

**No. 9130****(Operational Business Item)****FUNDING CAMPUS MINISTRY****ADOPTED by the General Assembly**

WHEREAS, faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ demands that the church minister to persons wherever they are found; and

WHEREAS, college and university campuses are populated by students who need the ministry of the church as they develop their educational potential and their Christian faith in a secular environment; and

WHEREAS, the church and the world depend upon colleges and universities to educate those who will assume roles of moral, spiritual, and competent leadership within both the church and the world; and

WHEREAS, Disciples have maintained from their earliest years a strong commitment to higher education including campus ministry on both private and public college and university campuses; and

WHEREAS, today, more than ninety per cent of Disciples students attend a public or nonchurch-related private college or university or community college, with fewer than ten per cent enrolled at Disciples-related schools; and

WHEREAS, Disciples historically are committed to develop ministries on public campuses that are ecumenical in both philosophy and structure wherever and whenever possible as a means of witnessing to and working for the union of Christ's church; and

WHEREAS, the visions of Disciples for campus ministry have often exceeded their financial support for their ministries on higher education campuses, and Disciples have failed to keep pace with their ecumenical partners in providing a fair share of the funding for these campus ministries (e.g. in 1988, presbytery and synod expenditures for campus ministry within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was over \$3,137,000, averaging \$1.07 per Presbyterian member; the comparable figure for Disciples for that year were regional expenditures totalling about \$277,000, for a Disciples per participating member average of \$.39); and

WHEREAS, Disciples have experienced a constant and regrettable decline in funding for campus ministry from general, regional, and congregational sources during the past three decades, reductions that are further compounded when adjusted for inflation as is evidenced by the following: In 1965 the total Disciples expenditure reported for campus ministry was over \$486,000. By 1980 this total figure had declined to under \$340,000. Although this amount rose briefly during the mid-1980s, figures from 1990 indicate that contributions from Disciples sources for campus ministry are returning to the \$340,000 level. When adjusted for inflation, if Disciples spent in 1990 an amount comparable to that expended in 1965, the amount would have been \$1,983,000, almost six times the amount actually contributed in 1990, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force on Disciples Campus Ministry has found that general Disciples funding is necessary to supplement the decreased contributions for campus ministry from other Disciples sources in order to provide responsible financial support for this ministry of the church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 25-30, 1991:

- 1) Reaffirm the historic commitment of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to provide a campus ministry that is responsive to the needs of students and higher education; that is able to maintain a visible and effective presence of the church on campus; and that is ecumenical in philosophy and, wherever and whenever possible, in structure;
- 2) Request that each local congregation, regional board and staff, and general unit board and staff read and carefully consider the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on Disciples Campus Ministry, asking themselves if they are doing all they can to assist campus ministry meet its responsibilities and opportunities;
- 3) Recommend to the Commission on Finance that it give serious and prayerful consideration to the Report of the Task Force on Disciples Campus Ministry and that it explore options for making new ongoing general allocations through the Division of Higher Education to fund strategies proposed by the Task Force beginning in 1993.