

WORLD CONVENTION
(CHRISTIAN - CHURCHES OF CHRIST - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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Since 1930 World Convention has been fulfilling the vision that was expressed in Resolution 0916 at the Indianapolis General Assembly: “WHEREAS, we are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, who participate in God's mission for the world, working with partners to heal the brokenness of creation and bring justice and peace to the whole human family; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana July 29-August 2, 2009 claims the church's *core identity as a global mission church in all of its expressions*, and calls on the church to live out this commitment in all current and future mission priorities.”

As you listen to the guidelines of that resolution, you hear the everyday workings of the World Convention: “praying regularly for partners, missionaries and the world; educating its members from preschool to adult about global issues; seeking justice for the "least of these" in the international community; receiving the gifts of the worldwide Church; giving to the work of global mission through Disciples Mission Fund and "over and above" gifts; sending its members into the world to share the Good News; growing in sharing the story of God's mission with others; and FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls for a commitment to hear the cries of people around the world; to find the energy and enthusiasm to reach out and respond with grace; to proclaim the joys as well as denounce the suffering of God's people; to seek wisdom and guidance in building global connections in the life of all settings of the church; to be immersed in the church's work for the healing of the nations.”

World Convention is one of the few ministries that engages all three streams of the Stone-Campbell Movement: the Christian Church/Churches of Christ, the a cappella churches of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Truly global in vision and organization, we have a 31-member board who come from 11 different nations. Bafundi J. Mpofu of Zimbabwe is our current President joined by five Vice Presidents representing Brazil, South Korea, Australia and the USA. Congregations who share a Stone-Campbell heritage have been identified in over 180 nations. National profiles of the history of our churches in these nations are available on our website. Founded in 1930 as a convention every four years promoting world evangelism, World Convention has grown to where we now proclaim that we are “Connecting Everywhere, Every Day.” Our major publication ChristiaNet relates information, celebrations and prayer needs from churches across our globe and across all three streams of our Stone-Campbell Movement. Our Global Gatherings every four years draw representatives from scores of nations coming to find strength and solidarity with their church family and to be equipped by speakers, workshops and resources for stronger ministries at home. World Convention also provides study materials, sponsors the Jesse Bader Lectures on Evangelism, and responds to emails and phone calls every day from across the planet, contacts that relate tales of persecution and privation as well as tales of new church starts, baptisms, and mission churches now sending missionaries to other nations.

Following the discovery in fall 2008 that the US Immigration Service had denied permanent visas to our Executive Director/General Secretary Jeff Weston and his wife Rosemary, the Board considered whether Jeff could serve World Convention from his home country, Australia, while the office continued in Nashville, Tennessee, USA. It was concluded that this was not feasible especially in light of fundraising needs. So Jeff resigned in April 2009 and took a church position in

Australia. Our President BJ Mpfu appointed Rev. Bill McDonald of Lexington, Kentucky USA as Interim Executive Director/General Secretary in August 2009. In January 2010 the Board extended a call to Dr. Gary Holloway to serve as our new Executive Director/General Secretary. Dr. Holloway, the Ijams Professor of Spirituality at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee USA and a minister to the Natchez Trace Church of Christ in Nashville, became the first Executive Director/General Secretary of World Convention to come from the a cappella churches of the Stone-Campbell Movement. Dr. Holloway has served faithfully on the national Stone-Campbell Dialogue, is a scholar of our movement's history and is the author of 26 books.

The April 2009 meeting of the World Convention Board was given over to a re-visioning process resulting in this vision: "The World Convention is: 1) A ministry of Christ. Unity is our polar star and Christ is our unity. 2) A ministry of Convention. A Global Gathering every four years celebrates our movement of unity and restoration worldwide. 3) A ministry of Communication. We are the global clearinghouse, a faith Facebook, for Stone-Campbell churches and ministries. 4) A ministry of Connection. Stone-Campbell churches and ministries exist all over the globe. We seek to introduce them to one another. 5) A ministry of Communion. More than sharing stories, news, and long-distance nods of recognition, Jesus beckons us to sit down at the table together, to share Christ's love with one another, and to let that love transcend our differences. This is our ministry and our mission."

