

1 Funding for this action will be made in accordance
2 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies
3 and the funds available.

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5 **8. RESOLUTION: CONFLICT DIAMONDS**
6 **IN SIERRA LEONE**

7 Mr. Harter informed the delegates that the next item
8 of business would be the last common action of
9 the Synod/Assembly during the Plenary. He called
10 on Mr. Cavanaugh to present the committee's next
11 resolution, "Conflict Diamonds in Sierra Leone."
12 Mr. Cavanaugh moved on behalf of Committee
13 Two that the Twenty-third General Synod adopt
14 the resolution, "Conflict Diamonds in Sierra
15 Leone." He then yielded his time to the Rev. Dan
16 Hoffman, Area Executive for Africa of the Com-
17 mon Global Ministries, to speak to the resolution.
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19 Moderators Rivera and Smith then facilitated the
20 discussion of this issue by the General Assembly.

21 Following that discussion, Mr. Harter called for the
22 General Synod vote.

23 01-GS-16 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
24 third General Synod adopts the resolution, "Con-
25 flict Diamonds in Sierra Leone."
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29 **RESOLUTION ON CONFLICT DIAMONDS**
30 **IN SIERRA LEONE**

31 WHEREAS, the human tragedy of war in Sierra
32 Leone cries out for an effective international re-
33 sponse;

34 WHEREAS, the Revolutionary United Front
35 (RUF) rebel movement in Sierra Leone, whose
36 brutality included cutting off the hands, feet, and
37 legs of children, has been sustained by the sale of
38 diamonds from mining areas under its control;

39 WHEREAS, the income derived from diamonds
40 correlates directly with the RUF's access to arms
41 to continue its brutal war;

42 WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ traces
43 its connection with Sierra Leone to the successful
44 efforts of 19th century New England Congrega-
45 tionalists in returning the crew of the Amistad to
46 that country; and

47 WHEREAS, both the United Church of Christ and
48 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) continue
49 to support development and relief efforts of Sierra
50 Leonean Christians through One Great Hour of
51 Sharing and Week of Compassion grants;

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59 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the
Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church
of Christ meeting in Kansas City in July 2001,

Calls on the United States government to fully support
the United Nations embargo on "conflict diamonds";

Urges that the international diamond industry move
forward to establish a system for certifying legitimate
diamonds and for prohibiting the buying, cutting, and
exporting of diamonds originating in rebel-controlled
Sierra Leone;

Appeals to the U.S. Congress to legislate a ban on the
importation of diamonds from any country that does
not have "rough controls" in place to prevent the mar-
keting of conflict diamonds;

Calls on our congregations to reflect on this critical
issue and advocates to secure the end of conflict dia-
monds as a means of sustaining the war in Sierra Leone,
not only through advocacy with the U.S. Government
and Congress, but also by communicating their con-
cerns to jewelers in their communities, toward the end
that dealers in diamonds, who have previously opposed
these steps, may be persuaded to support efforts to end
the trade in conflict diamonds;

Urges all parties to proceed toward a system of identi-
fication and certification that provides no hindrance to
the sale of legitimate diamonds, such a hindrance harm-
ing the economies of such nations as Botswana,
Namibia, and South Africa;

Requests Common Global Ministries of the United
Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples
of Christ) to provide educational and advocacy re-
sources to interested United Church individuals and
entities on conflict diamonds in Africa; and

Requests the General Minister and President of the
United Church of Christ to communicate this resolu-
tion to the U.S. President, Secretary of State, Assistant
Secretary of State for African Affairs, U.S. Trade Rep-
resentative, the General Secretary of the United Con-
gregational Church of Southern Africa, and the Gen-
eral Secretaries of the All Africa Conference of
Churches and the councils of churches in Sierra Leone,
Liberia, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and the
United States.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with
the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the
funds available.

Mr. Rivera called for the General Assembly vote and
the Business Item was adopted. Mr. Rivera reported
that this ended the business that had been submitted to
both the General Synod and Assembly and that busi-
ness would continue alternating between the business
of the two churches.

Mr. Rivera and Ms. Smith facilitated the General As-
sembly business item entitled "Justice and Reconcili-
ation to Comfort Women"; the item was adopted.