No. 8522

RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, the judgment of many informed people in the world today is that computer technology is bringing about fundamental changes in the human community that are affecting and will increasingly affect the lives of all who inhabit the earth; and

WHEREAS, computer technology has the potential to bring many economic, social, psychological and physical benefits to all who live on the earth through more effective communications systems, improved medical care and delivery systems at lower costs, better and safer manufacturing and processing mechanisms, more efficient transportation systems, etc; and

WHEREAS, computer technology, through its information manipulation capability is opening whole new areas of life and making knowledge available which would otherwise remain inaccessible; and

WHEREAS, the moral and ethical implications of computer technology need to be addressed to prevent the wide variety of potential abuses of such technological tools;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, August 2-7, 1985, request that members, congregations and units of the church be made aware of the results of research and discussion of groups, such as the Computer Application Ministry Network (CAMNET), who are addressing the moral and ethical implications of computer technology; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that individual members, congregations and units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) be encouraged to participate wherever possible, in a knowledgeable way, in the decision processes of government, industry, and business, regarding the implementation of new technologies, computer related and others, so that Christian values and principles, which affirm the value of people above profit margins and the excitement of innovative mechanistic systems, are brought to bear in these situations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the office of the General Minister and President develop a policy statement on the introduction of computer technology in the offices and operations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which will stand as an example that we would encourage other churches and businesses to follow.