

Resolution on the Middle East

1981 Thirteenth General Synod

9. Resolution on The Middle East

Mrs. Richards moved the adoption of the Resolution on The Middle East as revised and called on David Wheeler (MICH), Chairperson of the small group that considered the Resolution, who pointed out the changes that had been made in the Resolution. He asked for the privilege of voice for Dr. Dale L. Bishop of the United Church Board for World Ministries who stressed the importance of The Middle East and the importance of this Resolution.

It was 81-GS-68 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts as revised the Resolution on The Middle East.

Resolution on The Middle East

WHEREAS, Christians in the United States of America are deeply concerned about events in The Middle East, because of our mandate to work for justice and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, The Middle East, which is the cradle of our faith, and of two other great monotheistic religions, exerts a special hold on our attention; and WHEREAS, events in The Middle East profoundly affect our national life; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America has unanimously approved a comprehensive policy statement examining Middle East issues from a Christian perspective;

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorses the November, 1980 Policy Statement of the National Council of Churches on The Middle East for study and appropriate action in the churches; and

Since the churches of The Middle East provide the witness to Christ in that area, are eager for ecumenical relationships and are a vital element in theological and cultural exchange, members of the United Church of Christ who travel to The Middle East are urged to visit with representatives of the churches in the Arab world and Middle East Region, and the United Church Board for World Ministries is urged to facilitate such contacts; and

The local churches of the United Church of Christ are urged to develop better understanding of Judaism and Islam by conducting educational programs on those faiths for members of all ages, and through personal contacts with Jews and Muslims in their communities.