

**Racial Justice: Seeking Liberation, Justice, and
Empowerment for the Racially Oppressed
A Resolution Approved by General Synod VIII (1971)**

GOAL 1. To establish institutional policies throughout the united Church of Christ, so that all elements of its structure demonstrate its commitment to racial justice and the humanization of man.

Objective 1. To have churches and members, church-related institutions, Conferences, Instrumentalities, and the Executive Council: (a) practice racial pluralism: (b) elect boards of directors and employ staff so that Blacks, American Indians, Chicano, Puerto Ricans, and other racial minorities will be represented in such numbers and manner as to assure effective participation in policy and program; and (c) join Project Equality which advocates the purchase of goods and services only from firms which practice fair employment policies.

GOAL 2. To provide through the Executive Council the means for immediate emergency and long-range support of the American Missionary Association colleges.

A resolution related to Goal 2 is in the record of Tuesday afternoon, Item 4 [see the addendum below]

GOAL 3. To provide through the Board for World Ministries the means for emergency and long-range support for church-related educational enterprises around the world which are making a major contribution to racial justice in their societies.

GOAL 4. To have the Council for Higher Education invite the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia, to become a member of the Council.

GOAL 5. To have the United Church of Christ and the United States committed to racial and social policies that assure equal opportunities for Blacks, American Indians, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and other minorities.

Objective 1. To seek passage of legislation to strengthen the enforcement powers of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by empowering it to issue cease-and-desist orders, and by broadening its jurisdiction to cover employees of state and local governments, educational institutions, private employers, and labor unions, regardless of size.

Objective 2. To seek adoption by Congress of legislation making federal grants to local communities subject to requirements (a) that local zoning laws permit construction of an adequate number of housing units for low-income families, and (b) that the locality have a program to assure a racially and economically integrated community.

Objective 3. To continue such legal and other actions as are necessary to rid the nation's school system of racial discrimination, and to prevent new forms of discrimination from developing.

Objective 4. To urge, through all appropriate means, the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare to provide funds and personnel to assist local school boards in carrying out not only the letter, but also the spirit of the law, with a firm commitment to quality education for all.

Objective 5. To secure participation by all members of the United Church of Christ in efforts to assure equal educational and job opportunities and equal access to housing for Blacks, American Indians, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and other racial minorities.

Objective 6. To support the Council for American Indian Ministry by designating a Sunday in each year of the biennium as “American Indian Sunday” within the United Church of Christ and by receiving an all-church offering to be entrusted to the Council for American Indian Ministry for its work. The Sunday is to be set by the Stewardship Council.

GOAL 6. To commit the United Church of Christ to changes in social structure and social action that will make the United States a nation in which racial pluralism is viable.

Objective 1. To recognize that all persons are entitled to the wherewithal to sustain life; that each person is, as a matter of right, entitled to and should be assured of a humane standard of living.

Objective 2. To urge through all appropriate means adoption of a guaranteed income for all Americans to eliminate poverty and hunger in the United States, a minimum of \$6,500 per year for a family of four being both reasonable and necessary at this time, to find means to make the lives of people living on guaranteed income more meaningful and more creative in order to fulfill their highest human potential.

Objective 3. To urge through all appropriate means increase in the minimum wage, and automatic increases in the minimum hourly rate to keep pace with the rises in the cost of living.

Objective 4. To urge through all appropriate means extension of minimum wage coverage, to state and local governmental employees, workers in small retail business, farm workers, and other workers not now covered.

Objective 5. To urge through all appropriate means establishment of a domestic Marshall Plan for central cities, so that once again they may be made decent places for human habitation.

Objective 6. To urge through all appropriate means immediate action, by federal, state, and municipal governments and by private industry, to provide enough jobs to eliminate unemployment, with special attention being given to balancing the unemployment rates of Blacks and other minorities with those of whites.

Objective 7. To urge through all appropriate means adoption of a universal and comprehensive health insurance program, accompanied by a national campaign to enlist,

fund, and educate Blacks and other nonwhites as doctors, nurses, administrators, and medical technicians.

