

No. 9530

(Operational Business Item)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF *THE DESIGN* AND “SPECIAL RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY” FOR CHANGING THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA ITEMS

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS the present provisions of The Design require items of business to be filed through the Office of General Minister and President at least 120 days in advance of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the 120 days requirement results in too few days between the deadline and the time of General Board meeting for the General Minister and President to fulfill the pastoral duties specified in the Special Rules of Procedure in regard to such items of business, such as:

- The Office of the General Minister and President, working pastorally and collegially, may counsel to limit the number of business items, urge submitters to combine resolutions on a single subject, offer aid in the drafting of items and so on.
- Submitters shall receive appropriate and timely notification if their items are ruled ineligible or placed in classifications other than those under which they were filed, and informed that appeals for final decisions may be made to the Administrative Committee.
- The General Minister and President shall invite each submitting entity to designate a spokesperson to attend the meeting of the General Board in which business for the General Assembly is processed (at the group's/person's expense) to speak to its item in section and plenary considerations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Paragraphs 17 and 18 of The Design be amended by changing the deadline for submission of agenda items through the Office of the General Minister and President from 120 days to 180 days as follows:

Paragraph 17:

of All items of business to be considered by the General Assembly, except in cases of emergency, shall be received by or originate with the General Board. Items of business may be filed with the General Board by any congregation, region, institution of higher education, general administrative unit or organization with recognized relationships with the general manifestation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), or by the governing board of any such body. Such items of business must be filed through the Office of the General Minister and President

at least delete 120, insert 180 days in advance of a meeting of the General Assembly in order to allow sufficient time for the General Board to review and refer them with appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly. All items of business shall be circulated among the congregations and regions by the Office of the General Minister and President at least 60 days in advance of the General Assembly meeting.

Paragraph 18:

An item of business may be considered an emergency if its content is of such nature that it could not have been regularly filed delete 120, insert 180 days prior to the Assembly. Such items of business may be filed when submitted by ten or more voting members of the General Assembly from not fewer than five congregations to the Committee on Reference and Counsel, which shall decide whether such items are emergencies and, if so, make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly as to their disposition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly be amended to conform with these changes in *The Design*.