

***Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly  
Adopted by the General Assembly 1968 – Revised 1989  
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**2.3. Calls for Action: (Provisional)**

**A Call is an invitation of the General Assembly to the Church for action on moral, ethical or justice issues that require urgent presence and witness by the Church in all of its expressions. Action may include prayer, study, reflection, discernment and response.**

**Pre-General Assembly**

- 2.3.1. A Call may originate with any congregation, region, institution of higher education, organization with a recognized relationship and/or general ministry
- 2.3.2. Each Call shall include:
  - 2.3.2.1. A summary statement of the moral, ethical or justice issue proposed for action.
  - 2.3.2.2. A rationale describing why this issue ought to be considered by the whole church, especially as it relates to the Church's vision to be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice.
  - 2.3.2.3. Lists of resources shall be made available to the whole church to inform its consideration and action on the issue. The list of resources shall be provided by the submitting organization(s). The list of resources should include the widest possible variety of perspectives on the issue.
  - 2.3.2.4. In the summary statement and rationale, care should be taken to present the moral, ethical or justice issue as objectively as possible, recognizing that faithful people hold divergent positions on issues.
  - 2.3.2.5. Ecumenical perspectives shall be sought if not already included.
  - 2.3.2.6. A Call must be submitted to the Office of the General Minister and President no later than 180 days prior to the General Assembly in which the Call could be considered.
  - 2.3.2.7. A Call shall not be eligible for consideration if either of the two immediate previous General Assemblies has engaged a Call on the same issue, unless its content or the circumstances leading to its submission are substantially different. Moreover, according to its own judgment, the General Board may work with submitters to combine or amend Calls.

**The General Board meeting prior to the General Assembly shall:**

- 2.3.3. Select up to four (4) Calls for Action to be forwarded to the General Assembly.
- 2.3.4. Become the submitting organization listed on the Call for Action.
- 2.3.5. Refer non-selected Calls to other expressions of the church deemed to be appropriate venue for prayer, study, reflection, discernment and response; and/or provide opportunities at the General Assembly, such as workshops and after-session, to address non-selected Calls for Action as appropriate.

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- 2.3.6. Inform the submitters in writing of Calls that are not selected including the rationale for the decision and conversation as to other places where the call to action might be explored.
- 2.3.7. Publicize their decisions to the Church no less than sixty (60) days before the General Assembly.
- 2.3.8. Include in the General Assembly docket a list containing all of the Calls that were submitted for consideration (and not voluntarily withdrawn), the submitting organization(s), and respective decision, regardless of whether they were selected for engagement by the General Assembly.

**At the General Assembly**

- 2.3.9. The 4 Calls for Action will be scheduled for engagement during the General Assembly, including but not limited to:
  - 2.3.9.1. Presentation of the summary statement, rationale.
  - 2.3.9.2. The reading of a Pastoral Statement from the General Minister and President as informed by the General Board discussion.
  - 2.3.9.3. Speakers as determined by the Office of the General Minister and President and the General Assembly Program and Arrangements Committee.
  - 2.3.9.4. Opportunities for question and answer in various formats.
  - 2.3.9.5. Language translation(s) should be provided for the session(s).
- 2.3.10. The General Minister and President shall design the format and setting to engage the General Assembly in discussion, dialogue and discernment regarding each Call.
- 2.3.11. Calls shall be placed on the Agenda as Orders of the Day.
- 2.3.12. The vote of the General Assembly is to affirm or not affirm each Call as an invitation for action by all expressions of the Church. An affirmation is denoted by 2/3 of the votes.
- 2.3.13. Should a vote for a proposed Call for Action receive a simple majority but fail to receive a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly, the proposed Call for Action shall be referred to General Minister and President. In consultation with the General Board, the GMP shall determine if continued dialogue and research on the subject is needed.
- 2.3.14. The numeric and percentage results of a ballot vote shall be posted and shared with the Church.

**Following the General Assembly**

- 2.3.15. If the General Assembly votes to affirm a Call for Action, the General Minister and President shall write a Pastoral Letter on behalf of the General Assembly to all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), inviting the Church to reflect, discern and respond. The letter is understood to speak to the church and not for the church.
- 2.3.16. The letter shall include:
  - 2.3.16.1. The definition of a Call for Action.

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- 2.3.16.2. The Pastoral statement that was presented at the General Assembly.
- 2.3.16.3. The reason why it is urgent for the Church to be present and to witness to this Call.
- 2.3.16.4. The summary statement and rationale as presented to the General Assembly.
- 2.3.16.5. A synopsis of the General Assembly's engagement including the numeric and percentage results of the ballot vote.
- 2.3.16.6. Recommended resources for study, prayer, reflection, and response.
- 2.3.16.7. Information about the how the various expressions of the Church are currently responding, including suggested actions.
- 2.3.16.8. The General Minister and President shall share the letter with appropriate ecumenical and interfaith partners.
- 2.3.16.9. There will be a report on the response to the Calls at the following General Assembly.