

STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE
Adopted by General Synod IX (1973)

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ affirms its Biblical heritage and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, from which issue the injunctions to “seek justice, correct oppression, defend the fatherless, pleas for the widow,” to love neighbor as self, and from which emerge the vision of New Jerusalem where mourning, crying, and pain shall be no more;

WHEREAS, there are increasing inequities in the division of wealth and income producing opportunities which persist as major obstacles to racial and social equality and a just society; And in order to state its commitment to a comprehensive strategy for economic justice, the Ninth General Synod:

1. Identifies the following as just and attainable objectives:
 - a) extension, rather than cutback, of publicly funded social services in the fields of education, health, housing, job training, and particularly adequate, comprehensive child development and day care services for all children, especially those of the poor and low income groups;
 - b) improvement and expansion of food stamp program, school breakfast and lunch programs, and the creation of new means to insure that no person be hungry in this society of abundance;
 - c) a return to a full employment economy, with the federal, state and local government as the employers of the last resort;
 - d) a guaranteed minimum annual income program of \$7,214 for every American family of four based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Lower Budget, 1972;
2. Calls for reduced military spending, and reform of local, state, and federal tax systems as the most immediate, humane, and just strategy to produce public funding for human needs;
3. Recognizes the need to work in coalition with organizations of significant segments of the citizenry, such as labor, the aging, and small farmers, which share these economic justice goals;
4. Urges the United Church of Christ through its national Instrumentalities, such as the Board for Homeland Ministries, Council for Christian Social Action, and others, working cooperatively; its Conferences, its Associations and its local churches to:
 - a) seek, undertake, and support appropriate coalitional action in the public sector at local and national levels;
 - b) devote regular and major attention to the interpretation of issues of economic justice and the Gospel to the United Church constituency.
 - c) Further to seek and support appropriate action in the public sector to bring inflation under control.