No. 8552

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN INTER-DENOMINATIONAL AGENCY FOR WORLD RELIEF PROMOTING CHRISTIAN WITNESS WITH SEVERANCE OF CONFLICTING TIES

The General Assembly did NOT ADOPT this resolution which calls for the withdrawal of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from the World and National Councils of Churches, and the formation of a new inter-denominational agency.

No. 8552

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN INTER-DENOMINATIONAL AGENCY FOR WORLD RELIEF PROMOTING CHRISTIAN WITNESS WITH SEVERANCE OF CONFLICTING TIES

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) founded by Alexander and Thomas Campbell, Barton W. Stone and others led by the Holy Spirit, upheld the centrality of Jesus Christ as the only Savior of the world, where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent; our only creed is Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God; "no creed but Christ, no book but the Bible," no law but the law of love,

WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus Christ said of Peter's confession of the Lordship of Christ, "... upon this rock I will build My church." (Matthew 16:18); and "... ye shall have the truth and the truth shall make ye free." (John 8:31, 32)

WHEREAS, both the World and National Councils of Churches, in their syncretic views, have changed the organizations into "confessional families" of world religions, appear too many to have redirected basic doctrines of the Christian faith, causing a loss of witness of Christ Jesus as the only Savior of the world and a loss of unity within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),

WHEREAS, as members of the World and National Councils of Churches we are responsible for the loss of Christian evangelism for the loss of confidence in God's Word, for the loss of the Bride of Christ's relevance and influence; for the disruptive forces, the violence brought against others in the name of Christianity,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) withdraw its membership from the World and National Councils of Churches which are no longer councils of the church but of pagan idols as well as returning in one accord and singleness of heart to fulfill our Lord Christ Jesus' Great Commission (Mark 16:15-20) in the fullness of the Holy Spirit,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a new Christian inter-denominational agency be founded to channel the flow of love offerings of the church to the needy in the Holy Name of our Lord Christ Jesus, thereby restoring full Christian witness and unity,


- instead of organizing special dialogues with those of other than Christian faiths, SODEPAX (World Council of Churches' Committee on Society, Development and Peace) has tended more and more to seek to fulfill this part of its mandate by including as far as possible Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, etc., in its regular programmes dealing with development, peace and education.

Marbach Christian Church
San Antonio, Texas

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly NOT ADOPT Resolution No. 8552 for the following reasons:

1. The fundamental affirmation of faith required of member communions of both the National Council of Churches in the USA and the World Council of Churches is that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. It is contrary to their very nature, therefore, to describe either council as "syncretic" or "confessional families" of world religions.

2. The primary documentation of the resolution's assumption is based on a program of the World Council of Churches (SODEPAX) which ceased to exist in 1978.

3. In the 1983 General Assembly the church overwhelmingly reaffirmed "its historical posture of ecumenical involvement through the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches in the USA." (Resolution No. 8541)

(Debate time 12 minutes)