

D. Statement of Christian Conviction

The United Church of Christ is called upon to witness for justice. As followers of Jesus we are under a mandate to re-affirm our commitment to eliminating racial violence in our country.

18. PROPOSAL FOR ACTION RELATED TO THE PRONOUNCEMENT ON INCREASED VIOLENCE AGAINST BLACKS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Welch continued with the report of the Committee and moved the adoption of the Proposal for Action. It was

81-GS-44 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Proposal for Action Related to the Pronouncement on Increased Violence Against Blacks in the United States.

PROPOSAL FOR ACTION

WHEREAS the 13th General Synod has adopted the Pronouncement "Increased Racial Violence Against Blacks in the United States" and Whereas this Pronouncement has highlighted the concerns and issues to be addressed by the church, and Whereas we have witnessed an alarming increase in racial tensions and violence, Therefore the Thirteenth General Synod:

1. Calls upon the whole Church to reaffirm the commitment of General Synod 12 deploring Ku Klux Klan activity and condemning Ku Klux Klan intimidation and terrorism calling into question their claims to be a Christian organization;
2. Urges the whole church to advocate the rights of victims and potential victims of racial violence;
3. Calls upon the United Church of Christ to reaffirm its commitment to the enforcement of civil rights laws;
4. Mandates President Avery Post and urges the entire United Church of Christ to call upon congress and the new Federal Administration to:
 - a. continue this country's commitment to the elimination of racial discrimination in voter participation and representation,
 - b. urge the Justice Department and the Civil Rights Commission to monitor and vigorously pursue the prosecution of perpetrators of police brutality,
 - c. urge the Justice Department to vigorously pursue extremist perpetrators of violence within and upon the Black community and to implement the use of federal injunctions and grand juries to stem this tide of national racial violence,
 - d. continue this country's commitment to the legislative efforts of Equal Employment Opportunities and Affirmative Action in the public and private sectors;

And the 13th General Synod:

5. Calls upon the United Church of Christ to reaffirm its commitment to affirmative action policies in National Bodies, Instrumentalities, Conferences, Associations, local Churches and related institu-

tions and organizations, especially in the placement process;

6. Calls upon United Church of Christ related seminaries and colleges to incorporate courses in their curriculum to eradicate racism and racial violence;
7. Urges local churches, associations and conferences to identify and monitor acts of racial violence within their community;
8. Urges the local church associations and conferences to report to the Commission for Racial Justice models of success and failure in stemming racial violence and in creating a climate which promotes racial justice.

19. RESOLUTION ON SAVING BLACK CHILDREN

Mr. Welch continued with the report of the Committee and moved the adoption of the Resolution on Saving Black Children. It was

81-GS-45 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Saving Black Children.

RESOLUTION ON SAVING BLACK CHILDREN

The United Church of Christ notes with great concern the recent upsurge of violence in America directed toward the Black and minority communities. This mood is characterized by growing economic unrest, unemployment, rapid social change and a sense of impotency and futility. Nowhere has this mood manifested itself more clearly than in Atlanta, Georgia where the recent murders of Black youth remain unsolved.

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior; and,

WHEREAS, Jesus told his disciples to "let the children come to Him" for of such is the kingdom of God; and

WHEREAS, twenty-eight or more Black children have been killed or are missing in Atlanta, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, the agony of Atlanta is the agony of America because it violates Jesus' commandment; and,

WHEREAS, throughout the nation there is fear and despair. Families and persons are arming themselves as never before in the vain hope that this will in some way stave off the violence threatening them or their families; and,

WHEREAS, in 1981 the human rights of Black children are increasingly denied. The mortality rate for Black babies is approximately twice as high as it is for white babies; and Black children receive far less medical care and treatment than white children,

WHEREAS, Black teenagers are more often victimized than served or rehabilitated by the legal system; and,

WHEREAS, the dropout rate for Black high school students is twice as high as it is for white students; and,

WHEREAS, the unemployment rate of Black college graduates is twice as high as that of whites who never attended college,

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the President of the United States