

RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE
A Statement Adopted by General Synod X (1975)

Jesus stood up and unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; God has anointed me to preach the Good News to the poor, sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to announce the year when the Lord will save all people!” (Luke 4:16-19 TEV) Our biblical heritage strongly affirms seeking justice, correcting oppression, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, loving our neighbor, and an emerging vision of the New Jerusalem where mourning, crying, and pain shall be no more.

Affirming our biblical heritage and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the United Church of Christ is called to continue its involvement in the struggle for racial and economic justice.

WHEREAS the poor, the sick, the hungry, and oppressed suffer deprivation of land, goods, services, income, and opportunity, and

WHEREAS according to national statistics a gap continues to grow between the wealthiest 20% and the rest of our population, and

WHEREAS adequate health care is determined by one’s ability to pay, which deprives many people from universal access to necessary health services, and

WHEREAS it has been estimated that 15 to 30 million persons suffer from hunger and malnutrition in our land, and

WHEREAS racism continues to exist in personal attitudes and institutional practices and policies,

THEREFORE the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ re-affirms its enduring commitment to, and priority for, racial and economic justice, and the Tenth General Synod requests local churches, Associations, Conferences, and national agencies and instrumentalities to:

1. recognize the inextricable relationship between our personal life-styles and poverty, health care, domestic hunger, and racism;
2. respect individual worth and cultural diversity of all persons regardless of race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, age, sex;
3. adopt an affirmative action policy in hiring and promoting minority persons and women in professional and program staff positions;
4. invest staff and program resources in new, as well as traditional, urban church development and in urban community ministries; and

The Tenth General Synod directs the Executive Council to work with the appropriate agencies and instrumentalities to:

1. urge changes in national budget priorities through the Regional Citizen's Budget Hearings by providing them with factual and ethical testimony, and through other appropriate ways, to reshape the national priorities to respond to human need;
2. strongly encourage a full employment economy;
3. address the need for just tax reform which recognizes the problem of inadequate income distribution;
4. work for a guaranteed adequate income consonant with the actions of the Ninth General Synod;
5. work for minority economic development;
6. encourage legislation that will insure adequate nutrition to each American through a humane and equitable process; and

The Tenth General Synod directs the Executive Council to work with appropriate agencies and instrumentalities to:

1. provide staff and program resources to address the issues of quality education and accountability in public education;
2. work for the guarantee of quality health care for all Americans through improved health delivery systems and adequate national health insurance.