

## No. 9152

## REPORT OF THE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Corporate Responsibility Advisory Committee (CRAC) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) held its annual meeting October 19 - 20, 1990, in Indianapolis, Indiana. CRAC approved recommending 29 resolutions being submitted to 110 corporations in 1991. Six resolutions concerning South Africa were approved for submission to 34 companies. The resolutions ask the company to withdraw or sever all economic ties to the apartheid government. The second largest number of resolutions ask 23 companies to report progress they have made in being ecologically responsible. Twenty companies are asked to share information on their fair employment practices and on their operations outside the U.S.A., known as Maquiladoras plants. Military contracts are subject of proposals submitted to nine firms. CRAC approved five resolutions concerning the sale and marketing of tobacco. Other stockholders proposals supported by CRAC include infant formula and the world debt crisis. CRAC asked general units to consider being the filer of 15 stockholder resolutions.

CRAC is pleased to report a growing interest by individuals and organizations on ways investments may be used to support the church's stand on peace and justice. A number of general units, regions, colleges, and seminaries now send to CRAC a list of the companies in which they own stock. This enables CRAC to inform them of shareholder resolutions which may be appearing on the company proxy statements. Currently involved in this process are: the Board of Church Extension, Christian Church Foundation, Division of Higher Education, National Benevolent Association, Pension Fund, United Christian Missionary Society, Christian Theological Seminary, Phillips Graduate Seminary, Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt University, Midway College, Bethany College, and Northwest Christian College. The regions of Kansas City, Kentucky, and the Upper Midwest have also shared their investment lists with CRAC.

The Board of Directors of the Division of Higher Education (DHE) recently requested all related institutions to cooperate with the Church in its endeavors to be socially responsible, and to "make available to CRAC in June of each year a list of the stocks and bonds in its investment portfolio". The Board of Directors of DHE also voted to suggest that the related institutions take into consideration the views of Disciples and the broader church-at-large "to the end that their investment practices will be carried out in accord with the institutions' fullest understanding of the implications for the Christian Faith of their investment activities".

CRAC has undertaken a survey of general units, regions, and related institutions on progress made in divesting from corporations on the South Africa Focus List of the Administrative Committee. CRAC added American Cynamid to the Focus List companies, which also includes: Chevron, Control Data, IBM, Royal Dutch Shell, Texaco, and Unisys. All general units and regions have completed divestment. Those colleges, universities and seminaries owning stock in corporations on the Focus List are: Barton College, Drury College, Lynchburg College, Midway College, Texas Christian University, William Woods College, Brite Divinity School, Christian Theological Seminary, and Lexington Theological Seminary.

Midway College has asked that the following statement be an addendum to this report:

"Based upon careful deliberations, Midway College trustees sincerely maintain selling off shares of companies on CRAC's focus list—so-called selective divestment—is an ineffective strategy to influence the end of apartheid in South Africa. Midway College consistently votes its shares on all stockholder resolutions of companies it holds doing business in South Africa—whether on the focus list or not—in the way that seems most likely to advance racial and economic justice in that troubled land. Midway College asks the General Board and the General Assembly to respect the college's Christian conscience and conviction on this matter."