

RESOLUTION ON PLANT CLOSURES
A Resolution Approved by the Executive Council,
acting ad interim for General Synod XIV (1983)

WHEREAS, by the Fall of 1982, the nation-wide unemployment rate was the highest in 40 years and unemployment was being considered the number one problem, numerous plants have closed, and there have been massive layoffs;

WHEREAS, many of the closings by large corporations are not made because of operating losses, but because investment elsewhere will give a slightly higher return;

WHEREAS, people long accustomed to job stability find themselves on the streets, their medical insurance and other benefits ended, but their house mortgage and car payments continuing and studies show that medical problems, such as heart attacks and mental health problems increased dramatically among such persons;

WHEREAS, large numbers of local community people—supermarket clerks, insurance agents, and lawyers—find themselves without work and perhaps with less compensation than the laid-off plant workers who may receive some severance pay;

WHEREAS, the tax base to finance the schools, public services, public health and relief systems is eroded by the loss of tax monies from the departed industry and the lower income base of community;

WHEREAS, Church shareholders have introduced resolutions this year at the Annual Meetings of U.S. Steel, Caterpillar, and Allis Chalmers requesting policy statements or studies concerning plants that they have closed; many states are considering legislation; and in 1982, California Assemblywoman Maxine Waters introduced AB 2839, requiring prior notice, adequate termination pay, community compensation, and a good faith offer by the corporation to see the plant about to be closed;

The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, affirms the right of everyone to employment, and supports efforts to avert or ameliorate the effects of plant closings through adequate prior notice, adequate compensation to laid-off employees and the community, and the development of options to enable employees and communities to purchase the closed plants.