

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

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 30

and the agencies of our federal government

1. To begin to exercise the powers of the Federal government to assure that justice prevails in Atlanta.
2. To call for a National Day of Prayer for the victims and families of these senseless killings and call upon all governmental units, federal, state, and local to develop and implement programs designed to alter the plight of Black youth throughout American society.

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges every Conference, Association and local church in the United Church of Christ to join in calling for "PRAYER WITHOUT CEASING" until the tragedy in Atlanta has been brought to an end, and until the human rights of all Black youths is fully restored as commanded by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

20. DESIGNATION OF THE SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 1981, OFFERING

The Moderator recognized Nathan P. Adams (CONN) who moved that the offering received at the Sunday, June 28, 1981, worship service be considered a

Directed Gift in aid of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized Charles Harper (MASS) who moved to amend the motion by designating 50% of the offering as a Designated Gift and 50% of the offering as a Directed Gift to aid the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. There was discussion. Upon being put to vote the amendment to the motion was lost on a division of the house — 251 - Yes and 307 - No.

It was

81-GS-46 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod directs that the offering received at the Sunday, June 28, 1981, Worship Service be considered a Directed Gift to aid the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe.

21. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator recognized Secretary Evans for the announcements.

22. RECESS

The Moderator declared the General Synod in recess until 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 30

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WORSHIP

The General Synod was called to order at 7:35 p.m., by the Moderator, the Rev. Nathanael M. Guptill.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Ann Asper Wilson who led the Synod in worship with the Rev. W. Orin Whitaker (CONN) serving as the liturgist.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ORDER OF THE DAY AT 10:00 P.M.

The Moderator recognized Robert Peterson (MINN) who moved an Order of the Day at 10:00 p.m. for the General Synod to recess, no matter what business is before it, to enable delegates to fully participate in the ERA Vigil, and to reconvene at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday morning, July 1, 1981. Upon being put to a vote the motion was adopted.

3. REPORT OF SECTION F—RESOLUTION ON U.S. MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR

The Moderator recognized Mrs. Wilma Richards (IOWA), Chairperson of the Section for the report. Mrs. Richards indicated that the Section had considered eight issues that dealt with international and minority resolutions and reported the order in which they would be presented for action. Mrs. Richards moved the adoption of the Resolution on U.S. Military Aid to El Salvador. It was

81-GS-47 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on U.S. Military Aid to El Salvador:

RESOLUTION ON U.S. MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is called by Christ to proclaim the Gospel in spirit and in deed to all people; and

WHEREAS, Jesus calls us to be responsible for what we do or do not do in His name, saying, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it unto me;" and

WHEREAS, human rights have been systematically violated under the El Salvadoran military regimes and the people have been subjected to widespread terrorism, indiscriminate arrest, torture, and murder; and

WHEREAS, the Government of El Salvador has not prevented the murders of 12,000 Salvadoran civilians in 1980 and another 7,800 from January through April 1981, has not prosecuted those responsible for the murders and has, in fact, been charged by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Salvador and Amnesty International with responsibility for the bulk of the deaths; and

WHEREAS, the United States Catholic Conference has stated its opposition to renewed military aid to El Salvador "which is based on the conviction that no real evidence exists that the government of El Salvador has brought its security forces under control, and the restoration of military assistance. . .en-