WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada has adopted the identity statement, “We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord’s table, as God has first welcomed us;” and

WHEREAS, the General Minister and President has stated, “As a Christian church, we are particularly sensitive to the values of the One we follow – one who sat at table with people from all walks of life, and loved them all”; and

WHEREAS, our church is diverse in point of view and we share a value for an open Lord’s Table; and

WHEREAS, our members and attendees are different in many ways including race, ethnicity, age, gender, and sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, we have in common a love for Jesus and seek to follow Him; and

WHEREAS, General Assembly of the Christian Church is a place where all members of the church are welcome and should experience a safe and hospitable environment; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact for a host city of the General Assembly gives the church a voice into the local community's justice concerns; and

WHEREAS, the current site selection process is focused on host region, space, cost, environmental sustainability and availability; the church currently lacks guidelines for site selection based on welcome, hospitality and justice;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Columbus, OH July 18-22, 2015 calls for the Administrative Committee to appoint a task force of 4-7 people funded by the General Assembly budget to develop site selection guidelines that add to the current process a review of matters of faith to which the church has spoken or is currently speaking, such as mass incarceration, religious freedom, immigration, and the welcome of all at the table; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force will include representatives of historically underrepresented groups; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force will address the balance between local concerns and general church concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these guidelines guide meetings of the General Church where twenty-five (25) or more members are anticipated, recommending the guidelines to each General and Racial / Ethnic ministry; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Task Force will report to the Administrative Committee in the Spring of 2016 with the Administrative Committee acting on behalf of the General Assembly and as the board for the Office of the General Minister and President to finalize the criteria.

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

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1537. (Discussion time: 12 minutes)