WHEREAS, the Lord and head of the church has connected His authority to that of scripture in the following texts, among others that could be cited:

"Truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:18-19 NASV)

"You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life" (John 5:39-40 NASV)

"O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!" (Luke 24:25 NASV)

"...all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44 NASV), and

WHEREAS, Jesus has commanded His church to teach and observe all His commandments (Matt. 28:20), an impossible task unless His teachings are accurately recorded and preserved in scripture (the command thus implies the preservation of Christ’s words through divine providence). Further, He has specifically promised the church that He will preserve and protect His own words throughout history when He said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." (Mark 12:31 NASV)

WHEREAS, The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), affirms, that the church lives by "the light of scripture;" and

WHEREAS, the church of Jesus Christ relies on the Biblical witness as the source and norm of its teaching; and

WHEREAS, the church throughout the ages has recognized in scripture a faithful witness to the faith of Israel and the faith of the New Testament church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 28 - August 2, 1989, affirms that Holy Scripture is our highest authority in determining the mind and will of Jesus Christ our Lord. This resolution is not intended to rule out the place that reason, tradition and experience have in our church; it simply affirms that all other authorities of every kind are lesser authorities than scripture.

First Christian Church, Crockett, TX
First Christian Church, Decatur, IL
First Christian Church, Leesville, LA
First Christian Church, Lovington, IL
First Christian Church, Taylorville, KY
First Christian Church, Tonkawa, OK
Federated Churches, Mitchell, NE
West Twin Grove, Bloomington, IL

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT Resolution 8944 as amended. (Debate time 24 minutes)