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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE JOURNEY

Any journey must begin with an assessment of where you have been. The following is a brief historical sketch of the development and ministries of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The African American Convention movement was established as early as 1830 in "free" states as the secular adjunct of African American congregations as a means of coordinating opposition to slavery, forced relocation of free African Americans in Africa and a multitude of social ills. The development of collective strategies to affect the well being of "freed" African Americans after the close of the Civil War (1865) was so great that most of the present organized work of the African American congregations within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was developed by that first generation of former slaves.

Southern District of Churches of Christ, (D.O.C.).....	1867
National Convention of Disciples (Colored) Rufus Conrad, founder.....	1867
South Carolina Christian Missionary Convention	1871
Western District of Churches of Christ, (D.O.C).....	1872
Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention.....	1872
Alabama Christian Missionary Convention.....	1880
Texas Christian Missionary Convention.....	1881
Goldsboro-Raleigh Assembly Goldsboro, (West of Tarr River)	1882
Piedmont Tri-State District Convention	1882
Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention	1887
Western District of Churches of Christ, (D.O.C.).....	1892
Washington and Norfolk District of Churches of Christ, (D.O.C.) (East of Tarr River).....	1910

The American Christian Missionary Society supported African American evangelists and employed Preston Taylor as "National Evangelist" during the closing decade of the 19th century. The ACMS asked the Christian Women's Board of Mission to take over the work in 1900. The CWBM continued that support through the next two decades. On July 1, 1914 the CWBM employed Rosa Brown to minister among the women and on Oct. 1, 1914 the Bible School Department of the ACMS employed P.H. Moss to serve the Bible schools.

Two calls went out in 1917 to organize a National Convention--Preston Taylor sent out a call from Nashville, Tenn. in September and William Alphin sent out a call in October in connection with the International Convention of the Christian Churches which was being held in Kansas City. The people rallied to the call of Preston Taylor and in September, 1917 the National Christian Missionary Convention was formed with Anna R. Atwater of the CWBM, Robert M. Hopkins of the ACMS, Stephen J. Corey of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society and J.B. Lehman of the CWBM were present at the organizing meeting. A delegation from the newly formed NCMC were present at the October 1917 meeting of the International Convention which voted approval of NCMC as an auxiliary of the International Convention

The 1942 NCMC Constitution stated its purpose as follows:

*"...to **co-operate** in the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to promote the cause of evangelism, to foster and maintain a program of Christian Education among the Christian Churches of the Brotherhood, to perform such general supervisory functions as the best interest the work may require, and to co-operate with the International Convention, the United Christian Missionary Society, and other Brotherhood agencies, Boards, or movements for the furthering the world program of the Brotherhood, and any other religious movement the Brotherhood chooses to work with."*

After eight years as the National Field Worker, R.H. Peoples resigned in 1943 with a challenge to NCMC which he later articulated as the President of NCMC in 1955 as "Proposed Plans for Merging the National Christian Missionary Convention with the International Convention of Disciples of Christ and the United Christian Missionary Society." The basic concept developed was the merging of the services and work of the NCMC with the International Convention and the UCMS.

The merger was finalized in 1960 and called upon the ministries of the whole church to serve the whole church. Three former NCMC staff persons became staff of UCMS. They held positions in Evangelism, Christian Education and Christian Women's Fellowship. Concern was expressed that "Jim Crowism" of the former NCMC staff not be operational through calling upon all of the UCMS staff to serve the whole church.

R. H. Peoples' vision of Merging the National Christian Missionary Convention with the International Convention of Disciples of Christ and the United Christian Missionary Society continued in the development of the "Design for Renewal and Growth" in 1962. This "Design" was the result of the work of the most creative African American Disciple minds and clearly focused the need for one church serving all of the church.

In 1969 the International Convention of the Christian Churches adopted "Principles for Merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)" that formalized the 26 years of visioning and strategy. The opening paragraphs of the resolution state the strategy well.

"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.

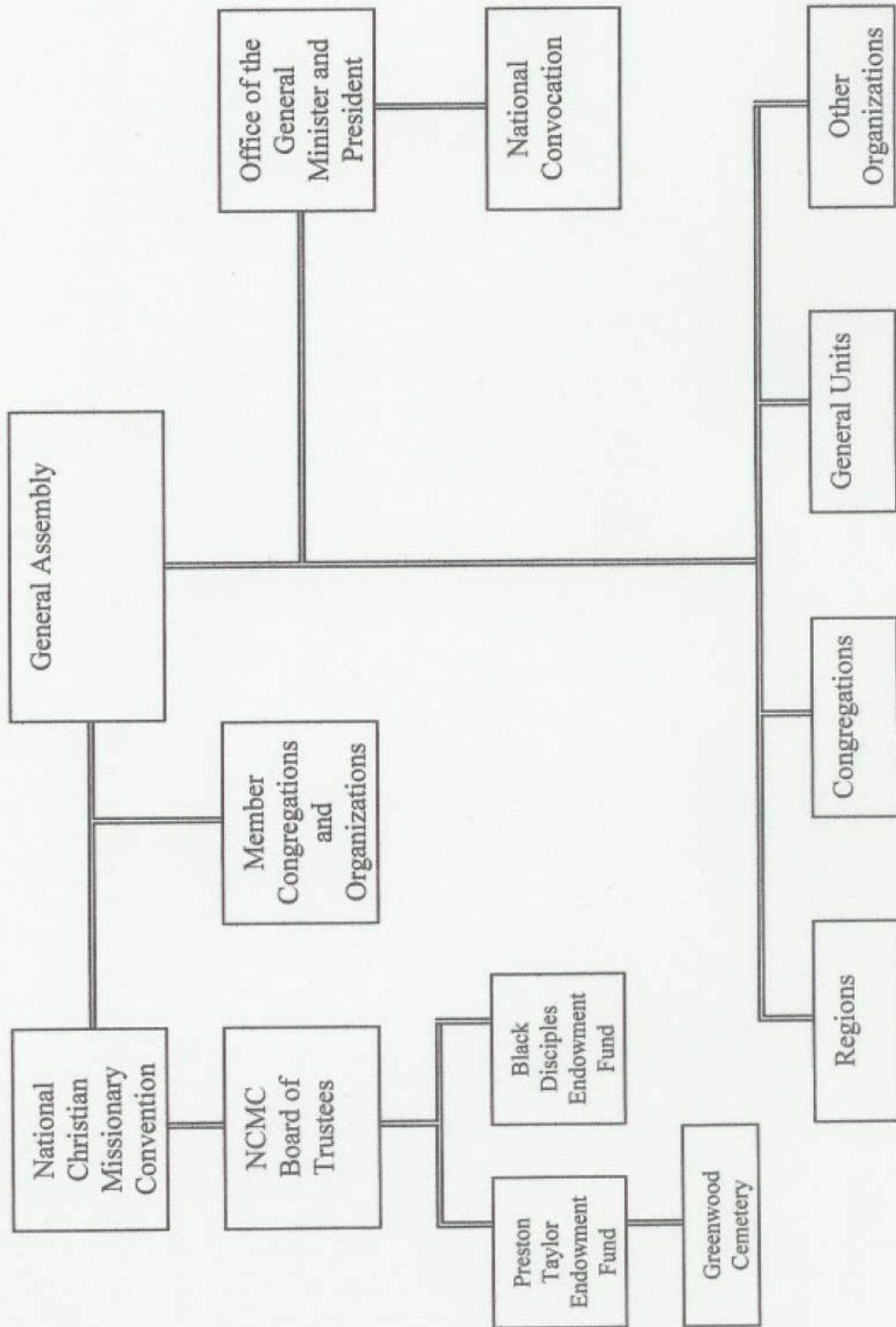
The total responsibility and witness of the Church, including the concerns outlined by the Committee on Program and Structure of the National Christian Missionary Convention in its report on "Design for Renewal and Growth," is the object of the proposed merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention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

The National Convocation was called into being as a result of the adoption and implementation of these principles and stated its purpose in its "Articles of Operation" as: follows.

*...to provide **an instrumentality within the structure** of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a forum for the discussion of pertinent issues related to black church life in the context of total church life, for 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.*

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION



WILL OF PRESTON TAYLOR

I, Preston Taylor, of Nashville, Tennessee, being of sound mind and disposing memory do hereby make and publish this, my last will and testament, hereby revoke any and all other wills heretofore by me at any time made.

ITEM I. I nominate and appoint my devoted wife, Ida Taylor, the executer of this my will, and request that she be allowed to act as such without being- required to give bond.

ITEM II. I direct my executer as soon after my death as convenient to pay out of the first monies that shall come into her hands all of my just debts.

ITEM III. I hereby give and devise to my beloved daughter, Mrs. Hattie Tyree, now of Washington, D. C. a lot of land in North Nashville, Tennessee, on which is situated two dwelling houses, one fronting on Jo Johnson Avenue, the same being city number 1310, and the other on the rear of the lot facing on Milson Avenue. Said gift to her is in fee, for her own separate use, free from the contracts and liabilities of her present husband, or any future husband she may have.

