

## RESOLUTION ON THE SUPPORT AND IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

After studying the problems of primary and secondary education for several weeks, hearing various speakers, and looking at some of the recent reports on the current state of and need for improvement in primary and secondary public education, the Sunday Morning Forum (an informal group of shifting participation) proposes to the congregation that our church adopt and publicize a resolution supporting efforts to improve public education, specifically by taking actions to promote teachers and teaching of the very highest quality. To this end, the Sunday Morning Forum has asked that a Congregational meeting be held March 18, 1984 to consider the adoption of the following resolution:

### Proposed Community United Church of Christ Resolution on Public Education

Whereas a well educated citizenry is essential to the well being of our society and to the prosperity and happiness of its citizens and essential to the survival of a democratic society, an

Whereas the classroom teachers are at the very center of the educational process and play the most important role in the process, and

Whereas this makes it essential that the very best people possible with the very best training be attracted to and retained in the teaching profession, and

Whereas this requires that our nation, state, county and city provide substance to the constantly proclaimed statement that education is our number one priority,

Be it therefore resolved that the Congregation of the Community United Church of Christ goes on record as supporting the Report of the North Carolina Association of Educators Task Force on Excellence in Education as furnishing a sound basis for achieving the goal of attracting and retaining good classroom teachers.

Be it further resolved that this resolution along with a copy of the NCAW Report be sent to:

The Chairperson of the Wake County Board of Education

The Chairperson of the County Commissioners

All Candidates for the Legislature from Wake County

The Governor's Commission on Education for Economic Growth

The Governor and all Candidates for that office

The Superintendent for Public Instruction and all candidates for that office

The NCAE

The suggestion that the Congregation endorse the NCAE proposal stems from a desire to support specific and concrete proposals rather than making only a general statement and from the fact that a good deal of expertise on the part of outstanding classroom teachers went into the formulation of the NCAE statement. While the Sunday Morning Forum endorses the NCAE statement in general, this is not meant to imply that all attendees at the Forum necessarily endorse every point of the NCAE report, nor that all members of the Congregation need give such support for the passage of the proposed resolution. The sorts of proposals that Forum members wish to draw attention to as a

basis for action by governing bodies on a state and local level are, for instance, the following (taken from page 2 of the NCAE report):

- Raise immediately and significantly the base pay for all educators and tie subsequent increases to the cost-of-living formula.
- Establish career opportunities for classroom teachers which result in salaries competitive with other professions in the private sector.
- Up-grade dramatically teacher preparation programs to include a more rigorous academic course of study and a required fifth-year internship.
- Provide loans and/or scholarships for prospective teachers with specific emphasis on areas of shortages, such as mathematics and science.
- Enhance significantly the quality of continuing education programs for currently certified educators.
- Improve the professional environment within our schools, thereby making teaching more attractive to future educators.
- Decentralize decision-making, thereby allowing both principals and teachers a greater role in the development and implementation of educational policies and programs.

For those who wish to see the complete NCAE Report, copies will be available at the back of the sanctuary after church.