

Adopted November 8, 1962

STATEMENT OF POLICY

This Statement of Policy is adopted by the membership of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth in the hope that it will be accepted by all members as a course of action by which a maximum of unity and harmony may be promoted within the Church during the period of resolution of the internal problems occasioned by the merger of Congregational Christian Churches with the Evangelical and Reformed Church into the United Church of Christ in July, 1961.

This Statement of Policy is made in recognition of the fact that within Pilgrim Church there are two viewpoints which may be summarized as follows:

1. There are those who would be in favor of Pilgrim Church joining and becoming a part of the United Church of Christ. This viewpoint hereinafter in this Statement of Policy is for brevity referred to as the "Merger Viewpoint."
2. There are those who would not be in favor of Pilgrim Church joining and becoming a part of the United Church of Christ but who would be in favor of Pilgrim Church remaining in some form of fellowship with those Congregational Churches which have not joined the United Church of Christ. This viewpoint is hereafter in this Statement of Policy referred to as the "Independent Congregational Viewpoint."

This Statement of Policy assumes that until such time as Pilgrim Congregational Church shall definitely commit itself either to the Merger Viewpoint or to the Independent Congregational Viewpoint, it is desirable that we establish and maintain relations of fellowship with individual churches identified with both points of view. This Statement of Policy recognizes that such fellowship may be accomplished through relationships with, but not membership in, both the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ and the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches of the United States. Article III 3 of the Articles of the National Association provides for Associate Member Churches without voting rights but with representation on the floor at meetings. As will appear from the paragraph which follows, a church may assume the status of a non-voting "Associated Church" of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ.

This Statement of Policy is also considered both necessary and appropriate in view of the fact that, pursuant to a formal Agreement of Consolidation approved by the delegates at a meeting of the Congregational Conference of Minnesota on September 25, 1962 (at which the delegates from Pilgrim Church by instruction did not vote on this matter), the Northern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and The Congregational Conference of Minnesota were consolidated into a new corporate organization known as the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. In accordance with the provisions of such Agreement of Consolidation and the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, all churches formerly composing the Congregational Conference of Minnesota automatically became members of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, and accordingly Pilgrim Church is now a member thereof. The Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ contain provisions by which any member church may by its own election either terminate its membership or take on the status of an "associated church," and that such an "associated church" may select representatives to attend and participate in Conference meetings, without the privilege of voting, and may avail itself of the fellowship and service of the Conference and shall have the right to resume full membership and participation at any time. The By-Laws also provide that no direct or indirect participation by any such "associated church" in or support of the work of the Conference shall be construed as making it a part of the United Church of Christ.



On December 18, 1955, the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees of Pilgrim Church issued a joint statement recommending the adoption of a resolution which clearly described the position of Pilgrim Church with regard to its relationship with other organizations or ecclesiastical authorities. Such resolution was adopted at a meeting of the members of the Church on that date. The resolution recognizes and states the principle that participation by Pilgrim Church in any of the activities of the Congregational Christian Churches at any level (which would include the Congregational Conference of Minnesota now consolidated into the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ) shall not be construed as authority to carry Pilgrim Church into union with any ecclesiastical body. In view of such resolution of December 18, 1955 and the principle stated therein, and the fact that the consolidation referred to in the preceding paragraph has resulted in making Pilgrim Congregational Church a member of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, this Statement of Policy includes the principle that Pilgrim Church should at this time by vote of its members take on the status of an "associated church" in the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ instead of remaining a full member.

In December 1960 Pilgrim Church voted not to approve the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and thereby become a part of the United Church of Christ. At the time of this voting the members of the church were informed that "If the vote of Pilgrim Church is in the negative, the question of whether Pilgrim Church should join the United Church of Christ or what its future course should be, may be brought up at any future time."

In February 1962 Pilgrim Church voted not to become a member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

This Statement of Policy is also submitted in the hope that its general acceptance may be helpful in the preparation of a church budget for 1963 and in securing willing support thereof.

With the foregoing considerations as a background, the following is submitted as a Statement of Policy for a course of action by means of which the two differing viewpoints within the Congregation on the merger matter may be dealt with fairly and impartially pending their ultimate resolution:

1. Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth shall elect, by proper resolution, to assume the status of an "associated church" of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, as such status is defined and described in Article IV 2 of said Conference's By-Laws. Upon doing so, Pilgrim Church shall notify said Conference and the Duluth Association of Congregational Churches of its action, and thereafter shall select representatives to attend Conference meetings and become informed and acquainted with the activities and services of such Conference.
2. Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth shall elect by proper resolution to request Associate Membership in the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches in accordance with Article III 3 of said Association's Articles. Upon doing so, Pilgrim Church shall notify said Association of its action, and thereafter shall select representatives to attend meetings of the National Association and become informed and acquainted with the activities and services of such Association. No direct or indirect participation by Pilgrim Church as an Associated Church in, or support of the work of the National Association shall be construed as making it a member or a part of the National Association.