My said daughter has purchased a house and lot in Chicago, Illinois, on which she still owes a considerable sum, perhaps \$1000. It is my intention to advance to my daughter in the near future, a sufficient sum to pay off the debt or encumbrance, but if I fail to do so before my death, I direct that my executer pay said encumbrance in full and have the proper release executed.

ITEM IV. I give and bequeath to my wife, Ida D. Taylor the proceeds of all of my life insurance policies; all cash on hand, and I also give to her absolutely all of the personal property in our home on the Lebanon Pike, including household goods, pictures and silverware. I also give to her the family automobile, live stock and all other personal property used immediately in and about our home.

ITEM V. All the rest and residue of my property, personal, real and mixed, wherever situated, I give, bequeath and devise to my wife, Ida D. Taylor in trust for her life, with remainder in fee to the "National Christian Missionary Convention", a corporation organized and existing under the Laws of the State of Tennessee under the following limitations, terms and conditions:

(a) The Trustee after my death is to carry on the undertaking Business of Taylor & Company, now situated at 449 Fourth Avenue North, in Nashville, Tennessee, as long as the same is profitable, and if the same should become unprofitable, sell the same to the best advantage and turn over the proceeds to the National Christian Missionary Convention.

(b) The Trustee is also to operate Greenwood Park, a pleasure and Recreation Park for colored people, as she and I have been doing in the past.

(c) The Trustee is to have charge of the Cemetery situated on my property on the Elm Hill Pike adjoining the Park and to sell plots of ground for burial purposes as in the past.

It is my desire that the Trustee maintain Greenwood Park for the pleasure and recreation of colored people and that the Cemetery be maintained and kept in a refined and descent condition for the burial of colored people.

Out of the proceeds of the operation of the Undertaking Establishment, Greenwood Park and the Cemetery, all expenses are to be paid, including a charge of \$100. per month to my wife for her services in operating the business, the balance to be paid to the National Christian Missionary Convention for the purposes hereinafter set out.

ITEM VI. I have been a Minister of the Christian Church for fifty six years and am very much interested in the Christian education and training of young colored people, the missionary enterprises of my Church, and the preaching of the Gospel at home and in foreign lands. I give and bequeath to the National Christian Missionary Convention, my library, containing many excellent books on theological subjects, and hope it may be placed in some school or college under the control of said religious corporation.

My wife and my daughter are in comfortable circumstances and are not dependent upon my bounty and both are in sympathy with my life work, and in the education and training of Christian teachers and missionaries.

A corporation known as "National Christian Missionary Convention's is now being chartered and organized in Tennessee, (my wife and I being two of the nine incorporators), for the purpose of promoting religious education and benevolence at home and abroad, and for the purpose of cooperation with other like organizations of the Disciples of Christ in educating and maintaining teachers and missionaries, and in promoting the preaching of the gospel. The rents and profits from my property after all expenses and charges are paid are to be paid over once per year to the Treasurer of the National Christian Missionary Convention to be used by it in carrying on the work provided in the charter.

At the death of my wife, all of the above property given to her in trust is to be and become the property of the said National Christian Missionary Convention, to be used by it for the purposes set out in its charter. I hope the National Christian Missionary Convention in its work and activities may continue to cooperate with the United Christian Missionary Society, a like organization among the white people of the Disciples of Christ with headquarters at St. Louis, but if it should fail to accept my bequests, or if after accepting same it should refuse or fail to carry on the work designated in its charter, then said property herein given to it is to be and become the property in fee of the United Christian Missionary Society to be used by it for the benefit of colored people, in the manner designated in this will and in the charter of the National Christian Missionary Convention.

It is my desire that the National Christian Missionary Convention after my death, if it meets with the approval of my wife, establish a school or college in Greenwood Park for the education and training

of young men for the Christian Ministry and also for the training of both men and women for Christian leadership and for missionary work at home and abroad, however I leave this matter entirely to the wisdom and discretion of my wife and the Board of Directors of the National Christian Missionary Convention. I realize that it will require a greater income than can be realized from my estate to build, equip and maintain such a school or college; but if the additional funds can be raised by said corporation, then if the matter is undertaken in the life time of my wife, and if she consent, any and all of my property, herein given to her in trust may be sold and the proceeds used for the purpose of building and carrying on said school or college, except \$100.00 per month to be reserved and paid to my wife as provided in Item V. of my will.

ITEM VII. In the event my wife should remarry the \$100.00 monthly payment shall cease and all the property here left her in trust is to be and become the property of the said National Christian Missionary Convention to be used according to the terms of its charter.

ITEM VIII. In the event that either my daughter or my wife should contest my will in the courts then the bequests identified for them shall be forfeited and the same is to be given wholly and absolutely to the National Christian Missionary Convention.

Witness my hand and seal this 29 day of July 1925.

Preston Taylor

We the undersigned at the- request of the testator subscribe our names as witnesses in his presence and in the presence of each other:

P. D. Houstont

J. T. Howell

V. J. Alexander

50
742 Paro...
Ran...

State of Tennessee



Com. Secy. #1
D. 11/16/47
V. Secy. [Signature]
Exp. Secy. [Signature]

Department of State

I, Joe C. Carr, Secretary of State of the State of Tennessee, hereby certify that the annexed is a true and correct copy of the Charter of Incorporation of the

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION recorded in this office on September 9th, 1925 in Charter Book 0-9, page 263.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed my signature and the Great Seal of the State, at Nashville, Tennessee, this 23rd day of January, 1947, year of our Lord nineteen hundred 47

[Signature]
Secretary of State

STATE OF TENNESSEE

Charter of Incorporation

Be it Known, That Preston Taylor, Ida D. Taylor, Henry L. Herod, W. H. Dickerson, P. H. Moss, C. W. Smith, J. E. Walker, J. N. Ervin and William Alphin, all over the age of 21 years, are hereby created a body politic and corporate by the name and style of "NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION" under subsection 1 of Section 2513 of Shannon's Code of the State of Tennessee, which provides for the support of public worship, the building and maintenance of churches, parsonages, schools, hospitals, chapels and such other religious educational or benevolent institutions as may be necessary or proper to the work of missionary bodies in the United States, or in any foreign country, and the maintenance of all missionary undertakings.

The particular purposes for which this charter is sought are: to promote religious education and benevolence at home and abroad, to co-operate with other like organizations of the disciples of Christ in educating and maintaining teachers and missionaries and to promote the preaching of the gospel in America and in foreign lands.

The general powers of said corporation shall be, to sue and be sued by the corporate name; to have and use a common seal, which it may alter at pleasure; if no common seal, then the signature of the name of the corporation by any duly authorized officer shall be legal and binding; to purchase and hold or receive by gift, bequest or devise, in addition to the personal property owned by said corporation, real estate necessary for the transaction of the corporate business, and also to purchase or accept any real estate in payment or in part payment of any debt due to the corporation, and sell the same; to establish by-laws, and make all rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws and Constitution deemed expedient for the management of corporate affairs, and to appoint such subordinate officers and agents in addition to a President and Secretary or Treasurer, as the business of the corporation may require, designate the name of the office and fix the compensation of the officer.

The said five or more incorporators shall, within a convenient time after the registration of this charter in the office of the Secretary of State, elect from their number a President, Secretary and Treasurer or the last two officers may be combined into one; said officers and the other incorporators to constitute the first Board of Directors. In all elections each member to be entitled to one vote, either in person or by proxy, and the result to be determined by a majority of the votes cast. Due notice of any election must be given by advertisement in a newspaper, personal notice to the members, or a day stated on the minutes of the Board six months preceding the election. The Board of Directors shall keep a record of all their proceedings, which shall be at all times subject to the inspection of any member. The Corporation may establish branches in any other county in the State.

The Board of Directors may have the power to increase the number of Directors from seven to ten, if they deem the interest of the corporation requires such increase. And the first or any subsequent Board of Directors may have the power to elect other members, who, on acceptance of membership, shall become corporators equally with the original corporators. The Board of Directors shall have the right to determine what amount of money paid into the treasury shall be a prerequisite for membership, or, if necessary, what amount shall be thus annually paid, and failure thus to pay shall, in the discretion of the Directors, justify the expulsion of said defaulting member. The term of all officers may be fixed by the by-laws, the said term not, however, to exceed three years. All officers held over until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

The general welfare of society, not individual profit, is the object for which this charter is granted, and hence the members are not stockholders in the legal sense of the term, and no dividends or profits shall be divided among the members. The members may at any time voluntarily dissolve the corporation by a conveyance of its assets and property to any other corporation holding a charter from the State for the purposes not of individual profit, first providing for corporate debts.

A violation of any of the provisions of this charter shall subject the corporation to dissolution at the instance of the State.

