

2 Minister Groups Favor Integration At Lunch Counters

Two Greensboro ministerial organizations have adopted resolutions approving integrated lunch counters in downtown stores.

The two groups also have praised the actions of Mayor George Roach in naming an Advisory Committee on Community Relations and the activities of city officials to maintain law and order during the recent sit-down demonstrations of Negro students in downtown Greensboro stores.

The Greensboro Ministers Fellowship met yesterday at the Downtown YMCA and unanimously adopted a resolution calling for "equal treatment of all customers by businesses serving members of both races."

Methodists Act

Monday, the Greensboro Methodist Ministers' Fellowship read, in part:

"We approve heartily of our mayor's action in appointing an advisory committee to consider the immediate matters of tension which have given us grave concern. We ask our people to support the committee in its efforts to make recommendations based upon the moral wisdom of an enlightened community earnestly seeking progress in the problems before it.

"Matter Of Conscience"

"In the light of our accepted basic moral and spiritual values, we consider it a matter of conscience that we invite the citizens of Greensboro to embrace a pattern of inter-group relations compatible with that level of moral maturity which would call for equal treatment of all customers by businesses serving members of both races.

"We believe that prayerful and thoughtful consideration of this essential moral principle will lead our beloved community into a new pattern of human relations resulting in harmonious living for which all may rejoice soon.

Praise Authorities

"We are encouraged by the self-discipline and the cooperative spirit of the students of our colleges in Greensboro and appreciate greatly the success of the mayor and city government in keeping disorder and violence to a minimum. Let us go forward for the good of all concerned."

Composed of Protestant ministers and Jewish rabbis, the Greensboro Ministers Fellowship is integrated — that is, its members include both white and Negro ministers.

The Greensboro Methodist ministers reported that "we cannot presume to speak for members of our respective churches. However, we recognize the logical justice of the request that these Negro students have made . . .

"We stand for the right of all individuals and groups to advocate any peaceful and constitutional method for the solution of problems that may confront society.

"We stand upon the principle of testing every such proposal in the light of the teachings of Jesus."

The Greensboro Methodist Ministers Fellowship is made up of approximately 75 ministers of Methodist churches in the Greensboro area.