

Why We Take Part in Direct Action for Civil Rights

- I. Rev. Robert Beech will speak briefly on "I Went to Greenwood"
- II. Rev. Hal Lloyd will speak briefly on "I Went to Hattiesburg."
- III. Rev. Hal Lloyd and Rev. Robert Beech together will present the following points for discussion:

- We all agree on the Christian concern for justice in general.
- We all agree on the current need for justice for the Negro in particular.
- But we are not fully agreed on the best ways of achieving justice for the Negro. Therefore, let us look at five points which may help to explain why Hal Lloyd and Bob Beech and others in the Presbyterian Church are choosing to do it in this way.
 1. The need for direct action in achieving civil rights. Explain why we need both slow, long-range education and immediate direct action. Explain the difference between rights which must be granted immediately regardless of the worth of the person and privileges which must be earned by the person himself.
 2. The place of legislation in direct action toward achieving civil rights. Explain how legislation cannot change the hearts of men but it can require men to grant minimal justice to other men whether they want to in their hearts or not. Show how this is always the way in which justice is achieved for all of us. Justice cannot be made to depend upon the voluntary agreement of other people.
 3. The value of legal demonstrations in direct action toward achieving civil rights. Explain the need to force a matter to the attention of the public and the constitutional right of free speech and petition for the redress of wrong.
 4. The place of civil disobedience as a means of direct action in achieving civil rights. Discuss the basic principle of civil disobedience, emphasizing that it is peaceful disobedience, and show how this principle is supported in Biblical example and Christian doctrine.
 5. The church's and the ministers' involvement in these forms of direct action. Explain how it is the proper place of the church and of the ordained clergy to be involved in the conflicts of ethics in the world. Show how this is inherent in the doctrine of the incarnation.

- IV. Finally, conclude with questions and answers from the Presbytery itself, insofar as time will permit.