This charter is subject to modification or amendment; and in case said modification or amendment is not accepted, corporate business is to cease, and the assets and property, after payment of debts, are to be conveyed, as aforesaid, to some other corporation holding a charter for purposes not connected with individual profit. Acquiescence in any modification thus declared shall be determined in a meeting specially called for that purpose, and only those voting in favor of the modification shall thereafter compose the corporation.

The means, assets, income or other property of the corporation shall not be employed directly or indirectly for any other purpose whatever than to accomplish the legitimate objects of its creation, and by no implication shall it possess the power to issue notes or currency, deal in currency, notes or coin, buy or sell products, or engage in any kind of trading operation, nor hold any more real estate than is necessary for legitimate purposes.

Expulsion shall be the only remedy for the nonpayment of dues by the members, and there shall be no individual liability against the members for corporate debts, but the entire corporate property shall be liable for the claims of creditors.

We, the undersigned, apply to the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the laws of the land, for a Charter of Incorporation for the purposes and with the powers, etc., declared in the foregoing instrument.

This 8 day of Sept. 1925

	Preston Taylor
	Ida D. Taylor
	Henry L. Herod
	W. H. Dickerson
	P. H. Moss
Witness to signatures:	C. W. Smith
Preston Taylor	J. E. Walker
	J. N. Ervin
	William Alphin

State of Tennessee



Department of State

I Joe C. Carr, Secretary of State of the State of Tennessee, do hereby certify that the annexed Instrument with Certificate of Acknowledgment was filed in my office, and recorded on the 14th day of December 1943 in Corporation Record Book P-31 page 30.

In Testimony Whereof, I have herewith subscribed my Official Signature, and by order of the Governor, affixed the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee, at the Department, in the City of Nashville, this 14th day of



December

A.D. 1943

Joe C. Carr

Secretary of State

AMENDMENT TO CHARTER OF INCORPORATION

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of National Christian Missionary Convention, a non-profit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee, duly held in *Detroit, Michigan*, on the *21st* day of *August*, 1948, the following resolution was adopted, and its advisability declared. Said resolution is as follows, to wit:

"WHEREAS, the National Christian Missionary Convention Disciples of Christ, a governing body or convention of the religious denomination known and designated as Disciples of Christ or Christians, duly and lawfully adopted a Constitution and By-Laws on the *23rd* day of August, 1947, to become operative and effective on the *23rd* day of August, 1948; and,

"WHEREAS, said Constitution provides for an incorporated Board of Trustees consisting of twenty-seven (27) members, to be elected by the National Board of the said Convention from the members of said National Board in the manner set forth in Article IV, Sections 3 and 4, and Article V, Section 1, Subsections (a) and (b) thereof; and,

"WHEREAS, said Constitution further provides in said Article V, Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 thereof, for the powers and functions of said incorporated Board of Trustees, and further provision is made with reference to said Board of Trustees in the aforesaid By-Laws adopted by said Convention;

"NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the National Christian Missionary Convention, a non-profit corporation, that the charter of incorporation heretofore granted to said corporation by and under the laws of the State of Tennessee, and duly recorded on September 9, 1925, in Charter Book O-9, page 263, of the records of the Secretary of State of the State of Tennessee, should be amended to conform to the said Constitution and By-Laws adopted by the National Christian Missionary Convention Disciples of Christ, as aforesaid; and accordingly, be it further resolved, by said Board of Directors, that said charter of said corporation be amended as follows, to wit:

MISSIONARY CONVENTION

R. Wesley Watson, President; W. H. Taylor, President-Elect
L. L. Dickerson, Secretary

Adopted at Kansas City, MO., August 23, 1942
Effected August 24, 1942

ARTICLE I - Name

This organization shall be called The National Christian Missionary Convention.

ARTICLE II - Membership

- Section 1. Membership shall consist of Individual Disciples of Christ eligible from Christian Churches, and Conventions of Christian Churches with the following agencies: Women's Missionary Societies or Councils, Church School Departments, Christian Endeavor Societies, Youth Fellowship and Laymen's Movement, or any agency the Convention chooses to elect for Membership.
- Section 2. This Convention shall reserve the right to refuse admittance or expel from Membership any Organization or individual whose professional practices or conduct is considered detrimental to or a reflection upon this Organization.

ARTICLE III - Object

It shall be the purpose of this Organization to co-operate in the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to promote the cause of evangelism, to foster and maintain a program of Christian Education among the Christian Churches of the Brotherhood, to perform such general supervisory functions as the best interest the work may require, and to co-operate with the International Convention, the United Christian Missionary Society, and other Brotherhood agencies, Boards, or movements for the furthering the world program of the Brotherhood, and any other religious movement the Brotherhood chooses to work with.

ARTICLE IV - Organization

- Section 1. The Officers of this Convention shall consist of a President, First and Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. These Officers shall be elected annually by the Convention.
- Section 2. Each Department shall elect its own Officials and make its own by-laws, providing such shall not conflict with the Convention and by-laws of this Convention. These departments shall be given adequate space on the Convention program, time enough to present their work and needs and hold their annual business session, this being determined by the program Committee.
- Section 3. Trustees: The Trustee board shall consist of nine members. The members of the board shall be elected by the Convention, for a period of three years, one third retiring each year. That the Trustee board shall organize itself by electing a chairman, secretary, and treasurer. The Trustee board shall hold title to all properties of the Convention, such as Scholarships, endowments, and bequests.

And may administer same by order of the Convention.

Section 4. The Board of the National Convention shall consist of 17 members, President and Secretary of Trustees, 9 elected members from the floor.

The term of the elected members shall be three (3) years, one third retiring each year; the remaining six will be the elected Officers; namely, the President of the Convention, the Secretary and Treasurer, the Presidents of the following agencies: Women's Missionary Society, President of the Church School, the President of the Christian Endeavor Society, Honorary members and Field workers.

Section 5. The Board shall meet at least four times annually. Once at the setting of the Convention, twice during the session, and again at the end of the session. The Board may meet upon the call of the Executive Committee, or the written request of seven members of the Board. nine shall constitute a quorum. The President of the Convention shall be chairman and the Board shall elect its own Secretary and three members of the Executive Committee.

This Board shall have full charge of all business, promotion and general supervision of the program of the Convention.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President of the Convention, Secretary of the Board, and Treasurer, Chairman of the trustee board, and three elected members from the board. The said members being named by the National Board. The Executive Committee shall be vested with power to act for the board between sessions of the board.

Section 7. The National Board shall have power to establish such commissions or Committees as shall be necessary for the work of the Convention. It shall be the function of a commission or committee to give special study and direction to the particular phase of the National Convention program for which it is responsible. The necessary expense of the commission or committee shall be provided by the board. The chairman of the commission shall be an associate member of the board and the life of the commission shall be one year.

Section 8. All officers and employees of the Convention who in pursuit of their duties are required to handle funds of the Convention shall be bonded for an amount fixed by the National Board.

Section 9. The membership of the recommendation committee shall consist of five members of the National Board, appointed by the board, Presidents or Representative of State Conventions, that person being determined by the National Board.

Section 10. Each department shall share in the financial maintenance of the Convention and promotion of the Convention. The financial quota of each department shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 11. The program Committee shall consist of the President of the Convention, the Presidents of the Departments of the Convention, Field Secretaries, and the Pastor of the entertaining Church. The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed by the President of the Convention.

Section 12. Headquarters: The headquarters shall be Nashville, Tennessee, but the National Board can designate and maintain a temporary office of their own choosing and all funds of the Convention shall be received through the office and properly received from it.

ARTICLE V -Convention

Section 1. The Annual Convention of the National Christian Missionary Convention shall convene the Wednesday morning before the fourth Sunday in August, and close the following Tuesday. The National Board shall appoint a Committee on Nomination of Officers. The members shall be nine; four from the National Board and five from the floor of the Convention. The National Board shall submit to the Annual Convention a complete certified financial report covering the previous year; a report of the work undertaken during the previous year and its achievements and a statement of purpose for future activities.

Section 2. The National Board shall employ an Executive Secretary of the Convention and all other workers employed by the board shall work under the direction of the Executive Secretary. The said board shall build a budget and recommend same to the National Convention to be administered by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII -Inter Agency

Section 1. The Inter Agency Council shall be a bi-racial Committee. The Negro membership of the committee shall be three members elected by the Convention, President of the Convention, President of the Women's Missionary Department, Bible School Department, and Christian Endeavor.

They shall serve a term of three years, one third retiring each year. The White members of the Committee shall be left to the cooperating Boards and Agencies. The duties of this Council shall be: to serve in an advisory capacity and make recommendations to the National Convention Board and Brotherhood Agencies.

ARTICLE VIII

The Convention shall have the right to purchase, hold or dispose of property, real and personal, and to publish a Religious Journal or some other medium of information.

ARTICLE IX - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any regular session of the Convention by a two-third majority vote of members present and voting, providing notice of such amendment has been given to the Secretary in writing in time to be read in, at least three business periods of the Convention before action is taken. Said amendment to become effective one year after adoption, or at the next annual Convention. (Roberts Rules of Order will be used as our parliamentary procedure.)

