

# FOULKES NOTES

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**DATE:** Wednesday, May 25, 2011  
**TO:** Participants in the First Michigan Convocation  
**RE:** Narrative of the Historic Power Point that I Presented

Thank you for the rich fellowship, opportunity to share in this act of history within the Region of Michigan and the challenge of presenting glimpses into an almost century long journey the goals of which have not yet been completed.

## POSITIONED FOR GREATNESS (Matt. 7: 24-25)

*Positioned for Greatness:*

*Built on a Firm Foundation*

Matthew 7:24-25



Michigan  
Convocation  
2011

Matt. 7:24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

# INTRODUCTION



The first Michigan Convocation was held on May 20 -21, 2011 at the Serenity Christian Church in Hazel Park, Michigan. I was privileged to present an historical foundation for the construct of “convocation” within the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to this historic meeting. The presentation was done through power point in order to get numerous historical documents before the group with commentary. The following are the excerpts from the historical documents with my commentary noted either in brackets preceded by a Foulkes Notes insert or 1.5 line spacing.



[Commentary]

## ASSUMPTIONS

Before beginning any historical discussion there is a need for the presenter to be clear about the assumptions that are being made. Assumptions are critical because the assumptions focus the observations and the conclusions of the historical presentation. The following are my assumptions.

## CONVOCATION OR CONVENTION

There needs to be clarity about what is meant by “convocation” and “convention.” Both systems will be referred to in this presentation and although they are defined more by purpose than nomenclature, they have historical reference within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The following is the statement of purpose from the 1942 Constitution of the National Christian Missionary Convention.

"...*to cooperate* 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 cooperate 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."

Note the italicized "to cooperate." The National Christian Missionary Convention is listed in Publication 78 of the Internal Revenue Service as a 5013c tax exempt corporation. NCMC has the same standing as the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which is the legal name of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as a religious institution in the United States.

The following is the statement of purpose for the National Convocation from it's Articles of Operation.

*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.

Note the italicized "to provide an instrumentality." The National Convocation is an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ministering from within the structure to bring wholeness to the denomination.

## THE IMPORT OF HISTORY

George Santayana, an early 20th century philosopher, essayist poet and novelist, wrote in his book, The Life of Reason:

Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness. When change is absolute there remains no being to improve and no direction is set for possible improvement: and when experience is not retained, as among savages, infancy is perpetual. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

This famous statement has produced many paraphrases and variants:

Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

Those who do not remember their past are condemned to repeat their mistakes.

Those who do not read history are doomed to repeat it.

Those who fail to learn from the mistakes of their predecessors are destined to repeat them.

Those who do not know

## NOTES OF A NATIVE SON

As an undergraduate with a major in English literature I encountered the writing of James Baldwin and have not been able to shake an observation that he made in his first non-fiction book, Notes of a Native Son.

Notes of a Native Son was published in 1955. The volume collects ten of Baldwin's essays, which had previously appeared in such magazines as Harper's Magazine, Partisan Review and The New Leader. The essays mostly tackle issues of race in America and Europe.

One of the essays is titled "Encounter on the Seine: Blacks Meets Brown."

Baldwin compares Black Americans to Blacks in France. Whilst Africans in France have a history and a country to hold on to, Black Americans don't - their history lies in the United States and it is in the making.

The descendants of former African Slaves in the United States (DOFASTUS) are an American product. We can really wear a "Made in America" label.

## CYCLICAL MODEL FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

There is a Cyclical Model for Effective Ministry

- \* Mission = (Identity+ Gifts/Environment)
- \* Ministry = [Mission(Objective ÷ Goals × Activity)]
- \* System = An administrative Framework in which the Ministry is ordered to effect the Mission
- \* Leadership = Trained persons who function within a system to enable a Ministry to effect a Mission

Often congregational members seek to resolve conflicts which are inevitable when those who are in the world but not of the world.

*John 17:6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you*

*gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.*

Attempts to resolve the conflict by attempting to change one component of the effective ministry cycle without addressing the whole cycle just compounds the conflict. Attempting to solve the conflict through just the call of new leadership is to guarantee a limited tenure for the new leader.

## TWO CRITICAL MILESTONES

There are two Critical Milestones in History which are Foundational Elements of Our Environment.

- \* The 1960 Merger of Staff and Services between National Christian Missionary Convention and the United Christian Missionary Society.
- \* The 1969 Merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention with International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

# 1960 MERGER OF STAFF AND SERVICES

## DEVELOPMENTAL TIME LINE



The gavel will be used to identify interventions that were facilitated by the Government.



The liberation symbol will be used to identify interventions facilitated by Black Initiative.



