GA-1728
(Operational, Policy and Organizational)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO
THE DESIGN OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST):
REMOVAL OF CONGREGATIONS FROM THE YEARBOOK AND DIRECTORY
FOR CAUSE OR INACTIVITY

WHEREAS, at the 2005 General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, numerous
amendments were made to The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);
and

WHEREAS, during the writing of those amendments, language regarding the “ten-year
rule” which allowed for the removal of congregations from the Yearbook after ten years
of no congregational activity being reported to the Yearbook, was inadvertently dropped
from endnote 1 of the revised Design; and

WHEREAS, both the College of Regional Ministers and the Administrative Committee
have asked the Governance Committee of the General Board to restore that language
regarding the removal of congregations to The Design; and

WHEREAS, the College of Regional Ministers further requested that due to this
information being vital to a region’s role in certifying and decertifying a congregation to
the Yearbook, it would be helpful for this language to reside in the body of The Design
instead of being part of an endnote; and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee is charged with reviewing The Design and
other governance documents for suggested changes and modifications;¹

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2017 General Assembly of the Christian
Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting July 8-12, 2017, in Indianapolis, Indiana approve
the amendments to The Design as recommended by the College of Regional Ministers
and presented on the following pages.

General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly
APPROVE GA-1728. (Discussion time: 12 minutes)

¹ General Board Standing Rules 6.2.5
Redline Paragraph 9 and Endnote 1 of The Design.

9. All congregations listed in the latest Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall be recognized congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Other congregations desiring recognition and congregations desiring to withdraw from recognition in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall follow established procedures for Year Book and Directory listing. (See Note.) Congregations that follow the procedures for listing after the publication of the latest Year Book and Directory and that are recorded in the Year Book and Directory office shall also be recognized congregations.

i. Procedures for Year Book and Directory Listing:

a. A congregation seeking recognition takes congregational action expressing its desire and intention to be a recognized congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and be listed in the Year Book and Directory.

b. The congregation then provides its regional office with a copy of a document containing the declaration of its desire and intention to be a recognized congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). (The document may be the congregation's charter, constitution, bylaws, or a notarized statement of the congregation's action.)

c. Regional endorsement of the congregation's request for recognition and listing, attested by the regional minister, is sent to the Office of the General Minister and President for filing with the Year Book and Directory.

d. Once a congregation has been listed, it can be omitted from the Year Book and Directory if:

i. The congregation has taken action to withdraw as a recognized congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Office of the General Minister and President has received a notarized statement from the congregation of its action, which the regional minister has certified; or

ii. There has been no congregational activity reported in the Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for a period of five (5) consecutive years and the regional minister certifies that the congregation does not participate in or contribute to area, regional or general church program(s), including participation in Disciples Mission Fund.

iii. A congregation may also be omitted from the Year Book and Directory by action of a region if the region can demonstrate actions or statements on the part of the congregation that are deemed detrimental to the covenantal relationship with all expressions of the church, as may be determined by the General Board. When a region takes action to omit a congregation for either of the above stated reasons, the region will send notification of the intent to remove the congregation's listing to the congregation via certified letter. If within
30 days of the notification the congregation makes no objection to its removal from the listing, then the removal will be final.

iv. Regardless of which entity initiates the action, reasonable attempts will be made to renew the relationship between the congregation and the region before removal is finalized. Once the removal is final, the region will notify the congregation that it has been removed from the Year Book and Directory. A congregation may appeal the region’s action in accordance with paragraphs 17 & 66 of this Design.