

RESOLUTION CONCERNING HANDGUN CONTROL

APPROVED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, over 10,000 people were killed in the United States by handguns in 1975; and
WHEREAS, one out of every four homicides in the United States is committed by a direct relative of the victim, and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution only prohibits Congress from restricting the right of each state to maintain an armed militia and does not create a right for individuals to own guns; and

WHEREAS, the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) did approve a resolution at its 1968 assembly supporting presidential and congressional action against the growing handgun menace,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, October 21-26, 1977, urge the President of the United States to request of Congress the necessary legislation which would prohibit ownership or possession of all handguns, except for law enforcement officers; members of the armed forces; guards and messengers while on duty; licensed pistol clubs for on premises use; and owners of permanently inoperable handguns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly request that the Division of Homeland Ministries give consideration to providing educational materials on the issue of handgun violence for distribution throughout the regions and congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly encourage Disciples to support responsible groups having goals consistent with this resolution, such as the National Coalition to Ban Handguns, an educational organization located in Washington, D.C.