

**No. 8917**

**RESOLUTION ON PEOPLE TO PEOPLE EXCHANGES WITH THE SOVIET UNION**

**ADOPTED by the General Assembly**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of our church, meeting in Des Moines in 1985, called for an improvement in relationships between the United States and the Soviet Union, and more recently the heads of the two states have met to discuss these relationships; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has always supported higher education and communication among peoples as a means of fostering international understanding and peace; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that more attention needs to be given to exchanging people and promoting understanding between these two countries if differences are to be worked out peaceably; and

WHEREAS, it is also clear that the promotion of the student exchange and of the language training necessary for meaningful participation in such exchanges is a crucial element in this process; and

WHEREAS, experience since the establishment of official exchanges has shown that government sponsored and supported exchanges, while useful, have not effectively promoted the type of exchanges so sorely needed; and

WHEREAS, an initiative needs to be taken by American colleges and universities if exchanges are to be put on a more stable basis and to be greatly expanded;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) makes a commitment to support the promotion of wider exchanges and encourages foundations, businesses and churches to seek funds for a permanent endowment which would be devoted to:

- a. Promoting the teaching of Russian and other languages of the Soviet Union in secondary schools and colleges and universities across the USA
- b. Promoting American-Soviet educational exchanges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) seek to convey this resolution to interchurch organizations and funding organizations on local, state, and national life and to support an effort to carry out its purpose including the encouraging of their own church related schools to become involved in exchanges and in promoting the type of instruction, especially language instruction, needed for participation in them.