

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 5

4. That the investigators be asked to state specifically in writing what information they want, their authority for seeking it, and whether it can be or has been obtained in any other way;
5. That the church or agency make contact with specialists in the ecumenical community, such as the Committee on Religious Liberty of the National Council of Churches, and seek advice of legal counsel familiar with church-state law to determine what information, if any, can properly be given in response to the inquiry.
6. That churches and ecumenical agencies not divulge names of contributors, members, constituents, or any persons or groups with whom they have been working in a relationship of confidence and trust;
7. That churches and ecumenical agencies not divulge without benefit of legal counsel and consent of persons concerned personnel files, correspondence or other confidential and/or internal documents or information;
8. That churches and ecumenical agencies not divulge without benefit of legal counsel and consent of persons concerned travel or expense records;
9. That the churches and ecumenical agencies inform any persons in their employment or membership about whom inquiries have been made that such investigations are in process;
10. That churches and ecumenical agencies give moral and material support (including continuing salary to employees) for those members and employees who for reasons of principle refuse to testify before a federal grand jury and risk jail rather than expose others to harassment — even if some consider their refusal unwise or unnecessary;
11. That churches and ecumenical agencies make particular provision to insure and protect the freedom of association and exercise of advocacy by members and staff in their ministries and relationships with social action agencies and oppressed and alienated groups.
12. In addition the denominations are urged to develop internal policies appropriate to their own polity and ecclesiology which will clarify their understanding of the meaning of confidentiality of communications within the fellowship and in the ministry of the church, so as to safeguard the relationship of confidence and trust that is essential to the existence and functioning of the church.
13. Churches which adopt the above recommendations should be aware that they, or their members, may be faced with the risk of civil penalties, including citations for contempt of court, in their effort to establish judicial recognition of the churches' right not to breach the relationship of confidence and trust which is essential to the functioning of the religious community.

21. REFORM THE FEDERAL AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAIL REFORM ACTS

Ms. Clough presented the Overture "To Reform the Federal and District of Columbia Bail Reform Acts," Advance Materials, Section II, p. 120, and the amendment from Division E, and moved its adoption.

A substitute motion was made. The substitute motion, became the main motion and was seconded. It was

77-GS-78 VOTED: General Synod adopts the resolution "Modification of the District of Columbia Bail Reform Act."

Modification of the District of Columbia Bail Reform Act

WHEREAS, there are presently no crimes punishable by death in the District of Columbia, and

WHEREAS, there is consequent confusion about the standards to guide pre-trial release for persons who are accused of crimes of violence (e.g. first degree murder, forcible rape, kidnapping) within the District of Columbia, and

WHEREAS, it is known that some persons who are accused of crimes of violence do commit other serious crimes while on pre-trial release.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the Executive Council and the Criminal Justice Priority Team to communicate with members of Congress that the District of Columbia Bail Reform Act should be amended so that persons charged with crimes of violence may be detained if: it is determined that the accused presents a danger to any person or to the community; if it is determined that no condition or combination of conditions of release will assure such safety; if such determinations are established by clear and convincing evidence following a full judicial hearing; if a fair and speedy trial will be held; and if full opportunity is presented for the defendant to assist in preparation of the defense.

22. RACISM AND SEXISM

Division E Chairperson, Ms. Clough, presented the amended "Proposed Pronouncement on Racism and Sexism" and moved its adoption.

I. Summary

Line 2—delete the word "ever".

Line 3—delete "foundational commitment to the faith that by virtue of", in place of insert "faith as expressed in our"

Same Line—after "baptism", insert "and our"

Line 4—delete "and God's grace within all people", before "we are one . . ." insert "that" after "as" insert "such:"

delete "to be the one people of"

insert "and commissioned by"

Line 5-6 delete completely, in place of add "to work on the problems of racism and sexism as they interact, intersect, and compound each other."