WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) desires to be faithful to what God is calling us to do and to be in this time; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need for a mutually accepted statement as to what is imperative to the fulfillment of God's calling for us today as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

WHEREAS, the "Mission Imperatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for 1996-2000", prepared by the General Board with the assistance and direction of the General Minister and President, is based upon direct listening to approximately 600 congregations which participated in Mission Conversations sponsored by the Church Finance Council; and

WHEREAS, the Mission Imperatives Statement has been widely circulated and affirmed by the leadership and boards of congregations, regions, and general units; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the Mission Imperative Statement represents a helpful discernment of what God is calling us to emphasize now as a church seeking to be faithful and effective;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly, meeting in Pittsburgh on October 20-24, 1995, hereby accepts the following statement of Mission Imperatives as a guiding policy for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada until such time as it is modified by General Assembly action:

MISSION IMPERATIVES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) FOR 1996-2000

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ...we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together...promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:11-13, 15-16) [NRSV]

We believe God's mission for the church is to be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).
As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we believe
God calls us to strengthen congregational life for this mission.

To accomplish this, we shall:

- **BECOME THE GOOD NEWS**
  - nurturing faith
  - teaching the spiritual disciplines
  - fostering Disciples identity
  - renewing congregational life

- **SHARE THE GOOD NEWS**
  - emphasizing ministry with children, youth, young adults, and families
  - doing evangelism
  - establishing new congregations

- **SERVE FROM "OUR DOORSTEPS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH"**
  - engaging in outreach ministries of reconciliation, compassion, unity, and justice

In accepting these imperatives, we affirm our need to strengthen relationships among
congregational, regional, institutional and general ministries. We also affirm our need to share
mutually and more fully our gifts, testimonies, and life in Christ, across the boundaries of our
racially and culturally diverse church family, and with our ecumenical friends and global
partners.