

1980

RESOLUTION: REVERSING THE ARMS RACE

WHEREAS "God calls us into the church to accept the cost and Joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil;" and

WHEREAS "God promises to all who trust in the Gospel courage in the struggle for Justice and peace" (from Robert Moss' revision of the Statement of Faith), and

WHEREAS there is a threat to the whole human family, in the escalating nuclear arms race and the spreading danger of nuclear war; and we as Christians have a particular responsibility to resist this power of evil, and

WHEREAS the nations of the world are becoming increasingly militaristic and aggressive, and the United States' own increasing militarism - as reflected in increased military spending, peace-time registration, delay in the passage of the SALT II treaties, and new weapons systems - is one of the greatest sources of world-wide insecurity, and

WHEREAS billions of dollars are being spent for arms and the basic needs of the world's people, especially the poor, the hungry, the elderly, and children, are not being met; that to be able to kill and be killed many times over in the name of defense is an evil waste of the world's resources,

WHEREAS there can be no security in arms alone and there can be no sure defense in the event of a nuclear strike and its inevitable retaliation, in which millions of women, men and children would perish,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Minister of the Conference, the Board of Directors and the Department of Church and Society to set reversing the arms race as a priority issue

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ calls upon:

1. The Minister of the Conference, the Board of Directors and the Department of Church and Society to publicize the issues of military spending, disarmament, and economic conversion to CONNtact and other Conference publications and in oral presentations, personal contact and public action;

: 2. The Department of Church and Society to make known relevant legislation to the people of our churches so that they may take informed constructive action to support our legislative representatives, local, state and national, in any moves in the direction of reversing the arms race and converting military industries to civilian production;

3. The local churches of the Conference and the Associations to study the ongoing impact of military spending in their communities, and to affirm their responsibility and power to question national priorities;
4. The Department of Christian Education to continue its work of compiling and making available resources to the Christian Education programs of the local churches; and the Department of Church and Society to continue compiling and distributing resource material on disarmament to local churches;
5. Each individual in the Conference to become personally committed through prayer to reversing the arms race, and through study and citizen action to continue in the incomparably important work of peacemaking, for Jesus Christ was, and still is, in search of peacemakers.