

75-GS-36 VOTED: The Tenth General Synod adopts the resolution in Support of Our Brothers Who Are Challenging Solitary Confinement Practices at Marion Federal Penitentiary as amended.

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MARION BROTHERS**

WHEREAS solitary confinement deprives people of human and sensory contact; and

WHEREAS the Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, consistently uses solitary confinement as a method of control and punishment, sometimes for months, and even for years, and

WHEREAS the Control Units at Marion Federal Penitentiary are comprised, in part, of "boxcar cells" which totally isolate people from the human and natural environment, and

WHEREAS prisoners are placed in solitary confinement without recourse to due process or definite time limits on confinement, and

WHEREAS the Marion Brothers, a group of prisoners who have been held in these units at the Marion Federal Penitentiary, have filed a class action suit challenging the constitutionality of the Control Unit, and

WHEREAS the suit will be tried in the Federal Court at Benton, Illinois, beginning June 30, 1975;

THEREFORE the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, acting out of a strong biblical and historical concern for the rights and humanity of prisoners, goes on record as supporting the efforts of the Marion Brothers to establish just and humane treatment at the Marion Federal Penitentiary, and

FURTHER the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its support for the Marion Brothers in telegrams to the National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers, 6199 Waterman, St. Louis, Missouri 63112; Mr. Norman Carlson, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Robert Kastenmeier, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; Ralph Hurvitz, plaintiff's counsel, c/o Marion Courts Motel, Marion, Illinois 62959; and the chairperson of the Subcommittee on National Penitentiaries of the United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; . and that individuals be encouraged to do likewise, and

FURTHER the Tenth General Synod instructs the Counsel to the denomination to proffer a letter-memorandum *amicus-curiae* in support of the lawsuit to the Honorable James Foreman, U.S. District Court, 750 Missouri Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois 62202.