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**No. 9133****(Operational Business Item)****NEW CONGREGATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT****Background Information**

In the 1980's, the Church Advance Now Program exceeded its goal of 100 new congregations for that decade. We, as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) saw the need to reach the unchurched of our nation. We met the challenge and developed 131 new communities of faith for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

As we look to New Congregation Establishment in the 1990's, it is the objective of the CAN II Program to capitalize on the learnings of the 1980's, develop new programs and meet the goal of establishing 200 new congregations. The Program for CAN II is being led by the new Director, Deborah R. Thompson. Deborah joined the Board of Church Extension staff in the fall of 1990, having worked in New Church Development in Illinois/Wisconsin as a member of that Regional Staff and in a re-developing situation in Denver, Colorado. It is the intent of the Church Advance Now II Program, the Board of Church Extension and Division of Homeland Ministries to continue its services in a limited way through residual funds from the 1980's, as we begin this decade. However, it is our hope and expectation that the General Assembly will approve the local congregation phase of the Churchwide Capital Campaign in order to give new and on-going support for the Church Advance Now Program during the rest of the 1990's and on into the new millennium. The Churchwide Capital Campaign will be able to assist New Church Development in the following ways:

1. Assist regions and areas in establishing new congregations, enabling them to receive on-going demographic consultant services to target areas for future new churches and to provide adequate program support for new congregations.
2. Assist in continuing general Church Advance Now services for the whole Church through regions and areas, including recruitment, training and on-going consultations.
3. Make available a new interest-free loan fund, primarily for urban or racial/ethnic new church starts.
4. Assist in addressing the critical need of purchasing sites in advance before costs of land become prohibitive to new church projects.

Three new programs have already been launched to help us meet the goal of 200 new congregations.

1. Church Information and Development Services (CIDS) of Costa Mesa, California, has been hired by Board of Church Extension in agreement with Division of Homeland Ministries to identify the top 200 target areas for our new churches. This demographic study will enable CAN staff, regions and areas to know where the best possibilities for new congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are to be located.
2. The need to identify and assess potential Pastor/Developer candidates for the 1990's is primary. Assessment clinics designed and led by Church Advance Now staff are being planned to help identify, evaluate and recommend to regions and areas persons who have the ability and call to develop new communities of faith.
3. With the tremendous increase in the cost of property in the 1980's, came the need to purchase land before it becomes too cost prohibitive for a new church project. Board of Church Extension is launching an Advance Site Acquisition Program. Once the fund is sufficient in size, the fund will allow Board of Church Extension to purchase sites four to seven years in advance of anticipated need for possible later purchase and use by a region.

It is important to know there will be added emphasis on starting new racial/ethnic congregations. The goal for the 1990's is 30 African-American congregations, 20 Hispanic, 10 American-Asian and 2 Multi-ethnic congregations within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The need and mandate for our Church to be racially plural and to embrace persons of divergent racial backgrounds remains an important priority for our denomination.

The call for new congregations remains clear as we begin the CAN II Program for the 1990's.

WHEREAS, it is with pride and gratefulness that these congregations are now recognized and welcomed into the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the church universal;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 25-30, 1991 recognize the following congregations which have been established and/or received since the 1989 Indianapolis General Assembly:

Iglesia Evangelica Cristiana, Tucson, Arizona  
Shiloh Christian Church, Lithonia, Georgia  
New Fellowship Christian Church, Williamston, North Carolina  
Tylersville Road Christian Church, West Chester, Ohio  
First Christian Community Church, Caseyville, Illinois