

**MONDAY AFTERNOON**

**RESOLUTION OF WITNESS ON “EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN”**

WHEREAS the Corporate Board of the United Church Board for World Ministries at its 185th Annual Meeting on Friday, July 1, 1994, in West Lafayette, Indiana voted to adopt a resolution entitled Expressing Solidarity with the People of Taiwan;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ is committed to seeking peace and justice throughout the world;

WHEREAS the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan has been a strong partner of the United Church Board for World Ministries for over forty years and an active participant in the global community of churches especially through its active membership in the World Council of Churches, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Christian Conference of Asia;

WHEREAS the 21 million people of Taiwan possess a unique history, government, territory, and political reality, and are struggling to create democracy in their land;

WHEREAS Taiwan desires to be an active, responsible, and positive participant in the global community but is not currently represented in the international community through the organization of the United Nations;

WHEREAS the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan has, often at great risk, out of its faith commitment, been an advocate for justice and the right to self-determination for the people of Taiwan and have, as an expression of partnership, called on UCBWM to support the self-determination, integrity, and well-being of the people of Taiwan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its solidarity with the people of Taiwan and the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan during this time of struggle for self-determination;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports the United Church Board for World Ministries in its efforts to raise, through local churches, conferences, and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ the concerns of the people of Taiwan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports the United Church Board for World Ministries in its efforts to urge, through advocacy, that the U.S. Government hear the concerns of the people of Taiwan and use its influence to create a fair solution which will provide true representation in the international community for the people of Taiwan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports the United Church Board for World Ministries in its efforts to raise this issue of justice in its communications with other partner churches around the world and within the ecumenical community of the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod urges all local churches in the United Church of Christ to commit themselves to fervent prayer on behalf of the people of Taiwan and in support of their desire for peace and justice;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on local churches, conferences and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, to study and respond to the concerns of the people of Taiwan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod calls on the United Church Board for World Ministries to raise this issue of justice in its communication with other partner churches around the world and within the ecumenical community of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod and the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ refers this resolution to the appropriate instrumentalities for further implementation.

Subject to the availability of funds.

**11. RESOLUTION OF WITNESS ON “AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA”**

Mr. Sandman continued with the final recommendation of Committee Eleven. He moved that the Twentieth General Synod adopt the Resolution of Witness “Affirming and Supporting Human Rights in the People’s Republic of China.” Mr. Sandman spoke to the resolution and pointed out the changes made by the Committee. There was no discussion.

95-GS-47 VOTED: The Twentieth General Synod adopts the Resolution of Witness “Affirming and Supporting Human Rights in the People’s Republic of China.”

**RESOLUTION OF WITNESS ON “AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA”**

Statement of Theology

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

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Throughout the Bible from the time the people worshiped the golden calf (Exodus 32) and Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal (I Kings 18) to Jesus' admonishment not to store up treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19-21), God's children have always been tempted to worship human idols and material gods. Theologians and prophetic voices of our century have pointed out modern idolatries that are worshiped falsely as central values and motivations of human life.

Just as Baal, the god of prosperity, was worshiped by the ancients, modern gods of prosperity (ideologies) are worshiped today. The central idolatry of our time is the mistaken belief that economic systems and the material things they produce are the primary determinants of the experience and conditions of human reality. Marxism and capitalism were the two predominant ideologies of the 20th Century.

Biblical faith proclaims something totally different: There is only one God and that God is also the God of providence. No other forces or powers determine or predetermine life. God is our only providence, salvation and destiny.

### Background Statement

On June 3, 1989, the military in China violently attacked thousands of unarmed civilians in an attempt to crush the popular movement for democracy in that country. Hundreds were killed and injured. Since then, freedom of speech and other human rights have been repressed and those who have spoken out have been persecuted and imprisoned, creating an atmosphere of fear and oppression in China:

Asia Watch, a human rights organization, reports about 1,700 people are known or believed imprisoned in China for their religious, political or ethnic views. The majority are imprisoned solely because of non-violent beliefs and activities. This report details 250 cases, about 80 percent of which are in Tibet. (UCC News, April 1994);

The leadership of China's government has resisted international calls for improvements in the human rights situation, including several recent initiatives by the current U.S. Administration.

In recent years China's economy has been rapidly growing driven to a large extent by exports. Cheap labor costs have attracted much business to China. Inexpensive consumer goods such as clothing and children's toys have flooded the markets in the United States. Even promotional toys offered in fast-food chains are often stamped "Made in China."

Powerful economic interests in the U.S. have lobbied for a "business as usual" approach with the Chinese government. It is argued that business ties and trade will bring economic change, which somehow will automatically lead to improvements of political and human rights. However, as the experience in South Africa and other countries have shown, the advancement of human and political rights requires an active policy in addition to political organization by the people themselves. Democracy is a multi-faceted, participatory process. The ideological position that economic development and international trade alone lead automatically to a political system that respects and guarantees internationally recognized standards of human rights and affirms the dignity of the individual, is idolatry, because economic determinism excludes and denies the will and providence of God. Human rights ought not be sacrificed on the altar of economic values. While China ought not be isolated from the international community, economic development and trade integration should not be used as an excuse to justify that nation's repression of its people.

