

1981

RESOLUTION: RENAMING THE SUBMARINE "CORPUS CHRISTI"

WHEREAS the United States Navy gave the name "Corpus Christi" to a submarine launched in 1981; and

WHEREAS the words "Corpus Christ" are Latin meaning literally "the body of Christ"; and

WHEREAS the submarine was named after the city Corpus Christi, Texas; the city was founded in 1839 on the date of the Christian festival of Corpus Christi, hence its name; thus the submarine was named indirectly for the Christ; and

WHEREAS naming an instrument of war after the Prince of Peace was an act of blasphemy, even if unintended and regardless of hopes that its missiles would serve as a deterrent to war; and

WHEREAS our United States government officials' refusal to rename the vessel, once they became aware of the double meaning in "Corpus Christi", constitutes a national act of overt blasphemy; and

WHEREAS Jesus, the Christ, said, "I tell you, on the Day of Judgement men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be Justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:36-37, RSV); he also said "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9, K~V); he calls us to love one another; and

WHEREAS as an example of his love for humanity, he allowed his body (Corpus Christi) to be broken for all people; and we remember his body broken for us in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ express its intense disapproval of the naming of the submarine "Corpus Christi"; and

BE IT FVRTHER RESOLVED that all individuals and churches within the Connecticut Conference are urged to write to their elected representatives in Washington requesting the submarine to be renamed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Minister and the Department of Church and Society take appropriate steps, by themselves and in concert with established groups of like mind, to bring about a name change for this submarine; and

BE IT FVRTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Church and Society request all United States military services to avoid references to anything sacred to any religion when naming future weapons systems.