

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFRONTS  
THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS  
PREAMBLE**

**Never Have So Many Hungered**

Never in recorded history has the religious imperative to feed the hungry encountered a greater challenge than today. Half a billion of the world's people, most of them in Asia and Africa, face the threat of malnutrition or starvation. Most affected are the children who constitute more than half the population of most developing nations. Their lack of sufficient nutrition during early formative years may cause permanent stunting of the body, incurable blindness and irreversible brain damage. Survival for the world's hungry people depends in part on the response of the industrialized nations and the newly rich oil-producing countries—especially those of us who enjoy a high level of living and the advantages of sophisticated technology.

The harsh facts about malnutrition among the poor in the U.S.A. and about actual starvation abroad have moved many Americans to re-evaluate our own life philosophy, the principles of our faith, the ways of our society and the programs of our government. To concerned Americans there has come a dawning awareness that humanity lives in a world of limited resources; that humankind has squandered God's gifts of earth, air, energy and water; that world population is outrunning its food supplies; that often the more fortunate owe much of their wealth to the weak and exploited; that while we may be well-fed, well-housed and well-clothed millions of our brothers and sisters—more than ever before—are hungry, exposed, sick and often abandoned.

The causes of mass hunger are complex and inter-related. Continued population growth, particularly in developing countries, is straining meager food resources and public services. Exploitation of land and forests over the years has caused soil erosion, floods and pollution. Concentrated land ownership and political domination by the few have resulted in the exploitation of the chronically poor, in the creation of a huge landless class and in injustice to many a tiller of the soil. The existing patterns of international trade and foreign economic aid are tilted to the advantages of affluent people and developed countries. To these deep social ills have now been added the devastating drought in Africa with resulting encroachment of the desert on once habitable land, unpredictable droughts in India and floods in Bangladesh. When world-wide inflation, aggravated by the sudden quadrupling of world petroleum prices, dealt still another blow to people with no margin or reserve, many citizens of the poor nations have been pushed to the brink.

**The American Response Is Mixed**

In the midst of such great and deepening need, citizens of the United States—in spite of recession, unemployment and inflation—find ourselves enjoying one of the highest levels of living of any nation in history. The American per capita income of some \$5,000 a year is 25 times greater than that upon which the less fortunate half of the world's people exist. The 1,850 pounds of grain consumed by the average American in the form of meat, dairy products, liquor, cereal and bread is nearly five times that consumed by the average Indian or Nigerian.

At the same time, we recognize that vast disparities of wealth and income exist in the United States. Because America's per capita income is inequitably distributed, millions of American citizens suffer hunger and malnutrition. Under these circumstances, we who would be conscientious

Christians cannot turn our backs on our fellow human beings, either overseas or at home—especially those who are destined to suffer the effects of malnutrition if we and people like us do not act.

Fortunately, the United Church of Christ, like many other religious bodies, is no stranger to the problems of hunger at home or abroad. Impelled by the biblical mandate to feed the hungry and to exercise responsible dominion over God's creation, local churches, Conferences and national agencies of our denomination have a long historical involvement in programs designed to alleviate human need. These programs have included efforts to increase food production, to share our abundance with hungry people and to press for the repeal of economic practices which withhold food and other necessities from the needy. On the modest scale available to a denomination that historically has had relatively few tithers our mission funds today are supporting many programs at home and abroad to conquer hunger and strengthen development.

Because of the bounty of our agricultural production, our nation in partnership with Canada, has become the major supplier of export grain during most of the years since World War II. We have exported one-third of our annual wheat production to fill the gap between the production and the food needs of developing countries. Using our agricultural production, we helped to rebuild Europe and Japan and then to feed the hungry in Asia, Africa and Latin America with critically needed commodities shipped by our government under Public Law 480 (Food for Peace).

