

THE VOICE OF THE MOVEMENT

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STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Adopted November 13, 1963, Detroit, Michigan

The Methodist Church stands for the equal rights of all racial, cultural, and religious groups. We confess with deep penitence that our performance as a church has not kept pace with our profession. The right to choose a place of residence, to enter a school, to secure employment, to vote or to join a church, should in no way be limited by a person's race or culture.

The Methodist Church must build and demonstrate within its own organization and program a Fellowship without racial barriers. The church must also work to change those community patterns in which racial segregation appears, including education, housing, voting, employment and the use of public facilities. To insist that restaurants, schools, business establishments, and hotels provide equal accommodations for all peoples without regard to race or color, but to exempt the church from the same requirement is to be guilty of absurdity as well as sin.

We urge our pastors upon whom rests the responsibility of receiving persons into the church, to receive all who are qualified and who desire to be received without regard to race, color, or national origin, and we individually and collectively pledge them our support as they do so. The Methodist Church is an inclusive church.

We decry, on legal as well as Christian grounds, the denial to any person of any color or race the right of membership or the right to worship in any Methodist Church. Further, to move to arrest any persons attempting to worship is to us an outrage.

We call upon all Methodist institutions where such has not been done, to bring their racial policies and practices in line with the Christian principles of racial inclusiveness to which we are committed.

We affirm the legality and right of those minorities who are oppressed anywhere in the world, to protest, to assemble in public, and to agitate "for the redress of grievances," provided this is done in an orderly way. A public march as a vast petition for attention and justice is in line with the principles on which this nation was founded. The recent march in Washington provided a spectacular and well-directed move of this kind.

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Bishops' Statement (cont'd.)

We note with satisfaction the increasing appreciation in our land and over the world of a growing spirit of justice and good will which in time will enable our people, both as churchmen and as citizens, to resolve unbrotherly tensions. Much has been accomplished and much more will be accomplished as the months go by. Constructive, if unnoticed, work has been going on over our whole land and our church has been among the foremost in calling for brotherhood and justice, and for an end to long entrenched evil. We rejoice that in community after community, city after city, state after state, good will and good laws have moved ahead with men and women of good intent working well together.

We call upon all of our pastors and members, and the people of our land and of all lands, to so speak and so live as to deepen by word and deed the brotherhood of man and make this a reality instead of a hope.

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MOTIVATION OF STUDENTS' ROLE IN RIGHTS PROTESTS IS STUDIED
Reprinted from The Washington Post

Student participants in sit-ins and other civil rights demonstrations see themselves as prodders of the Nation's conscience, a group of social scientists reported yesterday.

According to Jacob R. Fishman, student demonstrators feel that the Kennedy Administration has moved too slowly in the civil rights field and that progress would have been even less without their activities.

The students also see the proposed civil rights legislation before Congress as "empty and a farce," said Fishman, codirector of Howard University's Center for Youth and Community Studies.

If the civil rights movement bogs down or fails, said Arthur Waskow of the Institute of Policy Studies, the students will probably invent new techniques for attacking the old system.

One such technique may turn out to be the 25,000 member civil rights "army" proposed by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Waskow said.

Dr. Fredric Solomon of Howard's Department of Psychiatry said that student activity in social and political fields has increased greatly over the past five years on campuses throughout America.

In many cases, he said, this has been caused by the yearning of students to coincide their actions with their beliefs.

Fishman told reporters that the study by experts of student involvement in pro-social actions such as civil rights demonstrations may provide information on the causes of anti-social behavior and delinquency.

The intellectual impact of desegregation and the student movement was stressed by Kenneth Kenniston of Yale University's Department of Psychiatry. He said the impact is widespread on campuses and throughout the Nation and may transcend the desegregation issue in importance.

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