

Footnotes

1. Coulter, Robert T., "The Moral Crisis of the Law," Church and Society, January/February, 1985, page 26.
2. Senior, Donald and Stuhmueller, Carroll, The Biblical Foundations for Mission, Orbis Books, page 320.

8. PROPOSAL FOR ACTION "A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTRY WITH INDIANS"

Ms. Kingsbury referred the delegates to the Proposal for Action received in the advance materials and moved the Sixteenth General Synod adopt a proposal for action, "A United Church of Christ Ministry with Indians."

Rev. David Hirano of the Business Committee moved to amend the proposal for action by adding the following two sentences: "A Coordinating Committee formed by staff representatives from the Executive Office, UCBHM, OCLL, OCIS, Stewardship Council and CRJ, chaired by the Executive Director of CAIM, shall meet at least once a year to implement this proposal for action." "The Executive Director of CAIM will be a member of the United Church of Christ Executives."

There was discussion and a friendly amendment to the amendment was accepted to add the words, "The General Synod recommends that" as a preface to the last sentence of the amendment. After discussion it was moved to accept the amendment.

87-GS-58 Voted: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Proposal For Action "A United Church of Christ Ministry With Indians" as amended.

**Proposal for Action
A United Church of Christ Ministry with Indians**

Summary

This Proposal for Action outlines the mandate for the Council for American Indian Ministry, provides for The Council for American Indian Ministry's funding, and outlines mechanisms for instrumentalities, national bodies, conferences and local churches to participate in the mission with Indians.

Background Statement

This Proposal for Action is based on the Pronouncement, "A United Church of Christ Ministry with Indians," adopted by the Sixteenth General Synod. The Pronouncement presents a policy statement for the United Church of Christ Indian work, and this Proposal for Action provides for the program directions, mechanisms for implementation, funding, and assigns primary responsibility to the Council for American Indian Ministry to plan and collaborate with other bodies in the church in accomplishing the mission.

Implementation

The Council for American Indian Ministry is the primary implementor of this Proposal for Action, with the cooperation of instrumentalities and national bodies, conferences and local churches.

The implementation of this Proposal for Action is subject to the availability of funds.

Directional Statement and Goals

The Sixteenth General Synod establishes the following mandate for the Council for American Indian Ministry:

The Council for American Indian Ministry is the General Synod's primary national body and resource to the Church on

issues relating to American Indians. The Council shall support and give general direction to the Indian congregations of the United Church of Christ, urging the congregations to participate in the life of the conferences in which they are located. The Council shall assist the General Synod and its Executive Council in formulating a policy for American Indian Ministry for the United Church of Christ, and work collaboratively with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries as that Board fulfills its mandate for the homeland mission. It shall give leadership to all cooperating bodies in implementing the mission with American Indians.

The Council shall consult with and provide available resources to conferences with Indian people but without Indian United Church of Christ congregations. It shall be an advocate for Indian justice, collaborating with the Office for Church in Society in educating the United Church of Christ and influencing public policy on Indian issues. It will provide United Church of Christ representation in Indian ecumenical bodies, such as the Indian Ministries Task Force of the Joint Strategy and Action Committee. It shall provide a center for Indian people of the United Church of Christ not involved in the Indian churches that there may develop a fellowship of Indian people and a means for them to give support to Indian issues and churches.

The Council for American Indian Ministry shall be governed by its own Bylaws, which shall be in conformity with the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. The Council is authorized under Article IX, Paragraph 65 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ. It shall be accountable to the General Synod through the Executive Council in a manner designed by the Executive Council, and it shall have two associate delegates to the General Synod. It shall organize itself and call its own staff.

Funding

The Council for American Indian Ministry shall be funded from one-third of the net income of the Neighbors in Need Offering.

Mechanisms for the Implementation of a United Church of Christ Indian Ministry

The Council for American Indian Ministry shall be accountable to the General Synod through its Executive Council in a manner defined by those bodies. The Council for American Indian Ministry's work with the instrumentalities and other national bodies shall be correlated by the General Synod and the Executive Council.

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries is recognized by the General Synod "as the instrumentality of the United Church of Christ for the planning and conduct of the homeland mission not otherwise assigned" (Article 54). The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and The Council for American Indian Ministry are requested to clarify their partnership in this particular homeland mission in a way congruent with these actions. The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Council for American Indian Ministry will continue a constructive liaison relationship to serve at least the following purposes: to develop a strong program to implement Indian ministry; to facilitate the flow of useful information about Indian concerns between the two bodies; to focus resources in a strategic way to accomplish the mission.

The Office for Church Life and Leadership will work with The Council for American Indian Ministry on ministerial issues, including theological education, pastoral training, ministerial standing, continuing education and resource development.

The Office will also work in relation to other ecclesiological issues as appropriate.

