

No. 9117

(Operational Business Item)

CONCERNING GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

WHEREAS, new possibilities for global reconciliation have opened up in the decade of the nineties; and

WHEREAS, the church of Jesus Christ has always claimed to be an agent of reconciliation in the world, for "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" (II Corinthians 5:19); and

WHEREAS, the presence of the church of Jesus Christ in virtually every nation creates a network of love that crosses every barrier known to humankind — national, racial, ethnic, linguistic; and

WHEREAS, the development of global relationships between partner congregations can break through some of the national, racial, ethnic and linguistic barriers that divide our world, living out a commitment to peace with justice based on the mission of Jesus Christ;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 25-30, 1991, that global relationships between partner congregations be encouraged between congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and congregations in other countries; and

That the units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) use their media resources to publicize stories of global relationships between partner congregations, including the possibilities of a shared witness to peace with justice; and

That the Council on Christian Unity and the Division of Overseas Ministries jointly facilitate the pairing of interested Disciples congregations in the United States and Canada with congregations of other countries.

First Christian Church
Tucson, Arizona

(We do not see this resolution requiring any financial outlay by the units of the general church. To initiate the global relationships between partner congregations, responsibility would need to be assigned to appropriate staff members of the Council on Christian Unity and the Division of Overseas Ministries. Based on the experience of First Christian Church, the only cost is in the correspondence that is borne by the two congregations, and visits by members of the churches, the cost of which would be borne by the individuals themselves. The rewards of these relationships for First Christian Church have been immeasurable, including exchanges of children's art, shared worship services, encouragement toward prophetic stands on peace with justice, and a global commitment to mission through the visits of international guests.)

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT business item No. 9117. (Debate time 12 minutes)

While the financial outlay may be minimal, the financial implications include funding for the media resources of the units and additional work load. The Commission on Finance expresses appreciation to the submitters for including a cost estimate.