

**RESOLUTION ON OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE UNITED
STATES FEDERAL BUDGET
A Resolution Approved by General Synod XIII (1981)**

WHEREAS, the biblical mandate calls us to bring good news to the poor, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to practice kindness and mercy, and to make governmental decisions based upon justice and an affirmation of life; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. Avery Post, in his opening address to the Thirteenth General Synod, challenged us to address the appalling and undesirable direction the United States is taking in changing the priorities of its federal budget in spending more for armaments and less on human services for the poor and near-poor; and

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth General Synod delegates have responded to the challenges of the United Church of Christ tradition as a leading force in social and racial justice in the United States and in the world; and

WHEREAS, the federal budget for 1982 proposes budget cuts of about \$48 billion dollars affecting the support of a wide variety of programs that aid the poor and near-poor; and

WHEREAS, the re-ordering of the budget for 1982 will result in increases of approximately \$26 billion dollars in expenditures for armaments and defense materials; and

WHEREAS, although reduction in the rate of inflation is a desirable goal, there is no proof that inflation is caused primarily by government spending on social programs, but also by many other factors including high energy costs, lower productivity, obsolete equipment and plants, and military spending.

The delegates to the Thirteenth General Synod express to the President and Congress of the United States our strong objection to proposed decreases which go beyond attempts to reduce fraud and abuse in the Medicaid, Food Stamp, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, and other programs that have provided assistance to the poor and near-poor; and express to them our strong objection to proposed increases in expenditures for armaments and defense material; and

The delegates to the Thirteenth General Synod project a vision of American society in which the economy serves the needs of the poor as well as the affluent, in which the federal government along with the private sector is committed to serve the general welfare and to uphold the right to adequate nutrition, educational opportunity, justice in the legal system, and the earning of a living; and

The President of the United Church of Christ and each of its members be advised to communicate this resolution by personal letter to the President of the United States and to each member of Congress.

Local churches, Associations, Conferences and National bodies of the United Church of Christ, take seriously the necessity to respond to situations of need resulting from these proposed changes in the Federal Budget, including direct assistance and political action at all levels.