The Office for Church in Society will work with The Council for American Indian Ministry on national issues of justice particularly through the Washington office as they concern the administration, Congress and judicial issues. The Stewardship Council will work collaboratively with The Council for American Indian Ministry on interpretation of The Council for American Indian Ministry, on the promotion of the Neighbors in Need offering, and other means of informing the United Church of Christ about the church's mission with Indians.

The Office of Communication will assist in communicating throughout the United Church of Christ, and to the secular press where appropriate, news of the work of The Council for American Indian Ministry and Indian churches.

The Commission for Racial Justice will maintain a close relationship with The Council for American Indian Ministry for the mutual benefit of each body.

The Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries shall maintain The Council for American Indian Ministry's membership in that body and work to develop productive relationships between The Council for American Indian Ministry and the organizations of the other racial/ethnic groups.

The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, or its successor body, shall maintain a close relationship with The Council for American Indian Ministry for the mutual benefit of each body.

The Council for Health and Human Services Ministries shall make consultation services available to The Council for American Indian Ministry and work collaboratively in appropriate ways.

The conferences in which Indian congregations reside are requested to develop a close working relationship with The Council for American Indian Ministry in relation to church and ministry issues, the participation of Indians in the lives, structures, and programs of the conferences, and in areas of support that are beneficial to the conference and to The Council for American Indian Ministry.

Local churches throughout the United Church of Christ may find it of value to engage in partnerships with individual Indian congregations for purposes of education and mutual support. Congregations are also urged to be well informed about the situation of the Indian churches and people.

All bodies in the United Church of Christ are urged to consult with The Council for American Indian Ministry to secure an Indian perspective when making decisions about Indian issues, funding Indian programs, or working on justice questions. Indian issues are normally very complex with difficult histories, with non-Indians not often understanding their deep ambiguity. The Council for American Indian Ministry is to be a resource to the church on all such questions, providing information from the inside to assist other bodies in making their decisions.

A Coordinating Committee formed by staff representatives from the Executive Office, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Office for Church Life and Leadership, Office for Church in Society, Council for American Indian Ministry shall meet at least once a year to implement this Proposal for Action.

The Sixteenth General Synod recommends to the President that the Executive Director of the Council for American Indian Ministry will be a member of the United Church of Christ Executives.

9. A STATEMENT TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE INDIAN COMMUNITY

Ms. Kingsbury, Chairperson of Committee 7, then moved to amend, "A Statement to the United Church of Christ and the Indian Community of the United Church of Christ Expressing Penitence and the Hope of Reconciliation" on behalf of her committee.

Rev. Thomas Walter moved the addition of the word "religion" in two places in the document. After discussion the motion carried.

87-GS-59 Voted: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts "A Statement to the UCC and the Indian Community of the UCC Expressing Penitence and the Hope of Reconciliation" as amended.

Statement to the United Church of Christ and the Indian Community of the United Church of Christ Expressing Penitence and the Hope of Reconciliation

WHEREAS, 1987 is a Year of Reconciliation in Minnesota between the dominant culture and the Indian people. Part of the remembrances is dealing with the 1862 Indian and white conflict.

WHEREAS, last year the United Church of Canada apologized to native people for their historical and present lack of sensitivity to them and to their religious heritage.

WHEREAS, our Indian Concern Committee believes that the Minnesota Conference should lead the United Church of Christ in addressing our Church's wrongs against the Indians.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod adopts the following statement:

The United Church of Christ through its long involvement with Indian people bears a heavy burden of responsibility—as part of the dominant culture—for the ongoing injustice and religious imperialism that have been so disruptive of the inherent values of Indian life and culture.

The United Church of Christ through its antecedent bodies was the first Protestant church to have a mission relationship with the Indians of North America. Beginning with the initial overtures between the Pilgrims and the New England tribes; through the first translation of the Bible into a native tongue by John Eliot; the missionary efforts of Jonathan Edwards, David Brainerd, and many others; down through the major mission outposts among various Indian tribes, established by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in the mid-Nineteenth Century—mission has been understood to mean the conversion of the Indians to Christianity and to western civilizations.

Unfortunately, the cumulative effect of the larger Christian influence has been the disparagement and undermining of the Indian culture and way of life and a spiritual impoverishment affecting both Indians and all people. The cumulative effect of the missionary legacy and the larger Christian influence has been the disparagement and undermining of the Indian culture and the way of life and a spiritual impoverishment affecting both Indian and all people. Often the missionaries were blinded by the pervasive cultural and religious ethnocentrism of western society. We must acknowledge that the church—our church—has consistently treated the Indian as a child in need of direction, as a savage in need of civilizing, and as a heathen in need of salvation.

The result has been to create an overall sense of loss, which has distorted the Indian people's self image, along with cul-