WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ have a partnership relationship with the Christian Pentecostal Church of Cuba and the Cuban Ecumenical Council, through the Division of Overseas Ministries, and the United Church Board for World Ministries;

WHEREAS, the United States government has maintained an economic embargo against Cuba since 1960, prohibiting not only the sale of merchandise, industrial materials, and gasoline, but also medicines, food, and other life-sustaining elements; and

WHEREAS, this blockade has caused not only serious difficulties in the country’s commercial and industrial development, but also enormous suffering to the people of Cuba, especially children, women and the elderly, as our churches have once again verified in the testimony that Cuban Christians shared with the September 20-25, 1992 joint delegation sponsored by the Disciples Peace Fellowship and the United Church of Christ Fellowship of Reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, on numerous occasions our church partners have requested that we convey to the U.S. government the pain and anguish that U.S. policies have caused in their lives throughout the past three decades; and in response to the outcry of Cuban churches expressed in an ecumenical church consultation in December 1991, the National Council of Churches of Christ (USA) has requested that its member communions engage in a humanitarian aid program to alleviate the suffering in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, both the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in General Synod/General Assembly resolutions have opposed the economic blockade and called for a normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 1992, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the “Cuban Democracy Act,” designed to tighten the embargo against Cuba by 1) urging the president to sanction countries that trade with Cuba; 2) prohibiting trade by U.S. subsidiaries established in foreign countries; and 3) prohibiting ships that dock in Cuban ports from docking in any U.S. port for a 180-day period; and

WHEREAS, the Organization of American States has refused to support the embargo, and a number of U.S. allies oppose this bill as clear interference in the affairs of sovereign nations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada, meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, July 15-20, 1993, urge its U.S. members to communicate to members of the U.S. Congress support for legislative efforts that lift travel restrictions, allow for direct trading of medicines and foods, and take other steps to end the embargo against Cuba;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) urge President Clinton to begin the process of normalizing trade and diplomatic relations with Cuba;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that congregations and individuals of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) be urged to carry out educational efforts regarding Cuba in their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President convey to all the churches in Cuba, through the Cuban Ecumenical Council, the spirit of solidarity and Christian love expressed in this resolution.