

**No. 9326**

(Operational Business Item)

**AN AMENDMENT TO THE DESIGN  
(REGARDING RETIREMENT AGE OF THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT)  
ADOPTED by the General Assembly**

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has often vigorously and prophetically challenged various forms of discrimination in hiring and employment; and

WHEREAS, discrimination and stereotyping on the basis of age is currently being addressed in Canada and the United States, as in the U.S. Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, amended in 1974 and 1978; and

WHEREAS, all mandatory retirement on federal and state levels within the U.S. is now banned; and

WHEREAS, the church should be embarrassed to find within itself more discrimination than in society at large; and

WHEREAS, paragraph 40 of *The Design* as it currently reads insists upon an arbitrary and mandatory age of 68 for retirement of the General Minister and President; and

WHEREAS, any committee searching for General Minister and President is going to hope for a person who could possibly serve for two six-year terms, thereby removing from practical consideration any over the age of 56, a practice clearly illegal and immoral; and

WHEREAS, many individuals could effectively serve the church long past that age and upbuild the church by the gifts they would bring to the office of General Minister and President;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that paragraph 40 of *The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* be amended by deleting the following sentence from paragraph 40:

*[DELETE] However, retirement from this office shall be mandatory for the General Minister and President at the close of the General Assembly following the end of the calendar year during which age sixty-eight is attained.*