

The 215th General Assembly Approved the “Resolution on Africa”

The 215th General Assembly (2003) approved the “Resolution on Africa,” which commits the PC (USA) to mission work that addresses prevention, treatment and support of people living with HIV and AIDS in Africa.

[The assembly approved Item 11-03, Recommendation A., with amendment]

Resolution on Africa

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy recommends that the 215th General Assembly (2003) approve the following resolution:

AFRICA! Birthplace of humankind. Cradle of brilliant civilizations, from Alexandria to Great Zimbabwe, from Axum to Kumasi. Giver of incalculable gifts to Western culture in general and to us in the United States, in particular.

Any consideration of Africa must begin with the recognition of the contributions this great continent has made to America. In our music, art, literature, medicine, culinary habits, philosophy, theology, and worship, we see and celebrate the many gifts we have received from Africa.

On the negative side of our history, we are the recipients of the far more precious gift, albeit unwillingly given, of Africa’s human resources—men, women, and children brought to North America and held in bondage to build our nations and create the world’s wealthiest economy. With the forcible extraction of human beings from Africa came the ruthless exploitation of one of the greatest stores of natural resources in history.

So we begin our consideration of Africa with a word of gratitude and humility for the many ways that Africa and her children have enriched the United States. Let us open ourselves to Africa afresh, so that we may be both spiritually and culturally enriched in our encounter with this great continent and its people, sensitive to the many ways we can be in partnership with African sisters and brothers in the struggle for peace, justice, and the wholeness that is God’s will for all people.

Therefore, the 215th General Assembly (2003) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) does the following:

A. Approves the “Resolution on Africa” [with recommendations,] (developed in partnership with the Africa Offices of the Worldwide Ministries Division).

[The assembly approved Item 11-03, Recommendation B.]

B. Receives the background rationale and appendixes (to be included in the *Minutes*).

[The assembly approved Item 11-3, Recommendations C. and D. [Note: The recommendation that Standing Rule G.2.s. be suspended failed for lack of a two-thirds vote. Therefore, the Stated Clerk will publish the report in these *Minutes* and on the Office of the General Assembly Web site.]

C. Directs the Office of the General Assembly to publish the entire report, “Resolution on Africa,” in printed format with background, appendixes, and with a related study/action guide and place the document as a whole on the PC(USA)’s Web site—www.pcusa.org/oga/.

D. Directs the Stated Clerk to distribute the entire printed report to sessions, middle governing bodies and their resource centers, the libraries of the theological seminaries, and appropriate ecumenical networks.

[The assembly approved Item 11-03, Recommendation E. with amendment.]

E. Approves the following recommendations:

To read the full document, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/ga215/business/commbooks/comm11.pdf> or <http://www.pcusa.org/ogaresources/journal2003.pdf> (starting on p. 590).

Order a copy of the Resolution on Africa: A Guide for Study and Reflection (PDS #7428004004)