

1 **NO. 0916**

2
3 **(OPERATIONAL BUSINESS ITEM)**

4
5 **RESOLUTION: BE A GLOBAL MISSION CHURCH**

6
7
8
9 WHEREAS, throughout the past two centuries, for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the
10 United Church of Christ, global presence and witness have been the core of God's mission through the
11 church; and

12
13 WHEREAS, since 1996 Global Ministries has been a unique common witness of the Division of
14 Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and of Wider Church Ministries, United
15 Church of Christ; and

16
17 WHEREAS, Global Ministries continues to walk with 270 global partners in some 68 countries
18 discerning together priorities of critical presence and action with the sole purpose of timely and
19 appropriately meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically,
20 emotionally and/or economically; and

21
22 WHEREAS, in keeping that critical presence priority, over 150 persons in mission are currently serving
23 as missionaries, volunteers, interns and associates in 50 countries, and missionaries sent by our global
24 partners are welcomed to serve in the United States and Canada in fulfillment of our commitment to
25 mutuality in mission; and

26
27 WHEREAS, a congregation engaged in ministry globally is a vital and faithful church, one that is
28 dynamic and growing in strong local and global relationships, bringing abundant blessings, creating
29 understanding and building communities of justice and service; and

30
31 WHEREAS, Global Ministries seeks to facilitate the engagement of congregations and other
32 expressions of the church more intentionally in global mission; and

33
34 WHEREAS, God's call to mission is already embodied and celebrated in all expressions of the church in
35 relationships, service, mission presence, justice witness, worship and advocacy; and

36
37 WHEREAS, partnership means receiving the gifts and learning from the experiences of others in our
38 world, building greater effectiveness through collective efforts and mutually recognizing and
39 encouraging each other in ministry; and

40
41 WHEREAS, God's mission imperative for the Church is to be evangelical, to share the Good News (Gk.
42 "evangel") of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the
43 earth" (Acts 1:8) so "that they may all be one" (John 17:21); and

44
45 WHEREAS, in 2001 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) identified four priorities for the church
46 (the formation of 1,000 new congregations; the transformation of 1,000 current congregations; the

47 calling and forming of new leaders and the continuing re-forming of current leaders; becoming an
48 anti-racist/pro-reconciling church), none of which address mission beyond the national boundaries of
49 the United States and Canada; and
50

51 WHEREAS, we are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, who
52 participate in God's mission for the world, working with partners to heal the brokenness of creation
53 and bring justice and peace to the whole human family;
54

55 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
56 meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana July 29-August 2, 2009 claims the church's core identity as a global
57 mission church in all of its expressions, and calls on the church to live out this commitment in all
58 current and future mission priorities; and
59

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon congregations and regions to
61 implement the Global Mission Church process as detailed in the *Be a Global Mission Church* program
62 materials from Global Ministries; and
63

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations as well as regions seeking the designation "Global
65 Mission Congregation" or "Global Mission Region" be encouraged to study, explore, and live out that
66 commitment by:

67 **praying** regularly for partners, missionaries and the world,
68 **educating** its members from preschool to adult about global issues,
69 **seeking** justice for the "least of these" in the international community,
70 **receiving** the gifts of the worldwide Church,
71 **giving** to the work of global mission through Disciples Mission Fund and "over and above"
72 gifts,
73 **sending** its members into the world to share the Good News,
74 **growing** in sharing the story of God's mission with others; and
75

76 FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls for a commitment to hear the cries of people
77 around the world; to find the energy and enthusiasm to reach out and respond with grace; to proclaim
78 the joys as well as denounce the suffering of God's people; to seek wisdom and guidance in building
79 global connections in the life of all settings of the church; to be immersed in the church's work for the
80 healing of the nations.
81

82 Division of Overseas Ministries
83
84

85 [A resolution of the Common Global Ministries Board, through the Division of Overseas Ministries of
86 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to the General Assembly in 2009.]
87
88

89 The General Board recommends that the General Assembly
90 ADOPT Business Item No. 0916. (Debate time: 24 minutes)