

**NO.0718**  
**(OPERATIONAL BUSINESS ITEM)**  
**CELEBRATING NEW CONGREGATIONS**

WHEREAS, we the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) affirm The Great Commission challenge to “Go and make disciples;” and

WHEREAS, the founders of our movement were passionate about bringing new Disciples to the table; and

WHEREAS, we Disciples have witnessed the start of more than 500 new congregations since 2001; and

WHEREAS, more Disciples congregations claim this decade to be their decade of origin than any other decade in our church’s history; and

WHEREAS, these new congregations participate fully in the life of our movement in supporting the Disciples Mission Fund and relating to regional life; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the gift of healthy congregations and their importance to human development; and

WHEREAS, the fastest growing segment in our population today are those who do not claim participation in any faith community; and

WHEREAS, the number of congregations per person in the U.S. has declined dramatically in the past 100 years; and

WHEREAS, 65 percent of the U.S. population does not reside near a Disciples congregation; and

WHEREAS, there are four states, three provinces and more than 25 large metropolitan areas that do not have a Disciples congregation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly, meeting in Forth Worth, Texas, July 21-25, 2007, reaffirms our commitment to the 2020 goal of 1,000 new Disciple churches by 2020, and enthusiastically celebrates these new congregations:

*Congregations started since 2001:*

General Board of the  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly  
ADOPT Business Item No. 0718. (Debate time 12 minutes).