

No. 8943

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF
ELECTRONICALLY PRODUCED LABELS TO CONGREGATIONS**

NOT ADOPTED by the General Assembly

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ELECTRONICALLY PRODUCED LABELS TO CONGREGATIONS**

WHEREAS, the members of the Rocklane Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Greenwood, Indiana desire to improve dialogue, communication and the sense of community among Disciples; and

WHEREAS, we attempted to do so in a direct mailing to Disciples congregations and leaders; and

WHEREAS, we were informed by the Board of Church Extension that we could not obtain an electronically produced set of mailing labels from the General church as a matter of policy; and

WHEREAS, we were informed by the General Minister and President that the reason congregations could not purchase electronically produced labels was that, "It has been very rare, indeed, when a congregation has wanted to spend precious church funds to pay for that service, and the postage, to mail something to every congregation"; and

WHEREAS, this made the Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) the only known source of information upon which to develop a complete mailing list; and

WHEREAS, we had to go through the additional time, expense, and trouble to come up with labels anyway; and

WHEREAS, we feel it is our responsibility to determine how our own congregation's funds should be spent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 28 - August 2, 1989, that the policy prohibiting congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from purchasing electronically produced labels from the Board of Church Extension be changed to allow their purchase in the same manner, at the same cost, and under the same procedures as our regions and general program units.

Rocklane Christian Church
Greenwood, Indiana

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly NOT ADOPT Resolution 8943 for the following reasons:

The General Board recommendation to "Not Adopt" reflects the same concerns that gave rise to the present rule that restricts the availability of "electronically produced labels" from the Board of Church Extension. The congregations and units that supply the address information for the church are assured by the church that this information will be used only for mailings appropriate to the organizational life of the church.

Past experience demonstrated abuses of the mailing list when it was more generally available. Funds were solicited for local and congregational projects, items were offered for sale, and campaigns were promoted.

The central name and address system committee can work with a congregation on an "exception to the rule" basis when a congregation's purpose is clearly within the scope of the committee's guidelines. These guidelines have been developed to protect the trust placed in the church by those who have provided their mailing information. (Debate time 12 minutes)