

No. 8356

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE KICKAPOO INDIANS OF EAGLE PASS, TEXAS

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

Background Information

The Kickapoo Indians of Eagle Pass, Texas, have long been ignored, oppressed and denied the basic rights of human beings. They have been denied citizenship by both the United States of America and Mexico, rendering them a people without a country. They own no land of their own, but must subsist upon a one-acre abandoned city park in Eagle Pass, where there is but one water faucet and four portable toilets for the six-hundred seventy plus persons residing there. They have been denied a land grant by the United States government and must purchase their own land with privately raised funds.

Believing that Christians are commanded by their Lord to help, aid and assist the forgotten, the oppressed and the homeless, Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Hillsboro, Texas, has undertaken a leadership role in coming to the aid of the Kickapoo Indians of Eagle Pass, providing two-thousand pounds of food, clothing and medical supplies and financial assistance. The congregation has received assistance from other congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest and from the Week of Compassion. Such grants as have been made toward the purchase of a homeland for the Kickapoo Indians of Eagle Pass have come largely from Protestant church bodies, including the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., the Episcopal Church and others.

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Hillsboro, Texas, is of the firm belief that the present settlement of the Kickapoo Indians of Eagle Pass is in imminent danger of destruction, which will leave the Kickapoos with no place to live.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in San Antonio, Texas, September 23-28, 1983, go on record as deploring the degrading conditions under which the Kickapoo Indians of Eagle Pass, Texas, must live; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly enthusiastically endorse the ecumenical effort in the name of Jesus Christ to aid the Kickapoo Indians in obtaining a homeland on which they can live in peace for all time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that individuals and congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) be encouraged to continue their support of the Kickapoo Indian Homeland Project through the Week of Compassion until at least \$20,000 is provided by Disciples of Christ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the office of the General Minister and President and appropriate general administrative units be asked to give full support to the acquisition of a homeland for the Kickapoo Indians, including support of legislation that would entitle members of the tribe to full rights and benefits of citizens of the United States and encouraging implementation of legislation already enacted by Congress, but not yet enforced, to provide medical services for the Kickapoos.