

No. 8533

RESOLUTION CONCERNING BASIC MISSION FINANCE

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

A Call to Increase Basic Mission Finance to 25 Million Dollars by 1988

We recognize that as disciples of Christ and members of the church, the body of Christ, we are stewards of a message we did not devise and a mission we did not initiate. Both the message and the mission are from God.

The message from God is the gospel!

The mission from God is to all people!

Our responsibility is to be faithful stewards of that which has been entrusted to us by God. As members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we have proclaimed that,

"In Christ's name and by His grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people."

What are the ministries God wills to be done in the world right now?

- We see an increasingly pervasive secularism; and over against that, a yearning for spiritual development and values.
- We see hunger, ignorance, disease and homelessness; and over against that, a yearning for justice.
- We see a race in nuclear armaments; and over against that, a yearning for peace and a deep commitment to the well-being of the planet and its creatures.
- We see social structures and values oppressing and violating the people; and over against that, the hope that life and community become meaningful and whole.

We Disciples are a vital part of the whole body of Christ which is sent to witness and serve the needs of people. We can be proud of the witness we have made and service we have provided through the years past. At the same time, we believe God is calling us to new levels of commitment and faithfulness as stewards of the gospel on God's mission to all people!

What is it about us that makes our ministry extremely important for the world at this time?

- We proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior of the world.
- We are inspired by Scripture and the Holy Spirit.
- We witness to and serve the whole human family.
- We believe that Christian unity and mission are inseparable.
- We claim as a particular mission the quest for the unity of the body of Christ.
- We celebrate weekly around the Lord's table the life, death, resurrection and continuing presence of Christ.

These are marks of our ministry as Disciples of Christ. We believe there is a vital task for us in helping to fulfill God's purposes for the world at this time. We believe God is sounding a compelling call within us, to claim and to live out this ministry with new energy, new levels of commitment and intensified power for:

A GROWING CHURCH

- through existing congregations,
- through establishing new congregations,
- through growth of the church around the world;

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

- through education,
- through personal growth,
- through growth in understanding of the Lord's Supper and Baptism,
- through growth in giving;

GROWTH IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE

- with the poor,
- with minorities,
- with strangers and sojourners in our midst.

God has blessed us with the gift of ministry and laid upon our minds and hearts the needs of all people. God has given us a dream and a hope of a kingdom of love and justice and peace here on earth, and calls us to new levels of discipleship for today and the coming tomorrows.

As members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we join together to grow into new dimensions of discipleship and in the giving of self and resources for our mission of witness and service and to increase Basic Mission Finance to 25 million dollars by December 31, 1988.

WHEREAS, the Administrative Committee at its January 27-29, 1985 meeting endorsed the aims and purposes of "A Call to Increase Basic Mission Finance to 25 Million Dollars by 1988," and

WHEREAS, planning has proceeded in cooperation with the Conference of Regional Ministers and Moderators, the General Cabinet, the Council of Ministers, the ICWF Cabinet and regional promotional committees,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, August 2-7, 1985, endorse and send forth "A Call to Increase Basic Mission Finance to 25 Million Dollars by 1988," and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that individuals, congregations, districts, regions, related institutions and general units be encouraged to participate fully in a faithful response to the Call, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) reaffirm its commitment to providing effective stewardship education and nurture for its members, in order that they might grow in spiritual maturity and that the vital ministries of the whole church both locally and worldwide, might be strengthened, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that primary attention be given to the interpretation and promotion of the Call by every congregation, district, region, related institution and general unit to the end that **Basic Mission Finance will reach \$25 million for the calendar year 1988 and gain sufficient momentum to achieve even higher levels in the years beyond.**