

Resolution on Corporate Social Responsibility
A Resolution Approved by General Synod XI (1977)

In order to bring about a higher sense of human and environmental responsibility in the corporate decision making process.

RESOLVED, That the 11th General Synod recommend that members and organizations of the United Church of Christ continue during the 1977-79 biennium Church actions to maximize developmental impact as set forth in General Synod 10's pronouncement on transnational business.

RESOLVED, That the "Report to the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ on 1975-77 Corporate Social Responsibility actions with Special Emphasis on Southern Africa," submitted jointly by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the United Church Foundation, and the Pension Boards UCC, be received;

The Eleventh General Synod recommends increased attention by members and organizations of the United Church of Christ during the biennium 1978-79 to the critical ethical questions raised by the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility.

The General Synod encourages local churches, Associations, and Conferences to address business ethics and the social goals of economic activity in their communities, seeking to stimulate ecumenical action in behalf of higher standards of business morality and economic justice in the concrete circumstances of their local and regional economies.

Copies of this report and resolution be sent to all local churches, Associations and Conferences;

Recognizing that

- a. corporations have a responsibility to shareholders to make a profit,
- b. corporations should have a humane concern for the welfare of their employees,
- c. corporations have a responsibility for the human and environmental impact of their presence,
- d. corporations have a responsibility to be concerned with the developmental goals of their host community and country.

The General Synod calls upon the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. or other appropriate ecumenical agencies to bring together representative business and church leaders in a continuing dialogue:

- a. to examine the moral bases of current corporate business practice;
- b. to weigh the ethical criticisms levelled at corporations in 1976-77 federal government investigations of questionable payments and political actions of corporations whether at home or abroad;

- c. to evaluate the ability and willingness of corporations to fulfill the above recognized responsibilities;
- d. to appraise the positive and negative effects of transnational business on the development of a more just international economic order.