

THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTION

(as revised in Conference, April 29, 1962)

I. Purpose

- A. We accept the following statement of purpose, adopted at the Raleigh Conference in 1960, as the basis for our action:

*What has happened?*

"We affirm the philosophical or religious ideal of nonviolence as the foundation of our purpose, the presupposition of our faith, and the manner of our action. Nonviolence as it grows from the Judaeo-Christian tradition seeks a social order of justice permeated by love. Integration of human endeavor represents the crucial first step towards such a society.

Through nonviolence, courage displaces fear; love transforms hate. Acceptance dissipates prejudice; hope ends despair. Peace dominates war; faith reconciles doubt. Mutual regard cancels enmity. Justice for all overcomes injustice. The redemptive community supercedes systems of gross social immorality.

Love is the central motif of nonviolence. Love is the force by which God binds man to himself and man to man. Such love goes to the extreme; it remains loving and forgiving even in the midst of hostility. It matches the capacity of evil to inflict suffering with an even more enduring capacity to absorb evil, all the while persisting in love.

By appealing to conscience and standing on the moral nature of human existence, nonviolence nurtures the atmosphere in which reconciliation and justice become actual possibilities."

- B. SNCC shall serve as a channel of coordination and communication for the student movement. By direction of its Executive Committee through its staff it shall have authority to initiate programs in areas where none presently exists, and to work closely with local protest groups in the intensification and extension of the movement.
- C. SNCC shall be responsible for the distribution and communication of news regarding any of its staff or local groups. It will publish a newsletter called the Student Voice as often as possible, which shall cover news of the student movement as a whole. In addition SNCC shall be responsible for the distribution and interpretation of information to local groups which is of specific interest to the student movement.
- D. SNCC shall be responsible for calling a Conference of the whole student movement each year, on the Easter weekend, and any other conferences the Coordinating Committee deems necessary. These Conferences shall be open to all, primarily educational in nature, and shall be a time when information is exchanged between areas, new knowledge communicated, progress examined, and general plans are made for the coming year. In addition SNCC shall be available to assist states or regions in holding their own Conferences regularly, providing both personnel and financial assistance.