Our 18th Global Gathering will be held in Goiania, Brazil, July 25-29, 2012, our first convention ever in South America. Goiania is a modern, safe city only 125 miles/200 kms from the capital, Brasilia. It has a fantastic convention centre and wonderful facilities. Our more than 1000 Stone-Campbell congregations in Brazil are already feeling honored and blessed knowing the 18th Global Gathering is coming. It is a huge encouragement to them. They are seeking to encourage bus loads from other countries in South America to also be present at the gathering which anticipates several thousand attendees. Planning for the Global Gathering is in full force with an experienced Brazilian Local Planning Team, led by Pastor Victor Hugo Queiroz, President of the Christian Churches in Brazil and a Vice President of World Convention.

World Convention was deeply involved in globally promoting the Great Communion, a celebration of Thomas Campbell's 1809 document that set our churches on a pursuit of unity among Christians. In 2009 amazing and historical gatherings happened all across the world between our three branches.

Global Women Connecting, a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), contributes financially to hours for World Convention office manager, Julia Keith. In exchange, communication and coordination for GWC occur through the World Convention office and news publications.

As with most religious and charitable agencies, funding issues due to the global economic slump challenge us. Other challenges for the future include developing entry points for individuals and churches to be involved in our ministry, utilizing technology so that our Board with members from eleven nations can meet more often and without the expense of international air travel, and learning how to be a more effective global voice, calling for respect and cooperative ministry between all three of the branches of the Stone-Campbell Movement which since 1809 has reminded us that we are called by Christ to be one.

WORLD CONVENTION OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST
Operating Fund

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ending December 31,

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Disciples Mission Fund	\$ 18,284	\$ 19,822
Endowment Fund Income	25,021	26,323
U S & Canadian Churches-Disciples	4,848	8,781
U S & Canadian Churches-NACC	3,516	17,710
U S & Canadian Churches-Church of Christ	196	0
World Convention Friends and Gifts	48,842	38,257
Salary Support from Assembly Fund	0	40,000
Other Income	<u>8,127</u>	<u>2,831</u>
	<u>\$ 108,834</u>	<u>\$ 153,724</u>
EXPENSES		
Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$ 80,000	\$ 111,514
Travel and Committee Meetings	10,584	9,032
Office Expenses	23,372	21,190
Promotion and Publicity	10,113	24,794
Other	<u>7,512</u>	<u>2,095</u>
	<u>\$ 131,581</u>	<u>\$ 168,625</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	<u>\$ (22,747)</u>	<u>\$ (14,901)</u>

BALANCE SHEETS AT DECEMBER 31,

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 12,522	\$ 13,695
Accounts Receivable	-	1,216
Sundry Other Assets	<u>305</u>	<u>608</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 12,827</u>	<u>\$ 15,519</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Notes Payable	\$ 59,500	\$ 59,500
Payable to Assembly Fund	(2,324)	229
Payable to Endowment Fund	94,007	67,182
Sundry Other Liabilities	<u>1,730</u>	<u>\$ 5,947</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 152,913	\$ 132,858
 Fund Balance	 <u>\$ (140,086)</u>	 <u>\$ (117,339)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 12,827</u>	<u>\$ 15,519</u>

OTHER FUNDS

	<u>Bader</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Assembly</u>
Balance December 31, 2008	\$ 38,201	\$ 641,202	\$ 1,670
Receipts	2,126	80,292	350
Net Loan Proceeds/(Repayments)	-	-	-
Disbursements	-	<u>25,096</u>	<u>2,665</u>
Balance December 31, 2009	<u>\$ 40,327</u>	<u>\$ 719,459</u>	<u>\$ (645)</u>