ADOPTED

No. 9518

(Operational Business Item)

CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE POLICIES AND CRITERIA FOR THE ORDER OF MINISTRY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) WHICH WILL FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION AND RECONCILIATION OF ORDAINED MINISTERS IN THE ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

Background Information

In response to the General Assembly Business Item 9337, "Progress Report on the Implementation of the Mutual Recognition and Reconciliation of Ordained Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ," the General Commission on Ministry has prepared the following amendments to the Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

SECTION V. MINISTERIAL STANDING

C. Recognition and Reconciliation of the Ordained Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ

1. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ recognize the ordained ministries of the other church to be efficacious ministries of grace within that church and these ministries to be valid and full ministries of the one Church of Jesus Christ.

2. The ordained ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ are reconciled. An Ordained Minister with ordained ministerial standing in one church may function, whenever invited, and as established procedures permit, as an ordained minister of the other.

3. The designations "Ordained Ministerial Partner" and "Ordained Ministerial Standing" manifest the corporate and individual nature of the recognition and reconciliation of the ordained ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

4. Each member of the United Church of Christ who holds ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

5. Each member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who holds ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is an Ordained
Ministerial Partner of the United Church of Christ.

6. When a person no longer has ordained ministerial standing in either the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or the United Church of Christ, that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial Partner and Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is nullified.

7. United Church of Christ ministers with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is recognition granted to an ordained minister with ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ who has a call to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This recognition is based upon a demonstration of knowledge, and appreciation for the history, polity, and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing provides ongoing ecclesiastical authorization to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

a. A United Church of Christ minister has Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) only when serving a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) calling body.

b. Once a United Church of Christ minister has demonstrated knowledge of and appreciation for the history, polity, and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that Ordained Ministerial Partner may seek a call in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

c. A United Church of Christ Ordained Ministerial Partner who secures a call in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) applies for Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to the region in which the minister's congregational membership is held.

d. A United Church of Christ minister who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall maintain ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ. Ordained ministerial standing shall be held in the association in which the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) membership is held.

e. A United Church of Christ minister who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner (Disciples of Christ) Standing shall maintain relations with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) including participating membership in a recognized congregation in the community where feasible.

f. A United Church of Christ minister who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner (Disciples of Christ) Standing shall maintain relations with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) including participating membership in a recognized congregation in the community where feasible.
Partner Standing in a region has voting privileges in the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

g. A United Church of Christ minister who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall relate to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for his or her primary support and accountability in ordained ministry.

h. When a United Church of Christ minister who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) accepts a call in another region, they shall be subject to review and subsequent certification by that region.

i. When a disciplinary review is instituted in relation to a United Church of Christ minister holding Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the association of the United Church of Christ in which the United Church of Christ minister's ordained ministerial standing is maintained shall be informed and invited to participate in the procedures.

8. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ministers with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ.

Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is recognition granted to an ordained minister with ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who has a call to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. This recognition is based upon a demonstration of knowledge and appreciation for the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing provides ongoing ecclesiastical authorization to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

a. A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister has Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a United Church of Christ calling body.

b. Once a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister has demonstrated knowledge of and appreciation for the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ, that Ordained Ministerial Partner may seek a call in the United Church of Christ.

c. A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Ordained Ministerial Partner who secures a call in the United Church of Christ applies for Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to the association in which the minister's congregational membership is held.

d. A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister who holds Ordained
Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ shall maintain ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Ordained ministerial standing shall be held in the region in which the United Church of Christ membership is held.

e. A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ shall hold local church membership in the United Church of Christ.

f. A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ is eligible for election as a delegate to a Conference or General Synod or election as a member of any instrumentality board.

g. A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ shall relate to the United Church of Christ for his or her primary support and accountability in ordained ministry.

h. A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ is subject to periodic review by the region in which ordained ministerial standing is maintained.

i. When a disciplinary procedure is instituted by an association in relation to a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister holding Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) region in which standing is held shall be informed and invited to participate. The region may accept the procedures and outcome of the association or utilize its own procedures to determine the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister's ongoing standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).