ARTICLE X

All other Rules, Regulations, Recommendations, or Resolutions in conflict with any provision of this Constitution or By Laws as revised and adopted this 21st day of August 1942, are hereby revoked and annulled.

ARTICLE XI

BY-LAWS

1. Each Delegate, Representative, or member of the National Convention shall pay a registration fee of \$2.00 to be divided as follows: 50% to the Church, 25% to the W. M. S., and 12% to B. S. and Y. P. each.
2. Each State or District Convention shall represent with \$10.00/
3. Each Church in a State or District when there is no organized Convention shall represent with \$5.00, provided there is no more than 2 such Churches from any one district or State. Where there are more than 2 Churches in any one State or district that is unorganized, the representation fee shall be \$3.00.
4. Each Delegate, Representative or member of this Convention shall be entitled to one vote on all questions before the Convention.
5. The Convention may or may not pay its Secretaries and Treasurers for services rendered.
6. The Convention may or may not pay the traveling expenses of any or all of its officials.
7. The question of traveling expenses and payment for services rendered shall be determined by the National Board.
8. The President shall be allowed an honorarium of not less than \$50.00.
9. The cost of local entertainment shall be left to the local Church entertaining the Convention and the Executive Committee.
10. The Publication Committee shall be appointed by the National Board.
11. These by-laws may change at any regular session of the Convention by a majority vote.
12. No member of this Convention shall be elected to office, whose local Church does not support the National Program financially and otherwise.
13. All finance of this Convention and its Departments shall be collected or received by duly elected officers, and no disbursements shall be made of any funds without the approval of the National Board of the Convention, or if during recess, by the Executive Committee.

COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF CONSTITUTION

Elder L. L. Dickerson, Kentucky, Chairman
Prof. I. Q. Hurdle, Texas, Secretary
Elder R. Wesley Watson, Missouri, Pres.
Elder W. H. Taylor, Maryland, Pres.-Elect

MINUTES
DHM/NCC STAFF AND SERVICES MEETING
ARNOLD. C. NELSON, JR. AND JOHN RICHARD FOULKES, SR.
MARCH 25, 2003

The Task:

Events and meetings that preceded our time together focused on issues of identification, preparation, oversight and evaluation of DHM staff by virtue of the 1960 merger agreements between the National Christian Missionary Convention as well as establishing systems of forum accountability and reporting to the church regarding the stewardship of the intent of those agreements. Our charge was to work through the most effective way of implementing the above.

Review of the 1957 - 1958 reports of the Commission on Merger of Program and Services of the National Christian Missionary Convention revealed that the issues that we have been charged to resolve were present in those initial developments of the relationship and have never been systematically resolved beyond the trust in systems administrators to fulfill the intents in the relational operations. It was of particular interest to read the 1958 report where the issue was identified and the accompanying commentary on its resolution.

II. The second problem is staff assignment within the United Christian Missionary Society so as to guarantee service to Negro churches. If the Convention staff were taken in as special Negro workers to work primarily with Negro churches, this will set up a type of "Jimcrowism." On the other hand, if the United Christian Missionary Society accepts the responsibility for services to all churches (including Negro) but does not assign any persons the direct responsibility, the Negro congregation may be deprived of even those services the National Convention has provided.

Discussion On Merger of Program And Services

(5) The problems namely the dilemma of the general portfolio, improper services, the Jimcrowism of the staff. It should not give us too much difficulty, but we must live with the reality of the situation. I think the principle should be very clear – the staff come in on a base of complete equality. The staff members would come as members of the staff. Just as we sign our staff members to work in Illinois, Florida or rural areas, we would do the very practical thing for the staff which would come in. For instance, for a period of time you would do so many churches; two things would happen – because of the integrated nature of the staff, those persons would be involved in the program and the white members would be rendering more services to the Negro churches. We would not want to touch it with a 40 foot pole, unless our total interest of the Negro churches could be in the program. We have been rather, because we felt that the initiative should come from the Convention. I do think we must sit down and count the cost of the Merger.

It is clear that the intent was that UCMS staff serve the whole church and that the former NCMC staff become equal members of UCMS staff with responsibility for serving the whole church. It was in this availability of all of UCMS to all the churches that the "Negro" churches would receive greater service. The sociology of the era made it so evident that it didn't need to be stated that

White¹ staff would need to create open doors for Black² staff in white environments and that black staff would need to do the same for White staff in Black environments but that the goal was to image service to the church through all of the gifts of UCMS regardless of the color of the servant.

The April, 1995 design of the DHM by virtue of merger adopted by the Board of Trustees of the National Convocation identified basic operational and relational principals but did not address the issues of identification, preparation, oversight, evaluation, forum accountability and reporting.

UCMS designated its staff by executive assignments rather than job descriptions enabling the adjustment of staff assignments to ministry needs. Emmett Dickson, the Executive Secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention, continued throughout his tenure to give guidance to the merger staff although they were employed and fully supervised by UCMS. There were at least eight principles that guided the merger staff's work. They were:

- " Facilitation of the development and implementation of the annual meetings of NCMC and latter the biennial session of the National Convocation;
- " Facilitating congregational program development through presentation of proven programs developed by UCMS or the enhancement of programs developed within the congregation.
- " Facilitating leader development in congregations as well as annual state and regional conventions;
- " Facilitating of the development and implementation of annual meetings of State and regional Conventions;
- " Conducting workshops and seminars at annual meetings of State and regional Conventions;
- " Facilitating networking among African American Disciples with like interests and gifts;
- " Facilitating the development of viable congregational operational procedures;
- " Facilitating effective stewardship for local, regional/state and general church work.

The reputation and operation of the initial set of merger staff persons caused their ministry to be more by intervention rather than invitation. There are numerous accounts of Emmett Dickson informing a convention or congregation that he was coming.

Oversight and Governance:

UCMS staff as well as DHM staff are employed, assigned, administered, managed, evaluated, disciplined and released by action of the UCMS or DHM president. The charge before us is to construct a system of partnership that facilitates all of the above but at the same time, does not assume all of the above. More specifically:

- X How does the president of DHM fulfill that role and at the same time exhibit faithful stewardship to the National Convocation regarding the vision of the 1960 Merger and
- X How does the Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation fulfill the role of "Bearing national administrative responsibility for developing consultations with states/areas to the end that state/area structures, programs and services be effective to Negro

¹ "White" will be used in this document to refer to American immigrants of Anglo and European decent.

² "Black" will be used in this document to refer to descendants of former African Slaves in the United States.

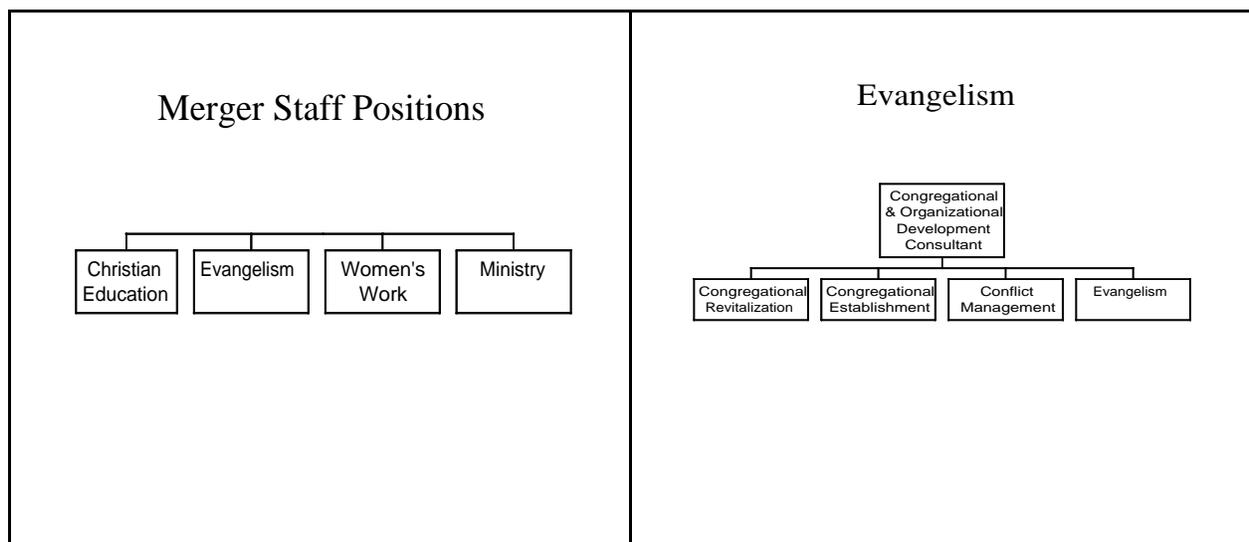
congregations in each state/area³ ...”.