From 1970 until the present day the value of food exports has continued to rise but the pattern of such exports has dramatically changed. While increasing grain shipments from \$8 billion in 1972 to over \$20 billion in 1974, our food aid to the neediest nations has been slashed by nearly two-thirds during this period. The bulk of our food exports now go in cash sales to Japan, the Soviet Union and Western Europe. We have cut food aid from an average of 9 million tons a year between 1968 to 1972 to 3.4 million tons in 1974—and more than half of this latter amount was used for political objectives in such countries as South Vietnam and Cambodia rather than in areas of more acute human need in Africa or the Indian subcontinent. This trend fits all too well into the larger picture of a declining percentage of our Gross National Product (GNP) designed for humanitarian economic assistance—2.79% in 1949 but only 0.21% in 1974.

The American response to the deepening need of other parts of the world simply cannot be the tightening fist and the turning aside which these U.S. Government figures for the past four years seem to indicate. In recent years church-channelled aid, as illustrated by the annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, has continued to grow. Now the time has come for a new and substantial increase in the denomination's response to world food and hunger problems. What the Church can do within its levels of resources is to raise a standard and point a direction. Putting its own private and voluntary resources on the line in behalf of its conviction, the church dares to call also for public action by the nation of which it is a part on behalf of the hungry of the world.

**PRONOUNCEMENT**

**Our Christian Faith Demands Compassion and Justice**

Concern for others is a Biblical imperative. Jesus has taught us not to be anxious about our own lives, "what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor what you shall put on." But he enjoins us rather pointedly to be anxious about others,

as he tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves. He invests such concern with even deeper significance when, in his memorable portrait of the final judgment, He says of giving food to the hungry or drink to the thirsty or clothing to the naked, "As you did it to one of the least of these . . . you did it to me."

Moreover, genuine Christian charity does not promote dependency on the part of the neighbor. Our commission is to "set at liberty those that are oppressed" (Luke 4). Our long-term response to hungry neighbors must be not to continue feeding them, but to help equip them to feed themselves.

To his children God grants freedom and responsibility. "Dominion" over the earth is an awesome responsibility. It is not license to abuse. Dominion is always disciplined by our recognition that "the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" (Ps. 24). Our responsibility is to nurture and sustain the earth's productivity with deep sensitivity to ecological balance. This is the deepest meaning of stewardship.

In God's providence, the earth's resources are not intended for the benefit of a few but for all men and women. Wealth and prosperity—either in the hands of persons or nations—create no exemption from accountability to God. The Church can and must espouse the equitable, world-wide distribution of earthly resources.

As reflected in the story of the rich man and the poor beggar named Lazarus, the rich and overfed stand under judgment of God for the way they use their wealth in relation to the poor and underfed who live around them. Human institutions are under the same mandate to justice as are individuals. Institutions, whether secular or religious, which treat people with anything less than justice are in violation of the will of God.

#### Public Policy Imperatives

In view of the global dimensions and the deep human tragedy of world hunger, in consideration of the potential role of the United States as a major factor either for perpetuating or ameliorating the crisis, and in response to central teaching of our Christian faith, the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Government and people of the United States of America to enact and implement the following policies and programs as our minimal contribution to the amelioration of the world food situation:

##### 1) Increased emergency food aid

The United States should reverse the recent trend to reduction in the annual volume of U.S. food aid to developing countries. We suggest that a reasonable goal for U.S. emergency food aid would be the nine-million-ton level which our country averaged from 1968 to 1972. In addition to its own increased commitment, our government should take the lead in pressing for an annual flow of food aid, jointly funded by all currently affluent nations, sufficient to insure that the emergency needs of hungry people around the world are met. The use of food as a selfish political weapon is unconscionable in a hungry world. Food aid should be allocated proportionately to the incidence of hunger around the world without regard to political and ideological considerations.

##### 2) Increased aid for agricultural development

The U.S. should increase its response to the requests of developing countries for technical assistance appropriate to their agricultural development needs. Such aid should pri-

marily benefit small farmers and increase domestic supplies. The U.S. should contribute proportionately to the new International Fund for Agricultural Development inaugurated by the 1974 World Food Conference in Rome.

