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CORE WORKSHOP Sat. July 21, 1962

A. History & Philosophy of CORE -- Chrm. M. Hamilton

The CORE technique of non-violence has, since the student sit-ins in 1960, and later the Freedom-Rides in 1961 become the recognized method of combatting racial prejudice in America.

As we all know, CORE stands for the Congress of Racial Equality. This means that we are an organization dedicated to racial equality, composed of local, autonomous groups throughout the nation and with a national office which acts as a guide and service for the local groups.

Since 1942 CORE has been effectively fighting racial prejudice according to the Gandhi principles of nonviolence. Through restaurants, bus terminals, swimming pools, ~~xxxx~~ and other places of public accommodations, the CORE way has proved to America and the world that we mean to have our Freedom, and we mean to have it NOW!

The local groups form the base of the CORE movement and carry on action against racial discrimination in their own communities. Local CORE groups function through action projects with careful planning and a step-by-step process which enables us to see more clearly the problems ahead and thereby act in such a manner as to insure that the victory will be ours.

PRINCIPLES OF CORE:

The organizational structure which puts the principles of CORE into action are theses:

1. CORE believes that racial discrimination in America hurts all Americans. Segregation is a problem that everyone - not only members of minority races, should seek to solve.
2. CORE believes in direct action. After careful planning, CORE members enter situations where they are directly in opposition to a practice of segregation or discrimination. Through the method of non-violence, CORE groups have been able to end segregation or discrimination in restaurants, theaters, amusement parks, swimming pools, YMCA's, etc. CORE has also opened up employment opportunities and has worked for integrated housing.

Recently, CORE has urged Negro parents to send their children to newly integrated schools; CORE members have accompanied these children to the schools. This summer, voter registration is a new emphasis ^{here} in the South.

3. What is the step-by-step process to which I earlier referred?

In carrying out an action program, CORE first investigates to learn all of the facts. ~~This~~ procedure is more relevant in the North than it is here in the South, with segregation staring us in the face daily. Secondly, we attempt to discuss the grievance with those responsible for the injustice in an effort to bring about a change of policy. I hardly need add that this procedure is also more relevant to the North. Thirdly, we ~~work~~ ^{to} appeal to the wider public for support in our action. We are doing this now through our workshop. Fourth, publicize the unjust racial practice through picketing, leaflets and press releases; fifth, if all the foregoing fail to end segregation or discrimination, we use direct action such as sit-ins, stand-ins and boycotts.

4. CORE believes that nonviolence in action and attitude is essential to the realization of our aim - interracial brotherhood. Where CORE members maintain an attitude of persistent goodwill, public support for desegregation is frequently won

THE STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL CORE:

CORE is governed by its National Council and by its Annual Convention. Advice and help is given by the National Advisory Comm.. Day to Day planning is carried out by the National Action Comm., which may also make policy decisions where necessary between Councils and Conventions. These groups determine development and policy of national CORE within the framework of CORE RULES FOR ACTION, the Statement of Purpose and the Constitution.

WHAT DOES NATIONAL CORE DO?

N National CORE:

1. Maintains a national office and a field staff to stimulate organization of new groups and to encourage the growth of established ~~xxxxx~~ ones.
2. Publishes literature of two types: material for the use of its groups ~~and~~ such as the Organizational Manuel and pamphlets of wider interest on race relations, usually involving nonviolent direct action.
3. Publishes the CORElator, to give wider circulation to action stories of local groups and of projects sponsored by National CORE itself.
4. Serves as a clearing for local groups, setting up Council meetings, conferences and conventions where the locals may exchange problems and solutions involving action and organizational practices.
5. Represents CORE on a national level.
6. Sponsors training programs such as action workshops and national action projects.

STRUCTURE OF CORE GROUPS:

Although CORE groups are independent, most groups will find ~~xxxx~~ it helpful to have the following:

1. Weekly or bi-weekly membership meetings to carry on business, approve action project plans etc.
2. If the group is large enough - 25 or over - to have a steering committee to discuss plans between regular membership meetings.
3. Membership committee to recruit, orient, and screen applicants for membership and make recommendations to the general membership body for ~~xxxx~~ final approval.
4. The usual organizational officers: chairman, vice chrm., secretary, and treasurer.

HOW DOES ONE JOIN CORE?

Membership: One becomes an active member of CORE by joining one of its affiliated local groups. In addition to a sincere agreement with the CORE RULES FOR ACTION, the Statement of Purpose, and the constitution of both the national core and the local group. An applicant must be acceptable to the local in which he is seeking membership. Most local groups require a period of trial membership, and other requirements are sometimes stipulated.

CORE does have a category in which any person who supports CORE principles and action may contribute to the national organization and receive its publications, including the CORElator. Such persons are considered associate members.

HOW IS CORE FINANCED?

The local groups support themselves financially, often using a regular pledge system or membership dues, plus contributions from local supporters.

National CORE is financed from interested individuals, churches unions and its local groups also contribute to its financial support.

Resource: "This Is Core"