

*Excerpt from The Presbyterian Church in Canada's General Assembly Acts and Proceedings 1982, p. 316-7*

## COMMITMENT TO LIFE IN A NUCLEAR AGE

### *A. God's Intention*

In the beginning, God created the world and saw that it was good. God gave to human beings His blessing to be co-workers in His creation. God desired that His people live in a loving covenant relationship with Him.

According to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, God has remained faithful to His promises of blessing and renewal made to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, and through the prophets to Israel and to the whole creation. God has fulfilled His promises through Jesus Christ, His Son, the Lord of Creation and Head of the Church.

### *B. Our Failure*

Human beings, however, yearned to be in control and to be as powerful as God. In that defiance of God's blessing, and the marring of the relationship to God and neighbour which we call sin, is born all the evil and destructive forces in the world.

We are not faithful to God in our calling as stewards of His creation, nor have we shown God's love in our relationships with our fellow humans. We confess our guilt in the sins of our age symbolized by the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the irresponsible use and marketing of nuclear technology.

The threat of nuclear confrontation and of nuclear accidents frightens us. We confess our despair at our apparent helplessness in stemming the tide of this destructive force.

### *C. God's Redemption*

Yet, in our guilt, fear and despair as God's people, we hold to the hope and the forgiveness of the Gospel of grace. Through the cross and resurrection, Jesus Christ has overcome the evil and destructive forces of this world.

As God's people, therefore, we are encouraged to participate in the work of reconciliation and recreation. We are empowered through Christ to stand against the forces of destruction. We are moved to share in Christ's concern for the world.

### *D. Our Response*

In the Name of Jesus Christ, Giver of Life, we condemn the proliferation of nuclear weapons and encourage all to use whatever means possible appropriate to the Gospel to end their production and prevent their use.

We deplore the attempts at justification and condemn the apathy towards the dangers of nuclear power. We encourage responsible and creative use of nuclear technology.

We commit ourselves to share in God's redemptive purpose to restore the covenant of love and blessing between God and His creation and to continue the study and monitoring of the issues around life in a nuclear age.

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 11 A

*That the statement "Commitment to Life in a Nuclear Age" be adopted by the 108<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and commended to the congregations for study and action.*

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 12 C

*That copies of this statement be sent to the Prime Minister, the national leaders of the Opposition parties and to the Premier of each province.*

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 13 A

*That the Assembly call upon the Church to be alert to, and involved in the issues and implications of nuclear technology including peace and disarmament.*

RECOMMENDATION NO. 14 A

*That the General Assembly instruct the Board of Congregational Life to continue to study this issue and make available appropriate resources to the Church.*