##### 3) Establishment of an international system of food security reserves

Our country must become a major partner in a responsible international system of food security reserves. To this end the U.S. should cooperate fully with the world food reserve recommendations of the World Food Conference.

##### 4) Increased U.S. farm production

Recognizing that a major part of the solution to the world food crisis lies in increased production in the developing countries themselves, the U.S. should nevertheless take all appropriate steps to maximize its own food production within the limits of sound ecological principles. Such steps should include continuation of agricultural research; a domestic farm policy which provides reasonable price and income stability to American farmers at levels which constitute an incentive to full production; and a national land use planning program which will protect farm land from diversion to non-productive uses.

##### 5) Elimination of domestic hunger in the U.S.

The urgent and legitimate appeals for food aid abroad should not obscure the responsibility of the U.S. to make possible an adequate diet for every resident of the U.S.A. In the short term this calls for expansion of the coverage, liberalization of the provisions and more adequate implementation of the Federal food stamp program and other Federal food aid programs. In the long term our goal should be to assure every American family an adequate level of living.

##### 6) Increased production and better distribution of fertilizer

Fertilizer, both chemical and organic, is a key element in increased food production. The United States should encourage increased fertilizer production at home and abroad. While additional fertilizer can be used even on our already well-fertilized fields, far greater yields may be obtained from the same amount of fertilizer applied to the under-fertilized land of developing countries. The U.S. should encourage a sharp increase in the export of fertilizer to these countries on terms they can afford. Research and development on fertilizer production both in the U.S. and abroad should be encouraged. U.S. technical assistance should be made available for development of fertilizer plants to utilize natural gas currently being flared and wasted from oil wells in the Middle East.

##### 7) Reduction of food waste

The U.S. should assist developing countries technologically and financially to develop storage and transportation systems for foodstuff which will minimize spoilage and loss by insects, rodents and animals. In the U.S., the government should campaign against household, restaurant and institutional waste of food.

##### 8) Reduction of U.S. food consumption

Medical testimony indicates that many Americans over-eat and over-drink. Government agencies should mount educational campaigns to encourage more modest and healthful levels of diet and to discourage excessive use of grain-based alcoholic beverages and grain-fed meat.

**9) Justice for small farmers**

In many developing countries, peasant farmers are victimized by time-encrusted systems of tenancy, credit and taxation which severely limit their incentive and productivity capacity. Reform of these oppressive systems is a key to increasing food production. Although such reforms are ultimately the responsibility of national governments, the United States can and should encourage in every legitimate way the revision of agrarian structures in the interest of justice for the small farmers and land laborers of the world.

Moreover, the United States Government should set an example in this matter by pursuing policies for the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of family farmers in our own country against the encroachment of corporate agricultural enterprises.

**10) Expansion of agricultural research**

We are learning that much of the farm technology which has contributed to the high productivity of U.S. agriculture is not directly applicable to many other parts of the world. Scientific research and technology appropriate to conditions in the developing countries are essential to the expansion of their food production. The U.S. should continue and increase both financial resources and skilled personnel for the pursuit of research and technology oriented to the needs and conditions of developing countries.

**11) Family planning and population stabilization**

Unless the world soon attains a greatly reduced rate of population growth, all efforts to feed the hungry may be doomed to frustration. The U.S. Government should continue to support and implement programs designed to achieve population stabilization in this country by the end of this century or earlier. It should also support the efforts of other nations and/or international agencies toward world population stabilization by early in the 21st century.

**12) Respect for The Environment**

Humankind has the capacity and indeed a tendency to abuse, misuse and overuse the earth and its resources, to violate the fragile ecological fabric of the planet. The U.S. Government should increase research on the ecological problem and should support programs which keep food production practice in harmony with ecosystems.

**13) Liberalization of international trade**

The United States Government should work internationally to establish trade policies that encourage agricultural production in the less developed countries by removing trade barriers and stabilizing world commodity prices. At the same time such domestic programs should be enacted as may be necessary to cushion adverse effects of international trade liberalization upon American farmers, workers and companies.

