

**No. 8925**

**RESOLUTION ON BMF GIVING AND CONGREGATIONAL RECOGNITION**

**ADOPTED by the General Assembly**

WHEREAS, participation in God's mission in the world is an essential mark of the vital congregation; and

WHEREAS, faithfulness in God's mission involves undergirding with adequate financial resources both outreach and local ministries; and

WHEREAS, in 1987 the Disciples ranked 34th out of 38 mainline denominations (United States and Canada) in the percentage of total congregational offerings given to outreach ministries (13.2%); and

WHEREAS, Disciples giving for all church causes (local and outreach) increased by 210% from 1969 to 1987 while Basic Mission Finance giving increased by only 96%; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of total church offerings contributed to Basic Mission Finance giving during the same period decreased from 9.75% to 6.18%; and

WHEREAS, Basic Mission Finance is the family outreach budget for 36 regions, 11 general units, 65 NBA care facilities, 15 colleges and universities, seven seminaries and foundation houses as well as three Disciples related organizations; and

WHEREAS, congregations have encouraged the Church Finance Council to recommend a giving standard by which they can measure their giving to Basic Mission Finance ministries; and

WHEREAS, congregations are more deliberate about their giving when they establish their own goals; and

WHEREAS, congregations need to be affirmed for their achievements in giving:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to establish a percentage goal of their total offerings which they will seek to be channelling through Basic Mission Finance by the year 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Church Finance Council and regions shall encourage congregations to establish a goal of 30% or more of their congregational offerings for Basic Mission Finance beginning with a minimum of 10%; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in growing toward their goal congregations shall seek to contribute an additional 1% of their total offerings each year to Basic Mission Finance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Church Finance Council in cooperation with regions present appropriate recognition awards to congregations for their achievements in Basic Mission Finance in the following categories:

a. BMF percentage of congregational offerings:

- 10 to 14%
- 15 to 19%
- 20 to 24%
- 25 to 29%
- 30% or more

b. Annual BMF increase of at least 1% of total congregational offerings.

c. Largest BMF contributions by congregations of various sizes.

d. Largest BMF contributions by local Christian Women's Fellowship groups.

e. Largest BMF contributions by Youth groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that congregations, regions and general units be diligent in their efforts to interpret and promote Basic Mission Finance among clergy and laity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the representatives to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana July 28 to August 2, 1989 covenant together to implement these goals in our own lives and congregations.