No. 8559

RESOLUTION CONCERNING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL AND WORLD COUNCILS OF CHURCHES

This resolution encouraging designated giving to National and World Councils of Churches was REFERRED to Church Finance Council.

No. 8559

RESOLUTION CONCERNING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL AND WORLD COUNCILS OF CHURCHES

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in San Antonio, September 23-28, 1983, affirmed its support for ecumenical involvement through participation in the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A. and the World Council of Churches; and

WHEREAS, out of over 4,000 participating congregations in the United States, currently only some 200 congregations make direct contributions to the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A. and the World Council of Churches; and

WHEREAS, both the National and World Councils of Churches have been under increasing financial pressure as they work to extend their humanitarian efforts to troubled peoples everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has never discouraged individual congregations from making designated contributions to the National and World Councils of Churches when such contributions represent "over and above" donations beyond those given to the Church Finance Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting August 2-7, 1985, in Des Moines, Iowa, reaffirms its continuing support for the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A. and the World Council of Churches; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) encourages individual congregations prayerfully to consider the possibility of making designated contributions to the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A. and the World Council of Churches, assuming such contributions to be over and above whatever amount can be raised for support of the Church Finance Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President be instructed to inform all participating congregations in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of this action taken by the General Assembly and that the General Minister and President further inform other Christian communions of the action taken by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in this regard.

Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in Arizona

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly REFER Resolution No. 8559 to the Office of General Minister and President and to the Council on Christian Unity for their information.

Comment: The General Board expressed appreciation for the intent of the resolution to reaffirm and strengthen the support of the National and World Councils of Churches by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). However, the proposal for designated giving would be inconsistent with the financial procedures which have been adopted by the General Assembly and the regular system of support for those councils which was adopted by the 1973 Cincinnati General Assembly. The General Board suggests to the Council on Christian Unity that it continue to give commendation to those congregations that undergird the work of ecumenical bodies by their prayers, involvement, and specified financial contributions.

(Debate time 12 minutes)