

**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 expediencies 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.