The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) symbol will be used to identify interventions facilitated by the Church.



[The question put to Jesus regarding taxes and the myth of separation of church and state both limit the freedom of the gospel and become a means by which the laws of the society in which we live serve to often correct the church. The church in her struggle to meet some expectations has and would sacrifice some of its promises and assets to fulfill perceived needs. It is often the civil system that

## holds the church accountable to wills and endowment bequests.]

*Matt. 22:15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup> They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup> Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"*

*Matt. 22:18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup> and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"*

*Matt. 22:21 "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."*



Original Constitution of the United States, 1791 Article I, Section 2, First sentence of paragraph 3 -

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, ***three fifths of all other Persons.***



1857 Scott Decision (Negro citizenship)



1867 District of Churches of Christ, (D.O.C.)



1867 National Convention of Disciples (Colored) Rufus Conrad, founder



1871 South Carolina Christian Missionary Convention



1872 Western District of Churches of Christ, (D.O.C)



1872 Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention



1880 Alabama Christian Missionary Convention



1881 Texas Christian Missionary Convention



1882 Goldsboro Raleigh Assembly Goldsboro, (West of Tarr River)



1882 Piedmont Tri-State District Convention



1887 Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention



1892 Western District of Churches of Christ, (D.O.C.)



1896 Plessy vs Ferguson (affirmed the legal extension of slavery, Jim Crow Laws)



1910 Washington and Norfolk District of Churches of Christ, (D.O.C.) (East of Tarr River)



[Note that within thirty-five years of the Emancipation Proclamation former slaves who were forbidden from assembly within the institution of slavery and limited by the modified slavery present in Jim Crow legislation organized themselves as church to be able to cope with the insanity that surrounded them through the strength of their faith.]

## 1917 NCMC

Two Calls : Preston Taylor and William Alphin



[Two calls went out to Black Disciples of Christ church leaders in 1917 to come together for the formation of an African American led and fashioned National Convention. William Alphin gave a call to come to St. Louis during the assembly of the predominantly Anglo American International Convention. Alphin was a great advocate of cooperation and togetherness between the races. On the other hand, Preston Taylor, W. H. Dickerson, and Henry L. Herod joined in giving a call for the brothers and sisters to come to Nashville, Tennessee, in September 1917. Key leaders answered that call.(pg. 22, Journey to Wholeness)]

Two Prophets: Preston Taylor and Dr. J. E. Walker



[Preston Taylor was a Nashville business man who is known for his initiatives not only through the Greenwood Cemetery but through establishing the Citizen's bank and a housing development. Dr. Walker, a medical doctor, was not only treasurer of the Convention for more than forty years but established the Universal Life Insurance Company in Memphis, Tenn.]

One Mission: Preston Taylor's Opening Speech, James H. Thomas' Declaration and Address

## PRESTON TAYLOR

Back of all I have said, running through all and overlooking all are two striking features. One of them is the almost pathetic loyalty of the embattled and straggling colored Disciples to the Christianity of the New Testament as presented by the Disciples of Christ, and the other is the great, warm, sympathetic, but ignorant, busy and therefore, indifferent heart of the Disciples of Christ toward the colored brotherhood.

The colored brotherhood must be organized for work. There are those who, when confronted with this problem, constantly cry out, "the colored people are not ready." We have wasted at least a quarter of a century listening to this foolish lament. Perhaps our disposition to philosophize about the Negro problem rather than work at it, accounts for much of our poor showing.

Finally the colored brethren have no future without able leadership. The Disciples of Christ are not providing that sort of leadership. Some of us doubt if they seriously believe in it. It is to be remembered that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to make first class leaders by third rate methods. We are in dire need of at least one school of standard college curriculum where our leaders, especially those entering the ministry, may be adequately prepared for the work.

## JAMES H. THOMAS



[James H. Thomas was the principal of the Piedmont Institute. These comments were made at the third Convention.]

One of the purposes, therefore, of those who fathered this organization was, as I understand it, to devise a means for effecting at least a breach in that wall which had grown up between the racial groups of Disciples in America - a breach for free passage from this side and from that, so that, through a more general and frequent intermingling, the way might



be paved to a better mutual understanding, and a common ground be found upon which to work out the God appointed task of all Disciples.....I repeat, the National Convention seeks to reveal us to ourselves. (James H. Thomas)



1932 Preston Taylor Dies



1935 R. H. Peoples hired as national field worker by UCMS



1943 R. H. Peoples call for merger of NCMC and international convention



1944 NCMC @ E. 2nd St. Chr Ch in Lexington: S.S. Myers defeats W.H. Taylor in election as president



1944 W. H. Taylor forms the National Preaching Convention



[There has always been a struggle within the Convention between those promoting “integration” and those promoting independence. This 1944 election caused a separation which was never resolved]



1945 Emmett Dickson hired as executive secretary of NCMC



1946 EO 9808 (desegregation of the armed forces)



1947 Lorenzo Evans hired as director of Christian education by NCMC



1948 court decision on Preston Taylor will



[Why did it take 16 years to probate Preston Taylor’s will? As we explore this will we will not only get in touch with Preston’s love for the church but, identify the dynamic and continuing ministry of this servant.]