**14) Arms limitation and reduction of military spending**

The enormous military establishment of the world which consumes more than \$230 billion annually is a major competitor of agricultural production for world-scarce natural resources and money. The United States Government should press vigorously for international arms control, including the restriction of the sale of arms to all countries, thereby reducing the inhuman waste of war and releasing vast funds needed to eradicate hunger through basic economic development in every land.

**15) Economic and political change**

To achieve a world free from hunger and poverty it may prove necessary for us to consider radical changes in all food production and delivery systems. We call upon government and people to join in examining our assumptions, attitudes and institutions to discover those deep-running and thorough-going political and economic changes that may be required to truly enable all the world's peoples to have enough to eat.

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST RESPONDS TO THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS

### (Program of Action)

#### INTRODUCTION

The action proposals which follow constitute a comprehensive action design for study, adaptation and implementation by all the members and structures of the United Church of Christ—national agencies, Conferences, Associations, local congregations, and individual members and families. It is not intended to replace or discourage any forms of action response to the hunger crisis currently being pursued within the denomination. On the contrary, it is intended to encourage and to increase their scope and intensity, and to provide an over-all framework of stimulation and coordination within which they may become even more effective.

The action program begins with a definition of goals—six broad, comprehensive goals. It moves next to a series of concrete and immediate objectives related to each of the goals. Finally, it offers a set of strategies geared to each goal. Please note that the "strategies" are purely suggestive and illustrative. They were not adopted by General Synod as were the goals and objectives.

#### GOALS

##### I. Consciousness Raising

To help the members of the United Church of Christ become more fully aware of the world-wide hunger problem, its critical nature, and the responsibilities it lays upon all Christians; and to motivate them to individual and collective action.

##### II. Life Style Modification

To achieve among the members of the United Church of Christ voluntary and pertinent changes in personal and family ways of life including reduction in their use and waste of food and other resources, and the contribution of the resultant savings to help the hungry; and similarly to encourage local congregations, Conferences, national agen-



cies and General Synod to undertake the modification of their institutional styles which will release resources for the meeting of human hunger.

### III. Citizen Action

To involve the United Church of Christ, its national agencies, Conferences, Associations, congregations and members in ecumenical and denominational campaigns to secure and implement United States and inter-governmental policies that seek to resolve the world problem of domestic and international hunger within the broader context of development, international economic cooperation and social justice.

### IV. Fund Raising

To increase substantially the giving of United Church of Christ members through the established benevolence channels of the denomination for programs of emergency feeding, agricultural development, more equitable distribution of available food supplies between and within countries and for other food and hunger-related programs.

### V. Resource allocation

To formulate and apply clear criteria for the allocation of United Church of Christ personnel and funds available for combatting world hunger, giving priority to programs attacking the root causes of hunger and malnutrition and promoting maximum food production and population stabilization in localities, regions and nations throughout the world.

### VI. Theological and Ethical Studies

To contribute to a deeper understanding of the theological and ethical issues related to world hunger by initiating or collaborating in research, dialogue and publication.

### COMMENTARY ON THE GOALS AS A PACKAGE

To define the contours of a comprehensive denominational program on world hunger, it seems necessary to isolate and identify certain specific goals as we have done on the preceding page. There is, however, a danger inherent in this exercise against which we would warn ourselves and all who may review these proposals. The danger lies in creating an impression that this is a list of separate goals from which denominational agencies may pick and choose to suit their fancy.

Such is not the case. The six goals should be seen as an integral package, closely interlocked and mutually interdependent. Let us illustrate this crucial point in several ways even at the risk of belaboring the obvious:

Goal I (Consciousness Raising) taken by itself is a relatively easy, cheap and non-threatening goal. But it is also a meaningless and indeed an immoral exercise unless it leads, as its final phrase indicates, to action along lines of Goals II, III, and IV.

