

No. 8518

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION CONCERNING PARTNER CONGREGATIONS OVERSEAS

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, THE Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), through the Division of Homeland Ministries and with the assistance of other units including the Division of Overseas Ministries and Disciples Peace Fellowship sponsors a program of letter-writing, prayer and study called Partner Congregations Overseas," to enable U.S./Canadian Disciples congregations to become partners with congregations in other countries, with both partners reflecting together on the meaning of Christian faithfulness in each particular place in the context of a mutual commitment to peace and international justice") Partner Congregations Overseas Guidelines); and

WHEREAS, Partnership Congregations Overseas Guidelines further states, "It is important to realize that citizens in most countries tend to be loyal to their governments. Christian citizens of one country may quite willingly and sincerely support government policies of which Christians elsewhere are very critical"; and

WHEREAS, such correspondence between citizens of countries where freedom of expression is a constitutionally guaranteed right and those denied that freedom can be misleading and misunderstood; and

WHEREAS, Christians need to be sensitive to aspirations for freedom of people throughout the world, whether in Chile, Poland, South Africa, Afghanistan, the Soviet Union or elsewhere;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, August 2-7, 1985, commend to the congregations of the United States and Canada the program of Partner Congregations Overseas for the opportunities it presents to enlarge our horizons of Christian fellowship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that U.S./Canadian congregations be urged to be sensitive to the prevailing abuse of and denial of human rights in many parts of our world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that participating congregations be encouraged to study the human rights conditions under which the people of their partner congregations live and in corresponding, take care not to place themselves or partners in positions vulnerable to misinterpretation by propagandists or reprisals from governments.