

RESOLUTION ON THE CREATION OF AN ANNUAL FUND
FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

Background

In 2006 an agreement was reached by the Disciples Mission Fund partners to fund the Office of the General Minister and President (OGMP) “off the base” of Disciples Mission Fund receipts. Previously the OGMP had been treated as a general ministry and had received an allocation from the general pool of funds as did other general ministries. Beginning in 2003 a dramatic shift was occurring which reduced the size of the general ministry pool of funds as part of the new DMF allocation system. The OGMP, as a result, was declining in its resources at the very time the church was naming a new General Minister and President. When Sharon Watkins began her first term as GMP in 2005, there were no funds available to consider calling an Associate General Minister, which the church agreed was needed to complete the staff. When the decision was made to fund the OGMP adequately before applying the DMF allocations, as agreed by the partners, there was a calculation of the minimal amount of funding that was needed in order to call an Associate General Minister and to enable the OGMP to function with the efficiency needed and expected by the church. This dollar amount was converted to a percentage amount, based on the anticipated annual DMF receipts at that time. It was generally understood that such a move to give adequate resources to the OGMP, for the benefit of all of the other partners, meant that the OGMP would not solicit additional funds from the church. Other DMF partners, however, were being encouraged to create annual funds or seek other streams of income to support their ministries and to offset the shortage in the dollars they might receive due to declining Disciples Mission Fund. Most all of the other partners have created these new funding streams.

Over the years since 2006, the percentage amount allocated to the OGMP from Disciples Mission Fund has not changed. The annual income from Disciples Mission Fund has decreased by several million dollars, however, which means that the OGMP is operating with greatly reduced DMF income. Even though funding for the OGMP is still “off the base,” the percentage has never been adjusted to insure that the office is properly funded.

The restriction on fund-raising by the OGMP is contributing to a situation that bears similarities to what was faced in 2005. The church is seeking to call a new General Minister and President and is not making it possible (or at least likely) that adequate staff can be called to be a part of the OGMP ministry team. We believe action is needed to address this situation.

WHEREAS the Office of General Minister and President provides ministry and services to the church that are for the common benefit of all partners in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and

WHEREAS the annual funding for the Office of the General Minister and President from a fixed “off the base” calculation of Disciples Mission Fund is insufficient to enable it to provide the ministries it is called to provide, and

WHEREAS a new General Minister and President needs to have the capacity within his/her own budget to adequately staff the ministries that the church needs and expects, and

WHEREAS other Disciples Mission Fund partners are encouraged to create annual funds to supplement the resources available to them for the ministries to which they are called,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Board gives its full blessing and support to the Administrative Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which functions as the Board for the Office of General Minister and President, as it creates an OGMP Annual Fund inviting individuals from across the life of the church to give over-and-above gifts for the ministry of the Office of the General Minister and President.

Submitted By

The Administrative Committee