

No. 8361

RESOLUTION CONCERNING NEW CONGREGATIONS

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

Report on New Congregation Establishment

1983 marks the beginning of a new stage in the implementation of a comprehensive program for new congregation establishment within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) called for by a Resolution (No. 7569) at the General Assembly held in San Antonio in 1975. In response to this resolution calling for the establishment of new congregations with emphasis on minority congregation establishment, the General Board in due course assigned the task of coordinating this priority to the Board of Church Extension and the Division of Homeland Ministries, with administrative oversight given to the Board of Church Extension. New Congregational Establishment Committee was created in 1979 to give input and advice to the development of the Church Advance Now (CAN) Program—the title subsequently given to the effort. The Commission on Budget Evaluation approved the request submitted by the Board of Church Extension to fund a position of Director for New Congregation Establishment, effective February, 1983. At that time the Presidents of Board of Church Extension and Division of Homeland Ministries created a Primary Church Advance Now (CAN) Staff Team comprised of the new Director of New Congregation Establishment (from B.C.E.), the Director of the Pastor/Developer Program (80% of time), the Administrator of the Organizing Pastor Training and Consultant Services (up to 45% of time), and the Consultant for Minority New Congregation Establishment (up to 25% of time); all three being existing staff persons on the D.H.M. staff.

As to the funding of this effort, estimated to require 25 million dollars, 13 regions are at various points in the process of conducting regional capital campaigns with major portions devoted to new congregation establishment. Approximately 7 million dollars will be received from these campaigns for new congregation establishment, with the distribution generally set at 70% remaining in the regions and 30% for general level support. In addition, several regions have ongoing capital and operational income for new congregation establishment. Also, the General Board has given approval for "A Discrete New Congregation Establishment Capital Fund."

The regions (in cooperation with Black and Hispanic Conventions and Assemblies) are the implementing agents for new congregation establishment. The general level units—principally through the Primary CAN Staff—serve as resource and support for the regions, providing the following:

1. Creation of the climate for new congregation establishment through interpretation using audiovisuals, brochures, personal interpretation in regional capital campaigns, Assemblies, etc.
2. Pastor/Developer recruitment, selection, training and support.
3. Organizing Pastor training and support.
4. Consultant Services for developing congregations including program enrichment, evaluation and redirection.
5. Grants for ministerial leadership, sites and first units (with special attention given to minority congregation establishment efforts and the establishment of congregations in less populated regions where population growth is being experienced).
6. Interest free loans for sites or first units, as per the long-standing policies of the Board of Church Extension.

The establishment of new congregations is, indeed, becoming a priority of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It will provide us with a new opportunity to reach the 80 million unchurched of all races in the United States and Canada. Regions are increasing their emphasis on new congregation establishment. This heightened commitment is manifested in the increased number of new congregations chartered since the last General Assembly in Anaheim in 1981. It is those congregations we lift up in celebration now.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is undergirded and strengthened in its mission of witness and service by the establishment of new congregations and the recognition of previously unaffiliated congregations which manifest the wholeness of the church in a given place, and

WHEREAS, such congregations are accorded certain rights and acknowledge responsibilities under The Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and

WHEREAS, it is with gratitude and joy that these congregations are recognized and welcomed into the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the church universal,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in San Antonio, Texas, September 23-28, 1983, recognize the following congregations which have been established or received since the 1981 Anaheim General Assembly:

Arizona	Flagstaff	Flagstaff Church of Christ
Florida	Gainesville	Covenant Christian Church
	Lakeland	Bethany Christian Church
Illinois	Champaign	Disciples of Christ Community Church
Indiana	East Chicago	Iglesia Del Pueblo
	Indianapolis	Faith United Christian Church
Kansas	Kansas City	Piper Christian Church
	Stanley	Blue Valley Christian Church
Louisiana	Shreveport	Huntington Park Christian Church
Mid-America	Barnett	Golden Beach Community Church
	Blue Eye	Pines Community Church
	Blue Springs	Good Shepherd Christian Church
	Columbia	Rock Bridge Christian Church
Mississippi	Jackson	Covenant Christian Church
Ohio	Columbus	Fellowship Christian Church
Pacific Southwest	Mission Viejo	Saddleback Christian Church
Southwest	Austin	Blue Bonnet Hills Christian Church
	Carrollton	St. Andrews Christian Church
	Del Rio	Del Rio Christian Church
	Houston	Community Christian Church
	Lago Vista	Rolling Hills Community Church
	San Antonio	San Antonio Christian Church
Tennessee	Cookeville	Cookeville Christian Church
	Crossville	Fellowship Christian Church
Virginia	Pembroke	Calvary Christian Church
	Richmond	Gayton Road Christian Church

Congregations re-entered in Year Book and Directory

Oklahoma	Mutual	Richmond Christian Church
Tennessee	Rogersville	Hasson Street Christian Church
West Virginia	Bluefield	Jones Street Christian Church