

N. Publish accounts of congregational activities in ecological life style programs. (DHM, CFC, CBP, OC)

III. Advocacy

- A. Develop a network of concerned persons (The Alverna Covenant Fellowship). (DHM)
- B. Intentionally seek cooperation with ecumenical bodies and secular ecological groups and when appropriate promote their efforts and join in programming. (ALL)
- C. Consider developing a TV spot with an ecological emphasis. (OC, DHM)
- D. Include ecological issues in public policy monitoring. Consider taking advocacy stances on ecological public policy questions. Communicate information and advocacy stance decisions to regions and the network of concerned persons. (DHM, CFC)

Key to abbreviations:

ALL	All General Units
BCE	Board of Church Extension
CBP	Christian Board of Publication
CCU	Council on Christian Unity
CFC	Church Finance Council
DHE	Division of Higher Education
DHM	Division of Homeland Ministries
DOM	Division of Overseas Ministries
GO	General Office
OC	Office of Communication

No. 8315

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN ECOLOGICALLY RESPONSIBLE CHRISTIAN LIFE STYLE

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, the earth, created by God and entrusted to humanity for management, use and care is seriously threatened by the unprecedented demands upon its limited resources by a continually expanding population, an insatiable appetite for goods and services, widespread indifference to the basic needs of all creatures, the insistence upon valuing only that which enhances the life of persons, and misuse of the natural gifts which are necessary to the sustenance of life upon this planet; and

WHEREAS, the action of several General Assemblies has indicated an interest in and commitment to a position of Christian stewardship that embraces the concept of an ecologically responsible approach to our environment; and

WHEREAS, a Task Force on Christian Life Style and Ecology was created by the 1977 General Assembly to help implement the ecological concerns raised in previous Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force on Christian Life Style and Ecology has understood its task to include the raising of consciousness and conscience of the membership of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with regard to ecological issues and to make programmatic suggestions to individuals,

congregations, regions, and units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in this area of concern; and

WHEREAS, this task force has been engaged for five years in thought and study leading toward a definition of the term "Christian life style";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting in San Antonio, Texas, September 23-28, 1983, consider and adopt the following statement as a working definition of a "Christian Life Style" that reflects the ecological concerns which occasioned the creation of the Task Force on Christian Life Style and Ecology.

A Christian life style is one that is centered in the acceptance of Jesus Christ as the fullest revelation of the eternal God and the consequent commitment of life to Him as Lord and Savior. Such a commitment is supported and nourished by daily prayer, which engages the Eternal with the present, thereby clarifying and challenging the transient goals and satisfactions most widely espoused by contemporary culture. As authentic prayer will inevitably issue forth in definite action, a resulting life style will be visible which serves as witness to the value system of the Christian faith and enhances the integrity, stability, and beauty of the entire order of creation.

Recognizing that specific interpretations and application of such commitment may vary by individual and community, and is ever dependent upon the dynamic dimension of God's own revelation, such a life style may include such particular changes as these:

- the deliberate decision to move toward a simpler way of domestic living that seeks to conserve non-renewable resources, lengthen the efficient life of labor-saving conveniences, and recycle those goods which are no longer personally usable
- release from the addiction of consumerism, planned obsolescence, conspicuous consumption, and competitive status seeking
- observance and practice of a dietary discipline that excludes or reduces the ingestion of harmful or superfluous substances which threaten not only the health of the individual but whose production promotes the continuing and irresponsible exploitation of the earth's resources, including its people
- the celebration of seasons and events with an emphasis upon persons rather than presents, lifting up the quality of relationships and affirming the creative abilities entrusted to all persons by their Maker
- the absolute refusal to allow television to be the dominant source of one's entertainment, information, value formation, and/or search for intimacy and relationships

A Christian life style is one that is lived in collaboration with others, in contrast to the divisive myth of "rugged individualism" and in sympathy with the ancient Hebrew concept of corporate identity. For most persons, this collaboration will be centered in a local faith community but may also include other persons who choose to reinforce and challenge each other at a deeper level of ecological commitment.

Another aspect of such a life style is reflected in one's engagement with the issues of social justice, recognizing that many of the environmental problems currently facing the world are the direct result of the activities of industrialized nations and the unjust distribution of goods and services among the earth's people. The implementation of justice for all God's creation will encompass the entire scope of existence, from the primary family unit to the whole global community and will seriously question the existing gap that separates rich from poor nationally and individually. A necessity to the conquest of frustration and futility in facing the enormity of the task is the choice by individuals and groups to concentrate their efforts on specific phases of justice issues while seeking to become increasingly knowledgeable concerning the total arena of struggle.

A Christian life style involves an intensive search for that global society which is participatory:

every individual and community is given the freedom and opportunity to be a part of major decision making processes that face a technologically sophisticated world,

and sustainable:

action taken to support ourselves and our communities in justice and dignity can be repeated by everyone, everywhere, into the indefinite future of any persons yet to be born - a future free from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this working definition be circulated among the congregations, regions, and general units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with a request for prayerful consideration, constructive evaluation, and implementation by the members of the church.