

Aid for Angela Davis Leads to Funds Cutoff

Page 615/71
At least two United Presbyterian congregations voted this week to terminate contributing missionary funds to the national headquarters of the denomination.

The two churches, First Presbyterian Church, Tacoma, Wash., and First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage, Alaska, said they took their actions in protest against a denominational contribution of \$10,000 to the Angela Davis Defense Fund.

The contribution was disclosed last week in the course of the denomination's annual general assembly, which was held in Rochester, N.Y.

A communication sent out last week to every Presbyterian pastor by Lois Stair, the newly elected moderator, or titular head, of the church, said that the grant to the defense fund had not been drawn from mission contributions.

Rather, the letter said, the money was drawn from a \$100,000 Emergency Fund for Legal Aid created by the 1970 general assembly and financed by general, unrestricted funds of the Board of National Missions.

"None of the money came from current General Assembly General Mission giving," said Mrs. Stair's statement, "since GAGM money allocated to the Board of National Missions was and is fully allo-

ated to ongoing and new mission programs."

Mrs. Stair also said that concern that Miss Davis receive a fair trial was first voiced by the session (governing body) of St. Andrew United Presbyterian Church in Marin City, Calif., which is in the county where Miss Davis is to be tried.

Subsequently the church's position paper came to the attention of an agency connected with the synod of the Golden Gate, the regional government of the denomination in Northern California, and that group—the Office of Ethnic Church Affairs—recommended that the grant be made to the Davis defense fund.

Ruling elders of the Tacoma church said they would send future mission contributions direct to missionaries and institutions.

"This action," they wrote in a letter to the denomination's headquarters, "is not only intended as a strong protest against what has happened, but also to give assurance to our people that every cent that they give will be used properly and for the propagation of the gospel."

Miss Davis has been charged with conspiracy in connection with a shootout in a Marin County courthouse that left a judge and three other persons dead.

Church of Christ