

WHEREAS, the National Benevolent Association as the divisional unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in areas of benevolence has excelled in its ability to care for persons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the National Benevolent Association has increased its facilities and widened its programs enabling it better to serve children and adults through residential learning centers for the mentally retarded, residential care and treatment centers for children and families, homes for nursing and medical care, residential living centers for retired persons and programs of service to children, older persons and mentally retarded persons in conjunction with local congregations and regions; and

WHEREAS, in response to changing needs the National Benevolent Association has expanded its programs and motivated its personnel to plan for a second centennial of increasingly improved, expanded and concerned benevolent care; and

WHEREAS, 1977 is the 90th anniversary celebration of service by the church through the National Benevolent Association and is a time to rejoice and a time to contemplate seriously and plan for a second century of care and treatment of persons;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, October 21-26, 1977, rejoice in the 90th anniversary of service by the church through the National Benevolent Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commendation, appreciation and support of the National Benevolent Association, its staff and employees, its several local Home Boards and its National Board of Trustees, be expressed openly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local congregations be called upon to continue support and encouragement for the care of persons in the church's life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Benevolent Association be encouraged to make use of this decade prior to 1987 to plan, arrange and increase further its institutions and services; and that adequate preparation be made both to celebrate the National Benevolent Association's first centennial and to launch its second hundred years of service in the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred and Eighty Seven.

## No. 7754

### RESOLUTION CONCERNING A TASK FORCE ON ECOLOGY

APPROVED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 26-31, 1973 expressed "its belief that ecology is an important issue" and favored "ecological stewardship," and

WHEREAS, Resolution 38 of that same General Assembly, calling for a "covenant of responsible stewardship of the earth" was referred by the General Assembly to the Division of Homeland Ministries for "in-depth study in order to prepare a resolution to the General Assembly in 1975," and

WHEREAS, at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in San Antonio, Texas, August 15-20, 1975, no such resolution was presented nor did the printed report of the Division of Homeland Ministries refer to any in-depth study or consideration of Resolution 38 of the 1973 General Assembly, and

WHEREAS, the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Chicago, Illinois, June 12-15, 1976, voted that the request from the Division of Homeland Ministries for Release from Assignment of Resolution No. 38, of the 1973 General Assembly "Concerning Ecology" to prepare a further resolution on ecology be referred to the 1977 General Assembly with the recommendation that it be approved, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has appointed a national "task force on Christian life style and ecology" composed of 18 persons, of whom approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  are national staff persons, operating under the jurisdiction and reporting to the Division of Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ, with a two-year budget for expenses of \$15,000, and

WHEREAS, a "Joint Ecology Task Force in Southern California" composed of ecologically conscious and concerned persons in that region from both the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been working together effectively since its inception in 1972, concentrating its attention and influence upon environmental quality, anti-litter legislation, energy policy, population and responsible stewardship of our natural resources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting at Kansas City, October 21-26, 1977, reaffirm its belief in the importance of dealing with ecological issues from the stance of responsible Christian stewardship, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administrative Committee of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) appoint a national task force on Christian life style and ecology, composed of 18 persons of whom approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  would be national staff persons, for the purpose of developing and implementing a program such as is called for in Resolution 38 of the 1973 General Assembly, with an operating budget sufficient to cover travel and normal expenses incurred in the discharge of its duties, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly authorize this task force to work with the "Task Force on Christian Life Style and Ecology of the United Church of Christ" as a "Joint Task Force of Christian Life Style and Ecology of the United Church of Christ/Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)" if agreeable to the United Church of Christ.

## No. 7755

### RESOLUTION CHALLENGING SUPPORT OF THE UNITED FARM WORKERS UNION

The General Assembly **DISAPPROVED** this resolution which called for a removal of support for the United Farmworker's Union.

## No. 7756

### RESOLUTION CONCERNING NEW TREATIES WITH THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

APPROVED by the General Assembly

When the Secretary of State, John Hay, submitted the Hay/Bunau-Varilla Treaty to the Senate for ratification in 1903, he stated that the Treaty was "very satisfactory, vastly advantageous to the United States and not so advantageous to Panama." That treaty granted the United States a strip of land ten (10) miles wide and fifty (50) miles long in order to build, operate and defend a canal between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and provided the right for the U. S. "in perpetuity" to act within that strip of land, as "if it were sovereign."

Discussions of a new treaty have been underway in recent years, with Panamanian and other Latin American leaders supporting a very different arrangement. In February 1974 a joint statement of principle was signed by the former United States Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, and Panama's Zone Minister, Juan Antonio Tack. Briefly summarized, the principles called for the following elements in a new treaty:

1. Elimination of the "in perpetuity" provision.
2. Termination of the United States' exercise of sovereignty in jurisdiction of the Canal Zone, with the United States granted rights, facility and territory as needed to operate and defend the Canal during the life of the Treaty.
3. Increasing Panamanian participation in operation and defense of the Canal, with eventual reversion of operation and control of the Canal to Panama, at the end of the Treaty.