COMMITTEE REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF CHRISTIAN SOCIAL EDUCATION AND ACTION

1965

As with all Conference Committees, we are struggling to become acquainted and oriented to our responsibilities. The Conference Committee on Christian Social Education and Action have determined that their major role is to work with Association Committees rather than individual churches. Our role is that of co-ordinator between Association and National. Help for individual congregations is to be supplied from the Association Committee. The main emphasis to the Conference will be that of establishing needed programs in the major areas of social relevancies of the Gospel. Areas of concern include such as the following: (a) Civil Rights; (2) Poverty; (3) International Affairs (including the United Nations; (4) Civil Liberties; and (5) Political Education.

I Report of the Committee's Activity to Date:

1. Two meetings of the Committee have been held to date with one of these being held at the site of the National Job Corp Training Program in order to obtain first-hand information about this very important phase of the National Poverty Program. Emerging concerns for committee action are (1) the apathy of most of our churches in making the Christian Faith as being relevant to social implications (this is manifest in the fact that less than one third of all of our churches have either a social action committee or attempt to guide thinking and action through other areas such as Church School, Churchmen's Fellowship, etc.); (2) need of more information about the National Poverty program and how the churches are affected; (3) various phases of civil rights needs.

Because we are a large conference, including representation in four states and District of Columbia, it is necessary to develop a program that is freed from provincialism and of sufficient interest to all concerned. Those items which we decide to emphasize must be of merit to both rural and urban, large church and small church. As we meet together and share our concerns as Association representatives, we are amazed at the diversity of problems and interests. And therefore as a conference committee we dare not spread ourselves so thin in attempting to speak to every issue that we become irrelevant.

We hope to establish three one-day institutes in each area of conference. These institutes would attempt to help train local congregational committee members as well as Association members in obtaining certain skills and to become more familiar with the resources that are available through The Council for Christian Social Action. We will have National resource personnel available at each of these. Detailed information will be received at a later time.

A questionaire has been prepared and is now in the hands of the Association Chairmen for distribution to the congregations. This questionaire is an attempt to gather sufficient facts about existing needs so that we can serve accordingly. Please co-operate with your Association Chairman in filling this out and returning promptly so that the Conference committee may work as effectively as possible.

2. After much discussion it was decided that we might most effectively serve in developing the social conscience of Conference by helping the pastors better to understand tension and how to use it creatively. Fear as a motivating or restricting force in social change was discussed by the committee at length. The Committee's main responsibility for 1965 and early 1966 will be developing a conference that will be of sufficient interest and merit that all of our pastors will find it helpful in becoming more effective instruments of change. Because this is also a concern of the Committee of Church and Ministry, we are suggesting that this be done jointly by the conference Committees of Church and Ministry and Christian Social Education and Action.

3. Budget askings for the Committee of Christian Social Education and Action are for the sum of $600. for committee business and varying amounts from $250. to $340. for each Association committee, depending upon need and program. Explanation of the

committee budget is as follows:

Travel for quarterly meetings	- $ 200.
Training opportunities (within Conference)	- 300.
Travel for chairman to attend Nat. Committee	- 50.
Miscellaneous and postage	- 50.

Scholarships to the various national institutes will be handled through the Associations. It is hoped that Conference will give the full amount as needed.

II Coming Summer Institutes:

A. Fisk University: June 28-July 10

What: The nation's oldest forum for discussing problems and progress in intergroup relations. This is the 22nd annual Institute of Race relations and this year the program combines both morning seminars and afternoon informal clinics of specific concerns.

Purpose: To relate the knowledge and theoretical insights developed by the social sciences to practical programs for breaking down the barriers and removing the inequities which have so long kept Americans of different backgrounds strangers to each other.

THEME: Human Rights in the Great Society

WHERE: Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

COST: $80. for registration, room, board and tuition; scholarship help is available through your Association chairman.

CREDIT: Institute members may earn three semester hours of academic credit toward undergraduate or graduate degrees from Fisk University.

B. Craigsville (Cape Cod, Mass.): July 10-July 16

Program: There will be major emphasis on POVERTY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Families, as well as individuals, are encouraged to participate. Special programs will be arranged for 9-12 and 13-16 year-olds in the mornings. The afternoons will be kept open for family recreation. Child care is available mornings for children under 9 years of age. Baby-sitting may be arranged in the evenings at 75¢ per hour.

COST: Board, room and program fee will be $56.50 for an individual; $109. per couple. Children pay no program fee. Board and room for children up through 10 years of age will be $33.; 11 and older $49.50. These rates include gratuities at the Inn.

REGISTRATION: Send to Dr. Huber Klemme, Council for Christian Social Action
289 Park Avenue South; New York, N. Y. 10010

SCHOLARSHIP: This is to be determined by each association - see Association committee chairman

C. Detroit, Michigan: July 17-July 31

What: A community action institute designed to help us better understand and utilize the forces of urbanization

Purpose: To help churchmen become effective agents of social change in their own communities.

Cost: There are full scholarships for board and room and program fee for those selected. Travel to Detroit, local transportation to jobs, and pocket money are the participants responsibility.

TO APPLY: Get in touch with Miss Elizabeth Johns, Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South; New York, N. Y. 10010

(OVER)

III Resolutions:

Resolutions this year concerning action on recommendations was to have been those items which Association Committees requested help in various legislative matters. Since none has been received, the Committee has no recommendations to present to Conference in 1965.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Committee on Health and Welfare had its initial and only meeting at Concordia church on May 25. Reports were received from the six Association committees on Health and Welfare. While these committees are awaiting some guide-lines from the Conference committee, it was evident that much creative interest was at work on the local level.

