

No. 9329

(Sense-of-the-Assembly Resolution)

**CONCERNING A PROACTIVE ROLE FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN URBAN MINISTRY
ADOPTED by the General Assembly**

WHEREAS, recent events in Los Angeles only underscore the rising tide of urban violence; and
WHEREAS, urban violence and racial prejudice have witnessed an alarming increase in the United States (and Canada) in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the church historically has been a vehicle for social change; and

WHEREAS, the church has access to the lives of people in ways that no other institution has, and is uniquely positioned to influence the lives of persons across a wide spectrum of society;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) enter into a season of prayer, seeking to receive divine guidance on how to heal the wounds resulting from urban violence and racial prejudice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, July 15-20, 1993, request that the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) encourage the regions in the United States and Canada to enter into dialogue to identify opportunities for improving race relations in their processes of deliberation, within the structures, organizations, and programs of the regions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 1993 General Assembly request that the Council of Regional Ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) [the Conference of Regional Ministers and Moderators] encourage the regions to identify ways to engender creative and compassionate regional leadership which is sensitive to these issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President request that the Council of Regional Ministers [the Conference of Regional Ministers and Moderators] encourage regions to seek to achieve fuller participation of racial/ethnic congregations in the selection of persons to fill regional policy-making staff and lay vacancies, and increased representation of, and responsiveness to, minority concerns in their deliberations and program initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly request that the Division of Homeland Ministries seek to enhance the Christian Church's involvement in urban ministry projects which address the causes of violence in urban areas, e.g., lack of jobs, affordable housing, health care, quality education, as well as the problems of illegal drugs, domestic violence, and AIDS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Division of Homeland Ministries plan and promote a National (the United States and Canada) Urban Ministries Conference for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the near future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Division of Homeland Ministries encourage all congregations to increase their participation in the special offering for RECONCILIATION; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Division of Homeland Ministries and the Council of Regional Ministers [Conference of Regional Ministers and Moderators] report back to the 1995 General Assembly as to progress toward implementation of these recommendations.