

No. 8553

RESOLUTION CONCERNING SPECIALIZED INTERIM MINISTRY

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, it has long been recognized that the time of transition between pastors is one in which congregations may feel insecure and vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, the interim time may be one when congregations are most accessible, teachable, and open to change; and

WHEREAS, such congregations almost always seek help from Regional and/or Area Ministers; and

WHEREAS, leadership with special training is valuable in helping congregations prepare for the next long-term pastor, especially in setting direction and goals for the future, working through the varied feelings of loss, grief and uncertainty, enabling congregations to resolve conflicts, and in identifying and working on other appropriate agenda to help strengthen a congregation prior to calling the next pastor; and

WHEREAS, more attention is now being given to the importance of such a specialized ministry,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, August 2-7, 1985:

1. express appreciation to all those who have served in interim ministry and recognize their contribution to the church-at-large as well as the congregations they have served; and offer special recognition to those who have sought out specialized training to better enable them to do this