

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL MISSIONS

May 21, 1963

The Standing Committee on National Missions rejoices in the many-sided work of the Board of National Missions, for the increasing effectiveness of its ministry on our behalf, and for the devotion of the staff. After study of the reports and consultation with the staff and Board members, the Standing Committee reports as follows:

I. ANNUAL REPORT

The theme of the 1962 Annual Report is the effect of the increasing urbanization of the United States and the way our Church is trying to respond to the issues of our urban society. The Standing Committee considers the report vivid and exciting material and recommends that the report be commended to the serious study of our whole constituency.

The popular edition of the report is called Lost and Found in the City and should be used as a major resource for the 1963-64 national missions study theme, "The Changing City Challenges the Church."

II. MINUTES

The minutes of the Board of National Missions and of its Executive Committee were examined by the Committee and found to be in order.

The minutes of the following subsidiary boards were examined and found to be in order: Board of Home Missions, Board of American Missions, Board of the Church Erection Fund, Board of Missions for Freedmen, Woman's Board of Home Missions, and Trustees of the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work.

The Standing Committee recommends approval of these minutes.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Standing Committee has examined the Treasurer's Report, as audited, finds it in order, and recommends its approval, with commendation to the Treasurer.

IV. LAY PREACHERS

The 173rd General Assembly directed

"That the Board of National Missions, working in cooperation with presbyteries seek to develop further the ministry of lay preachers (see The Constitution of The United Presbyterian Church, the Form of Government, Chapter XXIV), developing and implementing training programs to give laymen the background and supervision needed for such service, and providing such lay preachers with proper recognition in presbytery..."

In response, the Board of National Missions has continued to conduct an annual Lay Preachers' Institute and has conducted a study of lay preachers and their status and functions in the presbyteries. Uncertainties regarding the office of lay preacher indicated in the study and experience make it clear that the serious ecclesiastical question presented requires careful study by the General Assembly.

The Standing Committee on National Missions recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Board of National Missions to request the cooperation of the Board of Christian Education, the Council on Theological Education, and the Office of the Stated Clerk to study further and prepare a report to the General Assembly of 1964 regarding the philosophy and role of lay preachers, their recruitment, commissioning, training, supervision, and use in The United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

V. DISTURBED YOUTH

The 173rd General Assembly directed that

"The Board of National Missions in cooperation with the National Presbyterian Health and Welfare Association carefully explore the feasibility of developing at least one pilot facility for the care of disturbed young people, if the results of study show this to be desirable."

Because of strong emphases already operating within the Church, the Standing Committee recommends that no further special projects be undertaken until the current efforts have been evaluated.

VI. BUILDING AID LOANS

The Standing Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Board of National Missions so to modify its application of the Rules Governing Building Aid that whenever practical, and at its discretion, repayment of a loan from any Building Aid Restricted Trust Fund be scheduled on a constant monthly basis.

VII. POLICY FOR MIGRANT MINISTRY

A. The United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. has long been associated with other denominations in the National Council of Churches in the ministry to migrant agricultural workers throughout the nation.

The Standing Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the statement of the National Council of Churches on National Goals for the Fifth Decade of the Migrant Ministry, 1960-1970 (attached to this report).

The Standing Committee further recommends that the General Assembly adopt the Goals as the policy of The United Presbyterian Church in its mission to migrant agricultural workers.

E. In light of the preceding policy statement, the Standing Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve and disseminate the following statements:

1. The General Assembly urges the judicatories to continue and to extend their participation in the Migrant Ministry in planning for, appropriation to, and administration of this essential part of our national mission.
2. Inasmuch as it is the mission of each local congregation to minister to all of the people of its whole community without distinction, the congregation should offer all of its services directly to all migrant agricultural workers who may be within the bounds of its parish. In view of sections one and eight of the Goals, the General Assembly calls upon the judicatories to encourage full implementation of this principle in every mission situation.
3. Inasmuch as Christ calls each member of his Church to be a witness to him in every circumstance of life, including daily work, the General Assembly calls upon the judicatories to encourage congregations and their members as a part of their Christian ministry to offer needed services, which might otherwise be unavailable, to migrant workers. Such a ministry falls upon Christian employers of migrant workers, as well as on Christians in other special positions or possessing special gifts or skills making it possible for them to offer medical, legal, social, commercial, or other services in Christ's name.
4. The section in the Report of the Standing Committee on Church and Society which deals with social, economic, and political issues involved in the Goals for the Fifth Decade of the Migrant Ministry.

