

World Renew Justice Policy

“Bearing Witness” Peace & Justice Initiatives

Moved that World Renew accept the recommendations of the Long-Range Planning Committee as follows:

- a) That in order to enhance the core value of justice approved in the World Renew long-range plan, the World Renew gives added emphasis to the policy approved in 1983*. The intention of the endorsement is to have our constituency more fully understand all the influences that affect our work in ministering to the poorest of the poor. In order to accomplish this, the World Renew will strongly participate in:
 - education as per the respective plans developed in the US and Canada;
 - coalition building to develop two-way communications between churches in the North and South and among denominations;
 - witnessing action to fully understand issues of development in specific locations;
 - statements of justice, especially appreciative ones, where needed at the denominational level of through coalitions.
- b) That the World Renew, given its mandate and the skills and experience of its personnel, be the lead agency in supporting the initiatives of Peace and Justice.

**ADOPTED by CRWRC
Board September 10, 1994**

**February 1983 Annual Board Meeting Minutes, item 2973, pp. 17-19 follows:*

“POLITICAL STATEMENT” RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED

Basically, World Renew does its work on political goals by means of development work. Development work is political in that it opens new alternatives, helps people take charge of their lives, and helps the poor discover the power they can exert through organizing and political activity. However, development is the direct goal; political action is peripheral.

In addition to the political effects of development work, World Renew educates its constituency about issues, including those with political implications. This education takes the form of presenting information about issues, as they are seen from various perspectives.

In some cases, especially where human rights are blatantly violated and the US and/or Canadian government seems to be supporting those violations, the board is open to considering an official statement of position.

Further:

- A. The World Renew administrative staff, field staff, and board will engage in study in order to become appropriately knowledgeable about the societal structures and patterns that contribute to waste, selfishness, oppression, and injustice in both our own and other societies.
- B. World Renew, as an organization, will commit itself to being an example, insofar as possible, of an organization practicing good stewardship, selflessness, and justice.
- C. World Renew will provide encouragement, support, materials, and training to the deacons of the CRC to help them carry out their mandate to “be counselors to the victims of structures and patterns in modern society,” and “to be prophetic critics of waste, injustice, and selfishness.” World Renew will also help deacons lead their churches in such a way that the churches may be examples of good stewardship, selflessness, and justice.
- D. World Renew field staff regularly will analyze the societies in which they operate to identify barriers to the well-being of the poor, including social and political patterns that contribute to injustice and oppression. These analyses regularly will be presented to the board. Opinions of local Christians and other expatriate Christian leaders should be sought in dealing with these issues. Opinions of local Christians will be given heavy weight in World Renew actions.
- E. World Renew field staff will give counsel to the victims of society’s structures that is neither reckless nor cowardly, that takes into account the political and social structures of that society, and that gives primary allegiance to Christ and His church. Opinions of local Christians and other expatriate Christian leaders should be sought in dealing with these issues. Opinions of local Christians will be given heavy weight in World Renew actions.
- F. World Renew will assign an administrative person to monitor instances and patterns of injustice throughout the world, using a wide variety of resources. This person will make recommendations, when appropriate, about specific instances or patterns of injustice about which the board might wish to take official positions. Opinions of local Christians and other expatriate Christian leaders should be sought in dealing with these issues. Opinions of local Christians will be given heavy weight in World Renew actions.
- G. Upon recommendation by the field staff, the administrative staff, or individual board members, the board will study and discuss specific instances of injustice or oppression, or specific patterns contributing to such instances, with a view to approving specific statements or positions. Opinions of local Christians and other expatriate Christian leaders should be sought in dealing with these issues. Opinions of local Christians will be given heavy weight in World Renew actions. The goal in such instances shall be for World Renew to be an effective prophetic critic of waste, selfishness, injustice, and oppression. These statements could be two types: letters or statements to the governments of the US and Canada, or public statements to be disseminated throughout the CRC. In the latter case, administrative staff would have responsibility to plan the contents and channels for dissemination. In general, in countries where local people might be endangered by World Renew’s making public statements, statements will be limited to the first type.