

NO. 0316

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

AN URGENT CALL TO END THE NUCLEAR DANGER

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has adopted several resolutions in past years urging an end to nuclear testing, adopting nuclear-free zones, declaring that the use of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity, and noting the impact of nuclear testing in the Pacific (resolutions 8529, 8557, 8560 and 8363); and

WHEREAS, since the beginning of the nuclear age in 1945, God's world has faced total destruction along with possible nuclear winter and long term radiation which could destroy the future if such weapons were used; and

WHEREAS, there are several negative effects of nuclear weapons even when they are not used, such as the significant environmental degradation caused by their production and deployment, massive diversion of resources away from responding to human needs, and the addition of destabilizing fear to tense political situations; and

WHEREAS, countries around the world seek to develop nuclear weapons, joining those countries which are already known to possess nuclear weapons (the United States, Russia, India, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, China, Israel and France, with North Korea threatening development); and

WHEREAS, the United States and Russia continue to work to reduce the levels of stock-piled nuclear weapons;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, October 17-21, 2003, encourages the United States and Russia to fulfill their commitments under the Non-proliferation Treaty and move together with other nuclear powers step by carefully-inspected-and-verified step to total abolition of nuclear weapons.

As steps toward this goal, we call upon the United States to:

- 1) Renounce the first use of nuclear weapons.
- 2) End permanently the development, testing and production of nuclear warheads.
- 3) Seek agreement with Russia on the mutual and verified destruction of nuclear weapons withdrawn under treaties.
- 4) Increase the resources here and in the former Soviet Union used to keep nuclear

warheads and nuclear materials secure while continuing to move toward their destruction.

- 5) Strengthen nonproliferation efforts by ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- 6) Work to finalize a missile ban in North Korea.
- 7) Locate and reduce fissile material worldwide, and negotiate a ban on its production.
- 8) Initiate talks on further nuclear cuts, beginning with United States and Russian reductions to 1000 warheads each.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly also calls upon individuals and congregations within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada to:

- 1) Learn more about this issue through aggressive education, including that available through the Disciples Peace Fellowship;
- 2) Endorse the “Urgent Call” campaign by going online at www.nrdi.org to register, or mailing or faxing a completed endorsement to the Nuclear Education/Disarmament Initiative, Churches’ Center for Theology and Public Policy;
- 3) Write their legislative representatives urging their action on behalf of this “Urgent Call to end the nuclear danger.”