

1983

RESOLUTION: IN OPPOSITION TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF CRUISE AND PERSHING MISSILES IN WESTERN EUROPE

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ calls us to a ministry of reconciliation and peacemaking; and

WHEREAS, The implications of that call in these times include being actively committed to reversing the nuclear arms race, a race that threatens to destroy all of God's Creation as we know it; and

WHEREAS, The 1981 Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ endorsed a resolution calling for a mutual and verifiable freeze on the production, testing, and deployment of all nuclear weapons between the United States and the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Our government's planned deployment of a new generation of weapons in Western Europe, weapons called the "Ground Launched Cruise Missile" and the "Pershing II Missile," respectively difficult to verify and "first strike" in nature, would make a freeze far less likely to achieve; and

WHEREAS, Repeated polls in the United States reveal the majority of U.S. citizens favor a nuclear weapons freeze, and similar polls in Great Britain reveal that the majority of British citizens oppose the placing of these destabilizing Cruise and Pershing II missiles on British soil; and

WHEREAS, The deployment of these weapons is likely to incite the Soviet Union to respond in kind, by building and deploying its own Cruise and Pershing II type missiles, thereby putting the nuclear arms race on a hair-trigger, "launch-on-warning" basis, with computers activating launch; -

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in order to maintain the Church's faithful commitment to the survival and protection of God's Creation, the 116th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ direct the Department of Church and Society to write to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, and the Connecticut Congressional Delegation, informing them of the Meeting's opposition to the planned deployment, and further direct the Committee for Peace of the Department of Church and Society to:

1. Provide educational materials to local congregations within the Conference, informing them of the dangers posed by such proposed deployment, and encouraging them to oppose it.
2. Actively demonstrate the Conference's opposition to such deployment by organizing individuals in member churches through letter writing, as well as through more visible forms of witness.