

No. 9919

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

IN SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, as people of Christian faith within the multi cultural nations of the United States and Canada, we believe that we have a responsibility to protect the right of all to believe and worship as conscience dictates, and

WHEREAS, we believe that we have a responsibility to oppose efforts to have government at any level promote or inhibit any particular religion, and

WHEREAS, we believe that churches are strengthened, not weakened, by the principles of separation of church and state, freedom from discrimination on the basis of religious faith, freedom of conscience, and freedom of religious expression, which are affirmed both in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution and in the Canadian Bill of Rights,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 8-12, 1999, by means of this resolution reaffirms its belief in and loyalty to the principle of religious freedom, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church urges all general units, regions, congregations and individual members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to raise their voices to: 1) defend freedom of conscience at every level of government, and also, freedom of religious expression throughout the public square; 2) educate about religious liberty, including the examination of all legislation in light of this principle; 3) encourage persons to insure open access to intellectual inquiry both in public schools and public libraries; and 4) advocate justice in education for all children by supporting public education, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly encourage the General Board, general units, regions, congregations and individual members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to express the sense of this resolution to public officials at the national, state or provincial, and local levels whenever they deem it appropriate and necessary to support or encourage dedication to this constitutional principle by public officials.