WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ("General Assembly"), by action of the General Board, entered into a trust agreement with Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ("Pension Fund"), as Trustee, to establish the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Health Care Benefit Trust ("CCHCBT") effective September 1, 2003, in order to provide a funding mechanism for health and other benefits provided to employees of churches and church-related organizations through plans established by Pension Fund;

WHEREAS, Pension Fund, as Trustee of the CCHCBT, established the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Health Care Plan ("Health Plan"), effective January 1, 2006, to provide health benefits and other benefits to employees of churches and church-related organizations;

WHEREAS, the CCHCBT provides a funding source for the Health Plan;

WHEREAS, the Health Plan was most recently restated in its entirety effective January 1, 2017, to limit eligibility under the Plan to Medicare-eligible employees and retirees only, and was amended once thereafter to close the Health Plan to new participants effective January 1, 2019;

WHEREAS, Section 7.01(n) of the CCHCBT provides that the Trustee may borrow for the purpose of the CCHCBT in such amount and upon such terms and conditions and from such person or persons (including Pension Fund) as the Trustee, in its absolute discretion, upon such terms and conditions as it deems advisable;

WHEREAS, the Ministerial Relief Fund made a two million dollar loan to the CCHCBT in 2016 in order to ensure that Medicare-eligible employees and retirees were not required to subsidize the run-out costs for active employees no longer eligible under the Health Plan effective January 1, 2017, which loan with interest is currently valued at approximately three million dollars;

WHEREAS, Section 3.02(c) and Article IV of the CCHCBT provides that the Trustee shall be reimbursed by the Trust for all reasonable expenses (direct or indirect) incurred in administering the Health Plan and the CCHCBT, including any reasonable administrative charge established by the Trustee;

WHEREAS, Section 7.01(g) of the CCHCBT provides that the Trustee may employ suitable agents and counsel and pay their reasonable expenses and compensation;
WHEREAS, Pension Fund, as Trustee, has not reimbursed itself from the CCHCBT the full amount of its reasonable expenses incurred in administering the Health Plan and the CCHCBT since 2017 to ensure the financial viability of the plan;

WHEREAS, Pension Fund’s Heartbeats of Faith campaign raised approximately $1.3 million dollars in donations which Pension Fund paid to the CCHCBT for the purpose of funding clergy health and wellness with an approximate market of $1.8MM;

WHEREAS, Section 14.02 of the Health Plan provides that the Board of Pension Fund has the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate the Health Plan at any time;

WHEREAS, Pension Fund has determined that the provision of health benefits under the Health Plan is no longer cost effective for participants;

WHEREAS, Pension Fund terminated the Health Plan and made available to participants a Medicare secondary policy exchange with VIA Benefits, a division of Willis Towers Watson, effective January 1, 2023;

WHEREAS, the CCHCBT will no longer have any health or welfare benefit plans to fund and the General Assembly has authority to terminate the CCHCBT after receipt of all remaining rebates and contributions and payment of all remaining liabilities under the Health Plan;

WHEREAS, in light of the Health Plan’s impending termination, Pension Fund, as Trustee, desires to make certain payments and reimbursements from the CCHCBT, as permitted by its terms;

WHEREAS, the Board of Pension Fund approved the repayment to the Ministerial Relief Fund of its 2016 loan to CCHCBT, with reasonable interest;

WHEREAS, the Board of Pension Fund approved, at such time that the CCHCBT is terminated, the repayment of the Heartbeats of Faith campaign funds, at current market value, to the Ministerial Relief Fund, to be used for the support of clergy and their wellness consistent with original donor intent; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Pension Fund authorized and directed the appropriate officers of Pension Fund to take such additional actions that may be necessary or appropriate to the implement the foregoing resolutions and to provide for the orderly winding down of the Health Plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting July 29 to August 1, 2023 in Louisville, Kentucky approves the termination of the Christian Church Health Care Benefit Trust after all expenses, debits, and income have been reconciled and the endowment funds transferred to Pension Fund for Ministerial Relief and Assistance;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the desire of the General Assembly is to ensure these assets remain in perpetuity to provide financial support for programs that benefit Disciples of Christ clergy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly names Ministerial Relief and Assistance for Clergy Health and Wellness and the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Inc. (Office of the General Minister and President) as co-beneficiaries of the remaining assets;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Trust make a distribution to both beneficiaries in December 2023 and December 2024 equal to one year’s distribution based on the Christian Church Foundation’s recommended payout distribution rate times the remaining assets as of November 30 of each year;

AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly directs the trust to transfer any remaining assets as soon as administratively possible to the Christian Church Foundation, who shall invest, manage, and determine the annual payout distribution in accordance with its own policies for the benefit of Ministerial Relief and Assistance for Clergy Health and Wellness and The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Inc., (The Office of the General Minister and President), with each entity receiving fifty percent (50%) of the annual distribution beginning in January 2026.

Christian Church Health Care Benefit Trust

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-2336. (Discussion Time: 12 minutes)