Objective 8. To urge through all appropriate means adoption of a national transportation policy which provides for far more emphasis on mass transit and provision of funds to make mass transit available to all.

Objective 9. To urge through all appropriate means substantially increased federal support for higher education for Blacks, American Indians, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and other racial minorities and for primary and secondary education in blighted urban centers and in the rural South.

Objective 10. To urge the federal government to extend long-term, no-interest loans to poor people in rural areas where racial discrimination continues to deny access of minority groups to land. Such loans would be used to purchase productive agricultural land to establish co-operative farming ventures, to purchase farm equipment, and to provide temporary expertise in farming and farm management until a viable farming venture is assured.

Objective 11. To urge through all appropriate means development of a skills bank, training for new jobs, day care centers for welfare clients and others during job training, and overtures to trade unions to allow enlistment of whites and non-whites in skilled trades on an equal basis.

Objective 12. To instruct the Executive Council to prepare (with proper technical assistance) realistic cost estimates of the legislative programs proposed by this General Synod and to distribute them to all local congregations, Conferences, and Instrumentalities for use in educating our members to the needs for increasing taxes and reordering national priorities to meet these goals. This shall be done at the earliest possible time.

GOAL 7. To urge commitment to the improvement of the criminal justice system of the state and federal governments.

Objective 1. To urge enactment of state and federal laws guaranteeing expert legal representation for all indigent defendants.

Objective 2. To urge enactment of state and federal laws increasing the number of judges and court facilities and making such changes in the laws and rules of court so that all defendants are assured of a speedy trial. (Sixty days between arrest and trial should be our goal.)

Objective 3. To urge enactment of state and federal laws reforming the bail system. It should be provided that those defendants who would ordinarily purchase corporate bail will deposit their money with the court and they will recover 90% of this money after the completion of their cases (this system is now in use in Philadelphia). The acceptance of nominal bail or personal recognizance bonding should be encouraged, especially where the defendants are employed. The court shall give priority to the trials of all cases where the

defendants have failed to post bail. No person should be held in prison without bail longer than sixty days after indictment or the termination of the first term of criminal court after his indictment.

Objective 4. To oppose all measures for preventive detentions, no-knock entrance into homes, eavesdropping, and mandatory minimum sentencing in criminal cases.

Objective 5. To oppose preventive detention and mandatory minimum sentence provisions in any law. The Synod calls for the repeal of those provisions of the District of Columbia Crime Act which call for preventive detention and no-knock entrance into homes, and for the defeat of the Hruska Bill.

Objective 6. To seek the immediate reformation of the nation's prison systems and jails. State and local governments should use the money made available from federal grants under the crime control act to erect new community facilities. Prisons should be primarily institutions for the training and rehabilitation of the inmates. Proper education, training, counseling, and rehabilitation services should be provided. Probation and parole departments should be adequately staffed to help assure the return of the criminal to society as a productive citizen. Programs such as volunteers in probation (where community leaders act as volunteer probation advisors) should be encouraged.

Objective 7. To urge enactment of state and federal laws to provide for adequate treatment and rehabilitation services and facilities for those addicted to drugs or alcohol. There should be strict enforcement of laws providing for the punishment of sellers of the harder drugs for profit. Diplomatic efforts to control the growing, processing, and movement of narcotics should be pressed by all concerned federal agencies. Effective sanctions should be applied where diplomatic persuasion fails.

Objective 8. To encourage minority persons to become members of police departments, parole and probation officers, and prison personnel, since over half of the nation's prison population is nonwhite. The employment of nonwhite personnel in law enforcement positions should be demonstrated to be a deterrent to crime and lead to better police-community relationships.

Objective 9. To urge Conferences and local congregations to work in their respective states and local communities for reform of the criminal justice system.