In recommending this action, the Standing Committee reminds the synods, presbyteries, and local congregations, through the General Assembly, that the Migrant Ministry is a part of the whole ministry of the whole Church. Although it functions interdenominationally through national, state, and local committees with a staff of thousands of employed and voluntary workers, the Ministry must always be kept in focus as a part of the general and local mission of this particular denomination in the judicatories and in local congregations.

VIII. PATTERNS OF COOPERATIVE AREA MISSION

The Standing Committee commends the attached statement, Patterns of Cooperative Area Mission, to the 175th General Assembly, and recommends its adoption for the purpose of clarifying the position of The United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., within the framework of the Form of Government, relative to interdenominational cooperation and unity in mission as it applies specifically to town and country congregations.

IX. PLAN OF ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

Previous General Assemblies adopted Part I, entitled "The Board," and Part II, entitled "Executive Organization," Sections A and B, entitled A. Executive Officers and B. Headquarters Organization, and Part III, the General Assembly Commission on Evangelism, in the Plan of Organization.

The Standing Committee recommends that the General Assembly now adopt Part II, C, I, and E, entitled C. Synod and Presbytery Organization, I. The National Staff, and E. National Missions Staff in Synods and Special Administrative Units.

This Plan of Organization systematizes and clarifies the structure and function of all units conducting the work of National Missions. It preserves and revises procedures that have developed in our mutual experiences during the last few decades. The Plan provides a method of operation by which the Board, the National Staff, and the judicatories of the Church work together and plan, evaluate, and executive the National Mission of the Church.

X. IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PASTORS

The 174th General Assembly "requested that the Board of National Missions study the possibilities of establishing, on a national or regional basis, a preparation training program for pastors called to develop new church fields and report to the 175th General Assembly."

The Standing Committee requests that the Board of National Missions be commended for having instituted an in-service training program and for having developed an internship program for both ordained ministers and seminary students.

XI. INDIAN WORK POLICY

A. In response to actions of the 173rd and 174th General Assemblies, the Board of National Missions has amended its Statement of Policy and its program. The Standing Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt the attached statement as policy governing the work of The United Presbyterian Church among American Indians.

B. The Standing Committee requests that the General Assembly commend the booklet, Which Way Tomorrow?, to the churches for reading and study.

XII. CHRISTIAN FAITH AND HEALTH

The 172nd General Assembly received and adopted the report of a special committee which had been appointed to study "The Relation of Christian Faith to Health," and gave to the Board of National Missions the responsibility of taking appropriate steps to follow up this report.

The Standing Committee commends the Board of National Missions for its work in carrying out this assignment. The Standing Committee also calls the attention of the General Assembly to the original report and requests that it again recommend its study and implementation to pastors and sessions. The report is available from the Office of the Stated Clerk.

XIII. MINERS' MEMORIAL HOSPITALS

The Standing Committee requests the General Assembly to commend the Board of National Missions for its concern and prompt response to the crisis in the Appalachian Area caused by the threatened loss of basic hospital services and to encourage the Board in continuing to be the channel to bring to a fruitful conclusion the negotiations for the purchase, transfer to the community, and continuing operation of the ten miners' memorial hospitals.

XIV. MISSIONARY PERSONNEL

The Standing Committee requests that the General Assembly call to the attention of pastors, sessions, and presbytery committees on candidates the urgent need in the Board-related programs for professionally trained, mature physicians, nurses, teachers, social workers, and other educational and health and welfare personnel; and encourage qualified persons to explore possibilities of employment through the Division of Personnel Relations.

XV. SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

The Standing Committee notes that more than 5,000 young people of college and high school age were involved in summer service and mission study tour programs in national missions through the Student Summer Service of the Youth Program Department. It requests the General Assembly to commend the summer service program, as a means of enlisting valuable volunteer help in, and widening understanding of, the work of national missions, and for the impact the service has on the lives of young people.

XVI. SPANISH MATERIAL

Recognizing the need for understanding in the churches at large that Spanish-speaking people are the evangelistic responsibility and opportunity of all our churches, not merely a special province of the so-called "Spanish churches," the Standing Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Board of National Missions, the Board of Christian Education, and other appropriate interdenominational agencies to recruit and develop writers and translators to provide, at the earliest possible moment, Spanish materials of the highest calibre for the purposes of evangelism, Christian education, leadership training, preparation of new members, adult nurture, and similar subjects; and that the Board report to the 176th General Assembly its progress on the subject.

