

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the health care program be offered January 1, 1972 to the parish ministers and local church employees in regions not now having group health care programs sponsored by units of the Church. These regions are as follows:

Texas	Northeastern Area
Louisiana	Minnesota-North & South Dakota
Tennessee	Mississippi
Alabama	Nebraska
Kentucky	South Carolina
Kansas	Washington
Illinois	Idaho
Capital Area	Montana
Pennsylvania	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the health care program may be opened to regions and units not included in those mentioned above, upon their application and with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the Pension Fund and the insurance carrier; and

THAT it be recognized that the Pension Fund will need approximately \$100,000 to launch, administer and subsidize the health care program during the first three years. No Unified Promotion allocation has been made for this purpose for the first year. The Commission on Brotherhood Finance has allocated \$25,000 each for the second and third years and has recommended that appeals be made to units and individuals prior to, and during, the first year of operation. As of June 1, 1971, over \$9,000 was pledged (or is in hand) from these sources; Thus, an additional \$40,000 of such gifts is needed to launch the program, administer it, regulate premiums during the promotional period, and provide for a Consulting Committee made up of regional and national persons with experience in group health care. If these funds prove not to be needed for these purposes, in part, or in whole, they will be used to subsidize enrollment of ministers and missionaries, active and retired, who otherwise might not be able to participate.

No. 34

CONCERNING WORLD POPULATION GROWTH

WHEREAS according to the honorable Morris K. Udall of Arizona, "mankind's main problems today—increasing crime rate, overloaded freeways, airports, hospitals and colleges, poverty, air and water pollution and all other facets of environmental deterioration, the emergence of an impersonal society that encourages regimentation rather than individuality and creativity, failed school bond issues, increases in unemployment, increases in taxes, hunger, and so on—either stem from, or are intensified by, overpopulation—sheer excess of people," and

WHEREAS since 1950, the world has added one billion people, which presently means 3½ billion people, and is estimated to reach some six billion by 2,000 A.D., and

WHEREAS the International Planned Parenthood Federation has stated that "during 1965, 125 million babies were born at a rate of about 238 per minute—about 4 births every second—about 342,000 per day;" and

WHEREAS our Christian consciences are ordinarily stirred to feed the multitudes of hungry persons (who we realize will never be fully fed and will most likely starve to death anyway), rather than to take measures to deal with what Church World Service calls the *major root cause of hunger*—the population explosion; and

WHEREAS the March 1971 issue of *World Call* quotes college textbook author Warren Thompson as estimating that "2,000 people starve to death every hour; 50,000 per day; and 18 million per year;" and

WHEREAS to quote Church World Service once again, "we serve all children poorly if we let so many come into our world that the health of one costs another's starvation;" and

WHEREAS in the October, 1970 issue of *Catalyst*, a youth magazine, world-renown specialist in population biology from Stanford University, Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich, stated that "each woman in the United States on the average wants to have 3.4 children! And if women persist in this attitude . . . it's all over, we're finished;" and

WHEREAS former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara declared that "the population explosion is as great a threat to the survival of civilization as the nuclear bomb" and that

our only real alternatives to the population and hunger problems are to increase the death rate, or lower the birth rate; and

WHEREAS our Christian faith moves us to concern for our neighbor, wherever and whoever he might be; and

WHEREAS many of our neighbors presently are in misery due to overpopulation; and

WHEREAS we as citizens of the United States are also being drastically affected by overpopulation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting in Louisville, Kentucky on October 15-20, 1971 encourage congregations to support the Week of Compassion in its Family Planning Program, and that the Division of Homeland Ministries (Department of Christian Education and Department of Church in Society) be asked to draw up within twelve months a study document for local congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to the end that individual Christians and family units consider such matters as family planning, birth control, adoption and abortion as a part of a pressing need to curtail world population growth; and that this action in no way diminishes the concern of this church for correcting unjust social systems.