

13. INTRODUCTION OF REPORT OF DIVISION E

The Moderator recognized Ann Lee Clough, Chairperson of Division E, for the report. The facilitator of the Division was Yvonne Delk.

14. CONTINUATION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRIORITY

Ms. Clough called attention to a "Position Paper on The Continuation of the Criminal Justice Priority" for the Eleventh General Synod (Advance materials Section II, pp. 89-91, and the printed material) and moved the adoption of the resolution. It was seconded and

77-GS-72 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on the Continuation of the Criminal Justice Priority."

RESOLUTION ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRIORITY

The Eleventh General Synod receives the "Position Paper on the Continuation of the Criminal Justice Priority" (Advance Material, Sec. II, p. 89) and affirms the following proposals:

The Criminal Justice and Penal Reform Emphasis is an ongoing concern of the United Church of Christ to be administered by the Commission for Racial Justice;

That this ongoing emphasis be funded at a minimum of \$100,000* annually;

That the Criminal Justice Priority Team reports on its activities, successes and projections at all subsequent General Synods;

That The Criminal Justice Priority Team further its collaboration with ecumenical and national agencies, conferences, associations and local churches for the purpose of achieving progressive changes in the American criminal justice system.

That the national agencies designate contact persons for the purpose of communication and implementation of the Criminal Justice Priority Team programs and goals and recommend that conferences, associations, and local churches follow the same procedure.

15. RESOLUTION ON WILMINGTON 10

Chairperson Clough presented the Resolution on "Wilmington 10" (Advance Materials, Section II, p. 17) as amended on the printed material, and moved its adoption. It was seconded and it was

77-GS-73 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the resolution on "Wilmington 10" and the amendment.

Resolution on Wilmington 10

RESOLVED, That the United Church of Christ reaffirms its continuing support of the Wilmington 10 and its commitment to achieve the freedom of these ten persons whom we believe to have been unjustly convicted and imprisoned. We express again our determination that the Wilmington 10 shall be accorded the full process of the law. This Eleventh General Synod affirms the actions taken during the past biennium by the Executive Council and all national Agencies and Instrumentalities of the United

Church of Christ to continue to seek justice for the Wilmington 10.

That the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ direct an urgent appeal to the Honorable James Hunt, Governor of North Carolina, to grant immediately a pardon of innocence to the individuals unjustly convicted and imprisoned in this situation.

We request the President of the United Church of Christ to convene a delegation to present the views and actions of the Eleventh General Synod to the Governor of North Carolina, to solicit the good offices of the President of the United States on our behalf, and take such other steps as are deemed appropriate to the situation.

We further urge and encourage individual delegates to the Eleventh General Synod to communicate with the Governor of North Carolina and the President of the United States, expressing their strong conviction that the Wilmington 10 have been unjustly convicted and imprisoned, and urging immediately a pardon of innocence of these individuals.

We further urge that delegates inform members of local congregations of the situation and encourage them to write similar letters.

16. GREETING FROM PRESIDENT CARTER

Mr. Carter could not be present, but sent as a representative, Joseph Duffy. The Moderator called on Mr. Evans to introduce Mr. Duffy. Mr. Evans extended a warm and cordial welcome to Mr. Duffy, who is a United Church of Christ minister, and was present to bring greetings from President Carter. Mr. Evans then asked Garry Oniki to introduce Mr. Duffy, who is Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Culture Affairs in the Carter Administration.

Mr. Duffy addressed the Eleventh General Synod, bringing greetings from President Carter. The Moderator thanked Mr. Duffy for his statement.

17. RESOLUTION ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Moderator Nace asked Ms. Clough to continue the Division E Report. Ms. Clough presented the Overture on "Capital Punishment" submitted by the New York Conference and Division E, Amendments, and moved its adoption. It was

77-GS-74 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the resolution on "Capital Punishment" as amended.

