No. 9328

(Sense-of-the-Assembly Resolution)

CONCERNING PEACE AND THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) follows the leadership of Jesus of Nazareth who is the Prince of Peace; and

WHEREAS, it is the church's responsibility to reflect the spirit of peace through the development of ministries which promote peace; and

WHEREAS, peacemaking is always related to the concrete situation in which the church finds itself; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North America is a part of a rapidly changing global scene where political realities are radically different than they were before 1989 (collapse of the Berlin Wall and the fall of the Soviet Union); and

WHEREAS, the threat of global war has diminished and the rise of regional conflicts and religious and ethnic conflicts increases; and

WHEREAS, the ethnic conflicts are often rooted in ancient religious and social hostilities; and

WHEREAS, the nature of war itself has evolved into a means of genocide and wholesale destruction of cultures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, July 15-20, 1993, reminds all our members that following the Prince of Peace means we need to recognize ourselves and people everywhere as brothers and sisters in God's global family; urges giving attention to such problems as the world wide arms trade, nuclear testing and proliferation, environmental contamination and destruction, economic justice, regional conflicts as in Bosnia/Croatia, Somalia, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East; the lack of diplomatic relations with the peoples of Cuba, Vietnam and Cambodia; and calls congregations to renew efforts on peacemaking which includes:

- Strengthening the congregation's understanding of itself as an agent of peace and justice, forgiveness and mercy, humility and inclusiveness;
- Study of world religions and political realities (local, regional and international) in order to deepen awareness and sensitivity to the great variety of differences in God's human community;
- Support for the World Council of Churches which seeks to connect persons from diverse backgrounds and communicate across political and religious barriers;
- Support a stronger role for the United Nations and other international organizations where conflicts receive global attention and are negotiated and resolved through creative methods of diplomacy and conflict resolution.