

No. 9138**(Sense-of-the-Assembly Resolution)****RESOLUTION CONCERNING EL SALVADOR AND CENTRAL AMERICA**

WHEREAS, in El Salvador civilian men, women, and children have been mysteriously murdered, purposefully tortured, and secretly abducted; and

WHEREAS, no one has been convicted for the 1989 murder of the six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter or for the 1980 murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero; and

WHEREAS, past United States policy of massive military aid and security-related economic assistance have accompanied a decade of increasing poverty, hunger, oppression, and a widening gap between the wealthy and the poor; and

WHEREAS, generous military aid given by the United States has failed to alleviate conditions of hunger, inequitable land distribution, lack of genuine democracy, and oppressive systems of government; and

WHEREAS, on several occasions in the past, the General Assembly has expressed concern over these issues and their effect on our Salvadoran sisters and brothers; and

WHEREAS, late in 1990, the United States Congress, recognizing the deteriorating situation in El Salvador, voted to withhold fifty (50) percent in fiscal year (FY) 1991 military aid to El Salvador;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 25-30, 1991, encourage the U.S. government to pursue vigorously a policy in El Salvador that promotes a peaceful settlement of conflicts, respect for human rights, and sustainable economic and social development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) write to the U.S. president and Congress, urging them to make further significant cuts in military assistance for FY 1992 and 1993 to the government of El Salvador. Rather, funds provided by the United States government to El Salvador should be focused on basic human needs, agrarian reform, and refugee resettlement; and to insure that a significant amount of the allotted funds reach the intended beneficiaries, a significant percentage (at least 25%) of all U.S. government aid to El Salvador should be provided through non-governmental organizations (NGO's); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) realizes that similar abuses of human rights have occurred in some other Central American countries and that similar aid policies to those enumerated above should be applied in all Central American countries. We further urge all our congregations to continue to study, research, learn, and pray for our brothers and sisters worldwide who suffer human rights violations, hunger, and poverty to further our role as participants in the ministry of Jesus Christ to the often neglected and forgotten members of society.