

**No. 8726**

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS  
BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE U.S.A.**

**ADOPTED by the General Assembly**

WHEREAS, in 1975 the General Assembly of the Christian Church voted to work for reconciliation between the Vietnamese and American people, and to urge our government to normalize relations with Vietnam government; and

WHEREAS, the Christian church has taken this mandate seriously by appointing an Indochina consultant as a staff member of the Division of Overseas Ministries who has visited Vietnam four times since 1975, and who has taken delegations of Disciples on two of these visits; and

WHEREAS, the members of the two Disciples delegations, out of their personal contacts and observations, and out of their Christian concern for the Vietnamese people, as well as concern for the American people, would strongly urge normalization and lifting of the U.S. trade embargo for the following reasons:

Where families are divided with some members living in the U.S. and some in Vietnam, normalization would make reunification easier, and it would facilitate correspondence and transfer of funds among them.

It would help Vietnam meet the basic needs of its people as it recovers after decades of war in its land, and after long years as a French colony, by enabling them to purchase spare parts and other materials needed for tools and machinery necessary for food production, health care, transportation, and consumer goods.

It would allow for the exchange of news and other information, educational personnel and materials, and cultural groups between the two countries, and it would broaden Vietnam's access to new technology and commercial relationships.

It could encourage and facilitate communication and interchange between religious persons of both countries.

It could lead to reducing world tensions as the U.S. would be less isolated from what is actually happening in Southeast Asia; it could broaden the world views of both nations; and it could reinforce Vietnam in its desire to be a non-aligned nation in the world community.

AND, WHEREAS, all other major countries in the world have already established diplomatic and trade relations with Vietnam,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, October 16-21, 1987, request the U. S. government to lift the trade embargo and to normalize relations with Vietnam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly call on its General Minister and President to communicate this action to the President of the United States and all members of Congress.