

No.8714

**RESOLUTION ON CHANGING GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS PROCEDURES
ON ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS**

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

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WHEREAS, the General Assembly is the voice of the entire Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), comprised of the three manifestations of the local, regional and general church; and

WHEREAS, the general manifestation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a partner in ministry with the thirty-five regions of the regional manifestation, and more than 4,000 congregations of the congregational manifestation of the church; and

WHEREAS, the local church and the regions deserve to have direct access to the General Assembly, equal to the access of the general manifestation of the church; and

WHEREAS, by acting as a steering committee on Assembly resolutions, the General Board has the ability to supplant any resolution presented by a congregation or region by presenting a substitute resolution, thereby denying direct access to the General Assembly by each congregation and region; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the General Board act as a steering committee, making recommendations on the theological and practical aspects of resolutions for the betterment of the General Assembly;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly, meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, October 16-21, 1987, propose a change in the procedure so that any resolution submitted by any congregation, region, or other appropriate body be presented to the General Assembly as is; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Board make appropriate recommendations that the General Assembly "adopt" or "not adopt" each resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Board prepare substitute resolutions where they deem it appropriate so that if an original resolution is defeated, the substitute resolution then immediately comes to the floor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force on Renewal and Structural Reform prepare the required enabling procedural amendments to the General Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly, presenting such amendments to the Indianapolis 1989 General Assembly, so that upon adoption the above outlined procedures may be operable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by adopting this resolution the General Assembly affirms for congregations and regions the right of direct access to the General Assembly.

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Rushville, Illinois

White Oak Church
White Oak, Kentucky

#8714

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly NOT
ADOPT Resolution No. 8714 (Debate time 12 minutes)

In consideration of this business item during the General Board, July 18-21, the following pro-con statements were among those expressed:

Pro

1. All Disciples should have access to decision making and opinion-influencing processes of the Christian Church, particularly the General Assembly.
2. Sponsor of an item of business should have some guarantee that the substance of that item, not merely a procedural motion, will be considered on the floor of the General Assembly.
3. Congregations and others whose resolutions either are not adopted or are referred can easily feel they are neither heard nor wanted.
4. Sponsors of these proposed changes show high regard for the church's business procedures.

Con

1. The General Assembly should not be denied the benefit of recommendations from the General Board or the Committee on Reference and Counsel.
2. This procedure would significantly increase the time required for conducting business. (need to consider both original and substitute versions of some items.)
3. The assembly should not be deprived of the options of referring an item appropriately for study and development or committing it for revision in keeping with the will of the assembly.