A QUESTIONNAIRE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE. A questionnaire prepared by the Division of Health and Welfare Services of the United Church of Christ, was made available to all conferences. Believing this to be a good way to get our committee work under way the questionnaire was mailed to all pastors of the conference. Sixty-seven replies have been received. These questionnaires provide information from broad welfare service fronts indicating needs of the local church and community and giving resources available. A tabulation of the information has been forwarded to the Division of Health and Welfare Services and the filled-in questionnaires were distributed to the Association committees for their use in developing their programs.

DENOMINATIONAL PATTERNS OF SERVICE. There are patterns of denominational health and welfare services that need be made more explicit, but the committee sees two major categories of service, that of the benevolent institution and that of non-institutional services, both church-related and secular, private and public. It was quite evident that the committee conceives its concern to go beyond institutional health and welfare services, charting new courses of service within the local community and beyond. The Northern New Jersey Association Committee, for instance, proposes that subcommittees be set up, enlisting professional people. These people to be drawn from the church membership where available, otherwise from the community.

INITIATION ON ASSOCIATION LEVEL. The discussion brought out the fact that much creative activity will have to come from local communities, reflecting local needs and resources. Because of the similarity of problems faced by the Health and Welfare Committee and the Committee on Social Action, the committee voted that:

> The Health and Welfare Committee of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ recommends that each Association Health and Welfare Committee consider inviting a member of the Social Action Committee to serve on its committee, and that the Social Action committee be approached and urged to invite a member of the Health and Welfare committee to serve on its committee. These exchange members would not have voting status on these two committees.

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR RETIRED PASTORS. An item which had been referred to the Committee by the Board of Directors of the Conference, has to do with providing help to retired ministers in meeting the premium payments on their Health Insurance with the denomination, especially where congregations had been making these payments for them. After considerable discussion by the Committee and further discussion with the Board of Directors, the committee voted to give this matter high priority on its agenda, that together with the Committee on Church and Ministry a thorough study be made of all phases involved and all possibilities that relate to this question , and that an early report be made to the Board of Directors.

In this connection the Committee would remind all lay delegates that there are three insurance possibilities open to pastors: Health Insurance, Life Insurance, a more recent plan, and Disability Insurance. Many of these are being carried by congregations for their ministers. Also lay staff members should receive the same consideration.

RELATIONSHIP OF BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS TO CONFERENCES AND/OR ASSOCIATIONS. The Committee has given considerable thought to the way institutions were formerly related to the Potomac Synod and to the Mid-Atlantic conference. While the latter did not have any institutions within its geographic boundaries, it did give support to institutions in adjacent conferences. The Division of Health and Welfare Services informed us that the denominational pattern is for institutions to relate themselves to conferences. In view of this and in view of a broad study made by the Board of Directors pertaining to representation on Boards of Directors of institutions, within the Conference, the Committee suggests that the churches of the conference be encouraged to continue their support of the institutions to which they turn for services and which they have supported in the past, and that representation on the Boards of these institutions be continued as heretofore.

The Committee wishes to call attention of the Conference to the institutions now associated with it in the above way.

HOMEWOOD CHURCH HOME, INC. has three institutions under its care:

Carlisle, Pa. - the Sadler Unit with an occupancy of 35
Hanover, Pa. - the McDowell Unit with an occupancy of 91
Williamsport, Md. - The Pearson Unit with an occupancy of 63.

At the present time the Pearson Unit is conducting a drive for $500,000 to enlarge its facilities. The Rev. Mark G. Wagner is the superintendent.

SPRINGVALE TERRACE, our newest United Church of Christ Home is located in Silver Spring, Md. and has a capacity of 139 persons. Though only recently dedicated, it is rapidly being filled to its capacity. This is one of the first Homes of the United Church of Christ financed through federally insured funds. Mr. Theodore Dohrman is its administrator. A Senior Citizens Center is located in the residence adjacent to the new building.

HOFFMAN HOME FOR CHILDREN at Littlestown, Pa. is not within the boundaries of our Conference but the former Potomac Synod has always recognized it as one of its institutions. "Hoffman Home provides a therapeutic, Christian living experience for 60 boys and girls who are too emotionally handicapped to be treated in their own homes or in foster homes. Children are admitted to care through churches and child caring agencies.

The professional staff consists of four social workers, a clinically-trained chaplain, a classroom teacher, a consulting child psychologist". Mr. Gerald Hagmeyer is the Executive Director.

We are informed that two other institutions not within the geographic boundaries of our conference, receive support from churches and individuals within the conference: The Elon Home for Children, at Elon College, N. C., and the Phoebe-Devitt Homes in Pennsylvania.

Descriptive literature may be found on the literature table downstairs. We would also call attention to the attractive folder that has been prepared by the Division of Health and Welfare Services listing all the benevolent institutions of the United Church of Christ.

This report is of necessity incomplete. Our committee has only begun to function and hopes, in the coming months to take a long look at what is being done in our Conference health and welfare services, and is even more concerned that it may open up new avenues of service. We pray only that we may be faithful in our stewardship to serve our Lord and His children in need.

Respectfully submitted,

THE HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

Henry C. Koch, Chairman