

**No. 8945**

**SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA AND DIVESTMENT**

**ADOPTED by the General Assembly**

**BACKGROUND:**

Apartheid is an immoral system of minority domination that has produced overwhelming hardships for blacks in South Africa, resulted in numerous acts of violent persecution and mass murder, and is oppressive of both the white and black populations.

The final hour for accomplishing any victory over apartheid by nonviolent means, appears to be at hand because blacks are being armed. The population of South Africa is 68% black, 12% colored, 18% white and 2% other races; therefore it is clear apartheid cannot continue and will be resolved, either violently or non-violently.

Black church leaders of South Africa are working feverishly to keep the movement non-violent, but are increasingly losing the support of the people to trade union leaders and other groups which are not committed to a non-violent solution. South African Black church leaders are asking for the support of the world's Christians through divestment and other economic sanctions.

Economic sanctions are having an effect on the economy. The rand in December of 1987 was worth 51 cents against the American dollar and in March of 1989 had dropped to 39 cents against the American dollar. The economic index went from 100 in 1980 to 228 in 1986 and 265 in 1987. Exports are decreasing. The U. S. Department of Commerce estimated exports from South Africa to the U.S. dropped by more than 40% over the first nine months of 1987.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has supported selected divestment and in resolution 8329 urged its related general units, institutions, and regions to divest. The General Assembly is gratified that in response to this resolution, the overwhelming majority of entities related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have divested or are in process of divesting, including all general units, 5 theological education institutions, 11 colleges and universities, 35 regions, and a number of other organizations that relate to the church. However, some of our related institutions and a region have made a decision not to divest.

It is recognized that the church and the institutions of higher education are in covenant, so declared and officially signed by both parties. On the one hand, **the church** covenants to:

"recognize the right, desirability and necessity of the institution to be under the independent control of its governing board and not...the church."

On the other hand, **the institution of higher education** covenants to:

"seek to understand the church's concerns, aware that the church and the institution hold in common the development of persons to their highest potential and the shaping of a society beneficial to all." (from "A Covenant Between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and our Colleges and Universities.")

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Indianapolis, IN, July 28-August 2, 1989 reaffirm its stand that apartheid is a moral issue and is an evil and oppressive system; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) acknowledges it stands in solidarity with church leaders of the South African Council of Churches who are working in the name of Christ to end the oppression of apartheid by non-violent means; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the General Assembly commends the organizations, institutions, General Units and Regions which have divested according to the General Assembly resolution 8329, and as reported to the General Assembly by the Corporate Responsibility Advisory Committee, and expresses appreciation to the Council of Colleges and Universities for its commitment to begin participating in the meetings of the Corporate Responsibility Advisory Committee; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the General Assembly, recognizing the covenant relationship with its institutions of higher education, and "the right, desirability and necessity of the institution to be under the independent control of its governing board and not... the church," nevertheless recalls that the institution has committed itself, "to understand the church's concern, aware that the church and the institution hold in common...the shaping of a society beneficial to all," and therefore in the spirit of covenant strongly urges the institutions, and region, which have not yet taken positive action, to reconsider prudent sale of stock held in Chevron, Control Data, IBM, Mobil, Royal Dutch Shell, Texaco, and Unisys, the seven, U. S. companies still doing major business in South Africa.