XVII. MISSION STUDY THEME, 1963-64

The Standing Committee recommends that the 1963-64 mission study theme, "The Changing City Challenges the Church," be commended for study by men's chapters, women's circles, youth groups, and other such church groups.

Particularly recommended for use in this study are the interdenominationally produced Friendship Press materials; Lost and Found in the City (35¢); the illustrated free leaflet, These Restless Throngs; The City and the Church, a basic packet of materials on urban church work and problems confronting urban dwellers (75¢); and five supplementary packets on housing, narcotics addiction, evangelism in urban situations, race relations in urban areas, and the urban community (50¢ each). All materials are available from Presbyterian Distribution Service centers.

XVIII. OVERTURE 55

The Standing Committee recommends that Overture 55, relating to medical care for all Presbyterians over 65, be referred to the Executive Committee of the National Presbyterian Health and Welfare Association for its study and recommendations to the 176th General Assembly.

XIX. RACIAL CRISIS

Recognizing that the social fabric of our nation has been and is being torn asunder by the tragic strife growing out of the issues of race relations; that our nation stands under judgment before God and the censure of the world when, on the one hand, it proclaims freedom and brotherhood of all men and, on the other, violates that proclamation in the day-to-day life of its people; and also that the Church is sorely wounded and broken because the love of Christ for all men has not been truly proclaimed and fully manifested within the Body of Christ:

We declare that now is the time for the operational forces of the Church at every level of its life to commit its leadership and resources in a coordinated effort in the area of race relations. This effort must give priority to opportunities for action and education in the local church, in judicatories, and the denomination in order that our nation may be redeemed and the Body of Christ may be healed.

The Standing Committee on National Missions requests:

- A. That the General Assembly commend the Board of National Missions for its present involvements and the effective steps already taken in more than 350 local situations in the work of the alleviation of racial tensions, many of which steps have been ecumenical or interfaith.
- B. That the General Assembly commend the Board of National Missions and the Board of Christian Education for their effective cooperation through the Interboard Commission, particularly in the area of race. ***

- C. That the General Assembly commend the Board of National Missions for the steps already taken to give priority consideration to opportunities for immediately expanding work in race relations in 1963 by earmarking approximately \$100,000 in Advance Giving funds from 1962.
- D. That the General Assembly express appreciation to the Board of National Missions, the Board of Christian Education, and the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations for their willingness to allocate the basic funds to expand their present programs and activities and to initiate new ones for the whole Church in the area of race relations.

In order that the Church may make its effective witness in the realm of race relations denominationally, ecumenically, and interfaith, the Standing Committee recommends:

- A. That the General Assembly request the Board of National Missions to mobilize its resources to press forward aggressively in new and creative ways the message and services of the total Church in racial reconciliation.
- B. That the General Assembly request the Board of National Missions, on behalf of the whole Church, to offer its services to stand behind and encourage leadership in local situations.
- C. That the General Assembly direct the Board of National Missions to give priority to opportunities immediately feasible in the field of race relations within the general area of National Missions responsibility.

Implementation of the above recommendations shall be in harmony with the principles contained in the appropriate section of the Report of the Standing Committee on Christian Education to the 175th General Assembly.

Rev. Benjamin J. Anderson, Chairman
Rev. Bertram D. Atwood, Secretary

Ministers: John Agria, Dale Ammon, J. Leslie Bell, Cecil Corbett, Abraham H. Lohi, James B. Douthitt, Irvin W. Emmons, Jim Forkner, William G. Gillespie, Hugh Gunn, Vernon K. Hoover, William A. McConnell, Owen McGarity, Thomas A. Michael, James W. Muir, William F. Orr, Allan Peterson, Roland Rosson, Samuel E. Roura, Calvin H. Schmitt, Ellsworth Young.

Elders: Edwin J. Anderson, Will Anderson, Cecil Baber, J. Earl Brubaker, Elwain C. Ereyer, Glen Folkins, Roland K. Fortune, G. Hochhalter, Mrs. Millie Hodge, William M. Hughes, W. Homer Ives, Guy McCracken, Harold A. McLaughlin, Jr. Paul D. Mattern, William L. Mayne, Mrs. Albert Nook, Mrs. Clyde Slinger, Harold Stegall, John M. Thompson, Mrs. Dorothy H. Whitehead, Paul F. Yergin, Mrs. Herbert W. Young.