

No. 9534

(Operational Business Item)

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFERING FOR THE PITTSBURGH LOCAL MISSION PROJECT

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

Background Information:

In 1975 the General Assembly adopted a resolution (7571) which stated in part: "Whereas, an offering for these servants (ones in need of ministerial relief) has historically been a part of our Assemblies; and whereas, Assemblies are now held biennially instead of annually, creating a situation that each offering be sufficient for two years instead of one.... Be it Resolved, that every attempt be made to insure the sufficiency of this gift for the next biennium; and"

For at least the past twenty years the working understanding of the 1975 action has been that there would be only one offering taken during a General Assembly, and that offering was to be for the purpose of ministerial relief and assistance.

In 1993 the St. Louis General Assembly was held during a major Mid-West flood, which included the meeting city of St. Louis. In response to the crisis that was all around, the Assembly voted to receive an additional offering for the victims of Mid-West flooding. Another additional offering was also received for the work of bishop Desmond Tutu, of South Africa. While the receipt of the two additional offerings may have caused a slight reduction in the ministerial relief offering (\$38,000 as opposed to a norm of \$40,000 - \$45,000), the total of the three offerings exceeded \$100,000, with two denominations participating.

The St. Louis experience with Assembly people participating in local mission efforts was very positive. That experience led to a decision to be more intentional about local mission effort in future host cities. Thus, it was decided to build several Habitat for Humanity homes in Pittsburgh and to build a worship/community service facility for the East Hills Christian Church.