## PRESTON TAYLOR’S WILL

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. Houston

J.T. Howell

V.J. Alexander



in trust for her life, with remainder in fee to the "National Christian Missionary Convention [trust not ownership, the ownership was always to NCMC]



if the same should become unprofitable, sell the same to the best advantage and turn over the proceeds to the National Christian Missionary Convention



\$100 per month to my wife for her services



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. [Dr. Walker managed the receipts.]



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.



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. [The default to UCMS is evidence of the radical inclusion model of NCMC.]



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. [It doesn't take a rocket scientist to anticipate what happens to an attractive rich widow.]



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. [Preston was serious.]



1949 Charles Webb, Sr. Hired as director of field work and evangelism by NCMC



1953 NCMC becomes an Agency of ICCC 7/53 Portland, Oregon



1954 Brown vs Board of Education (Separate but not equal)



1955 Mother Parks refused to give up her bus seat on Dec. 1,



1956 Browder vs Gayle (bus segregation)



1957 Brown vs Topeka Board (Little Rock)



1958 Interviews with S. S. Myers, R.H. Peoples and J. E. Walker



[James Blair interviewed Myers, Peoples and Walker and reported in his 1958 dissertation at Butler School of Religion that both Peoples and Walker saw the integration into UCMS as best. Myers thought that the negro wasn't ready for the integration but knew our openness and argued that the white church should join NCMC.]



1959 Report of NCMC Commission on Merger of Program and Services (Cover Page and statement of goals)



[The following is the cover page and the goal statement of the report.]

FOREST AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
DALLAS, TEXAS

AUGUST, 1959

S.S. Myers,  
Chairman

John R. Compton,  
President

Emmett J. Dickson,  
Executive Secretary

### **THE PRESENT GOAL WE SEEK**

Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) have always held firm conviction that the Church is one even as Christ prayed, "That they all may be one." While this has commonly been applied to denominational divisions, our basic philosophy also affirms that there can be no wholeness if any segment is excluded because of cultural, race, or national origin. The Church is the creation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, composed of all those who profess His name. (Acts 17) The will of God is calling His Church to unity. It calls for a demonstration of determined and courageous witnesses, who in the face of severe criticism, are willing and eager to do His will. We as the National Christian Missionary Convention, express our determination to do all within our powers to achieve this ideal in the life of our brotherhood. We believe that this to be the "will of God for His Church." (Preamble of Re-Study Committee, Indian Lake - 1956). Our aim is to be faithful to our witness that the body of Christ is not divided either by sectarian differences or by racial, cultural and social differences. We are not to follow the multitude in the evil, but guide them in way of all truth.

Our government, the National Council of churches of Christ, our International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ), and numerous denominations have all spoken against segregation because of race. Organized sports in America have shown that great strides can be

made toward integration and participation. With this great cloud of witnesses it becomes necessary for us to build a Fellowship that reflects the oneness of the church, the unity of believers in Christ. "In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek." (Romans 10:11-13; Gal. 3:27-28)

We are fully cognizant of the great distances which separates our present situation from the ultimate ideal which Christians accept as the way of Christ. We recognize the Church should strive to attain perfection in all its relationships and functions. Particularly there is an urgent need for developing a definite program in our National and International Conventions and agencies leading to total integration. Therefore considerations should be given to ways and means whereby every phase of the organizational structure is planned and executed without regard to racial distinction.

As we move toward integration we must endeavor to conserve the deep Christian concerns and faithful expression of Churchmanship in such areas as: Evangelism, Stewardship, Christian Education, and Missions, now found in the National Christian Missionary Convention. We are now in the processes of moving into a new relationship within the Brotherhood, that will make the Brotherhood witness a total witness. We hope the strength of group discipline which has been built up in the National Christian Missionary Convention may be conserved to the extent that a true form of loyalty and participation will be developed as we integrate the work.

