No. 9325
(Operational Business Item)

PROPOSAL FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE DESIGN FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) purports to be representative of all of the congregations affiliated with this denomination; and,

WHEREAS, the theological and sociological positions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are generally formulated through the voting actions of congregational representatives to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and,

WHEREAS, there are approximately 4,300 congregations in the denomination; and,

WHEREAS, only about 2500 or 60% of these congregations are represented at the biennial General Assembly meetings; and,

WHEREAS, the remaining 1800 or 40% of our congregations would appreciate a realistic opportunity to participate in the decisions of the General Assembly; and,

WHEREAS, many of those congregations, and particularly those with less than 75 members, are not financially able to send any voting representatives to the General Assembly wherever its geographic location; and,

WHEREAS, many other congregations also are not financially able to send all of the voting representatives to which they are lawfully entitled to the General Assembly;
The General Board recommends that the General Assembly NOT ADOPT business item No. 9325 for the following reasons:

The General Board believes it is essential that all of those voting on an item of business have the opportunity to hear and participate in the debate and discussion which occurs at the General Assembly, and that providing for absentee ballots for 60 days after the adjournment of the General Assembly leaves every action unresolved. In addition, the cost of protecting the confidentiality of the absentee voters and validating their eligibility to vote would be considerable. (Debate time 12 minutes)

The Commission on Finance notes that implementation of this resolution would require an expenditure for equipment and a sizeable expenditure for staff time. The cost of protecting confidentiality of the voter and validating the vote would be considerable.