The critical elements of such a system involves partnership in the design of portfolio, call of staff, development of goals, objectives, activities modes of measurement of portfolio assignments; evaluation; reporting and accountability. If the President of DHM and the Administrative Secretary carry the charge from each of their organizations the issue of checks and balances on their fulfillment of their roles becomes critical. Those checks and balances to their mutual executive leadership can be best achieved through participation in each other’s boards and evaluation processes. The President of DHM and the Administrative Secretary therefore need to report to each other’s board on their faithfulness to the stewardship of the 1960 vision. This mutual presence affords comment and criticism of the report to the governing board as well as mutual affirmation of faithfulness.

The president of DHM receives interim evaluations through DHM Board’s personnel committee and the Administrative Secretary is annually evaluated by the Executive Committee of the National Convocation with the General Minister and President giving leadership to that evaluation. The president of DHM should be an active partner of that evaluation as should the Administrative Secretary be an active partner in the president’s evaluation before DHM Board’s personnel committee.

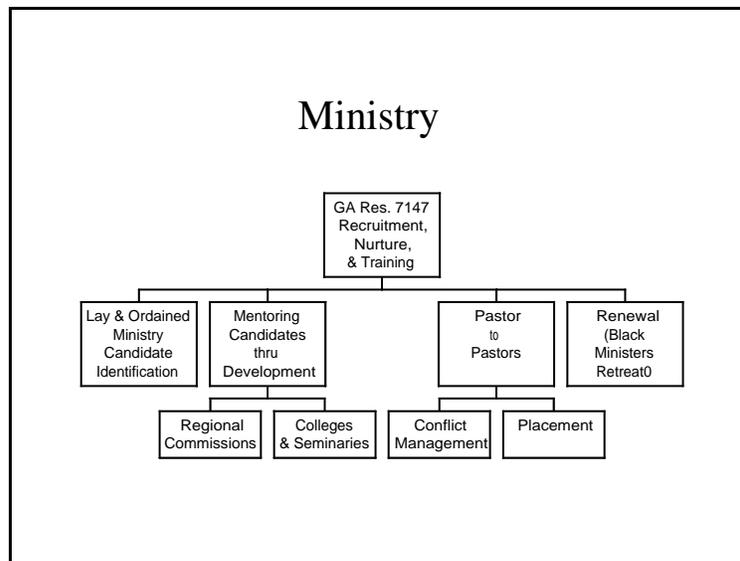
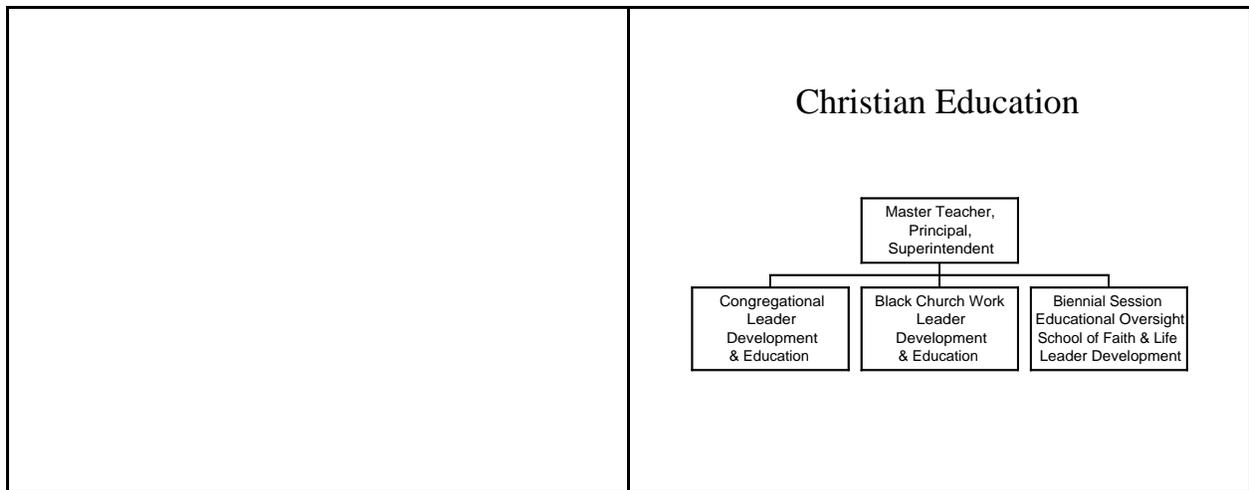
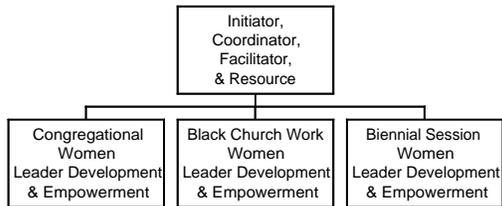
Position and Portfolio Foci:

The following diagrams identify position and portfolio foci growing out of analysis of historical documents as well as 1965, 1971, 1978 and present manifestations of a strategic plan.



³International Convention Resolution 6844.

Women's Work



Call:

The President of DHM and the Administrative Secretary would participate in the call of persons to the merger staff positions. Advertisements for all of the three positions will be published in April using the Executive Search process approved by the General Board. The search and call time line for the three positions will be:

POSITION	SEARCH	SELECT	CALL
EVANGELISM	April - May	June	July
DISCIPLES WOMEN	April - June	July	August
BLACK MINISTRY	April - July	August	September

Search Committees:

The following persons will compose the search committees.

EVANGELISM	DISCIPLES WOMEN	BLACK MINISTRY
Arnold Nelson	Arnold Nelson	Arnold Nelson
John Foulkes	John Foulkes	John Foulkes
Jane Lawrence	Adonna Bowman	Danny Thompson
William Lee	Ann Pickett	T. Garrott Benjamin
Lonna Owens	Constance Nealey	William Lee
Raymond E. Brown	Jane Lawrence	Cynthia Hale
	Lonna Owens	Jane Lawrence
	Raymond E. Brown	Lonna Owens
		Raymond E. Brown

Orientation, Oversight and Evaluation:

The Administrative Secretary will participate in the DHM work plan development with all staff by virtue of merger. Those work plans must include goals by position foci, objectives for the goals,

work plans for those objectives including progress time lines and means of evaluation. The Administrative Secretary will meet with staff by virtue of merger to identify progress and emerging issues related to the various foci. The Administrative Secretary will participate with the president in the evaluation of merger staff by virtue of merger. It is envisioned that the ongoing developmental and monitoring process will identify and correct any problem before it becomes serious. Should a problem become so serious that it warrants termination of the staff person, the Administrative Secretary should be consulted and should no resolve be identified, support the president in the call for termination.

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NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Revised: August, 1961

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be called the NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.

ARTICLE II: OBJECT

It shall be the purpose of this organization to co-operate in the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to promote the cause of evangelism, to foster and maintain a program of Christian Education, Missions, and Benevolence among the Christian Churches of the Brotherhood; to perform such general supervisory functions as the best interest the work may require; and to cooperate with the International Convention, The United Christian Missionary Society, Unified Promotion and other Brotherhood agencies and boards or movements for the furthering of the world program of the Church, and to work with other religious movements chosen by the Brotherhood.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

The Annual Assembly shall be composed of individual Disciples of Christ, eligible from Christian Churches, who shall attend and pay the enrollment fee, whether appointed by congregations or representing themselves only, or Conventions, or Agencies of Christian Churches with the following departments: Women's Missionary Organization, Christian Women's Fellowship, Councils, Church School Departments, Christian Endeavor, Christian Youth Fellowship, Laymen's Movement, and Christian Men's Fellowship, or any departmentalized work the Convention may accept for membership.

SECTION 2.

This Convention shall reserve the right to refuse admittance or expel from membership any Organization or individual whose professional practices or conduct is considered detrimental to or a reflection upon this organization.

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1.

The officers shall be a President, five Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, four Assistant Secretaries, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. These officers shall be elected annually by the Convention. All executive offices shall be opened to men and women.

SECTION 2.

The Board of The National. Convention shall consist of- forty-three members, the President of the Convention, five Vice-Presidents; Recording Secretary, and Treasurer of

the Convention; eleven representatives from the co-operating agencies and boards, and twenty-four members-at-large elected from the Convention. (United Christian Missionary Society, five; Board of Higher Education, one; Director of Unified Promotion, one; Board of Church Extension, one; National Benevolence Association, one; Pension Fund, one; and the Christian Board of Publication, one.) The term of members elected at large shall be three (3) years, one-third (1/3) of the terms expiring each year. No member having served a three-year (3) term shall be eligible for reelection to the Board until one (1) year, 12 calendar months, has expired.

SECTION 3.

The National Board shall hold its regular meetings at the setting of the Convention. The Board shall hear reports from the Trustees, employed staff members and workers of the Convention. The National Board shall elect from its membership a Board of Trustees consisting of twenty-two members with the Secretary of the Convention holding the office of Secretary for the National Board and for the Board of Trustees. The President of the Convention shall be the Chairman of the National Board and the Board of Trustees. The National Board shall meet at the call of the Chairman.

