

## ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

ested nations seek to mediate diplomatic solutions to the problems which divide the contending countries; and

4. Recommends that the President of the United Church of Christ convey this message to our State Department and the Administration of the U.S. and to the U.S.S.R.; and
5. Requests the President of the United Church of Christ to convey to the Presidents of the Middle East Council of Churches deep sadness over the grievous loss of life caused by armed conflicts in the area and our resolve to move our government toward a more positive role in the region.

### 5. RESOLUTION ON PLANT CLOSURES

VOTED 83 6 EC 13a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, receives and adopts the resolution "Plant Closure" with the changes proposed by Section 3:

WHEREAS, by the Fall of 1982, the nation-wide unemployment rate was the highest in 40 years and unemployment was being considered the number one problem, numerous plants have closed, and there have been massive layoffs;

WHEREAS, many of the closings by large corporations are not made because of operating losses, but because investment elsewhere will give a slightly higher return;

WHEREAS, people long accustomed to job stability find themselves on the streets, their medical insurance and other benefits ended, but their house mortgage and car payments continuing and studies show that medical problems, such as heart attacks and mental health problems increased dramatically among such persons;

WHEREAS, large numbers of local community people—supermarket clerks, insurance agents, and lawyers—find themselves without work and perhaps with less compensation than the laid-off plant workers who may receive some severance pay;

WHEREAS, the tax base to finance the schools, public services, public health and relief systems is eroded by the loss of tax monies from the departed industry and the lower income base of community;

WHEREAS, Church shareholders have introduced resolutions this year at the Annual Meetings of U.S. Steel, Caterpillar, and Allis Chalmers requesting policy statements or studies concerning plants that they have closed; many states are considering legislation; and in 1982, California Assemblywoman Maxine Waters introduced AB 2839, requiring prior notice, adequate termination pay, community compensation, and a good faith offer by the corporation to see the plant about to be closed;

The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, affirms the right of everyone to employment, and supports efforts to avert or ameliorate the effects of plant closings through adequate prior notice, adequate compensation to laid-off employees and the community, and the development of options to enable employees and communities to purchase the closed plants.

### 6. RESOLUTION ON ANTI-SEMITISM

VOTED 83 6 EC 14a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, receives and adopts the resolution "Anti-Semitism" with changes proposed by Section 3 and amended:

WHEREAS, the problem of anti-Semitism continues to burden all of our lives; and

WHEREAS, Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Jew, calls us to "a ministry of reconciliation" (II Corinthians 5:18); and

WHEREAS, Jesus quoted from Leviticus (19:18): "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"; and

WHEREAS, the holocaust is one example of the way in which we are capable of perpetrating violence against our Jewish and other neighbors;

THEREFORE, The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod:

1. Condemns anti-Semitism in all its forms;
2. Encourages local churches to set aside a time for public remembrance and repentance for the ways we as Christians have contributed to Anti-Semitism and other forms of violence against other groups;
3. Urges local pastors and congregations to plan joint services, study opportunities and community programs with Jewish congregations, when and where possible; and
4. Calls upon clergy, laity and seminarians to educate themselves and others about our Hebrew heritage.

### 7. RESOLUTION ON CIVIL DEFENSE

VOTED 83 6 EC 11a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, receives and adopts the resolution on "Civil Defense" with the changes proposed by the Committee on Peace and amended:

WHEREAS, God has entrusted human beings with the care and stewardship of the earth and its resources; and

WHEREAS, God calls us to be peace makers, breaking down dividing walls of hostility and replacing fear with hope and justice; and

WHEREAS, the Reagan Administration has proposed a \$4.2 billion, seven-year nuclear civil defense program which misleads American citizens into thinking that the United States could survive and win a nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, the program ignores the probability of mutually assured destruction; and

