

JUSTICE IN THE MAQUILADORAS
A Resolution approved by GS XVIII (1991)

WHEREAS, in its pronouncement “Christian Faith and Economic Justice,” the UCC has declared that “We establish as a goal the just transformation of the global economy into an economic order that fundamentally ensures economic, racial, and social justice for all of God’s people throughout the world”;

WHEREAS, ninety percent of the over 2,000 foreign corporations that have set up assembly and manufacturing plants in Mexico under the Maquiladoras program are United States-owned transnationals;

WHEREAS, these United States-owned Maquiladoras plants are generally decimating the environment and endangering public health on both sides of the border and the health of workers in the Mexican plants due to violations of Mexican and United States environmental and workplace standards;

WHEREAS, the border communities are overwhelmed from the waves of Mexican families who migrated to shanty towns in search of jobs in Maquiladoras;

WHEREAS, United States transnational corporations exploit the one-half million Mexican Maquiladoras workers by paying them an average of \$5 a day;

WHEREAS, many Maquiladoras workers have virtually no rights on the job, and in some cases are warehoused in crowded company barracks;

WHEREAS, United States corporations have used the tactic of moving facilities to Mexico in order to avoid social responsibilities to local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration’s proposed “Free Trade” agreements between Mexico, Canada and the United States fail to include the provision that United States transnationals operate under the environmental, workplace health and fair labor standards of both countries.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod condemns the exploitation of the environment, workers and communities in Maquiladoras plants by United States and other transnationals and any so-called “Free Trade” agreement that fails to address environmental, workplace and fair labor standards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod endorses the Maquiladora Standards of Conduct as a bi-national program to address the abuses transnational corporations have imposed on workers, the environment and the communities in which they are located;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod recommends participation in activities and events to publicize and enforce these standards proposed by the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod requests that the United Church Board for World Ministries work directly with the national Coalition for Justice on Maquiladoras, assigning resources to support the Coalition’s work.

Subject to the availability to funds.