

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 4

Copies of this report and resolution be sent to all local churches, Associations and Conferences;

Recognizing that

- a. corporations have a responsibility to shareholders to make a profit,
- b. corporations should have a humane concern for the welfare of their employees,
- c. corporations have a responsibility for the human and environmental impact of their presence,
- d. corporations have a responsibility to be concerned with the developmental goals of their host community and country.

The General Synod calls upon the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. or other appropriate ecumenical agencies to bring together representative business and church leaders in a continuing dialogue:

- a. to examine the moral bases of current corporate business practice;
- b. to weight the ethical criticisms levelled at corporations in 1976-77 federal government investigations of questionable payments and political actions of corporations whether at home or abroad;
- c. to evaluate the ability and willingness of corporations to fulfill the above recognized responsibilities;
- d. to appraise the positive and negative effects of transnational business on the development of a more just international economic order.

Background

The Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ named a Committee on Financial Investments to study the social and ethical dimensions of church-held investments.

The Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in 1970 received the study prepared by this Committee, "Investing Church Funds for Maximum Social Impact," commending its recommendations to the four national Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ that hold investments in support of the national work of the denomination, asking them to make reports to the General Synod from time to time on their ministry in the area of corporate social responsibility.

13. WORLD PEACE TAX FUND

Ms. Kear was recognized by the Moderator and referred the delegates to the Advance Materials, Section II, page 118-119. She then moved the adoption of the resolution on the "World Peace Tax Fund" as proposed by Division D. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.

Arthur W. Christofersen (ILL) moved the following amendment to the resolution:

The motion was seconded. There was discussion and it was

77-GS-48a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod amends the motion as follows: WHEREAS, the Friends Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, and the United

Methodist Church has acted in support of this World Peace Tax;

Walter Brueggemann (MO) moved the following amendment to the resolution. The motion was seconded, there was discussion and it was

77-GS-48b VOTED: WHEREAS, we look for guidance from the life, teaching, and suffering of Jesus—his passion for human well-being; his solidarity with the vulnerable against the false order of the day, his embodiment of peaceableness and courage in his ministry, his readiness to stand against the imperialism of his day with the whole of his life, and

There being no further discussion, it was

77-GS-48 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the Resolution on the World Peace Tax Fund as amended.

World Peace Tax Fund

WHEREAS, we look for guidance from the life, teaching and suffering of Jesus—his passion for human well-being; his solidarity with the vulnerable against the false order of the day, his embodiment of peaceableness and courage in his ministry, his readiness to stand against the imperialism of his day with the whole of his life, and

WHEREAS, we must look for alternatives to war to settle international conflicts and;

WHEREAS, a bill to establish a World Peace tax fund, i.e. H.R. 4897 and S. 880, has been introduced in Congress which would amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide that taxpayers conscientiously opposed to participation in war may elect to have their income, estate, or gift tax payments spent for non-military purposes, and;

WHEREAS, we recognize the dilemma of conscientious objectors who wish to pay their full share of taxes but cannot accede to thus participating in war which is against their beliefs;

WHEREAS, the Friends Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, and the United Methodist Church has acted in support of this World Peace Tax;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins with the Quaker, Brethren, Mennonite and United Methodist Churches, who have already acted in this area, to give full support to the swift passage of legislation establishing a World Peace Tax Fund and urges individual members of the UCC to write their appropriate legislators.

14. DISARMAMENT

Ms. Kear was recognized by the Moderator and referred the delegates to the Advance Material, Section II, page 117-118. She then moved for the adoption of the "Resolution on Disarmament" from Division D. The motion was seconded and there was discussion. The Reverend Wayne A. Strever spoke to this issue on behalf of the Division. There was some discussion. A motion was made to invert items 7 and 8 in the resolved section of the resolution. The motion was seconded and when put to a vote it passed.

There being no further discussion, it was

77-GS-49 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on Disarmament" as amended.