

WHEREAS, paragraph 40 of *The Design* as it currently reads insists upon an arbitrary and mandatory age of 68 for retirement of the General Minister and President; and

WHEREAS, any committee searching for General Minister and President is going to hope for a person who could possibly serve for two six-year terms, thereby removing from practical consideration any over the age of 56, a practice clearly illegal and immoral; and

WHEREAS, many individuals could effectively serve the church long past that age and upbuild the church by the gifts they would bring to the office of General Minister and President;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that paragraph 40 of *The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* be amended by deleting the following sentence from paragraph 40:

[DELETE] However, retirement from this office shall be mandatory for the General Minister and President at the close of the General Assembly following the end of the calendar year during which age sixty-eight is attained.

No. 9327

(Sense-of-the-Assembly Resolution)

CONCERNING FUTURE GENERATIONS

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, the revelation of Scripture consistently links redemption and creation from Genesis to Revelation, making clear that the whole cosmos is the scope of God's restoration and redemption in Christ, and calling us as Christ's followers to stewardship of the earth (Romans 8:18-24; Colossians 2.15-20); and

WHEREAS, the people of God are also called to responsibility not only for their own generation, but for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life on our planet in areas of population, loss of species, air, water, land and climate has deteriorated to urgent and crisis proportions as we have lost our sense of stewardship for God's creation; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of harmony and a sustainable future on our planet calls for political, scientific, economic and spiritual leadership; and

WHEREAS, the people and governments of 180 nations, gathered in Brazil in 1992, expressed their common commitment to work together for a healthy and sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS, the Cousteau Society has developed "A Bill of Rights for Future Generations" and has invited the people of the world to join in a petition that it be adopted by the United Nations and become a part of its charter;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, July 15-20, 1993, endorse the following "Bill of Rights for Future Generations," and that it urge the leaders of the United States and Canada to exercise their powers that it be adopted by the United Nations and become a part of its charter:

A Bill of Rights for Future Generations

Article 1.

Future generations have a right to an uncontaminated and undamaged Earth and to its enjoyment as the ground of human history, culture, and of social bonds that make each generation and individual a member of one human family.

Article 2.

Each generation, sharing in the estate and heritage of the Earth, has a duty as trustee for future generations to prevent irreversible and irreparable harm to life on Earth and to human freedom and dignity.

Article 3.

It is, therefore, the paramount responsibility of each generation to maintain a constantly vigilant and prudential assessment of technological disturbances and modifications adversely affecting life on Earth, the balance of nature, and the evolution of humanity in order to protect the rights of future generations.

Article 4.

All appropriate measures, including education, research and legislation shall be taken to guarantee these rights and to ensure that they not be sacrificed for present expediences and conveniences.

Article 5.

Governments, non-governmental organizations, and individuals are urged, therefore, imaginatively to implement these principles, as if in the very presence of those future generations whose rights we seek to establish and perpetuate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President be requested to communicate this action to the Prime Minister of Canada and to the President of the United States.

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.