SECTION 4.

All policies and action of the National Board shall be subject to and conform with the will of the National Convention, and nothing in this Constitution or By-laws, or any other rules, regulations or resolutions shall deny or be so construed or interpreted as to deny to the National Convention complete control and authority over all Boards, Commissions, Committees and Trustees of the Convention or its agencies.

ARTICLE V: TRUSTEES

SECTION 1.

The Trustees shall be elected by the National Board from its membership at the closing session of its meeting at the Annual Session of the Convention. The President with the approval of the Board shall appoint at this session a nominating committee to nominate Trustees for the ensuing year.

(A) The corporate powers, property and affairs of this Corporation, subject of limitation contained in applicable laws or the Amended Articles of Incorporation, shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by the Board of Trustees, which shall consist of twenty-two members; President, First Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, eight elected representatives of the cooperating Agencies and ten members elected by the Board from among its remaining number; at least five members of the Board of Trustees shall be women. At least one member of the Board of Trustees shall be a citizen of the State of Tennessee. The term of office of the elected members shall be for one year and until successors are elected and qualified. Any vacancy in the elected members of the Board of Trustees, caused by death, resignation or other wise, shall be filled from the National Board by the remaining Trustees.

(B) Any vacancy in the office of the President or Vice-President of the Convention, caused by death, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by the Board of Trustees until

the next annual meeting of the Convention.

SECTION 2.

The Trustees of the Convention. shall have the right to hold their regular or special meetings either within or without the state of Tennessee and shall have the power to determine the time and place thereof, and the notice to be given in connection therewith.

SECTION 3.

The power and authority to sell, lease., mortgage or dispose of any real estate or personal property, owned by this corporation is vested in its Trustees. Any deed, lease, mortgage or other disposition of real estate or personal property when authorized by the Board of Trustees and the Convention, shall be executed for and on behalf of this Convention and in its name by the President or First Vice-President and attested by the Secretary of the Corporation and the corporate seal affixed when required.

SECTION 4.

Ten Trustees shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 5.

The Board of Trustees shall adopt by-laws for its own government consistent with the Amended Articles of Incorporation this constitution and the applicable laws of the State of Tennessee.

ARTICLE VI: ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

The National Board shall have power by resolution or rules to establish the Administrative Headquarters of this Convention at a place other than the principle office of the Convention named in the Article of Incorporation.

The Board of Trustees shall have power through the enactment of By-Laws or otherwise to establish such administrative staff, department, committees and advisory commissions as in its judgement the work requires.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

SECTION 1.

The Officers shall be elected annually and the tenure of office for President and Vice-President shall not exceed two years in succession and no President or Vice-President shall succeed himself without one year intervening. This does not mean that these officers must serve two years before a change can be made. The Recording Secretary, Assistant Secretaries, Parliamentarian and Treasurer are not subject to this two years tenure of service. The election of officers shall be by members of the Convention in an Annual Session.

(A) All salaried officers shall be elected by the Board of Trustees and term of office fixed. at the time of election. If no term is fixed, such officers shall serve during the pleasure of the Board of Trustees.

(B) Any salaried officer may be relieved and removed by the Board of Trustees for cause deemed sufficient by the Trustees.

SECTION 2.

It shall be the duty of the President to perform such administrative functions as usually pertain to the chief officer of such an organization; to co-ordinate the various phases of the Convention, work; to sign all legal papers and documents requiring such signature; to preside at all regular and special meetings of the National Board and Trustees; to perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the National Convention, the National Board and the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 3.

It shall be the duty of the First Vice -President :in case of the absence or disability of the President to perform the duties of the President. The First Vice-President shall be Vice-President of all departments and shall counsel and advise on matters of general administration and shall perform such other functions that may be assigned in the By-Laws or by action of the Board of Trustees.

(A) The Second Vice-President of the Convention shall be the presiding officer of the Department of Missionary Organization-Education and Women's work; and shall perform such administrative functions as usually pertain to the chief officer of this department and such other functions that may be assigned by the By-Laws or by action of the Board of Trustees.

(B) The Third Vice-President of the Convention shall. be the presiding officer of the Department of Christian Education and Chairman of the Christian Education Commission; and shall perform such administrative functions as usually pertain to the chief officer of this department and such other functions that may be assigned in the By-Laws or by action of the Board of Trustees.

(C) The Fourth Vice President of the Convention shall be the presiding officer of the Department of Christian Youth Fellowship, shall be representative to the National CYF Commission; and shall perform such administrative functions as usually pertain to the chief officer of this department. and such other functions that may be assigned in the By-Laws or by action of the Board of Trustees.

(D) The Fifth Vice-President of the Convention shall be the presiding officer of the department of Christian Men's Fellowship and Men's work; and shall perform such administrative functions as usually pertain to the chief officer of this department, and such functions that may be assigned in the By-Laws or by action of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4.

The Recording Secretary of the Convention shall keep accurate minutes of the meetings of the Convention, National Board and Board of Trustees; shall enter the same in books

provided for that purpose; shall perform such other duties within the Convention as the Board of Trustees may direct and shall perform such duties within the Convention as assigned in the By-laws or by action of the Board of Trustees. The corporate seal of the Convention shall be in the custody of the Recording Secretary.

SECTION 5.

The secretaries of all departments shall be the Assistant Secretaries of the Convention and shall perform the duties within the Convention as pertains to such department, keeping records, minutes, and all proceedings of the department.

(A) The Secretary of the Department of Missionary Organization, Education and Women's work, who is one of the Assistant Secretaries, shall perform the duties of the Recording Secretary of the Convention in the absence or disability of the Secretary.

SECTION 6.

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the Convention and have custody of all monies and securities belonging to the Convention, holding same under such regulations and restrictions as the Bylaws and the Board of Trustees may impose; and shall perform such functions as usually pertain to the chief officer of this department.

(A) The Treasurer shall receive all money of the Convention and shall issue receipt for same. He shall keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements and of all other financial transactions connected with the Treasury of the Convention. He shall perform all functions required of him by law, by the Amended Articles of Incorporation of this Convention or by the Constitution of this Convention. The accounts of the Treasurer shall be examined annually by certified accountants selected by the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer shall report to the Board of Trustees the state of the funds and whenever called upon shall exhibit books, vouchers, and securities to the members of the Board of Trustees in session. The Treasurer shall honor all orders of the Board of Trustees on the treasury. He shall pay all bills within the appropriations. He shall keep all uninvested funds of the Convention on deposit in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Board of Trustees, in the name of the National Christian Missionary Convention, and subject to the order of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have custody of all monies and securities belonging to the Convention and shall have authority to buy and sell same upon approval of the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer shall make an annual report to the Convention. The Treasurer shall give bond in a responsible fidelity company in such amount as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary; the premium of such bond being paid by the Convention.

SECTION 7.

The duties of the Executive Secretary shall be those generally incumbent upon the Executive Secretary of a National Church organization; shall have charge of the office and each department of work of the Convention. He shall take his place with the secretaries of all cooperating agencies and boards in securing funds for our organized work. He shall give definite leadership to the committee, commissions, and other groups authorized by the Convention. He shall coordinate the work of all agencies and boards in

their relationship to the Convention. The Executive Secretary shall employ the office secretary and secretarial assistants with the approval of the Board of Trustees, as the work may require. He shall act under the direction of the Trustees, in carrying on the work of the Convention not otherwise provided for in the Constitution. The Executive Secretary shall satisfy such conditions or service as the Board of Trustees may impose.

ARTICLE VIII: ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

SECTION 1.

The Annual meeting of the Convention for the transaction of any and all business of the Convention that properly comes before the members of said Convention shall be held at such time and place, either within or without the State of Tennessee, as may be fixed each year by the Convention assembled, or by its Board of Trustees. Failure to hold such annual meeting at the designated time shall not work any forfeiture or dissolution of the Corporation, and the officers, Trustees and members of the National Board shall serve until the next meeting or until the next special meeting of the Convention, if any; that may be called as a deferred annual meeting.

(A) Special meetings of the Convention may be called on same notice as herein required for annual meeting when ordered by a resolution adopted by the board of trustees, as such time and place may be specified in such resolution.

(B) Seventy-five members shall constitute a quorum at either an annual or special meeting of the Convention.

ARTICLE IX: NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice of the Annual or special meeting of the Convention shall be given either by depositing in the United States mail a written or printed notice with legal postage affixed, or by the publication of said notice in some Brotherhood newspaper. The trustees and officers may give such further notice or information concerning such meeting in all or any of the weekly or monthly publications published by any organization or corporation in support of the work of the Disciples of Christ.

ARTICLE X: NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS – NATIONAL BOARD

Notice of the annual or special meetings of the National Board shall be given by United States mail through Brotherhood publications or public announcement at the Convention. Other special meetings of the National Board may be called by the Chairman of the Board on ten days written notice stating the time, place and general purpose of such meeting, or such meeting may be called on like notice by authority of the Board of Trustees. Notice of such meetings other than the meetings at the Annual Convention shall be given to each member of the National Board by the Secretary of the Convention.

