

No. 9137

(Operational Business Item)

REGARDING OUR RESPONSE TO MODERN WAR AND MILITARY ACTION

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, over the past seven decades, the General Assembly and International Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have repeatedly affirmed that pacifism and conscientious objection to war are ethical and religious positions for Christians to hold, declaring that this Church is against war and for peace, consistent with the life and teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ (Resolutions number 8148, 8546, 8773, 8768, and 8933); and

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada recently resorted to military force in the Persian Gulf crisis and inflicted massive injury, death, destruction, and instability upon another nation; and

WHEREAS, this conflict has shown that future wars can be expected to be fought with increasingly destructive weapons, to have world-wide ecological, social, and economic impact, and to be accompanied by close governmental control of information; and

WHEREAS, as Christians we are called to show compassion for the suffering of others, to condemn violent solutions to conflicts, and to criticize our governments for inhumane policies; and

WHEREAS, the potential for the rapid mobilization of forces in the future gives little time to men and women to make far-reaching decisions concerning conscientious objection;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 25-30, 1991, expresses its deep concern with the use of military force to resolve international conflicts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly encourages its congregations:

1. To lift up God's vision of Shalom in the worship life of the church through scripture, prayer, proclamation, and hymns;
2. To study the theological basis for a Christian response to war in our time, including pacifism and conscientious objection to participation in war, and specifically addressing the question of whether any war can now be just;
3. To study and develop an appropriate response to many people's fascination with violence and militarism widespread insensitivity to the death and suffering of others, and unquestioning acceptance of information control by governments and media, as evident in the recent Persian Gulf war;
4. To study, develop and promote alternative ways for responding to international disputes and human needs throughout the world;
5. To encourage all members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to examine seriously beliefs about war and the human suffering and ecological disaster it causes;
6. Before we are faced with another military conflict, to promote the availability of adequate information and counselling for men and women who are considering military service and for those already in the military who may be called to make a conscientious decision concerning participation in war; and to provide moral, spiritual, and public support for such decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate units of the Church, including the Division of Homeland Ministries, Division of Higher Education, Division of Overseas Ministries, and Disciples Peace Fellowship, provide information, support, and encouragement to congregations and members in fulfilling the above.