Resolution on Capital Punishment Overture to General Synod

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ in General Synod 7 and General Synod 9 has declared its opposition to capital punishment on religious, moral, ethical and practical grounds, and

WHEREAS the July 2, 1976 Supreme Court decision declaring the death penalty to be a constitutional punishment under certain conditions has effectively halted the 10

*This figure is in accordance with Standing Rule 16 and not a guarantee for funding.

year moratorium on executions, and

WHEREAS officially-sanctioned execution has resumed there is an urgency for the United Church of Christ to take action to implement its previous declarations.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the 11th General Synod of the United Church of Christ instruct the Executive Council to

1. Develop strategies, coordinate the church's witness against capital punishment and provide the necessary funds.
2. Join, as a denomination, the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

18. MORATORIUM ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PRISONS AND JAILS

Ms. Clough presented the Overture on "A Moratorium on the Construction of New Prisons and Jails" (Advance Materials, Section II, pp. 119-120) and amendments from Division E, and moved its adoption. It was seconded.

Moderator Nace called for discussion of the overture.

It was then

77-GS-75 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the Overture on "A Moratorium on the Construction of New Prisons and Jails" as amended.

Overture: On a Moratorium on the Construction of New Prisons and Jails

This overture requests that the 11th General Synod declare itself in favor of a moratorium on the construction of new prisons and jails other than replacement without expansion until alternatives to incarceration have been fully implemented.

BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE:

"Woe to the legislators of infamous laws to those who issue tyrannical decrees, who refuse justice to the unfortunate and cheat the poor among my people of their rights". (Isaiah 10:1-2)

"Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; and those who are being badly treated, since you too are in the one body." (Hebrews 13:3)

The American criminal justice system has its roots in religious history. In late 18th-Century Philadelphia and New York religious persons, concerned about injustices they perceived, proposed the concepts inherent in today's jails and prisons. Two key words used in their efforts reflect their religious orientation: cell and penitentiary. The cell, from the monastic, is a place for solitary confinement, and a penitentiary, a place to become penitent.

Today's prisons and jails resemble those originally proposed by religious reformers, however there is little consensus as to their purpose and/or function.

The inequities of the criminal justice system have been continuously portrayed in the media over the past two years. As religious people we fail to see how the construc-

tion of new prisons, jails and juvenile facilities to continue and expand the use of incarceration addresses these inequities. We affirm our commitment to strive for justice for all—rich and poor alike.

IMPLEMENTATION

The 11th General Synod calls upon the Commission for Racial Justice (CRJ) and the Joint Strategy and Action Commission (JSAC) of the National Council of Churches (NCC) to continue to provide leadership in moratorium efforts.

The 11th General Synod encourages conferences, associations, local churches and individuals to be active in their own communities to the purposes of this position.

19. THE STRATEGY ASSESSMENT TEAM REPORT

Division E Chairperson Clough presented the resolution on "The Report of the Strategy Assessment Team" (Advance Materials, Section II, pp. 96-97 and Division E amendments) and moved its adoption.

The Chairperson introduced Norman Jackson who spoke concerning the resolution. It was

77-GS-76 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the recommendation from "The Strategy Assessment Team" as amended.

Report of the Strategy Assessment Team

Background

In June, 1974 at the meeting of the UCC Management Team, a special group of persons representing agencies involved with Indian Ministries within the United Church of Christ met to face some difficult problems which had recently surfaced with regard to organizational issues. The Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) faced a possible break-up with the departure of the Dakota Association from the Council.

Eventually, a group was named to present to the 11th General Synod recommendations about the future ministry to, with, and participation of Indians in the United Church of Christ. This group was named the Strategy Assessment Team, and was composed of persons from the Fort Berthold Council of Congregational Churches, the Dakota Association, the Winnebago United Church of Christ, the Board for Homeland Ministries (BHM), the President's Office and CAIM staff. A member of the CAIM Board was named to chair the Strategy Assessment Team.

The Team met numerous times between 1974-1976 and gathered information from all interested parties, including those Conferences within whose boundaries the Indian congregations of the United Church are located.

It is not a part of the purpose of this report to retell the history of the development of Indian Congregations within the parent denominations of the United Church of Christ or to retell the story of the origin of CAIM. The Team would make the two following statements, however, and hope that interested persons would study the history of the Indian congregations in North Dakota, South Dakota and