

No. 8144

RESOLUTION CONCERNING UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS IN THE U.S.A.

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, almost eight million people are presently living in the United States without the proper documentation to legalize their residence in this country, the great majority of whom come from South America, Central America and the Caribbean, and

WHEREAS, because of the lack of proper documentation these persons are deprived of their basic civil rights, the right to a fair trial, the right to earn minimum wage, with proper safety standards in employment, and

WHEREAS, the lack of documentation makes them vulnerable to deceptive "legalization" agencies which rob them of all their resources, and

WHEREAS, the immigration of these people to the United States is the result of the extreme poverty and misery in their own country, caused in part by the exploitative practices of national and multinational corporations and corrupt local governments, and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada states in its Declaration of Purpose and Mission the mandate to reach out to all who suffer, especially those who are deprived of their human and civil rights, as are undocumented persons, and that aid to these persons constitutes a true witness to Christ, and

WHEREAS, these persons need an advocate for them who will work to protect and defend their rights as children of God,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Anaheim, California, July 31-August 5, 1981, request the Department of Church in Society of the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to consider the possibility of creating a position of Director of Services to Undocumented Persons or that a portfolio be created within the Division of Homeland Ministries of Services to Undocumented Persons that will deal specifically with this issue, and that the personnel or staff to this position be preferably tri-lingual (French, Spanish, English) and socially committed to change within the present bureaucratic structures, and

That the position of Director of Services to Undocumented Persons be funded with full financial support of the Christian Church, and that services rendered will be available to and supported by the general, regional and local manifestations of the church.