(OPERATIONAL BUSINESS ITEM)

CHANGING THE MEETING TIME OF GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Denver, Colorado, July 25-29, 1997, voted to hold only summer General Assemblies in order to include more children, youth, young adults, families and lay persons; and

WHEREAS, the 2001 Summer Assembly experienced a 3% decline in participation from that in 1997, the 2005 Summer Assembly experienced a 32% decline in participation from that in 1997 and the 2007 Summer Assembly experienced a 27% decline in participation from that in 1997 (based on Yearbook figures); and

WHEREAS, the Mission Imperatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) adopted in July 2000 include our covenant that affirms our need to “strengthen relationships among all manifestations of the church, [and] share mutually and more fully the stewardship of God’s gifts of our life in Christ”; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) includes “The calling and forming of new leaders and the continuing re-forming of current leaders”; and

WHEREAS, having a summer General Assembly every other year has a significant negative impact on the Regional summer camp and conference programs that historically have developed our children, youth, and young adults as Disciples and leaders in the Church; and

WHEREAS, having alternating summer and fall General Assemblies would allow youth to participate in a General Assembly once in their high school careers without missing school; and

WHEREAS, alternating fall and summer General Assemblies would require Regions to plan their camp and conference programs around the General Assembly only once every four years, making staffing and scheduling less difficult in the other years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, meeting in assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 25-29, 2009, declare that beginning in 2013 or as soon as practical thereafter, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will alternate between summer and fall Assemblies.

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Montana
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly
NOT ADOPT Business Item No. 0918. (Debate time: 24 minutes)