Goal II (Life Style Modification) is not going to occur unless Goal I has been pursued with some effectiveness. Even if it does occur it will turn out to be a totally ineffectual exercise in self-purging with no impact on the real world of hunger unless it is coupled with programs related to Goals III, IV, and V.

Citizen Action (Goal III) is going to have a hollow ring about it unless it is buttressed by substantial evidence of action by individuals, families and congregations along the lines of Goals II and IV.

Under Goal IV (Fund Raising) a minimal goal should be the diversion to hunger-combatting programs of the savings effected by the introduction of simplified life styles (Goal III). We would hope that the momentum established by such diversion would continue and expand the flow of funds to a point where the term "sacrificial giving" could be applied without mockery.

Goals IV and V (Fund Raising and Resource Allocation) are clearly interrelated. Unless responsible stewardship is exercised in the disbursement of funds the whole meaning of the program will be frustrated.

With regard to Goal VI (Theological and Ethical Studies), it is our conviction that such a program as is described below under this goal can be of the greatest service as an undergirding and guiding component for all the other five goals.

In short, while we believe that each one of the six goals defines a relevant and supportable line of attack by the Church on the problem of world hunger, we would defend even more vigorously the principle that the package taken as a whole represents a minimal appropriate undertaking for a denomination possessed of the resources and, we believe, the commitment which characterizes the United Church of Christ.

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

### Component I—Consciousness Raising

Goal: To help the members of the United Church of Christ become more fully aware of the world-wide hunger problem, its critical nature, and the responsibilities it lays upon all Christians; and to motivate them to individual and collective action.

- Objectives:
1. To create channels of access to the best available information on the world food situation, both short term hunger crises and long term trends in food production, distribution and consumption, and in population.
  2. To make available discussion materials on the theological and ethical implications of the Christian faith and commitment for dealing with this problem. (See also Component VI)
  3. To discover materials, printed and audio-visual, on the world hunger problem the form and content of which are suitable for U.C.C. and ecumenical use; and to produce such materials when necessary.
  4. To promote throughout the U.C.C. the use of this denominational and other material through a variety of educational and motivational events at all levels within the U.C.C., especially among congregations, Associations and Conferences.
  5. To report success stories as well as stories of continuing human need.

**Suggested**

**Strategies:** (For illustrative purposes only; not adopted)

1. Data gathering  
Designate a point for receiving, screening and classifying a wide range of information from a variety of sources, governmental and private, relating to food and population. U.C.C. mission personnel should be used as prime sources of data.
2. Production  
Request appropriate agencies of the denomination to share the task of discovering and producing the variety of materials called for in Objective 3.
3. Dissemination  
Utilize denominational channels in getting out information, educational materials and motivational appeals on world hunger to the constituency of U.C.C. (e.g., Office of Communication, UCBHM, UCBWM, Stewardship Council, OCLL, A.D. Magazine).
4. Utilization  
Structure special occasions and events designed for consciousness raising. E.g. Exhibits at Conference sessions; special seminars—Association or Conference; interfaith community events. Provide for the formation of local study groups for receiving and disseminating information. Make maximum use of all available techniques for education and motivation including films, drama, game playing, photo journalism, case reports of effective techniques, etc. Use U.C.C. mission personnel, instrumentality staff and volunteers to report both achievements and areas of continuing need to local churches, Association and Conference meetings.

**Component II—Life Style Modification**

**Goal:** To achieve among the members of the United Church of Christ voluntary and pertinent changes in personal and family ways of life including reduction in their use and waste of food and other resources, and the contribution of resultant savings to help the hungry; and similarly to encourage local congregations, Conferences, national agencies and General Synod to undertake the modification of their institutional styles which will release resources for the meeting of human hunger.

