



# ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS AND CHURCH PROPERTY

SECOND ASSEMBLY, UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  
Resolution 79.45

79.45 It was resolved that the Assembly:

- (i) recognize the injustice done to Aboriginal people through the dispossession of their lands, the importance of ties with their land for the maintenance by Aboriginals of their culture, and the economic importance of land; and affirm its support for Aboriginal groups seeking to obtain freehold title to traditional lands or land to be used for housing and economic support, and compensation for land which has been expropriated;
- (ii) recommend to Synods, Presbyteries and parishes and members that they enter into dialogue with local groups of Aborigines to ascertain whether suitable properties owned by the Church may be made available to them in perpetuity so as to meet some of their needs for housing and land;
- (iii) acknowledge that, by such action, they will acknowledge the injustice that has been done to Aboriginal people and the complicity of the Churches in it;
- (iv) encourage further consultation and dialogue with the Aboriginal groups which may be needed to determine whether additional assistance is required to ensure that they can use the land as they wish;
- (v) acknowledge that such an action will challenge the acquisitiveness, covetousness, and materialism of our society which made the dispossession possible and has for so long delayed compensation, thus setting an example of the willingness to dialogue with local Aboriginal groups, and to make the sort of sacrifice required of the white Australian community in natural justice.