

## RESOLUTION TO TORONTO CONFERENCE

- TITLE:** Ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace
- ORIGINAL SOURCE:** World Affairs Committee
- CONFERENCE ACTION:**
- FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** committee budgets  
staff time and volunteer expenditures  
estimated \$30,000 for Mutuality in Mission project (per year)
- SOURCE OF FUNDS:** Conference budget  
World Affairs study tour budget (\$1000) towards the Mutuality in Mission project  
Global Mission Personnel committee (Division of World Outreach and Division of Mission in Canada) human resources and financial contribution (estimated \$10,000) towards the Mutuality in Mission project
- STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:** staff time to support committees to animate this ecumenical decade
- VOLUNTEER IMPLICATIONS:** Peace and Justice working group workshop  
Mutuality in Mission project planning group with broad Conference participation  
Support committee for Mutuality in Mission visitor  
Input from Conference conflict resolution facilitators  
Input from Coordinating Committee on Sexual Abuse

**MOTION** by \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ that the World Affairs committee at this 76<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Toronto Conference request

- Toronto Conference to formally support the World Council of Churches *Ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace* 2001- 2010 through engaged United Church of Canada participation;
- before 2006, Toronto Conference support a Mutuality in Mission project to engage the Conference in learning and action on reconciliation;
- to provide means for sustained Toronto Conference reflection and action during this ecumenical decade.

### RATIONALE AND FAITH BASE

The World Council of Churches has designated 2001-2010 as *the Ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace*. Because The United Church

of Canada is a member of the World Council of Churches, it is incumbent upon us in the spirit of partnership and solidarity for The United Church of Canada to participate.

One of the outcomes of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity With Women in Church and Society, in which The United Church of Canada participated, was the naming of significant work which remains to be done in the areas of anti-racism and overcoming violence against women. We will continue that work in the context of the Ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence.

Some of our other ongoing reconciliation work is:

- our relationship with First Nations peoples;
- Bearing Faithful Witness (36th General Council) examining our relationship with Jewish people;
- Mending the World (36th General Council) highlighting our ecumenism, and our relationships with all peoples and earth;
- Beyond Military Force: Seeking Peace After the Cold War (35th General Council) highlighting our relationship with militarism; and
- *One Earth Community: Ethical Principles for Environment and Development* (34th General Council) calling us to live with respect in creation.

Still we are called to rededicate ourselves to reflect and take further action as participants in this Decade.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus leads his followers and disciples to envision a world where assertive, non-violent resistance that transforms domination as we know it into the Reign of God - a life of reconciliation and peace. If we are to follow his examples (John 13:15) our response to violence will be active, creative and transformative with a goal of reconciliation. This transformation is both personal and structural. This Way is sorely needed and is already breaking out among us.

The pervasiveness of violence and the increased complexity and complicity of war in the face of our attempts to discern, witness, transform and be transformed requires a global solidarity. This new context also requires a new theology of reconciliation and peace.