

Resolution No. 44

CONCERNING MERGER OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the National Christian Missionary Convention, the Board of Directors of the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ), and the Board of Trustees of the United Christian Missionary Society established in 1966 a committee of five representatives from each organization to explore possible new relationships looking toward the merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention; and

WHEREAS, this joint committee has developed "A Proposed Recommendation on Principles for Merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following report of the Joint Committee on Merger and New Brotherhood Relationships, "A Proposed Recommendation on Principles of Merger for the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)," be approved and the executive committees of the boards of the two organizations be authorized to implement the provisions of the recommended principles of merger.

A Proposed Recommendation on Principles for Merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)

Under the *one* God, the *one* Church, has *one* mission in the world; the merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) must be under the disciplines of the *one* God and, in *one* church, stand united in *one* mission in the world.

The total responsibility and witness of the church, including the concerns outlined by the Committee on Program and Structure of the National Christian Missionary Convention in its report on "Design for Renewal and Growth," is the object of the proposed merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention.

The agreements of 1960 between the National Christian Missionary Convention and the United Christian Missionary Society dealing with such areas of common concern as staff employment, the relationship of the executive secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention, employment procedures, staff committee on Negro work, commission on inter-racial

relationships, etc., were recognized and approved as being in principle equitable and acceptable to all regarding program services for the total church.

It is believed that the *merger* of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention will make possible the extension of this principle and provide for a more effective brotherhood.

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED:

1. That the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention take enabling action at their 1968 meetings to provide for the *merger* of the National Christian Missionary Convention's business functions with the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) or its successor,
 - a. The national program and service functions shall remain with the division of Church life and work of the United Christian Missionary Society;
 - b. The validity of the principle of merger of all conventions, programs and services within each state/area affirmed.

2. That the legal integrity and the purposes of the National Christian Missionary Convention, Disciples of Christ, Inc. be preserved.
 - a. The trust fund of the National Christian Missionary Conventional shall continue to be administered under the provisions of the original trusts which provide these funds for the work of the program of the church;
 - b. The income from the trust funds shall be administered in conformity with the provisions of the trust agreements and the agreements effected in any merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention;

3. That the National Christian Missionary Convention become the National Christian Church Conference which shall be directly related administratively to the International Convention of Christian Churches and shall meet for purposes of provided a forum for the discussion of pertinent issues related to Negro life in the context of the total church life; fellowship; program promotion; leadership training; and such other general purposes as shall support and strengthen the congregations involved in the total mission of the church.
 - a. The last meeting of the National Christian Missionary Convention as the National Christian Missionary Convention shall be its Assembly in 1969;
 - b. The first biennial meeting of the National Christian Church Conference shall be held in 1970 and on even-numbered years thereafter;
 - c. The National Christian Church Conference shall have a "Board of the Conference" whose members shall be nominated upon mutual agreement of the National Christian Church Conference and the administration of the International Convention and elected by the International Convention Assembly. The size, distribution and terms of office shall also be determined

by mutual agreement. The Board of Conference shall function as the trustees of the corporation as provided in the constitution of the National Christian Missionary Convention;

4. That, with the mutual agreement of the National Christian Church Conference and the United Christian Missionary Society, the International Convention shall employ an Administrative Secretary with executive portfolio, whose responsibilities shall include:
 - a. Serving as Administrative Secretary of the National Christian Church Conference;
 - b. Bearing national administrative responsibility for developing consultations with state/area (region) structures, programs and services be effective to Negro congregations in each state/area (region);
 - c. Relating to program and services through the division of church life and work of the United Christian Missionary Society.
5. That the Christian Church and its agencies be responsible for the service, promotion and development of the total program for all congregations, using procedures and practices in employment, appointments and elections which effectively includes Negroes and other racial minorities; and the National Christian Church Conference and Negro congregations be responsible for full participation in the Christian Church, including support through Unified Promotion and representation in the various assemblies of the Christian Church;
6. That an appropriate committee be established to study the resources of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the resources of the United Christian Missionary Society presently used for work of the National Christian Missionary Convention to establish a mutual agreement between the National Christian Church Conference, the International Convention, and the United Christian Missionary Society as the use and transfer of resources;
7. That the following steps be taken in implementation of the above recommendations –

June 1968	Proposed document submitted to UCMS Board of Trustees and ICCC Board of Directors;
July 1968	Submission of “contingent” resolution to Kansas City Assembly of the International Convention;
August 19, 1968	Meeting of the National Board of the NCMC for final study and preparation of final recommendation to NCMC as to proposed merger;

August 20-25, 1968	52 nd Annual Assembly, National Christian Missionary Convention at Jarvis Christian College; Vote by NCMC on proposed merger;
September 1968	Presentation to ICCC of the NCMC action; and enabling action by ICCC on proposed merger;
November 1968	Action by UCMS Board of Trustees
February 1969	Trustees of NCMC meet to provide recommendations for the development of the National Christian Church Conference;
August 1970	First of the biennial meetings of the National Christian Church Conference.

Respectfully submitted:

Joint Committee on Merger and New Brotherhood Relationships: Kenneth L. Teegarden, Indianapolis, Ind.; S. S. Myers, Kansas City, Mo.; Kenneth A. Kuntz, Indianapolis, Ind.; James Griggsby, Hannibal, Mo.; Mrs. Bernice Holmes, Oklahoma City, Okla.; A. C. Stone, Cincinnati, Ohio; Melvin Dickson, Dallas, Tex.; R. H. Peoples, Indianapolis, Ind.; R. L. Saunders, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mrs. Mary M. Dale, Indianapolis, Ind.; Everett H. Kussmann, Kansas City, Kan.; Mrs. Joseph M. Smith, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mrs. Riley Gaines, Philadelphia, Pa.; Howard E. Dentler, Indianapolis, Ind.; James F. Whitehead, Jr., Athens, Ga; Emmett J. Dickson, Indianapolis, Ind.

The Committee on Recommendations moved approval of Resolution No. 44 as amended.

Action: VOTED approval by the Convention Assembly of the Committee's recommendation to approve as amended.