- Objectives:**
1. To confront every U.C.C. member with the implications of the fact that he/she lives in a country which contains 6% of the world's population but accounts for 33% of the world's annual energy consumption.
  2. To lay upon the conscience of every U.C.C. member the responsibility of making conscious choices and decisions regarding life style and patterns of consumption.
  3. To make available to every U.C.C. member a catalogue of specific ways in which he/she could reduce use and waste of natural resources and make the savings available to hunger-combatting programs. (E.g. modify personal and family diet in ways which will reduce excessive U.S. grain drain; reduce use of lawn fertilizer; plant a garden; walk or ride a bicycle; give time to hunger relieving projects.)
  4. To challenge every U.C.C. congregation, Conference and national agency and the General Synod to review its own style of operation, priority setting, budgeting and use of resources in search of simplifications and savings which could be allocated to combatting hunger at home and abroad.

**Suggested**

**Strategies:** (For illustrative purposes only; not adopted)

1. Utilize the communication and motivational mechanism established under Component I.
2. Set up a "Fellowship of the Concerned for the Hungry" within the U.C.C. system which can establish its own goals, disciplines and communications with respect to life style modification, and through which persons desirous of making certain commitments can enter into a sustaining fellowship.

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3. Build into the communication system related to this component clear and precise information as to how persons, families and congregations may channel the savings resulting from moving to simpler life styles into hunger-related programs and projects of the denomination. (See component IV and V)
4. Recruit volunteers, particularly from among young people and retired persons, whose personal life style modification may take the form of a real time commitment to do educational work in behalf of world hunger among the churches and church agencies or, in terms of specific skills, to short or long term service assignments to countries and areas in need of technical assistance in food production and management.

### Component III—Citizen Action

**Goal:** To involve the United Church of Christ, its national agencies, Conferences, Associations, congregations and members in ecumenical and denominational campaigns to secure and implement United States and inter-governmental policies that seek to resolve the world problem of domestic and international hunger within the broader context of development, international economic cooperation and social justice.

- Objectives:**
1. To encourage Instrumentalities, Conferences, Associations and local churches to develop, within the general framework of the General Synod Pronouncement, their own positions on specific food and development issues in appropriate ways.
  2. To involve in the development of positions mentioned in Objective 1 the widest possible range of relevant and responsible viewpoints and experiences and to relate to other denominational and ecumenical positions.
  3. To support and when necessary establish networks of concerned people who will respond to timely alerts on food and hunger issues by communicating their views to appropriate policy makers in the legislative branches of government.
  4. To work with action groups, both religious and secular, which are seeking to alleviate hunger at domestic and international levels.
  5. To urge governmental leaders to support policies consonant with the national and international goals for short and long term alleviation of hunger as set forth in this document.
  6. To establish communication with and, when appropriate, support the United Nations and other international agencies which carry responsibility for food-related and developmental concerns.

### Suggested

**Strategies:** (For illustrative purposes only; not adopted)

1. Provide resources for use by Instrumentalities, Conferences, Associations and local churches in developing their own policy positions.
2. Provide for continuing counsel from appropriate persons and groups, in and out of the United Church of Christ, in order to maintain up-to-date, relevant and flexible applications of the general policy.
3. Utilize appropriate communications systems for the widest possible dissemination of policy positions and for most effective use of the networks identified in Objective 3.
4. Present to the legislative and executive branches of the government and appropriate international agencies United Church of Christ positions on world food and development issues.
5. Arrange for presentation of the U.C.C. position on food and hunger, preferably in ecumenical cooperation, to the 1976 major political platform committees.
6. Utilize existing educational and human resources, both within the church and without, whenever possible.



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### Component IV—Fund Raising

**Goal:** To increase substantially the giving of United Church of Christ members through the established benevolence channels of the denominations for programs of emergency feeding, agricultural development, more equitable distribution of available food supplies between and within countries and for other food and hunger-related programs.

