

1983

PRONOUNCEMENT: ON NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ calls each one of us to be peacemakers; and

WHEREAS, Every Christian has his or her own concept of what it means to be a peacemaker in our world today; and

WHEREAS, The state of our world with regard to massive nuclear weapons buildup is becoming increasingly more critical as each day passes; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures say "lay down your sword; those who live by the sword will die be the sword"; and

WHEREAS, Many clergy and lay people choose to respond to this situation in ways that can more visibly be seen as a witness towards peace and disarmament; and

WHEREAS, Tax resistance and civil disobedience are two ways that afford an individual a form of non-cooperation with a system that prepares for war at the expense of the poor and oppressed;

THEREFORE BE IT RECOMMENDED that individuals and congregations, clergy and lay, provide comfort and prayer for the people in our midst who choose to take part in an act of non-violent civil disobedience and/or tax resistance.