

1985

RESOLUTION: SOCIAL, RACIAL, AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN SOUTH AFRICA

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches us that "you shall not oppress your neighbor... you shall love your neighbor as yourself..." (Leviticus 19:13-18) and "He who oppresses a poor man insults his Maker. (Proverbs 14:31), and stresses that "You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality...Justice, and only-justice, you shall follow..." (Deuteronomy 16:19-20), and implores that we "Seek good, not evil that you may live...Hate evil and love good, and establish justice..."(Amos 5:14-15); and

WHEREAS, The daily humiliation of apartheid includes separate public facilities, residential restrictions, and passbook requirements and

WHEREAS, The black population of South Africa in recent constitutional "reforms" was deliberately excluded from any voice in Parliaments and -

WHEREAS, The homelands resettlement drive, although temporarily suspended, has forced half of that country's black population onto overcrowded unproductive Bantustans' where the infant mortality rate is one of the highest on the entire African continent' and

WHEREAS, South African troops continue their siege of Namibia, conducting a brutal war against SWAPO guerrillas in which many thousands have died' and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of blacks have been killed by the police in demonstrations since September 1984 and the situation is becoming increasingly violent

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the 1985 Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, deplore South African apartheid as a government system of racist exploitation which is morally indefensible, and do hereby

1. Affirm the United Church Board for World Ministries for its recent conclusion of successful negotiations to persuade several of the largest United States banks to stop making loans to the South African government and to stop selling South African issued krugerrand gold coins; and
2. Recognize the faith-witness of the participants in recent demonstrations in New York, Washington, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Dallas, and Los Angeles which were held to express opposition to Apartheid and which have been attended by United Church of Christ national executives, local clergy, and lay people, and
3. Affirm the efforts of the United Church of Christ instrumentalities in their attempts to encourage South Africa to abandon its apartheid policy, and
4. Recommend that the Department of Mission and Stewardship of the Connecticut Conference appoint a Task Force to provide resources to aid local churches in the study of apartheid in South Africa and

5. Recommend that the Department of Church and Society supply information to local churches so that they might take action such as divestiture, minority stock resolution, the study of current issues of anti-apartheid legislation introduced into the United States Congress, and written/oral communication with public officials.