- Objectives:**
1. To increase the number of U.C.C. congregations which give the equivalent of at least 25% of current local expenses to Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission, in order to strengthen the total ministry of the church to all disadvantaged peoples, particularly those ministries that will foster agricultural development and equity in the distribution of food from all sources.
  2. To increase the income from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering by at least 25% and the Neighbors in Need and Family Thank Offering by at least 15% each year over the previous year, additional real income to be used to combat hunger abroad and at home.
  3. To challenge U.C.C. members to evaluate and readjust life styles in such a way as to contribute to the solving of the world's food problem, and to channel the monies saved through the Conferences, designated for world hunger.
  4. To encourage each U.C.C. Conference and local congregation to participate in hunger-related programs and projects within their own locality as these may be needed, while at the same time fulfilling Objectives 1 and 2 for the nationwide and worldwide war against hunger.
  5. To instruct the Treasurer of the U.C.C. to establish a Hunger Fund Account, and to allocate to that Fund all monies coming to his office from the Conferences and from the churches which are designated for hunger but not earmarked for any specific instrumentality, region or project.
  6. To authorize the Executive Council to approve a budget for the coordination and implementation of the Hunger Program approved by General Synod; to allocate funds to cover that budget as a first claim from monies which accumulate in the Hunger Fund; and to allocate such additional funds as may come in annually to appropriate hunger-related projects and programs.

#### Suggested

**Strategies:** (For illustrative purposes only; not adopted)

1. Request the Stewardship Council, Instrumentalities, Conferences, and congregations, to promote the rate of increase proposed in Objective 1 for OCWM Basic Support and proposed in Objective 2 for the all-church offerings.
2. Request the Planning and Correlation Committee of the Executive Council to urge the appropriate instrumentalities to give high priority to hunger-related programs and projects when recommending their proposals for possible funding from Neighbors in Need and the Family Thank Offering, so that at least one such program or project will be included in each of these offerings each year.
3. In the Conferences and congregations assign responsibility to a new or existing group, committee or task force to discover areas of hunger within their own localities, identify the causes, and develop programs of action to relieve this hunger, as well as hunger in the nation and world at large.

### Component V—Resource Allocation

**Goal:** To formulate and apply clear criteria for the allocation of United Church of Christ personnel and funds available for combatting world hunger, giving priority to programs attacking root causes of hunger and malnutrition and promoting maximum food production and population stabilization in localities, regions and nations throughout the world.

- Objectives:**
1. To achieve allocation, in addition to present proportions of budgeted funds, of all additional income from the OGHS offering above the 1974 level to hunger-related programs and projects; and designation of at least one hunger-related program or project each year for support from Neighbors in Need and Family Thank Offering.
  2. To establish the following criteria for serious consideration in the allocation of all U.C.C. resources committed to solving the problem of world hunger.

The program or project:

- a. Increases total food production within areas where food is needed.
- b. Preserves and enhances the future productivity of the land.
- c. Contributes to the reduction of food waste and spoilage in the fields, in storage and in distribution.
- d. Contributes to population stabilization.
- e. Contributes to the institutional and social reforms which are essential to overcome inequities in access to food and in food distribution.
- f. Is integral to the total process of promoting human development and social justice.
- g. Contributes to self-determination on the part of recipient people.
- h. Is responsive to the desires of the recipient people.
- i. Is coordinated to the maximum feasible extent with ecumenical agencies, USAid, World Bank, United Nations agencies, and foundations.

Suggested  
Strategies:

(For illustrative purposes only; not adopted)

1. Request the appropriate national agencies to make their budget allocations for 1976 and thereafter in conformity to the intent of Objective 1 above.
2. Request the Instrumentalities, Conferences and local congregations to give serious consideration to the adoption and application of the criteria set forth in Objective 2 in all 1976 and future budgetary allocations for hunger-combatting programs and projects.
3. Encourage the Instrumentalities and Conferences to continue and even to increase the practice of ecumenical sharing in both allocation decisions and the actual channelling of funds into hunger-related programs and projects.
4. Establish and observe the principle that whenever possible, emergency feeding should be linked with "food-for-work" programs, with the work preferably related to agricultural development projects.

Component VI—Theological and Ethical Studies

Goal: To contribute to a deeper understanding of the theological and ethical issues related to world hunger by initiating or collaborating in research, dialogue and publication.