Objective 10. To establish a task force to investigate the extent of the convict labor system, i.e. chain gangs and related forced labor systems operating outside the confines of the prison area in the United States, and to work toward passage of legislation to end these various systems of state and county convict labor.

Objective 11. To encourage governments to make provisions for prisoners to live as spouse and/or parent in order to maintain family relationships.

Goal 9. To expand training in the United Church of Christ to make leaders and members adept at community organizing by utilizing existing training groups or establishing such groups where they do not exist.

Goal 10. To urge individual members of the United Church of Christ to recognize our white racism, repent, and engage in acts of reconciliation and further to recognize the intimate relationship between racism in the United States and racism in the world at large.

Objective 1. To develop programs by UCC Instrumentalities and Conferences that will show people how to recognize the many forms of racism in the world; e.g., exploitation of Indians in Latin America, the caste systems of India, apartheid in southern Africa, discrimination against the Buraku-min and other minorities in Japan, discrimination against Chinese in Indonesia and the Philippines, denial of civil rights to Arabs in Israel, suppression of Jews in Russia.

Objective 2. To recruit more nonwhite persons to serve as UCC overseas workers.

Objective 3. To enlarge and support scholarship programs that train nationals overseas for leadership in their own countries.

Objective 4. To have Instrumentalities, Conferences, local churches, and secular and governmental agencies make substantial investments in emerging countries of the Third World, especially in African nations with black governments, in keeping with the General Synod policy of investing money for maximum social impact.

Objective 5. To encourage actions which combat racism and which alleviate human suffering caused by racism, including: (1) support of (a) the Program to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches; (b) victims of racism, prisoners, detainees and their families; (c) liberation movements in Africa and elsewhere which need medical, educational, and welfare assistance, providing their goals are consonant with the commitments of the United Church of Christ to racial and social justice; and (2) to instruct the Secretary of the Church (a) to use his good offices to ascertain the attitude and stance of the Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church in America toward “apartheid” in the Republic of South Africa, and the overtures they intend to make urging their sister Churches in South Africa to help build an open and just society for all the people of South Africa; and (b) to make public his finding to the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, to the membership of the United Church, and to the general public.

Objective 6. To develop an approach in the white community by the white community and for the white community to combat white racism.

Goal 11. To exchange Christians who have experienced racism with Christians who have not, as a means of gaining insight and perspective for the program to combat racism, as a part of the Christian world mission on six continents.

Goal 12. To direct the Executive Council, through the Instrumentalities, to implement with other denominational and interdenominational agencies those joint programs where ecumenical action can increase UCC effectiveness, in affirmation of decisions of previous General Synods relative to ecumenicity and in order to achieve maximum impact of UCC resources in the area of racial justice and the humanization of man.

ADDENDUM

**FUNDING AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION-RELATED COLLEGES
A Resolution Approved by General Synod VIII (1971)**

WHEREAS, there is a dire financial need of the six black colleges related to the United Church of Christ through the American Missionary Association; and

WHEREAS, there is a financial crisis in all such institutions around the world which are dealing with racial justice,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ directs the Executive Council in cooperation with the Council on Mission Priorities, Instrumentalities, and Conferences to implement a major financial campaign as soon as possible; and

That, in order to meet the dire financial needs of the A.M.A.-related colleges, the Executive Council, in cooperation with the Instrumentalities and Conferences, shall negotiate for each year of 1972 and 1973 loans not to exceed \$1,500,000 designated for the A.M.A. colleges; and

That the campaign receipts up to the full amount thereof be distributed as follows:

1. Payment of all campaign costs.
2. 75% to A.M.A.-related colleges.
3. 20% to the United Church Board for World Ministries for educational enterprises serving racial justice overseas.
4. 5% of the amount raised in each Conference shall be credited to that Conference and, at its option, may be utilized for racial minority scholarships or designated for the A.M.A.-related colleges.

The Eighth General Synod further directs the Executive Council to pay principal and interest on the loans negotiated for emergency financial needs of the six A.M.A.-related colleges from the portion designated for those colleges.