ARTICLE XL: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any regular session of the Convention by a two-third majority vote of members present and voting provided such amendment shall first have been given to the Recording Secretary of the Convention in writing and read before the Convention at least three times before action is taken. Said amendment to become effective one year after adoption or at the next annual convention. (Roberts Rules of Order will govern our parliamentary procedure.)

ARTICLE XII:

All other rules, regulations, recommendations, or resolutions in conflict with any provision of this constitution or by-laws as revised and adopted this twenty-third day of August, 1947, are hereby revoked and annulled.

BY-LAWS

1. Administrative Headquarters

The Headquarters shall be Nashville, Tennessee and the Administrative office of this Convention shall be maintained in the Missions Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

2. Meetings of the Board of Trustees

Meetings of the Trustees may be fixed by the Trustees themselves or by the call of the Chairman. Notice of all meetings of the Trustees calling the time, place, and general purpose of the meeting shall be given to all members of the Trustees Board by mail or telegraph by the Executive Secretary of the Convention at least 5 days prior to the date fixed for the meeting.

3. Organization of the Board of Trustees

There shall be appointed annually by the chairman of the Trustees with the approval of the body the following committees:

- (1) Administrative and-Finance Committee, consisting of not more than nine members including President of the Convention as Chairman. The function of this committee shall be to make recommendations to the Trustees on Administration, finance, promotion, relationships and to act for the Trustees in emergencies.
- (2) Church Development and Evangelism – the function shall be to study and review the work of Church Development and Evangelism and to make recommendations to the Trustees on matters pertaining thereto.
- (3) Missionary Organizations and Education – the function shall be to study and review the work of Missionary Organization and Education and to make recommendations to the Trustees on matters pertaining thereto.

(4) Christian Education – the function shall be to study and review the work of Christian Education and to make recommendations to the Trustees on matters pertaining thereto.

(5) Committee on Management of Real and Personal Property – the function of the committee shall be to manage such real and personal property owned by the Convention and make recommendations to the Trustees on matters pertaining thereto.

4. BUDGET

At the beginning of each Convention year, the Board of Trustees shall cause to be formulated and shall adopt a budget covering the work of all officers and departments of the Convention.

The Treasurer shall not payout funds in excess of budget allowances as of any current date without approval of the Board of Trustees, except in case of emergency upon approval of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, not to exceed one hundred dollars.

(1) Upon the payment of \$5.00, each delegate, representative or member of this Convention shall be entitled to one vote on each question which comes before the Convention.

(2) The Convention may pay all the travel expenses of the President, Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and one-half of the travel expense of the parliamentarian and Assistant Secretaries to the Convention in session.

(3) No honorarium shall be paid except by the Board of Trustees.

(4) The cost of entertaining the Convention in the Annual Session shall be left to the local church and Board of Trustees. These arrangements must be made not later than the Fall meeting of the Board of Trustees.

No member of this Convention shall be elected to office who does not support the national and local program financially and otherwise.

(5) All finance of this Convention shall be collected or received by duly elected and appointed officers, and no disbursements shall be made of any funds without the approval of the National Board at the Convention, or if during recess, by the Board of Trustees.

(6) All officers and employees of the Convention who in pursuit of their duties are required to handle funds of the Convention, shall be bonded for an amount fixed by the Board of Trustees.

(7) The membership of the Recommendation Committee shall consist of four members of the National Board appointed by the Board, and four from each state or Convention area appointed by the Departments of the respective states or Convention areas, with four alternates so appointed. All unorganized states with one or more churches giving

financial support to the program of the Convention shall have representation on this committee. It shall be the function of this committee to receive, study, analyze, scrutinize and submit to the Convention in session all reports, recommendations, resolutions, and other business, with their approval or disapproval.

(8) The Program Committee shall consist of the President of the Convention, all Vice-Presidents, staff members, music director, presidents of fellowship groups, and the pastor of the entertaining church and a chairman appointed by the President of the Convention. The expense of members of fellowship groups shall be paid by the respective groups.

(9) The Nominating Committee of the Convention shall consist of eleven members, three from the National Board and, eight elected from the floor of the Convention. At least four shall be women.

(10) The National Board shall submit to the Annual National Convention a complete certified auditor's financial report covering the previous year August, 1 to July, 31 and its achievements and statement of purpose for future activities.

(11) The secretary and all assistant secretaries of the Convention shall constitute the committee on reports from all departments.

(12) These By-laws may be changed at any regular session of the Convention by a majority vote.

Resolution No. 6844

International Convention of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)

CONCERNING MERGER OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (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 1956 a committee of five representatives from each organization to explore possible 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 of 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 of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of the 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.

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 the 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 is affirmed.

2. That the legal integrity and the purpose of the National Christian Missionary Convention, Disciples of Christ, Inc., be preserved.
 - a) The trust fund of the National Christian Missionary Convention shall continue to be administered under the provisions of the original trusts which provide these funds for the work of the total 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 Convocation of the Christian Church which shall be directly related administratively to the International Convention of Christian Churches and shall meet for purposes of providing a forum for the discussion of pertinent issues related to Negro life in the context of the total church life, program promotion, leadership training, fellowship, 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 of 1969;
 - b) The first biennial meeting of the National Convocation of the Christian Church shall be held in 1970 and on even-numbered years thereafter;
 - c) The National Convocation of the Christian Church shall have a "Board of the Convocation" whose members shall be nominated upon mutual agreement of the National Convocation of the Christian Church 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 the Convocation 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 Convocation of the Christian Church and the United Christian Missionary Society, the International Convention shall employ an Administrative Secretary with an executive portfolio, whose responsibilities shall include:
 - a) Serving as Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church;

- b) Bearing national administrative responsibility for developing consultations with states/areas (regions) to the end that 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 that the National Convocation of the Christian Church and Negro congregations be responsible for full participation in the Christian Church, including support through United Promotion and representation in the various assemblies of the Christian Church.
6. That an appropriate committee be established to study the resources of National Christian Missionary Convention and the resources of the United Christian Missionary Society presently used for work of the National Convocation of the Christian Missionary Convention to establish a mutual agreement between the National Convocation of the Christian Church, the International Convention, and the United Christian Missionary Society as to use and transfer of resources.
7. That the following steps be taken in implementation of the above recommendations –

The Board of Trustees of the United Christian Missionary Society
Friday, August 8, 1969
Page 63 of those minutes found on page 472 of the UCMS minute book

In order to clarify the provisions in the merger document that “the legal integrity and the purposes of the National Christian Missionary Convention, Disciples of Christ, Inc. be preserved,” it is suggested that the following points be added to item 2 in the merger document:

- c) In addition, any money received from the sale of property owned by the National Christian Missionary Convention shall, after the payment of the necessary expenses and obligations, be added to present trust funds with only the income to be used in church operations;
- d) A Board of Trustees for the National Christian Missionary Convention Corporation shall be elected by the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) upon nomination by the National Convocation of the Christian Church to be comprised of sixteen (16) members, one of whom shall be a resident of the state of Tennessee. The sixteen (16) trustees shall include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation; the Executive Secretary of the Department of Evangelism and Membership, the President of the Division of Homeland Ministries; the General Minister and President; and eight (8) members at-large from the membership of the National Convocation.
- e) The President of the National Convocation shall preside over the Board of Trustees of the corporation and sign all documents as president of the corporation. The Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation shall be the Corporate Secretary, record the minutes of meetings of the trustees, and attest to the legal signatures of the corporation as instructed by the corporation;
- f) The corporate powers, property and affairs of the corporation, subject to limitations contained in applicable laws or the Amended Articles of Incorporation, shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by the Board of Trustees. The term of office for the eight (8) members-at-large on the Board of Trustees shall be four years with four elected each biennium. The officers of the National Convocation shall serve as trustees during their term as officers. Any vacancy in the elected members shall be filled by the remaining trustees.
- g) The trustees of the corporation shall have the right to hold their regular or special meetings either within or without of the State of Tennessee and shall have the power to determine the time and place thereof, and the notice to be given in connection therewith;
- h) The trustees of the corporation shall report to the General Assembly through the General Board. A meeting of the National Christian Missionary Convention Corporation may be called if needed, when the General Assembly is in session;
- i) The power and authority to receive and hold property and to sell, lease or dispose of any real estate or personal property owned by the National Christian Missionary Convention Corporation is vested in its trustees. Any deed, lease or other disposition of real estate or personal property when authorized by the Board of Trustees and the corporation shall be executed for and on behalf of the corporation and in its name by the president and attested by the secretary of the corporation and the corporate seal affixed when required.