- Objectives:
1. To establish study teams of qualified persons on an interdisciplinary basis in cooperation with other interested religious bodies to deal with the practical realities and the theological/ethical dimensions of the world food situation.
  2. To channel the insights of these team studies into the processes of other components of this action program.
  3. To publish the reports of the several study teams, either as monographs or as a volume.
  4. To contribute to the public debate, essential to the solving of the problems of world hunger.

Suggested

Strategies: (For illustrative purposes only; not adopted)

1. The Inter-Agency Working Group (recommended below) should be responsible for recommending the U.C.C. concerns to be assigned to study teams. These recommendations would go through the UCBWM in consultation with the President of the United Church of Christ.
2. The UCBWM should give U.C.C. endorsement to the proposed study teams. UCBWM should arrange for U.C.C. staff services to each team, as advisable.



3. The teams should include the most qualified personnel available in such areas as: food production, processing and marketing; nutrition; agricultural and consumer economics; population problems; rural sociology; community organization; and theology/ethics (not confined to Christian).
4. The teams should be geographically localized as much as possible to minimize expense.
5. Areas of concern for theological and ethical studies might include, for example:
  - a. Systemic changes essential to equitable food distribution.
  - b. Food for the hungry; justice for food producers.
  - c. Respect for the earth and stewardship of the soil, as discipline over technology.
  - d. The ethics of triage (deliberately allowing groups to starve).
  - e. Economic growth on a finite planet.
  - f. Population growth on a finite planet.
  - g. Use of food as a political weapon in international affairs.
  - h. Christian-Moslem dialogue on resource use and justice.
  - i. Developmental vs. military aid.
  - j. The impact of transnational corporations on world food problems.
  - k. Individual enmeshment in unjust social systems.

### COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

#### THE GENERAL SYNOD REQUESTS:

1. The United Church Board for World Ministries to accept responsibility for the coordination of this Action Program on World Hunger. The UCBWM will render progress reports on the program to each meeting of the Executive Council and to the Eleventh General Synod. An evaluative report will be made by the Executive Council to the Twelfth General Synod together with its recommendations regarding the future of this program.
2. UCBWM convene an Inter-agency Staff Working Group which includes designated staff from the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Center for Social Action, the Commission for Racial Justice, the Office for Church Life and Leadership, the Stewardship Council, the Task Force on Women in Church and Society, the Office of Communications, and a representative of the Council of Conference Executives. This Working Group will be accountable to the UCBWM. It will have responsibility for carrying out the coordination of national agency programs and for providing encouragement, resource assistance and coordinative services to Conferences, Associations and local congregations along lines recommended in this action proposal. The Working Group will have as part of its task the preparation and maintenance of an accurate, ongoing inventory of involvement by the United Church of Christ on world food and hunger issues.
3. The UCBWM create, in consultation with the President of the Church, an Advisory Commission on World Hunger of a) persons with expert knowledge of the world food situation and b) persons well acquainted with United Church structures and systems. The functions of the Advisory Commission, which might meet once or twice a year with the Inter-agency Staff Working Group, will be to provide up-dated information on the world food situation; review progress of denominational action; recommend appropriate emphases, strategies and program directions; and submit evaluative reports and recommendations to the Board of Directors of UCBWM.
4. That special efforts be made to include farmers, youth, women, and ethnic and racial minorities in the coordination and implementation of this proposal.

Assistant Moderator Elicker recognized Larry E. Turns (NH) who moved the adoption of a Covenant on World Food Crisis:

... to the Tenth General Synod of Christ, voluntarily covenanted a significant meal each week at the General Synod. (Those who do not comply will devise their own meal.) We intend this as a symbol of commitment for one of the priorities of

the Tenth General Synod, the World Food Crisis, and further as a reminder of our commitment to all the work of the Church."

The motion was seconded.

Allan Moyer (PSE) was recognized and moved to amend the motion by adding at the end of the first sentence the phrase "and contribute the money saved through this fasting to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering for the purpose of combatting the problem of world hunger." The motion