

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE-PENAL REFORM**

73-GS-38 VOTED: The Ninth General Synod adopts the statement as amended on Excessive Bail:

The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

- I. Denounces the practice of setting excessive bail, especially in the case of political activists.
- II. Calls upon the Criminal Justice Priority Team of the United Church of Christ to develop viable revisions and alternatives to cash bail and transmit those revisions to our membership, to congressmen, and legislators.
- III. Make available staff consultative and financial support for local programs which share this goal, and for Conferences which in cooperation with other agencies are working toward this goal; said support may come in the form of a pilot project in one or more Conferences.

73-GS-39 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on Reinstitution of Capital Punishment.

The Ninth General Synod urges the United Church of Christ:

- I. through the Office of the President and in conjunction with the 40 Conferences of the United Church of Christ to communicate our continuing opposition to capital punishment and its reinstatement in the American judicial system; and
- II. to continue to make available staff, consultative and financial support for the United Church of Christ and community-based programs to prevent the reinstatement of capital punishment in any state and support repeal of capital punishment in states where the death penalty has been reinstated;
- III. to make available information and study resources for Conferences, Associations, and local churches concerning capital punishment.

73-GS-40 VOTED: The Ninth General Synod adopts the statement as amended on Post Incarceration Discrimination:

*Whereas* employment discrimination against ex-offenders is a major reason that ex-offenders revert to a life of crime in an attempt to survive,

*Whereas* it is not only consistent with Christian principles but also good public policy to encourage and contribute to the rehabilitation of felons and to assist them in the assumption of the responsibilities of citizenship, and

*Whereas* the opportunity to obtain employment or to pursue, practice or engage in a meaningful and profitable trade, occupation, vocation, profession or business is an essential ingredient in the assumption of the responsibilities of citizenship,

*Be It Resolved That* the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

- I. Urge the United States Congress and the legislative bodies of the fifty states and their subdivisions to enact legislation which will guarantee that no person shall be disqualified from employment by public or private employers simply because of a felony conviction;
- II. Call on the Conferences, Associations, and congregations to urge that public and private employment and licensing policies relative to ex-offenders in their areas be consistent with this resolution.