RESOLUTION CONCERNING PEACE AND SURVIVAL

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, the World Council of Churches, at its 1983 Vancouver Sixth Assembly, approved a
report on "Confronting Threats to Peace and Survival" which was commended to the 304 member
churches for study and appropriate action; and

WHEREAS, the section on "Nuclear Arms Doctrines and Disarmament" states: "It would be an
intolerably evil contradiction of the sixth assembly's theme, 'Jesus Christ... the Life of the World,' to
support the nuclear weapons and doctrines which threaten the survival of the world...we believe
that the time has come when the churches must unequivocally declare that the production and
deployment as well as the use of nuclear weapons are a crime against humanity and that such
activities must be condemned on ethical and theological grounds...as contrary to our faith in Jesus
Christ who is our life and peace. Nuclear deterrence is morally unacceptable because it relies on
the credibility of the intention to use nuclear weapons. We believe that any intention to use
weapons of mass destruction is an utterly inhuman violation of the mind and spirit of Christ which
should be in us...";

WHEREAS, new weapons, such as the recently proposed Star Wars system (Strategic Defense
Initiative) contribute to the instability of the international order, and could stimulate an increased
production of nuclear weapons, which would be contrary to the spirit and intent of the World Council
of Churches report and the promise of God's shalom;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ) meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, August 2-7, 1985, affirm that, based on our faith in Jesus Christ,
the production and deployment, as well as the use, of nuclear weapons are a crime against
humanity and that such activities must be condemned on ethical and theological grounds; and
oppose the introduction of the Star Wars system (Strategic Defense Initiative) and other new de-
stabilizing systems; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that we encourage congregations, pastors and people to study and consider for
appropriate action the World Council report, "Confronting Threats to Peace and Survival"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) acting through its
General Minister and President, inform the President and Congress of the United States, the Prime
Minister of Canada and the head of state of nations with nuclear weapons including the Soviet
Union, China, France, Great Britain and India, and other churches of the action taken by this
Assembly.