3. Denominational benevolences of Pilgrim Congregational Church are to be divided as follows: one eighth to the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ for administrative purposes; one eighth to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches for administrative purposes; three fourths to be determined by designation of the donor. Any amount undesignated by the donor is to go one half to the Missionary Society of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and one half to the denominational benevolences of the United Church of Christ.



Nov 1962

The proposed Statement of Policy enclosed has been prepared by the Deacons and Trustees meeting jointly and will be presented at the Special Business Meeting of the Church Thursday evening, November 8, and recommended for adoption. This is sent to you at this time so that you may have an opportunity to study it before coming to the meeting.

Please make a special effort to attend this Special Business Meeting which will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:30 Thursday evening.

William L. Halfaker

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3. The budget of Pilgrim Church shall include an appropriation to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches equal in amount to one third of the amount budgeted for the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ.
4. The budget of Pilgrim Church shall include allowances to be paid directly to missionary instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ and to the Missionary Society of the National Association, the respective amounts to be determined by apportioning that part of individual pledges which would go to the support of denominational benevolences according to designations by the donors.



Pilgrim Congregational Church

2310 EAST FOURTH STREET  
DULUTH 12, MINNESOTA

WILLIAM L. HALFAKER  
MINISTER

November 26, 1962

JOHN T. BERTSCH  
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

To the Members of  
Pilgrim Congregational Church:

Since the actions taken at the special business meeting of the church Thursday evening, November 8, have a bearing on the proposed budget of Pilgrim Church for 1963 and provide for certain designations with regard to denominational benevolences, I am writing this letter to report these actions and provide information you may wish to have as you make your pledge for 1963.

The statement of policy recommended by the Deacons and Trustees was adopted with two changes:

(1) The paragraphs numbered 3 and 4 were combined into one paragraph and the wording changed to read: "Denominational benevolences of Pilgrim Congregational Church are to be divided as follows: one eighth to the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ for administrative purposes; one eighth to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches for administrative purposes; three fourths to be determined by designation by the donor."

(2) This paragraph was then amended by adding the following: "Any amount undesignated by the donor is to go one half to the Missionary Society of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and one half to the denominational benevolences of the United Church of Christ."

Pledge cards for 1963 will provide an opportunity for members to designate how they wish their contribution for denominational benevolences to be handled. The enclosed materials may be helpful to you as you decide how to designate your contribution.

Please make every effort to be present at one of the Loyalty Dinners, Thursday or Friday this week. Reservations may be telephoned to the church office, RA 4-8503. Questions concerning the budget and our plans for 1963 and these special procedures will be answered at these meetings and additional information will be available.

Sincerely yours,

*W. L. Halfaker*



# EXPLANATORY NOTES REGARDING DESIGNATION OF BENEVOLENCES

November 27, 1962

The 1962 Budget of Pilgrim Church includes allocations to denominational benevolences totaling \$10,300. This includes allocations to the mission boards of the Congregational churches which we have traditionally supported and which have now become instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, and an allocation to the Missionary Society of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

These 1962 allocations to denominational benevolences are as follows:

Minnesota Conference	\$ 2,575
Board for World Ministries	2,060
Board for Homeland Ministries	2,060
Pension Boards	515
Lay Life and Work	100
Church and Ministry	100
Stewardship Council	315
National Association Missionary Society	<u>2,575</u>
	\$10,300

On the basis of the actions taken November 8 this item of \$10,300 in the 1963 budget will be divided as follows:

Minnesota Conference for administrative expenses	1,290
National Association for administrative expenses	1,290
Minnesota Conference for service projects in Minnesota)	)
Board for World Ministries	)
Board for Homeland Ministries	)
Pension Boards	) 7,725
Lay Life and Work	)
Church and Ministry	)
Stewardship Council	)
National Association Missionary Society	<u>\$10,305</u>

The first two items on this list have been designated by the actions taken November 8. The remaining \$7,725 represents approximately 12% of the proposed budget for 1963. Allocations will be made to these items on the basis of designations indicated on the pledge cards. The final allocations will be announced at the Annual Meeting, January 16.