

1986

RESOLUTION: AGAINST SUPPORT OF THE NICARAGUAN CONTRAS

WHEREAS, We believe in God's commandment to Moses that "You shall not kill" (Exodus 20:13) and in Jesus' teaching that "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31); and

WHEREAS, We also believe in Jesus' assignment of children to a privileged place in the Kingdom of God when he said to his disciples, "Let the children come to me ... for to such belongs the Kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14); and

WHEREAS, The devastating consequences for children in the United States supported Contra war against the Nicaraguan population is staggering; and

WHEREAS, The Contra strategy has been to terrorize civilians: principal targets including teachers, health workers, members of agricultural cooperatives, coffee harvesters, and members of Christian base communities; and

WHEREAS, Many schools, health clinics, and coffee processing plants have been destroyed in Contra raids; and

WHEREAS, Great numbers of United States citizens (including pastors and members of Connecticut Conference churches³ have visited Nicaragua and returned home profoundly changed by their experiences of poverty, hope, nationalism, and deep religious faith, which are difficult to reconcile with East-West rhetoric;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 119th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference call upon their religious community to reassert its prophetic voice of conscience to change United States policy toward Nicaragua in the following ways:

1. By ending all aid, both overt and covert, official and private, to the Contras; and
2. By supporting the comprehensive and verifiable Contadora peace initiative proposed by Latin American nations themselves; and
3. By calling upon the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Conference to send copies of this resolution to members of the Congress and the President of the United States; and
4. By calling upon the Board of Directors to send copies of this resolution to all Connecticut Conference pastors, urging them to bring it to the attention of their congregations, and also urging them to write to their senators and congresspersons in its support.