

**TO ENDORSE THE BOYCOTT OF AMERICAN HOME PRODUCTS AND TO  
MONITOR NESTLE, S.A.**

**A Resolution Approved by General Synod XVII (1987)**

WHEREAS, in 1984, after a seven year boycott, Nestle, S.A. agreed to comply with the provisions of the World Health Organization (WHO) Code for the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes;

WHEREAS, American Home Products has also agreed to abide by the WHO code;

WHEREAS, in 1987 when the agreement was signed between Nestle and the International Nestle Boycott Committee, it was mutually recognized that there was not agreement on the meaning of "have to be fed" in the sentence, "Such supplies should only be used for infants who have to be fed on breast-milk substitutes," of Article 6.6 of the WHO Code but a commitment was made that when WHO developed a definition of the questioned phrase, both parties would accept it;

WHEREAS, WHO has defined the phrase in question in the April 10, 1986 document, "Guidelines concerning the main health and socioeconomic circumstances in which infants have to be fed on breast-milk substitutes," and the 1986 World Health Assembly Resolution 39.28;

WHEREAS, a boycott against Nestle and American Home Products was initiated in October 1988 and endorsed by the United Church Board for World Ministries in November 1988 because said companies refused to submit a plan for bringing their practices concerning free and low-cost supplies into agreement with the WHO Code as informed by these WHO definitions;

WHEREAS, the prompt action and pressure by boycotting United Church of Christ members and other boycotters has significantly contributed to Nestle's changing its policy;

WHEREAS, Nestle has submitted a plan for terminating its practice of giving free or low-cost supplies to developing country health facilities, and

WHEREAS, American Home Products has not submitted such a plan, has not committed itself to terminating free and low-cost supplies policies, has not committed itself to following the WHO definitions of, "have to be fed."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17<sup>th</sup> General Synod, United Church of Christ, requests that the United Church of Christ Hunger Action Office closely monitor Nestle's implementation of Nestle's plan to terminate its practice of providing free or low-cost supplies to health facilities in developing countries except in the ways permitted by the World Health Organization (WHO) Code for the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (Article 6.6) as defined by the WHO document of April 10, 1986 entitled, "Guideline for Determining Who has to be Fed by Breast-milk Substitutes," provided that these do not discourage breast feeding;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17<sup>th</sup> General Synod requests the United Church of Christ Hunger Action Office to present the results of its monitoring to the 18<sup>th</sup> General Synod, with the understanding that in the interim, should it be determined that Nestle is failing to expeditiously implement its plan for terminating free and low-cost supplies or in other ways is willfully violating the provisions of the WHO Code, the Hunger Action Office should request the United Church of Christ Executive Council acting ad interim for Synod, to renew the boycott of Nestle;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorses the boycott of American Home Products until such time as it commits itself to the termination of its practice of providing free and low-cost supplies and submits a plan for the implementation of that commitment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17<sup>th</sup> General Synod requests the United Church of Christ Hunger Action Office to negotiate with American Home Products to achieve the commitment and, when appropriate request that United Church of Christ Executive Council or Synod to end this boycott and to assume whatever monitoring is required, reporting to the 18<sup>th</sup> General Synod on progress achieved.

*Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.*