No. 8566

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN SOUTH AFRICA

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, the nation of South Africa has suffered bitter strife as a result of its apartheid policy; and

WHEREAS, it was reported in the August 3, 1985 issue of the New York Times that as a result of South Africa’s new state of emergency nearly 500 deaths and 1,380 arrests have resulted; and

WHEREAS, the 1,380 South Africans jailed have been held incommunicado, without charge, bail or legal counsel, which is in direct violation of their human rights; and

WHEREAS, the Church has a scriptural mandate to “...preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and set at liberty those that are oppressed”; and

WHEREAS, the United States policy of constructive engagement which seeks to influence the South African government by non-confrontational means has failed to change these racist policies,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, August 2-7, 1985:

- call upon the South African government to call an immediate halt to the “state of emergency”;
- call upon the governments of the United States and Canada to invoke economic sanctions against South Africa;
- call upon our governments to inform the government of South Africa and the companies doing business in South Africa that Canada and the United States will not take any military action directly or indirectly against those who are working to end apartheid;
- call upon all congregations to lift up in prayer South African brothers and sisters in this struggle for freedom, even if we cannot call them by name, and affirm support of all religious leaders in South Africa and throughout the world who are working for reconciliation;
- commend the Division of Overseas Ministries for sending persons to South Africa (denominationally and ecumenically) to monitor the situation, to act as agents of reconciliation, and for keeping our churches informed of steps that might be taken to help end oppression and to further the cause of peace.