

**The Federal Budget**  
**A resolution approved by General Synod IX, 1973**

In the biblical faith that God calls all people to a life of shalom, of peace and wholeness and unity, and believing with Christ that the stewardship of God's gifts to us must reflect that calling, the Ninth General Synod believes that the role of the federal budget in American life and priorities is critical. As individual American Christians and as a corporate church body we confess that we participate in the legislating of national priorities which represent a tragic disparity with the biblical vision of the peaceable kingdom.

The Ninth General Synod reaffirms and deepens the commitment of the Eighth General Synod to re-evaluate and better balance national priorities. Believing that economic conditions reflect national moral values for good or ill, the Synod is convinced that the shaping, allocating, and spending of the federal budget are crucial Christians concerns, and that the presently overwhelming emphasis on defense spending at the expense of human needs is deleterious to the people of the United States and the world. The budget should reflect an increasing commitment to improving the quality of life at home and abroad, to international instrumentalities for keeping peace and seeking justice, and to de-escalating the arms race.

The General Synod calls upon congregations, Associations, Conferences, and Instrumentalities to engage in study and action with regard to national priorities. This involves an understanding of the biblical vision of shalom, analysis of federal budget processes and priorities, making judgments about individual and corporate responsibility, and enabling people to achieve national priorities which reflect the shalom vision.

The General Synod calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Conferences to develop educational materials and media campaigns, where possible in cooperation with other groups working to establish peaceful priorities, to enable the public to understand and affect the relationship between the budget and their needs, with particular attention to the dis-advantaged, the young, the poor, the elderly, and minorities.

The General Synod further calls upon the United Church of Christ members and institutions to include in their theological education programs a study of economic issues which will clarify and extend the Christian mission to use as many resources as possible in the service of peace and the development of human potential, and to convert those resources which have been used for war.

The General Synod calls upon all Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to take all measures possible to see that this re-ordering of priorities is accomplished through the use of their investments, legislative action, greater attention to shifting the budget priorities and processes from military to human needs, and careful consideration of the ways in which allocated funds are spent.