

**No. 8748**

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR A NON-VIOLENT END  
TO APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**NOT ADOPTED by the General Assembly**

**No. 8748**

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR A NON-VIOLENT END  
TO APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA**

WHEREAS, the thoughts and prayers of all Christians must be with the suffering peoples of South Africa; and

WHEREAS, the system of apartheid is brutal, violent and dehumanizing; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of our church should be directed toward establishing a society of peace and justice in South Africa; and

WHEREAS, these efforts are defeated if the means used to oppose apartheid are themselves brutal, violent and dehumanizing, and contribute to the misery and suffering of South Africa's people;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) declare its support for all efforts to establish peace and justice in South Africa through non-violent means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) stand opposed to the use of Basic Mission Finance funds for the support or subsidization of any group or groups known to engage in acts of violence or terror against civilians.

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
in Virginia

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly NOT ADOPT Resolution No. 8748 for the following reasons:

1. The resolution assumes that organizations that are opposed to apartheid can have a one-dimensional agenda, in the face of one of the most violent governments in the world.

2. Third world groups engaged in liberation struggles against oppressive regimes cannot overcome oppression in ways that leave God's children wide open to slaughter.

3. The resolution fails to recognize that the grant of the Division of Overseas Ministries was to the World Council of Churches' Program to Combat Racism, to be administered to Southern African groups for human needs, not to promote violence.

4. Basic Mission Finance funds are used only and always for the mission of the church.

(Debate time 24 minutes)

#8748

consideration of this business item during the meeting of the General Board, July 18-21, 1987,  
the following pro and con statements were expressed:

**Pro**

The church deserves assurance that no  
Basic Mission Finance money will reach  
groups known to practice violence.

Opposition to this resolution would be in-  
consistent with support of a resolution  
against United States aid to the contras in  
Nicaragua (8729).

Christians never should condone the  
use of violence.

**Con**

1. To insist on a commitment that groups  
suffering terrible oppression will not resort  
to violence would leave the North American  
church without partners in South Africa.

2. Church funds are allocated through the  
World Council of Churches' special Program to  
Combat Racism for humanitarian purposes  
such as schools, health care and other aid for  
refugees from violence.

3. Absolute non-violence, which this resolution  
would demand of Christians in South Africa, is  
more than North Americans have expected of  
themselves.

4. Disapproval of this resolution would not  
imply that non-violence has been abandoned  
as the preferred course to freedom.