation in regard to 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, therefore, commits itself to Black Ministries as a priority of the highest order. The General Synod directs the Office of 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, develop, facilitate and implement this priority in consultation with other Instrumentalities, Conferences, Local Churches and Associations."

A basic assumption we make with respect to Black Ministries is precisely that the Black Local Church is a key instrumental institution for serving the wide spectrum of needs of persons in the Black community. It has not only demonstrated a remarkable capacity to survive, but more importantly, it remains the most indigenous, self-determining and liberating institution in the Black Community. It is the seed out of which has grown Black leadership, Black organizations and institutions dedicated to the empowerment of Blacks and the humanization of the Nation. No institution is better equipped by its past performance, present potential and future vision to deliver such religious, social, economic and political resources for the liberation of the Black community than the Black Church. As such, the United Church of Christ can no longer ignore the viability and potential of its Black churches as partners in the critical struggle for Justice and Peace.

There are approximately 300 predominantly Black United Church of Christ churches with about 70,000 members and 300 Black ministers. These churches, members and ministers represent a microcosm of Black America. Contrary to pop-

ular belief, Black UCC churches are not all "middle class." Indeed, these churches and the people of these churches run the gamut all the way from the economic poverty of the welfare recipient to the affluence of the millionaire. The same wide spectrum also exists in the areas of educational achievement, theological orientation and social vision.

We take the position that the Black Community stands in need of being energized, enlisted, and utilized in our Church's endeavor to work for the Kingdom of God. We see tremendous possibilities for the growth and development of both the Black local congregations and the United Church of Christ. Both have a theological and historical commitment to the autonomy of the local congregation. Both are experiencing economic, social and political backlash. Both are in need of continual rejuvenation. We see the possibility of forging a holy alliance here for the sake of the Kingdom.

We therefore propose the following goal and objectives for Black Church Development in the United Church of Christ:

**Goal:**

To strengthen and enhance the ministry and outreach of the Church of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to the nation and the world by the establishment of new Black UCC Churches and the strengthening of existing Black UCC Churches through:

- Leadership recruitment
- Leadership training and development
- Programmatic outreach to the Community
- Facility acquisition
- Institutional development

**Objectives:**

**I. Black Church Development**

1. To start new Black churches in strategic areas of the nation.
2. To develop and encourage dual membership for Black churches that wish to affiliate with UCC.
3. To enable Black participation in Churches in Transitional Communities.

**II. Strengthening Existing Black Churches**

1. To develop a mechanism for serving the self-determined needs of existing Black churches and their communities.
2. To create a process for a coordinated resource development and delivery system for serving the self-determined needs of Black churches.

**III. Leadership Training and Recruitment**

1. To develop a comprehensive program for recruiting college students, especially women, for theological education, including securing adequate scholarship funding.
2. To recruit seminarians, especially women, who have not committed themselves to a particular denomination and who are open to new possibilities of ministry.
3. To create a ministerial and professional placement service that would bring together interested leadership possibilities with available assignments.
4. To be open to transfer or dual standing of personnel who are already established, and who might be interested in placement change.
5. To establish a program of continuing education for ministers and professional leaders who are already within the United Church of Christ.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1

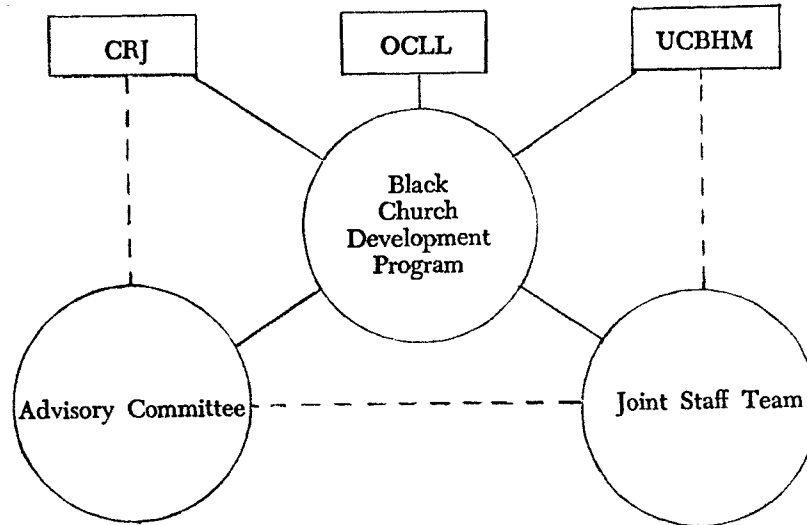
6. To establish a leadership training program for laity within the UCC.

enable and empower churches to plan, develop and implement their mission objectives.

IV. Program Development

1. To provide resources to local churches which would

We further propose that the foregoing goals and objectives be developed and implemented through the following collaborative organization scheme:



The following functions are to be assumed by the various parts of the organizational chart above:

1. *National Agency Partners*
  - Policy Setting
  - Budget Authorization
  - Name Advisory Committee Representatives
2. *National Agency Executives*
  - Elect and/or name a Program Coordinator and personnel for the Joint Staff Team
  - Staff supervision
3. *Advisory Committee* (3 persons from each Agency including chief executive)
  - Recommends policy and program
  - Critiques and evaluates program
  - Recommends budget
4. *Joint Staff Team*
  - Develops program
  - Develops implementation strategies
  - Implements policy and program
5. *Coordinator*
  - Staffs the Black Church Development Program
  - Coordinates the program and work of the Staff Team
  - Resources the Advisory Committee, Staff Team, and Agency Executives
  - Facilitates the implementation of policy and program
  - Chairs meeting of the Staff Team
  - Manages joint budget

**33. RECLAIMING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AS A MAJOR CONCERN IN THE LIFE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Moderator recognized Dr. Washburn. On behalf of the business committee, Dr. Washburn referred the delegates to the Resolution on Reclaiming Christian Education as a Major Concern in the Life of the United Church of Christ submitted as new business and moved its adoption.

The motion was seconded. Mrs. Breitling was recognized and moved to amend the motion to adopt an alternative statement on Reclaiming Christian Education as a Major Concern in the United Church of Christ. The motion was seconded.

The Moderator recognized Raymond L. Morris (NY) who moved to amend the motion to adopt an alternative statement on Reclaiming Christian Education as a major concern in the United Church of Christ by deleting the second sentence in the preamble and substituting the sentence, "It calls upon the Board for Homeland Ministries specifically, and the United Church of Christ in general, to collaborate with local congregations, Associations and Conferences to develop the resources and leadership through which this concern may be implemented." The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted. It was

75-GS-92 VOTED: The General Synod adopts as amended the alternative statement on Reclaiming Christian Education as a Major Concern in the Life of the United Church of Christ:

**RECLAIMING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AS A MAJOR CONCERN IN THE LIFE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Tenth General Synod affirms that Christian Education is a matter of the highest concern in the next biennium. It calls upon the Board for Homeland Ministries specifically, and the United Church of Christ in general to collaborate with local congregations, Associations and Conferences to develop the resources and leadership through which this concern may be implemented. Included in the implementation should be the following components:

1. Training leaders;
2. Making available resources for local Christian Education leadership;