

## **CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION**

### **A Resolution Adopted by the XXIII General Synod of the United Church of Christ (2001)**

WHEREAS numerous General Synod resolutions have sought to support a more just national and international economic system, including “Justice in the Maquiladoras” (Eighteenth General Synod, 1991), “In Support of International Fair Trade” (Nineteenth General Synod, 1993), “Affirming Democratic Principles in an Emerging Global Economy” (Twenty-first General Synod, 1997), and “Ending the Stranglehold of Global Debt on Impoverished Nations” (Twenty-second General Synod, 1999);

WHEREAS the growth of economic globalization has raised the quality of life for many people (mainly in First World countries), it has lowered it for many others (mainly in Third World countries); it has lowered costs of food and clothing for some, while lowering wages and levels of human rights for others; it has created technological wonders for some areas, while allowing the destruction of rain forests and increases in hunger in others;

WHEREAS with the rise of globalization, concern over the major International Financial Institutions, such as the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, North American Free Trade Agreement, and others, has brought protests in numerous countries, as local laborers, merchants, farmers, human rights workers, environmentalists, and others have begun to see its effects on their countries;<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS the rules for international commerce set by these institutions have contributed to the increases of poverty and environmental degradation in the Third World (for example, loan repayments, required by the G-7 for external debt payments, are ten times higher (relative to income) than the Allies required of post war Germany; Structural Adjustment Programs,” required by the International Monetary Fund to qualify for debt relief are targeted to raise unemployment and lower wages; tariff resolutions, required by the World Trade Organization to enhance free trade, lower environmental standards, and allow powerful transnational corporations to compete on a level playing field with small, emerging companies);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage local churches and Conferences to study the implications of an increasingly globalized world on the environment and human communities, and that issues of globalization be raised in adult education programs, Bible studies, and worship services in our various churches, Associations, areas, and Conferences (study guides and worship resources will be made available) and to request and encourage that the learnings, questions, and concerns surfaced in the various settings be forwarded to the appropriate bodies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local church members prayerfully consider becoming involved and/or more deeply involved with campaigns that seek a more humane form of globalization which lifts persons and the environment over markets and profits, including such things as the continuing Jubilee debt cancellation campaign and the campaign against sweat shops;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries in cooperation with pastors, parishioners, and scholars be requested to study the impact of corporate globalization on the poor of the world for the purpose of bringing to the Twenty-

fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ a pronouncement of our denomination's response to the issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our national denominational leaders in offices of Global Education and Advocacy Ministry, Justice and Witness Ministries, and others be requested to work for legislative policies which advocate a humane and ecologically sound direction for economic and corporate globalization efforts.

*Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.*

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<sup>1</sup>. A survey of International Financial Institutions protests in the year 2000 can be found in Walden Bello, "2000: the Year of Global Protest against Globalization," Focus on Trade 58 (January 2001).