

POVERTY

Whereas, the president of the United States has stated that one-fifth of all American families have resources inadequate to meet their basic needs and has announced a war on poverty in America and has called for a cooperative effort to deal with its causes and cures;

Whereas, the blight of poverty is most keenly felt by members of unskilled minority groups, workers displaced by automation, the aged, migrant workers, and the residents of chronically depressed areas;

Whereas, societies of the Unitarian Universalist Association have a compelling responsibility in this cooperative effort;

Therefore be it resolved: that the Unitarian Universalist Association urge the individual societies and their members to support the President's proposed programs to:

1. Expand and improve programs for economic development in chronically depressed areas;
2. Provide adequate education and vocational training for youth and re-training for displaced workers;
3. Recognize and meet the needs of the aged;
4. Appropriate special school aid funds to accelerate education for culturally deprived children; and

Be it further resolved: that Unitarian Universalists individually be urged to enter into person to person relationships with those who are economically, socially, politically and culturally deprived to the end that all citizens may fulfill their highest human potentialities.

Be it further resolved: that our churches and fellowships be urged to expand opportunities for the cultural advancement of the socially disadvantaged in their communities.

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

Whereas, the United States has made consistent progress in the past decade in promoting the welfare of its people by passage of labor and social legislation, such as collective bargaining, minimum wage, social security, workmen's compensation and child labor regulations, but has generally excluded certain categories of workers, including agricultural workers; and

Whereas, the poverty of agricultural workers is well documented and among the most severe of any group deserving of aid in the national war against poverty; and

Whereas, the degraded impoverishment of these "excepted" workers disgraces the richest of nations, drains welfare funds and impairs the economic and social health of the community; and

Whereas, competitive disadvantages hinder each state from independently correcting this evil,

Be it therefore resolved: that the Unitarian Universalist Association reaffirms its 1961 resolution on Migratory Workers asking for collective bargaining rights for agricultural workers, extension of the minimum wage and hours legislation to cover male and female agricultural workers, extension of the protection of child labor laws to children working in agriculture, and creation of a voluntary farm employment service under the United States Employment Services; and now further urges Federal and State legislation to:

1. Broaden the coverage of farm workers under the Social Security insurance programs;
2. Extend and expand the Migrant Health Act;
3. Further restrict programs providing for the temporary importation of foreign contract farm workers and the so-called green card immigration system;
4. Extend state unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation laws to include agricultural workers, together with the establishment of an interstate system to maintain up-to-date records of all payments made, and to pool contributions made by employers in different states.

(Adopted by greater than a two-thirds majority vote.)