ACTION NO.3
APPROVAL OF PROVISIONS TO PRESERVE THE LEGAL INTEGRITY OF THE
NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the document on merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) – (now the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)) – provided for the preservation of the legal integrity of the National Christian Missionary Convention corporation, but did not make the specific provisions for doing so, and

WHEREAS, the general office of the Christian Church was requested to proceed with the implementation of this provision,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the additions to item 2 of the merger document – paragraphs (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (i) be approved and made part of the original document, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That such provisions shall supersede existing provisions and be made a part of charter of incorporation.

Resolution 6938

**CONCERNING NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF
TRUSTEES FOR
THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION CORPORATION**

WHEREAS, the National Christian Missionary Convention is a corporation duly incorporated as a general welfare corporation under the laws of the State of Tennessee, its Charter of Incorporation being recorded on the 9th day of September, 1925, in Charter Book O-9, Page 263, in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, by amendment of said Chapter filed and recorded in said office of Secretary of State on November 19, 1948, in Charter Book P-31, Page 305, it is provided in part as follows:

That for the purpose of conducting the business of this corporation as an agency of the Disciples of Christ, the National Christian Missionary Convention, Disciples of Christ, is hereby given and shall have the power to determine or change the number of Board of Directors of Board of Trustees of the corporation, to be not more than fifty (50) nor less than five (5) in number, the terms of their offices and the manner of electing Trustees or Directors as their terms expire or vacancies occur, in accordance with sections 4177 and 4178 of the Code of the State of Tennessee. (Now Sections 48-1309 and 1310, Tennessee Code Annotated.)

"That hereafter the Board of Directors of this corporation shall be designated and referred to as the Board of Trustees, and the title of the office heretofore as Directors shall hereafter be termed Trustee"; and

WHEREAS, in the merger with the National Christian Missionary Convention the legal integrity of the National Christian Missionary Convention Corporation is being preserved, and the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), an unincorporated forum for the discussion of pertinent issues related to Negro church life is being established.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a corporation created under the laws of the State of Indiana, which is the general representative body of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a religious body, by which the National Christian Missionary Convention, a Tennessee corporation, and a unit of said religious body, is administered, that hereafter for the election of trustees to the Board of Trustees of National Christian Missionary Convention Corporation, and their successors in such office, the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), an unincorporated body of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), shall be authorized to nominate members for election to said Board of Trustees, which nominees shall be presented to the General Assembly of the Church for election by said assembly, and each such nominee, when so elected, shall become a trustee and member of the Board of Trustees of the National Christian Missionary Convention Corporation; that the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Christian Missionary Convention be amended to conform to this procedure.

THE CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

“The kind of gathering in which parliamentary law is applicable is known as a *deliberative assembly*.”⁴

“Fundamentally, under the rules of parliamentary law, a deliberative body is a free agent – free to do what it wants to do with the greatest measure of protection to itself and of consideration for the rights of its members.”⁵

“The presiding officer of an assembly is called the president or chairman when no special title has been assigned.... In organized societies the presiding officer’s title is usually prescribed by the bylaws, that of *president* being most common. The term *the chair* refers to the person in the meeting who is actually presiding at the time, whether that person is actually presiding at the time, whether that person is the regular presiding officer or not.”⁶

“*Administrative duties of the president of a society*: All of the duties of presiding officer described above relate to the function of presiding over the assembly at its meetings. In addition, in many organized societies, the president has duties as an administrative or executive officer; but these are outside the scope of parliamentary law, and the president has such authority only insofar as the bylaws provide it.”⁷

On September 5, 1917 forty-one leaders gathered at the Lea Avenue Christian Church of Nashville, Tenn. in response to a call by Preston Taylor to inaugurate the National Christian Missionary Convention. Preston Taylor in his opening address to those leaders stated an assessment of conditions that required action to effect change.

There are no figures in the Disciples' YEARBOOK. We claimed six hundred churches, four hundred ministers, fifty percent of which were lay preachers without special charges or training... six schools, one with secondary education, the others elementary, no higher education among Negroes...no newspaper of national import, no general organization or work in which the churches are free to have fellowship in giving to the National work of the church, no leadership for National promotional work other than the Bible School Secretary put out by the ACMS under the wider auspices of the C.W.B.M.⁸

That convention was chartered in the State of Tennessee on September 9th, 1925 “to promote religious education and benevolence at home and abroad, to co-operate with other like organizations of the Disciples of Christ in educating and maintaining teachers and missionaries and to promote the preaching of the Gospel in America and in foreign lands.”

⁴ Edmund Burke to parliament, 1774

⁵ Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, pp. xliv

⁶ Ibid. pp. 440

⁷ Ibid. pp. 447

⁸ Address of Preston Taylor to first NCMC, 1917

That Convention's Constitution was revised on August 24, 1942 describing authority given to a multitude of elected officers who not only handled the business of the Convention, but developed and administered programs to affect the Convention's purpose⁹. This program convention was ordered prior to the systems architectural ministry of S.S. Myers or the call of NCMC staff. Although "Staff and Services" of the Convention were merged with the ministries of the United Christian Missionary Society with staff serving the whole church and UCMS providing the services of the Executive Secretary of the Convention to the Convention without cost¹⁰, the Convention continued to develop and administer programs¹¹.

After ten years of negotiation, The National Christian Missionary Convention, The United Christian Missionary Society and The International Convention of the Christian Churches, Disciples of Christ came to resolve for their future articulated in resolution 6844¹². That resolve defined a radical change in the operation and leadership of NCMC. NCMC was to be adjourned "sine die" (without a set time to reconvene) with its purpose and business to be handled by its Board of Trustees. That board of Trustees would be reduced to sixteen members and its primary role would be that of a deliberative body rather than a program development/administrative body. The number of officers was reduced to a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary. The President would "preside over the Board of Trustees of the corporation and sign all documents as president of the corporation." The Corporate Secretary, who was also the Administrative Secretary of the newly created National Convocation, would "record the minutes of meetings of the trustees, and attest to the legal signatures of the

⁹ see appendix A, 1942 NCMC Constitution and Bylaws

¹⁰see Appendix B, The United Christian Missionary Society Board of Trustees Meeting March 23-24, 1960 Executive Session)

¹¹ see Appendix C, 1961 Revised Constitution and Bylaws of NCMC

¹² see Appendix D, Resolution 6844, Principles for Merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)

corporation as instructed by the corporation.”¹³

The National Convocation was birthed through that same process with a sixteen member Board of Trustees who, upon election by the General Assembly, would be the Board of Trustees of NCMC. Although the purposes of NCMC were to be actualized through its Board of Trustees, the implementation of the program development/administration of those purposes were to be implemented through the program units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The role of President was not only limited to presiding over the deliberative Board of Trustees of the National Convocation, but the role of the Executive Secretary of the NCMC was eliminated. A new position, the Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation and Corporate Secretary of NCMC was created. Emmett Dickson, who had held the NCMC Executive Secretary position for twenty-five years, continued to serve the Division of Homeland Ministries until retirement while John R. Compton was employed as the Administrative/Corporate Secretary. This Administrative/Corporate Secretary would “[bear] national administrative responsibility for developing consultations with states/areas (regions) to the end that state/area (region) structures, programs and services be effective to Negro congregations in each state/area (region); Relating to program and services through the Division of Church Life and Work of the United Christian Missionary Society”¹⁴ monitored through the NCMC Board.

These changes in leadership role and function of the Board and its officers are unique in Western Christianity and therefore can be the foundation of either great confusion or opportunity. The definitions of roles nurtured through Black Church culture not only bring to the operation trusted operational models but suspicion of that which is unique. The greatest challenge to the Board and officers of NCMC and the National Convocation is to move to redefine the way the whole church implements its mission through the ministry of these unique roles and functions.

- How does the Board of Trustees of NCMC research and evaluate the implementation of the purposes of NCMC and Preston Taylor’s Will as actualized through the ministries of the National Convocation?

¹³ see Appendix D

¹⁴ see Appendix D

- How does the Board of Trustees of NCMC serve as faithful steward of its resources and advocates for increase in those resources?
- How does the Board of Trustees of the National Convocation research and evaluate the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?
- How does the Board of Trustees of the National Convocation research and evaluate the ministries of the Black members, ministers and congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?
- How does the Board of Trustees of the National Convocation research and evaluate the emergence of a new Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the effective implementation of a “whole...joined...supporting...growing...loving” (Eph. 4:16) body of Christ – the church?
- How does the Board of Trustees of the National Convocation order its life to affect its role and function?
- How does the Board of Trustees of the National Convocation evaluate and refine its role and function?
- How do the elected officers of the National Convocation assist in making that Board all that God would have it be?
- How does the Administrative Secretary serve as an associate to the chief executive officer of the denomination enabling the empowerment of that executive to fulfill the responsibilities incumbent upon the office, and at the same time effectively serve the needs of NCMC and the National Convocation’s Boards of Trustees?
- How does the Administrative Secretary serve as an associate to the chief executive officer of the denomination and at the same time aggressively agitate the church to realize the gifts, graces, struggles and victories of the Black Church and their necessity for the emergence of the whole church?

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 Secretary/Treasurer
 GWD Ministries