

No. 8919

AMENDMENT TO THE DESIGN REGARDING GENERAL BOARD TERMS OF OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) seeks to be inclusive of the whole church; and

WHEREAS, twelve of the forty-two persons nominated for the Class of 1991 of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were nominated for re-election, and one or more of the 42 persons had previously served on the General Board; and

WHEREAS, at least two of our major general units (the Division of Homeland Ministries and the Division of Overseas Ministries) prohibit re-election to their Boards of Directors as a means of being inclusive; and

WHEREAS, the continuity of the General Board is assured by virtue of the present staggered elections and continuing service of approximately two-thirds of the General Board; and

WHEREAS, there are large numbers of our constituency who are capable, bring diverse gifts for building up the church and who would be willing to serve at the general level if asked:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwest Regional Christian Church, meeting in Assembly, May 20-22, 1988, requests the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Indianapolis, in 1989 amend THE DESIGN for the Christian Church in Section III, B, 23:

In the first line of paragraph 23, striking the word "four," and inserting the word "six";

Adding an article (h):

"Persons elected to the General Board upon nomination by the General Nominating Committee or a region, or the Administrative Committee shall be elected for a term of six years and may not be re-elected by any of the three nominating bodies until a period of eight years shall have elapsed."

The Northwest Regional Christian Church

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly REFER Business item 8919 to the Task Force on Renewal and Structural Reform, for the following reasons:

The intent of Resolution 8919 is to increase the opportunity for more persons to serve on the General Board. While this may be an appropriate objective, the solution offered in 8919 worsens the situation.

Changing the length of term to six years will actually lengthen the average term and have the effect of producing less turnover on the General Board, rather than the desired increase.

The proposal would also expand the number of persons on the General Board, due to the pattern of alternating regional/general classes. This does not seem appropriate at a time when we are trying to reduce the size and costs of our structures.

The implementation of 8919 would require several additional amendments to *The Design*; for example, Section III, B, 24.

The General Board feels that the Task Force on Renewal and Structural Reform can propose an amendment to *The Design* which will achieve broader representation and appropriate length of service while improving desirable aspects of continuity and strength of leadership. (Debate time 12 minutes)

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REFERRED by the General Assembly to the Task Force on Renewal and Structural Reform