

Continued

No. 9143

(Operational Business Item)

**AMENDMENT TO THE DESIGN TO CHANGE THE PROCESS OF ELECTING THE
GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT**

WHEREAS, the Office of General Minister and President is the highest elected office in our church, focusing in one person the administrative and pastoral leadership of our church; and

WHEREAS, the current system for electing a General Minister and President offers only one choice to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, this seems to contradict our church's longstanding tradition of affirming democratic processes in church life; and

WHEREAS, this system concentrates the power of decision in a very small group (the Administrative Committee of the General Board) and allows only a "yes" or "no" decision from the most broadly representative group in our church (the General Assembly); and

WHEREAS, the General Assemblies can be trusted to make decisions of this nature without "protecting" them from error by a closed system of selecting candidates for high office;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 25-30, 1991, amend Section III, D, b, paragraph 40, of The Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as follows:

(Material in [brackets] is to be deleted from The Design. Material in **bold face type** is to be added to The Design.)

The General Minister and President shall be concerned for the pastoral care and nurture of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As the chief executive officer of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the General Minister and President shall preside over meetings of the general staff and shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the general administrative units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In ways appropriate to the office, the General Minister and President shall represent the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in interchurch relations and in ecumenical circles or appoint a representative. The General Minister and President shall

The General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall be elected by the General Assembly. [upon nomination by the Administrative Committee through the General Board.] **The General Board shall present two nominees to the General Assembly from among those proposed by the Administrative Committee.** In the nomination and election of the General Minister and President [a two-thirds vote] **the two candidates receiving the highest numbers of votes of those present and voting in each of the Administrative Committee [,] and the General Board [and the General Assembly shall be required.] shall be nominated.** In all other elections, **including the election by the General Assembly of a General Minister and President,** a majority of the votes cast shall elect.