

No. 8527

RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMMEMORATION OF THE DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY OF COOPERATIVE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WORK IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

Background Information

In January 1910, the National Christian Bible School Association petitioned the American Christian Missionary Society (ACMS) to unite its work with them. The establishment of the Bible School Department added to the significant work of the ACMS in organizing churches in the "use of the Bible school as an agency through which the Kingdom of God may be extended."

Ninety days following the Centennial Convention in 1909, R.A. Long, a Christian philanthropist, purchased the Christian Publishing Company in St. Louis in order to provide a publishing house for the Disciples of Christ. Christian Board of Publication was chartered in 1910.

Almost from inception, both the Bible School Department of the ACMS and the Christian Board of Publication collaborated in the development of the educational program and materials of the Christian Church. As the church restructured, this effort continued and today is maintained through the Division of Homeland Ministries and the Christian Board of Publication.

Editorial and program staff have thus formed an educational team which has included hundreds of persons over the past 75 years, many of whom have become well-known throughout the church and in inter-denominational circles. As the vision grew, specialists in education were jointly employed by the United Christian Missionary Society, Christian Board of Publication, and state societies. Many staff portfolios in regional offices today have their origin in this cooperative venture.

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), beginning in 1910 with the establishment of the Bible School Department of the American Christian Missionary Society and the organization of the Christian Board of Publication, has worked in partnership for 75 years in a continuing cooperative venture in Christian Education; and

WHEREAS, each of the partners has worked closely together with regions as colleagues in the development of a full program of Christian Education including activities and projects, curriculum and other printed resources, sustained efforts in mission education, leader development, children, youth and adult programs, camp and conference, Edu-Care and other training events, and has shared together in participation and leadership in assisting in the sponsorship of educational efforts through the International Council on Religious Education, the International Uniform Lesson Committee, the National Council of Churches of Christ and Joint Educational Development; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) looks forward to continuing these historic partnerships of Christian Education to assist congregations and individuals in their nurture, faith development, biblical knowledge and global awareness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, August 2-7, 1985, recognize and celebrate in this anniversary year the contributions which this joint effort has made to the past and present life of the church in all of its manifestations, and express its hope for a continuing and invigorating future in educational ministry.