

## Resolution No. 46

### CONCERNING THE CONTROL OF FIREARMS

WHEREAS, there is need in a complex, industrial society to bring the sale, transfer and possession of firearms under reasonable and effective control; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has called for the regulation of interstate sales of all firearms, the registration of all firearms, and for effective gun control laws in states and cities that do not have them; and

WHEREAS, guns were used in 6,500 murders in 1966, in the killing of 322 police officers from 1960-1966, in serious assaults totaling 43,500 in 1966 and in 55,000 robberies in 1966; and

WHEREAS, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has said: "The easy accessibility of firearms is a significant factor in murders committed in the United States today . . . . The questionable traffic in deadly weapons in many sections of the country is a disgrace," and

WHEREAS, firearms control laws do not interfere with the rights of the responsible citizen to possess a weapon, but do require minimum regulations in the public interest as in the case of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that no law, including gun control laws, can eliminate crime, it is at the same time true that laws restrict violations and make apprehension of the violator more likely, as is the case with laws to prevent fraud, dangerous drugs, bank robberies, etc.; and

WHEREAS, in passing the omnibus crime bill, Congress prohibited the sale of hand guns by mail and required that over-the-counter sales by dealers must not be made to persons under twenty-one or to anyone from out of the state;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) assembled at Kansas City, Missouri, September 27-October 2, 1968, commend President Johnson for his recommendation to license and control firearms in a manner that would protect the public but not prevent the responsible citizen from possessing a weapon for legitimate purposes,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend the Congress for prohibiting the sale of hand guns, rifles and shotguns by mail, and we urge that the next session of Congress consider the President's proposals to license all firearms.

Signed: William D. Herod, Church of the Covenant, Enid, Oklahoma; Mrs. Virginia M. Clarke, Mrs. J. M. Milner, Central Christian Church; Ella Grimes, Arlington Heights Christian Church; Charlene F. Stewart, Crestview Christian Church; Ian McCrae, K. L. Teegarden, Walter D. Cardwell, Mrs. Thomas E. Wood, Helen Alexander, Julia S. Fangmeier, Debby Fangmeier, Robert A. Fangmeier, Downey Avenue Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana; William D. Hall, 2825 Merida, Ft. Worth, Texas; James H. Behler, 1601 Sunset Blvd., Houston, Texas; James A. Lollis, Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington, Kentucky.

The Committee on Recommendations moved approval of Resolution No. 46 as amended.

Action: VOTED approval by the Convention Assembly of the Committee's recommendation to approve as amended.