WHEREAS, the civil defense program unrealistically assumes that 150 million Americans could be moved safely from 400 "high risk" urban areas; that there would be three to seven days to evacuate the population; that tens of millions of people who could not be accommodated in government shelters would have the time and resources to construct and supply their own shelters; and that the secondary effects of a nuclear explosion (windstorms, fires, etc.), ecological damage, long-term radiation, and ozone layer depletion would be minimal; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the program may reach \$10 billion at a time when the domestic needs of the American people for jobs, food, shelter, education, energy and

## ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

industrial development cry out for resources; and  
WHEREAS, at a tremendous fiscal, economic and social cost this act increases the fears and visions of war which fuel the probability of nuclear conflagration;

THEREFORE, The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod:

1. Urges the congregations, Associations, and Conferences of the United Church of Christ to support government policies and programs which stress the prevention rather than the preparation for nuclear war; and
2. Requests the Office for Church in Society to call upon the President and Congress to redirect those resources proposed for a nuclear civil defense program toward the more important need for peace and justice in our country.

### **8. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A JUST WORLD ORDER**

VOTED 83 6 EC 16a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, refers the resolution "In Support of a Just World Order" to the Office for Church in Society for consideration and use with the Peace Priority.

### **9. RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE OPERA COMPANY OF BOSTON AND PHILIPPINES**

VOTED 83 6 EC 17a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, refers the resolution "Concerning the Opera Company of Boston and the Philippines" to the United Church Board for World Ministries for appropriate action.

### **10. RESOLUTION ON MIDDLE EAST**

VOTED 83 6 EC 18a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, refers the resolution on "Middle East" to the United Church Board for World Ministries for appropriate action.

### **11. RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DRAFT AND THE SOLOMON AMENDMENT TO THE MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS ACT**

VOTED 83 6 EC 19a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, refers the resolution on "Concerning the Draft and the Solomon Amendment to the Military Appropriations Act" to the Office for Church in Society and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries for appropriate action.

### **12. RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ARMENIAN QUESTION**

VOTED 83 6 EC 20a: The Executive Council receives the resolution "Regarding the Armenian Question" referred to it by the Fourteenth General Synod and extends to the Armenian people, and in particular the Armenian congregations and members of the United Church of Christ, deep sympathy and understanding in regard to the genocidal persecution experienced by this people in the early decades of this century. And further, the Executive Council requests the United Church Board for World Ministries to study this history in collaboration with our Armenian constituency and

to propose to the Executive Council positive steps towards justice in the historical account and towards peace and reconciliation in this matter.

### **13. RESOLUTION ON THE 1983 JOBS, PEACE AND FREEDOM MARCH ON WASHINGTON, D.C.**

VOTED 83 6 EC 21a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, receives and adopts the resolution "The 1983 Jobs, Peace and Freedom March on Washington, D.C." as follows:

WHEREAS, we, too, have a dream and a faith that "Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together;" and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you;" and

WHEREAS, in our society today there is insufferable unemployment, an escalating arms race, and the denial of basic rights and programs to ensure freedom for all; and

WHEREAS, global military spending consumes vast resources needed to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless; and

WHEREAS, the militarization of internal conflicts, massive arms exports, and military intervention must be resisted; and

WHEREAS, the call for freedom also is a call to resist the rising tide of extremism reflected in the rebirth of brutalities of the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and, in some places, law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, on August 28, 1963 more than 250,000 people, including many United Church of Christ members, participated in the historic March on Washington, D.C. for Jobs and Freedom at which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech; and

WHEREAS, civil rights, religious, labor union and peace leaders have issued a call to the nation for a new Coalition of Conscience for Jobs, Peace and Freedom and a commemorative March on Washington on August 27, 1983.

THEREFORE, the Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, calls upon members of the congregations, Associations, Conferences, the Office for Church in Society, Commission for Racial Justice, and other national bodies of the United Church of Christ to join the mobilization of a new Coalition of Conscience and to:

1. March on Washington on August 27, 1983 to reaffirm the dream of jobs, peace, and freedom for all God's people.
2. Work to pass legislation designating January 15 as a national holiday in honor of the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.
3. Work on national, state, and local levels to make the "jobs, peace, and freedom" dream a reality.