

No. 9916

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

ON RATIFICATION OF THE LAND MINE TREATY

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has traditionally recognized that human life is precious to God and the taking of human life or the causing of suffering is not a part of God's plan for the human family; and

WHEREAS, land mines are indiscriminate weapons that kill and maim thousands of noncombatants each year; and

WHEREAS, after armed conflict has ended, residual land mines are a major obstacle to social and economic development in many countries where war has raged; and

WHEREAS, the Ottawa Treaty banning the use, production, sale or stockpiling of anti-personnel land mines was signed by 122 nations in 1997; and

WHEREAS, the United States did not sign the treaty to ban land mines; and

WHEREAS, the Ottawa Treaty has now been ratified by the governments of more than the required 40 nations, including Canada, and on March 1, 1999 the land mine ban treaty went into effect, thereby becoming international law; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 8-12, 1999, adds its voice to the concerned individuals, nations, and faith groups around the world calling for an end to the use of this indiscriminate weapon of fear and suffering;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls on the President and the Congress to ratify the 1997 Land Mine Ban Treaty, and that all necessary steps be taken by government to guarantee strict enforcement of the treaty, and that assistance be given in the slow and costly task of removing the millions of deployed land mines throughout the world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls on the appropriate General Units of the church, Regional offices, congregations and individual church members to contact the President and members of Congress urging their strong and determined effort to ratify the land mine ban treaty.