NO. 1127
(OPERATIONAL BUSINESS ITEM)

AMENDING THE SPECIAL RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WHEREAS, the “Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly”, revised 1989, Rule VI H states “Speeches on Items for Reflection and Research shall be limited to one in favor of acceptance and one opposed to acceptance, and will be limited to five minutes each”; and

WHEREAS, the “Special Rules of Procedures for the General Assembly”, revised 1989, Rules VI I states, “On Items for Reflection and Research, there will be one speech in favor of acceptance and one speech opposed, followed by the vote. (Speeches in this classification will be limited to five minutes and cannot be reduced by action of the assembly.”); and

WHEREAS, the “Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly” were last revised in 2009 at the Indianapolis General Assembly and the above sentences about speeches on Items for Reflection and Research were inadvertently left out of the 2009 revision; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of, according to “Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly” 2.4.1, “Items for Reflection and Research introduce critical issues that require further exploration before they could be addressed in resolutions, study documents, or items dealing with church policies or operations, and those that may never lend themselves to “yes-no” votes,” so the focus of the Assembly debate on an Item of Reflection and Research should be on whether or not to accept the item for reflection and research, not on the critical issue itself; and

WHEREAS, the “Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly” may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting members of the General Assembly present and voting, as long as proposed amendments are circulated in advance as regular business items of the General Assembly;

THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gathered in Nashville, TN July 9 – 13, 2011 amend its rules of procedure by inserting under the section related to Items of Reflection and Research to read: “7.1.4.2 there will be one speech in favor of acceptance and one speech opposed, followed by the vote. (Speeches in this classification will be limited to five minutes and cannot be reduced by action of the assembly.”); and
FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED the title 7.8 of “Special Rules of Procedures of the General Assembly” to read “The total time for debate unless otherwise noted in these rules.”

General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT Business Item No. 1127. (Discussion time 12 minutes)