

Continued

No. 9321**(Operational Business Item)****NEW CONGREGATION ESTABLISHMENT****ADOPTED by the General Assembly**

The challenge and opportunity for beginning new congregations remain great in this decade. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), through the Church Advance Now (CAN) program, is continually attempting to reach unchurched persons of our communities with a word of new hope and new vision. Since January 1, 1990, approximately twenty-eight congregations have been started of which about half are Hispanic, one is African-American, two are American-Asian, and the others are Anglo-American. As you can see, we are well on our way.

However, if our Church is to remain true to its goal of 200 congregations by the end of this decade, every member of every congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) must catch the vision and see the necessity for establishing new congregations. We will need to start at least 25 congregations per year in order to reach our goal, which we set at the 1989 General Assembly in Indianapolis.

Since the last assembly, the CAN staff has continued to provide support to regions, areas and constituency groups in their new congregation efforts. CAN Staff has led on-site training sessions for Project Advisory Committees, sponsored events to train local and regional leaders of new congregations, and provided ongoing training of new congregation pastors from the beginning of their ministry through the first five years of a new congregation's life. The staff has also led assessment seminars for persons who are interested in pastoring new congregations.

The CAN staff has identified five priority areas for its work in 1993: developing new leadership, starting racial/ethnic congregations, helping regions use appropriate demographic information, developing new models of funding and finding new models for beginning new congregations.

There are several challenges facing the CAN staff in 1993. There will be staff reorganization since Luis Ferrer joined the staff of Board of Church Extension March 1, 1993. From July 1, 1992 to March 1, 1993 Luis served as a full-time CAN representative from Division of Homeland Ministries. Also, due to the slowness of receipts that will be coming in from the Embrace the Future campaign, special attention will need to be given to allocating money in 1993-1994. The CAN staff also remains extremely concerned about the small number of racial/ethnic congregations that are being regionally or area initiated. The staff has become more proactive in helping regions and areas address this priority by identifying a selected number of regions where racial/ethnic congregations could be started. In spite of these challenges, the CAN staff remains encouraged and enthused about its work.

Still the call for new congregations remains clear as we continue the CAN program in the 1990's.

WHEREAS, we the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) affirm our call to be ambassadors of the gospel as we renew our commitment to carry out the Great Commission, "Go ye into all the world and make disciples:" Matthew 28:19;

WHEREAS, we recognize that establishing new congregations remains an important, vital and necessary form of evangelism;

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has continually affirmed the start of new congregations as a priority of this church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in St. Louis, July 15-20, 1993 celebrates and recognizes the following congregations which have been established and/or received since the 1991 Tulsa General Assembly:

- Camino de Paz, Fort Worth, Texas
- Creekwood Christian Church, Flower Mound, Texas
- Erindale Christian Church, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
- Fox Valley Area Christian Church, Aurora, Illinois
- Iglesia Cristiana Fuente de Vida, Canyon, Texas
- Iglesia El Aposento Alto, Forest Park, Georgia
- Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Killeen Iglesia Cristiana Sinai, Killeen, Texas
- New Dawn Christian Church, El Paso, Texas
- Open Door Christian Church, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Saint Andrew Christian Church, Olathe, Kansas
- United Community Christian Church, Covington, Kentucky

Concluded

#9321

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we accept anew at this General Assembly the challenge and motivation for creating new congregations as a direct response to our faith and obedience to Jesus Christ, rather than to institutional survival.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the theme for the Church Advance Now program in the 1990's, "Catch the Vision... Christ for the World" be adopted by all congregations in support of New Congregation Establishment.