

1 NO. 0917

2
3 (OPERATIONAL BUSINESS ITEM)

4
5 CELEBRATE AND REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TOWARD
6 THE VISION OF CHURCH PLANTING

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8 WHEREAS, the Biblical witness of scripture calls us toward “making disciples” in the
9 Great Commission, the Great Commandment, and in the practice of the early church as
10 it spread throughout the world; and

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12 WHEREAS, the historical record of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
13 demonstrates a practice of spreading the gospel through the formation and adoption of
14 new congregations since our very inception; and

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16 WHEREAS, our formative documents within our church demonstrate a long-term
17 commitment to evangelism and acceptance of the mantle of “...our mission of witness
18 and service to all people”¹; and

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20 WHEREAS, our church has adopted a vision of being a “faithful, growing church, that
21 demonstrates true community, deep Christian Spirituality and a passion for Justice”
22 (Micah 6:8)²; and

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24 WHEREAS, we have adopted our Mission “To be and to share the Good News of Jesus
25 Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth”
26 (Acts 1:8)³; and

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28 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has adopted the 2020 vision of establishing 1,000 new
29 congregations by the year 2020; and

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31 WHEREAS, we have repeatedly reaffirmed our commitment toward establishing new
32 Disciples congregations in General Assemblies since 1969; and

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34 WHEREAS, Disciples celebrate the planting of more than 600 new and affiliating
35 congregations since 2001 with more than 80 percent of these congregations chartered
36 or still in formation; and

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38 WHEREAS, Disciples new congregations represent tremendous growth in the
39 racial/ethnic diversity of our church, allowing Disciples to look more reflective of the
40 face of America; and

¹ The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

² The Mission Imperative of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

³ The Mission Imperative of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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WHEREAS, Disciples have depended on the service and commitment of more than 600 new church pastors, who have sacrificed personally in the establishment of these new congregations with little financial backing from denominational sources; and

WHEREAS, Disciples have supported new congregations by an average of only \$3,500 per congregation each year through our offerings and Regional support, with only half of all existing Disciple congregations supporting the Pentecost offering; and

WHEREAS, new congregations of the past 20 years represent the most growth and giving towards our common mission fund and the greatest number of new additions and baptisms of all our congregations⁴; and

WHEREAS, there are still four states in the United States without a Disciples congregation and 25 metropolitan areas in North America that do not have a Disciples presence⁵; and

WHEREAS, sixty-five percent of the U.S. population still does not live near a Disciples congregation⁶;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) celebrates at this assembly that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has welcomed more than 600 new and affiliating congregations that are listed in this docket; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this assembly will encourage the church to fulfill its long-term mission – not only in word, but in deed – to form more congregations through financial support, congregationally initiated projects, the recruitment and training of gifted planters, and prayerful support of robust Disciples church planting.

New Church Ministry

>>>LIST OF CONGREGATIONS STARTED SINCE 2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE FORTHCOMING BY MARCH 31 FOR ATTACHMENT TO THIS RESOLUTION, AFTER REGIONAL MINISTER APPROVAL (by General Board Meeting)<<<

⁴ The Yearbook

⁵ The Yearbook

⁶ PERCEPT