RESOLUTION CONCERNING MULTI-CULTURAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, the human family is a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic people created in the image of God,—forming a pluralistic world through which to proclaim and demonstrate the divine will; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance of Jesus Christ and the proclamation and teaching of the vision of the Rule of God is given and entrusted to all people; and

WHEREAS, on Pentecost the Church was established of “every nation under heaven,” and the Holy Spirit empowered every group to hear the gospel in its own language and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) embraces members of many ethnic groups in its church family; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Homeland Ministries has formed a network of multi-ethnic leaders for the purpose of enabling the church to be enriched and strengthened as a family; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Board of Publication follows multi-cultural and multi-ethnic guidelines in the development of curriculum materials; and

WHEREAS, multi-cultural Christian Education is based upon a fundamental belief that all people are valued and respected regardless of age, language, race, sex, economic class, religion, physical or mental ability, and can strengthen the ministry of the church in

1) enabling persons to discover and affirm their own identity within their cultural context, and thus better understand the relationship of the Christian faith and tradition to their own lives and experience;

2) enabling persons to understand, appreciate and respond to the identities and gifts of cultural and ethnic groups;

3) enabling persons to understand and appropriate both the particular and universal dimensions of Christian teaching;

4) enabling the whole church to be a witness to the world through a community in which all people live and work together in friendship, interdependence and harmony;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, August 2-7, 1985,

1) affirm a multi-cultural educational ministry that reflects the nature, life and mission of the church;

2) call for the inclusion of multi-cultural content and approaches in all present and future program and curriculum as well as supplementary multi-cultural resources;

3) encourages all congregations to make use of multi-cultural program, resources and leadership in their educational ministries.