

SUPPORT OF THE BOYCOTT OF CALIFORNIA TABLE GRAPES
A Resolution Approved by General Synod XV (1985)

WHEREAS, the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act was passed in 1975 largely because of the pressure of a nationwide boycott of grapes, and officials of the State of California are now failing to protect the rights of farm workers under that law, and

WHEREAS, over eight thousand grape pickers have voted for representation by the United Farm Workers Union and have waited up to eight years for contracts while over \$30 million in wages of grape pickers remain unpaid because of delays and arbitrary action by the staff of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, and

WHEREAS, the large majority of table grape growers of California are evading the mandate of the ALRA (some by such tactics as transferring ownership of land and re-emerging as different companies), and in the summer of 1984 ignored the call of the United Farm Workers Union for collective bargaining, and

WHEREAS, the United Farm Workers Union under the leadership of Cesar Chavez has called for a renewed international boycott of all non-union table grapes produced in California, and

WHEREAS, the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ took a position affirming the rights of farm workers to organize for the purpose of good faith collective bargaining and endorsed a boycott as an effective, non-violent method by which the rights of workers can be re-established,

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, believing that Christians are called by God to stand with the poor and the oppressed in their struggle for justice, hereby endorses the boycott of all non-union California table grapes and urges all members of the United Church of Christ to refrain from purchasing, consuming or participating in the serving of California table grapes until such time as the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board enforces the law and good faith collective bargaining between growers and workers results in contracts.