

No. 9516

(Operational Business Item)

REVISION OF PROCEDURES FOR *YEAR BOOK AND DIRECTORY* LISTING OF CONGREGATIONS IN *THE DESIGN OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)*

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

Background Information:

At the time *The Design* was adopted there was wide spread concern that congregations would be removed from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) without their consent. In order to re-assure congregations, a Note was added to paragraph 82 of *The Design* setting forth the procedures for *Year Book and Directory* listing. While these procedures have served us well for adding congregations, they have been difficult to follow "to the letter" with regard to the removal of congregations.

The procedures for the removal of a congregation now require that a congregation take a congregational action and that a notarized statement of the congregational action be received by the Office of the General Minister and President. When a congregation simply closes it often does not take a congregational action to request that it be removed from the *Year Book and Directory*. This has resulted in congregations being listed long after there were neither members or an address to which to send information. On other occasions congregations have called or written requesting removal from the listing. When a congregational action, followed by a notarized statement, is requested we are told that they never have been a part of the Disciples of Christ, and that they are not going to vote not to be what they never have been. When this has happened we have often left the congregation in the listing because our procedures did not permit its removal.

The following addition to the procedures, set forth in #4, in the note to paragraph 82, would protect congregations that wish to remain in the listing and allow the removal of ones that clearly are not active Disciples congregations.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Note to paragraph 82 of *The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* be amended by adding the following to #4:

"or, if there has been no congregational activity reported in the *Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* for a period of 10 (ten) consecutive years and the regional minister certifies that the congregation does not participate in, or contribute to, area, regional or general church program. Notification of intent to remove from the listing will be sent to the congregation. If within 30 days of the notification the congregation makes no objection to its removal from the listing, then the removal will be final."