Although the Clinton Administration first took a courageous stand for human rights in China, recently it has capitulated to the powerful alliance of Chinese and U. S. economic interests. By renewing "most-favored-nation" status for China and unlinking human rights considerations which had been used as a leverage to improve human rights, the U.S. Administration has apparently switched policies from advocacy to appeasement.

Since governmental initiatives have failed to hold China's leadership morally accountable for improving human rights in that country, it is now time for Christians and other persons of ethical standards to take responsibility in supporting the struggle of the people of China for their political and human rights. A Christian is faced with a moral dilemma every time he/she enters the marketplace. Do our purchases of products imported from China support an oppressive political system? What choices do consumers have to affirm human rights when U.S. companies and multinational corporations and the U.S. government have already accommodated themselves to operate within a system that violates the human rights of Chinese citizens?

### Intention

The purpose and intention of this Resolution is to call upon Christians and all persons of conscience to support and affirm human rights in the People's Republic of China. The Resolution is a call to actions appropriate to this objective, including developing an educational and advocacy strategy aimed at effecting an improvement of human rights in China.

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WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has had a cherished historical relationship with China through mission programs and activities and has nurtured a mutual supportive relationship with the Chinese Christian Council;

WHEREAS we have expressed solidarity with the Chinese people in a Resolution of the Seventeenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS we are concerned that basic human rights are being denied our brothers and sisters in China;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

Calls on all people of conscience in the United States and other countries to join in support and affirmation of human rights in China;

Requests the United Church Board for World Ministries (UCBWM) and the Office for Church in Society (OCIS) to further this action through developing an educational and advocacy strategy to promote and support an improvement of human rights issues in China;

Requests UCBWM and OCIS to explore whether a boycott of imports from China (PRC) with broad ecumenical support would be appropriate and effective; and

Requests that UCBWM and OCIS, working with the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, research possible shareholder actions including a boycott targeted on specific products of U.S. corporations which operate in and import from China.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod endorses the proposed voluntary code of conduct for U. S. companies doing business in China as proposed by Human Rights Watch:

\* Companies will try not to use **prison labor** or buy products made by prisoners, because conditions in Chinese forced-labor plants violate international human rights standards;

\* Companies will not permit compulsory **political indoctrination** in the work place, a practice common in state-owned enterprises;

\* Companies will embrace **nondiscriminatory employment** practices (keeping workers' political beliefs out of hiring and firing decisions);

\* Companies will encourage **freedom of association and expression** concerning work-related issues in their plants; and

\* Companies will have senior American executives discuss human **rights issues** with local Chinese officials, emphasizing that human rights abuses can damage business relationships.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod requests that a report be given to General Synod Twenty-One by United Church Board for World Ministries and the Office for Church in Society on the progress and the activities in regards to the action taken on this resolution.

Subject to the availability of funds.

### 12. MOTION TO RECONSIDER WORLDWIDE EMERGENCY DISASTER RESPONSE

Mr. George Thompson (ILL) moved that the Twentieth General Synod reconsider the Resolution "Supporting a Permanent United Nations Fund for Worldwide Emergency Disaster Response." The motion was seconded. Mr. Thompson spoke to the motion to reconsider. Assistant Moderator Taylor suggested this motion be referred to the Agenda Committee for a time to discuss this.

95-GS-48 VOTED: The Twentieth General Synod refers the motion to reconsider the Resolution "Supporting a Permanent United Nations Fund for Worldwide Emergency Disaster Response" to the Agenda Committee.

Assistant Moderator Taylor recognized Mr. Harold Wagner (ME) who asked for clarification. He stated it was his understanding that a motion to reconsider could be made only by someone who voted for an issue. It was pointed out that such a motion could be made by someone who voted for the prevailing side. The prevailing side voted against the resolution. The maker of the motion to reconsider stated he voted against the resolution. Consequently, the motion was in order.

### 13. RESOLUTION ON "UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST LATINO AND LATINA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: TOWARDS A NEW MILLENNIUM"

The Moderator called upon the Rev. Kathy Timpany to lead the delegates through the work of Committee Twelve. Ms. Timpany referred the delegates to the resolution on pp. 181-186 of the Program/Worship and Business Book and to the changes indicated on page 8 of Packet D. Ms. Timpany spoke in support and moved the adoption of the Resolution "United Church of Christ Latino and Latina Leadership Summit: Towards A New Millennium." Moderator Taylor asked for discussion and concern was expressed that this not be in conflict with the plan for restructuring. There was no further discussion.