

No. 8938

RESOLUTION CONCERNING ENDOWED CHAIRS OF EVANGELISM

NOT ADOPTED by the General Assembly

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WHEREAS, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)—has designated the 1990's as the decade of emphasis on 'vital congregations'; and

WHEREAS, education has played a vital role in the development of lay and clergy leadership throughout our movement's history; and

WHEREAS, the institutions of higher education currently associated or affiliated with the Christian church (Disciples of Christ) continue to influence the nature, nurture and future of pastoral and congregational leadership; and

WHEREAS, the so-called 'Great Commission' of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 28:16-20) reflects the Biblical emphasis of evangelism, of sharing God's love with other people in such a way that they too may become children of God's blessing (for instance, consider Genesis 12:1-3:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President shall be charged with the solicitation of funds necessary to establish endowed chairs of Evangelism in each of said institutions of higher education, according to the following priority:

- 1) All Disciples-related seminaries, by the 1993 General Assembly;
- 2) All Disciples-related colleges and universities by the 1997 General Assembly;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the monies raised for this endeavor must be used to establish endowed chairs of Evangelism, to be occupied by individuals consistently meeting the following task criteria, once appointed to said chairs:

- 1) No less than 20% of the endowed professor's activity and time shall be invested in some aspect of personally communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ, with the intent of developing men, women and children into disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, who in turn could help develop disciples of Jesus Christ;
- 2) No less than 20% of the endowed professor's time and activity shall be invested in consultations with congregations, lay and clergy evangelism training, and the development of regional evangelism emphases and events in cooperation with the regions and their respective committees concerning evangelism, with funds needed for these activities to be developed by the regions, committees, and congregations;
- 3) The balance of the endowed professor's time and activity shall be invested in developing opportunities for students at the recipient institution better to:
 - a. Understand the Biblical mandate for disciple-making;
 - b. Become personally involved in this exciting and integral aspect of practicing Christian faith; and
 - c. Learn how to develop disciple-making followers of Jesus Christ, regardless of the career a person might follow.

These opportunities shall not be limited to classroom interaction only!

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these endowed professors of evangelism shall:

- a. Share a summary of their activities at the first meeting of the Conference of Regional Ministers and Moderators of each calendar year; and
- b. Be directly accountable to the endowed institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these endowed institutions shall be accountable to the General Assembly for the performance of said tasks, a written summary of which shall be presented to all participants of the General Assembly and be made available to all congregations and individuals upon request; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said efforts shall be made as a part of the larger effort toward a great renewal of individual spiritual life and a revitalization of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations, which in turn can help shape the direction of our world, with the help of God's active grace among us!

First Christian Church
Las Animas, CO

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly NOT ADOPT Resolution 8938 for the following reasons:

1. The resolution becomes an infringement on the boards of the institutions of higher education. The job of providing endowment and determining curriculum is up to each institution.
2. The estimated minimum cost to the church to provide these endowed chairs is \$24,000,000.

(Debate time 12 minutes)