

**No. 9142**

(Operational Business Item)

**CONCERNING THE ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1989 entered into a formal "Ecumenical Partnership" with the United Church of Christ through votes at our General Assembly and their General Synod meetings; and

WHEREAS, this decision was opposed by a significant number at our General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Ecumenical Partnership resolution's call to "make deliberate commitment to engage in mission together wherever and whenever possible" is being used to justify moves toward the merger of governing boards of church units (our Division of Overseas Ministries, for instance is exploring a combined directorate with the United Church of Christ world ministries division, "possibly as early as 1993," and similar explorations are underway in the Northeastern Region of our church); and

WHEREAS, it appears that the Ecumenical Partnership is pulling our church toward a de facto merger with the United Church of Christ without a denominational decision to merge;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 25-30, 1991, go on record opposing any further moves toward merger of governing boards of organizations of our two churches unless and until the respective churches formally vote their approval of merger of the partner denominations. While this is not binding on those organizations, it should be construed as an expression of the will of the General Assembly.

Rockwood Christian Church Fort Worth, Texas	Drexel Christian Church Drexel, Missouri
Jonathan Creek Christian Church Sullivan, Illinois	Union Mills Christian Church New Sharon, Iowa
First Christian Church Appleton City, Missouri	First Christian Church Nevada, Missouri
First Christian Church Aiken, South Carolina	Maple Avenue Christian Church Crooksville, Ohio
First Christian Church Crockett, Texas	Mt. Vernon Christian Church Monroe, Georgia
First Christian Church Del Rio, Texas	First Christian Church Tonkawa, Oklahoma
First Christian Church Lovington, Illinois	First Christian Church Uvalde, Texas
Antioch Christian Church Watkinsville, Georgia	First Christian Church Panhandle, Texas
Shady Grove Christian Church Opelika, Alabama	First Christian Church Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
Grandview Christian Church Kansas City, Kansas	

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly NOT ADOPT item No. 9142, for the following reasons:

This resolution misunderstands the nature and process of partnership between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. There is no covert plan to merge the various church structures of our two church bodies. The present cooperative arrangements through the Division of Overseas Ministries have long-standing precedents (Resolutions 8513, 8721, & 8915) and pre-date the partnership agreement with the United Church of Christ passed at the 1989 Indianapolis General Assembly. (Debate time 12 minutes)