BUILDING ON OUR CHURCH’S COMMITMENT TO FAITH-BASED INVESTING

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

WHEREAS, our biblical, theological, and historical heritage calls us to responsibility in all areas of our lives, including the management of money; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada calls for ministries of the church to engage in a theology of justice, kindness and walking humbly with our God; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church Foundation, Disciples Church Extension Fund, and the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (our “Financial Ministries”) are stewards with a fiduciary and covenantal responsibility to manage resources responsibly; and

WHEREAS, all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)—congregations, regions, general ministries, and affiliated organizations—have covenantal responsibility to manage their resources responsibly; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 7-12, 2017, affirmed, by Resolution GA-1720, its shared accountability in addressing environmental, social and governance issues; and

WHEREAS, faith-based investing is a critical tool in furthering the transformational ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

WHEREAS, the discipline of faith-based investing continues to evolve and mature; and

WHEREAS, social and environmental issues, injustices, exploitations, and degradations in the world continue to proliferate, resulting in social, economic, health and political disparities and inequities, and war; and

WHEREAS, our Financial Ministries, in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 7-12, 2017, by Resolution GA-1720, reaffirmed their commitment to be engaged with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR²), an association of faith-based and values-driven institutional investors dedicated to direct engagement with corporations to effect positive change; and further, in Des Moines, Iowa, provided an educational program for the 2019 General Assembly addressing responsible investing policies and practices in support of the church’s total mission; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, July 29- August 1, 2023, affirms its shared accountability in addressing environmental,
social and governance issues through the faith-based investments of our financial resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) reaffirms its support of our Financial Ministries who invest in public markets, and their engagement with ecumenical partners through the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR ²); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Financial Ministries explore and study through dialogue with other General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ways to respond to global and domestic partners' concerns about investments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of General Minister and President create space annually for reports by and discussions with our Financial Ministries concerning their utilization of faith-based investing strategies including, but not limited to, responsible investing polices, board resolutions, analytical tools, strategies, practices, costs, qualitative and quantitative impact reports, and performance data in alignment with the evolving discipline of responsible investment and in alignment with the Church's total mission; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Church's Financial Ministries be asked to prepare educational resources—for example, study guides, sample faith-based investing policies and resolutions, strategies and suggested tools to measure performance and impacts—to assist our congregations, regions, general ministries, higher education institutions, and members in their investing.

Disciples Home Missions
Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance

BACKGROUND

¹ Faith-based investing is an investment strategy which considers both financial return and the values of the church. Faith-based investing includes, but is not limited to, informed assessments of values, risks and returns utilizing human rights, environmental, social and governance screens, and direct proxy voting, among other tools.

² ICCR (www.iccr.org) was founded in 1971 and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was a founding member. ICCR is not an investment manager or advisor, but rather a coalition of 275 faith-based institutional investors. By partnering with other faith-based investors we gain a broader and deeper source of information about corporate and societal issues, and can achieve greater impact.

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-2340.
(Discussion Time: 12 minutes)