

No. 8742

RESOLUTION CONCERNING HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC MATERIALS

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, there are life-threatening dangers involved in the production, storage and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America adopted a resolution entitled, "Toxic Pollution in the U.S.A. With Special Concern for Its Impact in Poor and Minority Communities" which calls for churches to monitor companies in which they own stock, advocates socially responsible actions, and outlines criteria for public policy; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force on Christian Life Style and Ecology of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has determined that hazardous and toxic waste shall be its issue of primary concern for the immediate future,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, October 16-21, 1987, affirm the National Council of Churches call for the formulation and enforcement of public policies which will:

- " 1. ensure that, as far possible, those responsible for creating toxic and hazardous pollution bear the cost of cleaning up and safely disposing of it;
- " 2. cause producers to reduce their use and production of toxic substances, and to develop on-site detoxification facilities;
- " 3. provide strong incentives for all producers and consumers to move quickly toward the production and use of non-toxic alternative products, and to decrease the production and use of products containing toxics; and, where non-toxic alternatives are not possible, will ensure the safe collection and recycling of the wastes;
- " 4. serve to inform, educate and protect the general public and all those whose jobs expose them to hazardous and toxic substances;
- " 5. identify and inform those who in the past have been exposed to such substances;
- " 6. provide appropriate care and treatment for those whose health has been affected by such exposure, such as farm-workers who have been harmed by pesticides and Native Americans who have been affected by nuclear production;
- " 7. require environmental impact statements that include a thorough analysis of the social effects of proposed activities to deal safely and effectively with toxic and hazardous waste;
- " 8. ensure that persons and communities to be affected by corporate and government decisions be fully involved in the decision-making process"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly call on congregations, regions and general units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to become informed on the issues involved in the production, storage, and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials and respond to those issues through activities such as:

- Identify sources of hazardous or toxic materials in their community
- Identify and monitor hazardous and toxic material storage and disposal sites in their community
- Determine what is done with locally produced hazardous and toxic materials if it is not stored locally
- Assist individuals and families affected by hazardous and toxic materials storage and disposal
- Monitor activity of corporations in which the congregation, region or general unit owns stock
- Become involved in citizen discussion and advocacy concerning more appropriate storage and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials
- Share outcome of study and action with the Task Force on Christian Life Style and Ecology; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly direct the Task Force on Corporate Responsibility of the Administrative Committee, General Board, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to use the above public policy criteria in determining recommendations for shareholder actions by stock-owning units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).