

continued

No. 8950

RESOLUTION ON NEW CONGREGATION ESTABLISHMENT

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

Background Information:

The 10th year of the decade priority to establish new congregations in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is here. The evaluation of our efforts is nearly complete. The results are reason for celebration for the whole Church: 121 new congregations (as of 3/1/89) against a goal of 100; of those, 13% are predominantly Afro-American, 11% Hispanic and 3% Asian as compared with goals of 15%, 10% and 5% respectively; committees responsible for planning new congregations in all but one Region compared to only a few such committees at the beginning of the decade; over 10 million dollars in goals for New Congregation Establishment through over-and-above Regional Capital Campaigns and programs. The approximate 25% of Regional capital new church dollars raised that have come to Board of Church Extension and Division of Homeland Ministries, has provided to date: supplemental program grants of \$265,569 and capital grants of \$262,100; 17 Pastor/Developer Training events; over 70 Project Advisory Committee training and retraining consultations; and many other consultations with Regions and new congregations. But more important, Disciples are reaching people without a church home through the establishment of our new congregations. In a study done in 1986, Pastor/Developers indicated that approximately 60% of those involved in new congregations were not previously active in a community of faith.

The church has a clear call to continue and enhance our new congregation effort. We have made a good start. The need is still great. We have succeeded in many ways. We have fallen short in others. Taking advantage of our learnings for the 1980's, we are now prepared to launch the church-wide program to establish new congregations in the 1990's. Approved in the 1987 General Assembly of the Christian Church held in Louisville, Kentucky, October 16-21, 1987, the elements of this program are:

- A minimum goal for the decade of 200 new congregations initiated.
- An increase in the initiation of congregations serving racial/ethnic communities, with minimum percentages of total new congregations started being 15% Afro-American, 10% Hispanic, 5% Asian and 1% multi-cultural.
- Determination of where to initiate congregations based upon church-wide (United States and Canada) demographic need.

CAPITAL	Largo, MD	Pilgrimage Christian Church	7-87
KANSAS CITY	Overland Park, KS Kansas City, KS	Blue Valley Christian Church Fellowship Christian Church	
MID-AMERICA	Laurie, MO	West Lake Christian Church	6-88
NORTHEAST	Bergenfield, NJ Corono, NY	Bergenfield Target Area Mision de Corono	5-88 10-87
OKLAHOMA	OK City, OK OK City, OK	Living Faith Christian Church Good Shepherd Christian Church	8-87 4-86
PACIFIC			
SOUTHWEST	Encinitas, CA	New Heritage Christian Church	7-87
SOUTH CAROLINA	Columbia, SC	Agape Christian Church	6-88
SOUTHWEST	Amarillo, TX San Antonio, TX San Antonio, TX Albuquerque, NM Arlington, TX	Covenant of Joy Christian Church United Christian Church of West Creek Genesis Christian Church West Mesa Christian Church St. Andrews Christian Church	6-88 6-88 6-88 4-87
VIRGINIA	Colonial Heights, VA	Colonial Christian Church	3-88