

RESOLUTION TO BAN LANDMINES

1. **TITLE OF RESOLUTION: A call declare our support for the Landmine Ban**
2. **Convention and therefore we request the President and Congress to outlaw the**
3. **manufacture, stockpiling, sale and use of anti-personnel land mines and to sign**
4. **and ratify the international Landmine Ban Convention**

5. **DATE SUBMITTED:** March 15, 2000

6. **SUBMITTED BY:** The Peace and Justice Committee of Pilgrim Congregational
7. Church (UCC), Duluth. Chair: Gene Schull, 314 Hawthorne Road, Duluth 55812;
8. resolution advocate: Mary Van Evera, 1700 Lakeview Drive, Duluth 55803

9. **BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

10. In the Just Peace tradition of the United Church of Christ, which values the sanctity of
11. all human life as God's gift and abhors violence that kills and maims innocent men,
12. women, and children, we join with 1300 organizations in eighty countries in an
13. international campaign to ban landmines. While 137 countries (as of December 31,
14. 1999) have signed and eighty nine have ratified the 1999 Landmine Ban Convention,
15. the United States government has refused. Every member of NATO except the US
16. and Turkey has signed; every nation in the Western Hemisphere except the US and
17. Cuba has signed; our refusal puts in company with Iraq, Libya, North Korea,
18. Yugoslavia, China, and Russia.

19. **THE RESOLUTION:**

20. **Whereas**, there are 110 million anti-personnel land mines deployed in sixty nine
21. countries, which continue violence against civilians long after warfare has ceased;
22. and,
23. **Whereas**, these landmines are widely deployed in developing countries of Asia,
24. Africa, and Latin America; and,
25. **Whereas**, over 25,000 victims are killed or maimed each year, the majority of these
26. being unarmed civilians, and 30-40% are children; and,
27. **Whereas**, in the worst affected areas, landmines play havoc with the economy:
28. refugees cannot return home; farmers cannot till the fields, relief shipments cannot be
29. delivered; animals cannot reach waterholes; health care systems are overwhelmed;
30. mine clearance costs are exorbitant; and,
31. **Whereas**, the United States has been a major producer and exporter of anti-personnel
32. landmines for a quarter century, despite the Congressional moratorium on the export
33. of anti-personnel landmines until 1999; and,
34. **Whereas**, the United States has recognized humanitarian cost of anti-personnel
35. landmines and is pursuing efforts in the United Nations and elsewhere to address the
36. problem; and,
37. **Whereas**, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and
38. Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, already signed by 137
39. nations, entered into force on March 1, 1999,
40. **Therefore be it resolved that the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota**
41. **Conference of the United Church of Christ** ask that the Minister of the Minnesota
42. Conference of the United Church of Christ communicate with the U.S. President and
43. the Minnesota Congressional delegation, urging them to enact legislation outlawing
44. the manufacture, stockpiling, sale and use of anti-personnel landmines by the United
45. States, in accordance with the Landmine Ban Convention, and that the President sign
46. and the Senate ratify this Convention, and that such communication be publicized to

47. the churches and members of the Conference and publicly.

48. That the Minister of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ
49. communicate with the President of the United Church of Christ, urging the strong
50. support of our denomination of this Convention;

51. That the delegates of this annual meeting encourage the congregations and members
52. of the Minnesota Conference to communicate and publicize their support of this
53. Convention as well.

54. **Funding Implications.** Only minimal expenses are anticipated for the Minnesota
55. Conference UCC office to pay for mailings and/or other communications with those
56. named above.

4/4/00 – Final Draft to Minnesota Conference Resolutions Committee