

No. 8737

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE NEED FOR A NEW DISCIPLES HYMNAL

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, music plays a vital role in Christian worship, giving expression to ideas and feelings not expressible through the medium of speech, and

WHEREAS, joining together in song provides an opportunity for the congregation to participate actively in worship and to express the unity of the people of God, and

WHEREAS, the church needs hymns and other worship resources which express the hopes, joys, concerns and beliefs of people of all ages who are seeking to live as Christians in the 1980s, 1990s and into the twenty-first century, and

WHEREAS, the current *Hymnbook for Christian Worship* was published in 1970 and is outdated in terms of:

- contemporary hymns, modern spiritual songs, traditional and contemporary gospel songs and hymns;
- inclusive language;
- current church teaching and emphases;
- ethnic and cultural diversities;
- broad theological expressions, reflecting the diversity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and

WHEREAS, some of the traditions of former hymnals have great value for many members of our church, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Association of Disciple Musicians meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, July 27 - August 1, 1986 pledged their willingness to support the development of a new Disciples hymnal;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, October 16-21, 1987, requests the General Minister and President to initiate the process of establishing a hymnal revision committee, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee's goal will be to compile a hymnbook for Disciples which reflects the faith and religious experience of the diverse membership of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, in an effort to achieve this goal, the committee will be instructed to engage in consultation with representative constituency groups within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), such as the Committee on Racial Ethnic Inclusiveness and Empowerment, the Church Women's Coordinating Council and the General Youth Council, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, consistent with the "ecumenical partnership" between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, the committee will be instructed to make every effort to produce a common hymnal with the United Church of Christ or, if it is not possible to do so, consult the appropriate counterpart body within the United Church of Christ during the planning and development of a Disciples hymnal.