

1 **NO. 0918**

2
3 **(OPERATIONAL BUSINESS ITEM)**

4
5 **CHANGING THE MEETING TIME OF GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
6 **(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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8 WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in
9 Denver, Colorado, July 25-29, 1997, voted to hold only summer General Assemblies in
10 order to include more children, youth, young adults, families and lay persons; and

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12 WHEREAS, the 2001 Summer Assembly experienced a 3% decline in participation from
13 that in 1997, the 2005 Summer Assembly experienced a 32% decline in participation
14 from that in 1997 and the 2007 Summer Assembly experienced a 27% decline in
15 participation from that in 1997 (based on Yearbook figures); and

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17 WHEREAS, the Mission Imperatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) adopted
18 in July 2000 include our covenant that affirms our need to “strengthen relationships
19 among all manifestations of the church, [and] share mutually and more fully the
20 stewardship of God’s gifts of our life in Christ”; and

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22 WHEREAS, the 2020 Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) includes “The
23 calling and forming of new leaders and the continuing re-forming of current leaders”;
24 and

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26 WHEREAS, having a summer General Assembly every other year has a significant
27 negative impact on the Regional summer camp and conference programs that
28 historically have developed our children, youth, and young adults as Disciples and
29 leaders in the Church; and

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31 WHEREAS, having alternating summer and fall General Assemblies would allow youth to
32 participate in a General Assembly once in their high school careers without missing
33 school; and

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35 WHEREAS, alternating fall and summer General Assemblies would require Regions to
36 plan their camp and conference programs around the General Assembly only once every
37 four years, making staffing and scheduling less difficult in the other years;

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39 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United
40 States and Canada, meeting in assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 25-29, 2009,
41 declare that beginning in 2013 or as soon as practical thereafter, the General Assembly
42 of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will alternate between summer and fall
43 Assemblies.

44 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Montana

45	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas
46	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest
47	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana
48	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia
49	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia
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52	The General Board recommends that the General Assembly
53	NOT ADOPT Business Item No. 0918. (Debate time: 24 minutes)