

No. 8955

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON CHINA

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, we were shocked by and grieved over the killing and injuries suffered by so many Chinese when military and police acted against demonstrators in Beijing and throughout China beginning on June 4, 1989, and by the subsequent executions and mass imprisonment of demonstrators; and

WHEREAS, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has expressed its concern for the people of China beginning in 1886 through missionary service and financial support in church-building, education, healing, social service, and continuing partnership; and

WHEREAS, we rejoice that the Chinese people have experienced a more open society since the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1979; and

WHEREAS, we affirm that God intends that people be able to respond freely to divine love, and accordingly we have been especially grateful for the greater degree of religious freedom available in recent years to the people of China, including Christians, and for the opportunities for North American contact with them;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 28-August 2, 1989, in sorrow for the people of China over the killing and injury suffered by Chinese as a result of the military and police action beginning June 4, 1989, as well as the subsequent executions and mass imprisonment, communicates its deep regret to the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, to the President of China, to the Premier of China, to the Chairman of the Central Military Commission of China, to the Chinese Ambassador to the United States, to the President of the United States, to the Chairpersons of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, to the Secretary of State of the U.S., to the Prime Minister of Canada, and to the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly call upon the leaders of China to end the executions, release those who have been imprisoned only because of their involvement in demonstrations, and continue the dialogue with students and workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly indicates to the Christian community in China our concern and support for them and asks Disciples congregations and members to pray for all the people of China, remembering especially those who in connection with the recent demonstrations were killed or injured, and their families, the Christian community and its leaders, and requests the General Minister and President to express this in a pastoral letter to the China Christian Council.