

GA-2520

**CALLING THE CHURCH TO AFFIRM THE SOVEREIGNTY AND SELF-DETERMINATION OF  
OUR CANADIAN SIBLINGS**

**(Sense-of-the-Assembly)**

**WHEREAS** the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada has been a bi-national denomination since 1968; and

**WHEREAS**, as a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, living in covenant is part of the foundation for our relationships with one another; and

**WHEREAS** the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada at their meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2017 adopted GA-1725 RECOGNITION OF THE REGION OF CANADA AS A TRADITIONALLY UNDERREPRESENTED CULTURAL COMMUNITY, acknowledging that the sovereign nation of Canada holds a distinct cultural identity, historical national development, religious landscape, governmental structure, and official languages; and

**WHEREAS** the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, at their meeting in Louisville, Kentucky in 2023, affirmed and adopted GA-2341 CALLING THE CHURCH TO OPPOSE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM, opposing Christian nationalism which seeks to impose a particular expression of American Christianity on others; and

**WHEREAS** Jesus commands us to *“Love your neighbor as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets hang on these... commandments.*” (Matthew 22:39b-40, NIV); and

**WHEREAS** the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Christ-followers of Rome states: *“Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.”* (Romans 13:10 NIV); and

**WHEREAS** Canada is the physical and spiritual neighbor of the United States; and

**WHEREAS** the recent statements and actions by prominent United States political leaders<sup>1</sup> challenge Canadian autonomy<sup>2</sup>, question the validity of long-established borders<sup>3</sup>, fail to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/trump-world-leaders-popularity-5a753bea79dc8169ad0a92e37ed6d665>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/trumps-remarks-on-canada-becoming-the-51st-state-raise-a-lot-of-questions>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-downplays-canadas-liberal-lean-from-oval-office-calls-border-artificial-line>

acknowledge Canadian elected leaders as peers to United States elected leaders<sup>4</sup>, and threaten economic policies<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** these actions represent not just political posturing, but create real harm, causing economic anxiety, political instability, emotional turmoil, and deep feelings of disrespect and betrayal among our Canadian siblings; and

**WHEREAS**, though it would be easier to ignore tension, protect structures of comfort, and remain silent in the face of harmful rhetoric, covenantal love requires that we not take the easier path; and

**WHEREAS** Alexander Campbell asserted “We do not ask [anyone] to give up their opinions - we ask them only to not impose them upon others;” and

**WHEREAS** our Canadian siblings have the right to self-determination as a sovereign nation and have requested our support<sup>6</sup>;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, July 12-15, 2025 calls upon all Disciples within the United States, regardless of political affiliation, to contact their congressional representatives to oppose any hateful rhetoric or potential threats to our Canadian siblings, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call on all Disciples within the United States to commit to our covenantal relationship by resisting and rebuking any and all attempts to violate the sovereignty of our Canadian neighbors, and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that we call on all Disciples to reaffirm our shared covenant as a bi-national Church that embodies the reconciling love of Christ—where every voice is heard, every culture honored, and every partner empowered to follow the Spirit in freedom and faithfulness.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckgx1ezpx52o>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/markets/trump-says-larger-tariffs-could-be-imposed-canada-eu-if-they-cause-us-economic-2025-03-27/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ARQEX2cCB/>