

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DPF SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM AND 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCIPLES PEACE FELLOWSHIP AND INVITING REGIONS AND CONGREGATIONS TO RECOMMIT TO THE WORK OF PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR OUR TIME.

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

WHEREAS Jesus tells us, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matt. 5:9); and

WHEREAS, outside of the historic “Peace Churches,” no North American religious tradition has a longer or richer peace heritage than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone being pacifists and strong advocates for nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, in 1935, when post-World War I tensions were dividing the League of Nations and Adolf Hitler had begun systematic efforts to marginalize and oppress Jews, the Disciples Peace Fellowship became the first denominational peace organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, in the final months of the Vietnam War and the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, staff of both Disciples Peace Fellowship and the Division of Homeland Ministries (Disciples Home Missions) asked, “How do we raise the next generation of peacemakers?” and

WHEREAS, in 1975, to help mold God’s vision of a just world, Disciples Peace Fellowship hired its first Summer Peace Intern to serve in six Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) Conferences across five Regions to encourage conversation around how to be peacemakers in their time; and

WHEREAS, since the program’s inception, Peace Interns have served every summer in nearly all the 31 Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, undaunted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, Peace Interns created virtual communities to reach youth and equip leaders for peacemaking through an enhanced digital library of videos, training material, and resources at www.disciplespeace.org; and

WHEREAS, 2025 marks the 90th Anniversary of Disciples Peace Fellowship and the 50th Anniversary of the Summer Peace Intern Program through which 181 Peace Interns have worked in over 1,000 church camps, conferences, and mission projects, shared with more than 30,000 youth and adults the gospel imperative for peace and

48 justice and been a voice for members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who
49 long for peace and justice to be at the forefront of our teachings and witness; and

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51 **WHEREAS**, in 2025, growing cultural division, unending war, threats of conquest,
52 environmental degradation, and increasing marginalization of all deemed to be “other,”
53 requires an urgent public response to Jesus’ call to be peacemakers in our time; and

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55 **WHEREAS** peacemakers are called to speak and live into being the world God intends
56 in all places and in all times;

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58 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church
59 (Disciples of Christ), meeting in Memphis, TN, July 12-15, 2025, celebrates Disciples
60 Peace Fellowship’s 90-year history of peacemaking and 50 years of peace and justice
61 education and faith formation through the Summer Peace Intern Program; and

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63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly calls upon the General
64 Ministries, Regions, and Congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to
65 recommit to the ongoing mission to raise generation after generation of peacemakers
66 and keep alive the urgent call for peace and justice in our time; and

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68 **FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that every congregation, ministry, and person hear and
69 embrace God’s call to:

70 **Pray** - in public witness at government facilities, including local, state, and federal office
71 buildings, for their communities and their leaders to be guided by God’s Shalom;

72 **Preach** - sermons grounded in scripture that reveal, encourage, and empower the
73 unfolding of God’s intended future; and

74 **Protect** - all who are marginalized and seek refuge by creating brave spaces of
75 solidarity and support.

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GO BE PEACEMAKERS FOR THIS TIME

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Disciples Peace Fellowship