Our ideal means of ultimately total assimilation into the Brotherhood life. Along the way practical expressions of the idea must be found in relationship like the following:

1. Share in Administration of Brotherhood agencies by being on policy making boards and committees.
2. Share in the work and employment at all levels. (Our condition at this time shows that it will be necessary to make special efforts to receive employment at certain levels in most agencies. However we must find a way to bring our employment policy into line with our concept which means that all segregation practices will be eliminated and all Brotherhood agencies will be interracial and personnel on all levels will be selected and employed according to ability and training, irrespective of race and services will be rendered according to needs and opportunity.)
3. Share in the drama and exhibition of the work of the church as performed by the organized life of the Brotherhood - organizational leadership, missionaries, officers, teachers; as well as, in sermons, papers, consultations, pictures, publications, recognitions, appeals, conventions, and agency participation in general.
4. Share in the financial support of the causes and concerns of the church. (There are mature churches and individual christians among us and we should so organize our support that we may take care of our responsibility to all people. All should worship and give to God without reserve. Our promotion should be based on the great causes and concerns in the work of the church, without any selfish considerations. Promotion should be made through the strong promotional channels now at work in the life of the Brotherhood.)

5. Share faithfully and loyal in the activities, fellowship, and aspirations of the Brotherhood, as we move toward complete integration. (It will be necessary for every group to demonstrate expectations to prove that they can be trusted in the matter of true Christian relationship. "This is for both sides of the coin.")

The above formula goes for and can be applied to the schools, colleges, universities, seminaries, state organizations, state and provincial organizations, national agencies and the International Convention of Christian Churches.

We are looking forward to the day when all segregation will be eliminated in the work of the church. We visualize our responsibility to all people, we must evangelize without racial barriers, we must work at removing barriers in the community so that an inclusive church can become a reality - "a non-segregated church in a non-segregated society."

We desire each agency of the church to express concern and show action and practice in the matter of desegregation which is worthy of its work in the church.



1960 March, Merger of Staff and Services



[The following is an excerpt from the United Christian Missionary Society Board of Trustees March 22-23, 1960 Meeting. The excerpt identifies what the NCMC negotiating committee brought to the table and the conclusion of the negotiation leading to a resolve. That resolve done by two corporations is protected by law and has caused pause to the denomination's desire to modify the Division of Homeland Ministries and the relationship of the National Convocation to the church.]

"RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE OF THE NCMC:

We recommend that the report of the MERGER COMMITTEE be accepted, and that the Committee be commended for the care and devotion that has produced so fine a report. We further recommend approval of the general directions outlined in the report; and, the following steps and procedures be undertaken by the TRUSTEES in negotiation with the representatives of the other agencies of the brotherhood



- A. That Negro representatives be selected on the policy making bodies of the National Brotherhood Agencies, especially THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, whose program services are so directly related to all the churches .
- B. That the program staff of the NCMC - 3 persons - be transferred from the direct supervision of the NCMC, to the staff of the UCMS that these staff persons would classify with the same status and relationship.

That the UCMS be asked to maintain in its employment ,a minimum of four staff persons on an executive level.

- C. That the UCMS be asked to agree to set up a Staff Committee including the Negro staff members, to deal with problems that may arise in regards to programs and services growing out of the Merger.
- D. That the COUNCIL OF AGENCIES in co-operation with the NCMC be asked to create an INTERRACIAL COMMISSION for the purpose of furthering complete integration in such matters as:
  1. Securing representation on the administrative Board of each of the agencies of the brotherhood. ,
  2. Securing employment for Negroes at all levels in the church related agencies.
  3. Securing opportunities to share in the drama and exhibition. of the work of the church as performed in the organized life of the brotherhood organizational leadership, missionaries, officers, teachers; as well as in sermons, papers, consultations, pictures, publications, recognitions, appeals, conventions, and agency participation in general.

That such a Commission consist of an Administrative Secretary and of members composed of representatives from STATE and NATIONAL Brotherhood Agencies.

Further, that the UCMS be requested to provide a staff member of the SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT to act as Administrative Secretary.

Also, that the COMMISSION be financed by the NCMC and co-operating agencies

- E. That the NCMC have an EXECUTIVE SECRETARY outside of the UCMS to be responsible for the Fellowship Assembly of the NCMC, whose term will be 4 (four) years and his. duties to be described by constitutional amendment.

APPROVED; and, sent to the TRUSTEES as a Guide in negotiating the Merger."

The United Christian Missionary Society ( Board o f Trustees Meeting, March 22-23, 1960)  
National Christian Missionary Convention Merger Matters Joint Committee Recommendations:

The representatives of the National Missionary Convention and The United Christian Missionary Society after a thorough discussion of all aspects of the above documents reached certain basic conclusions which they are now prepares to recommend to their separate Boards for consideration and approval.

1. It was agreed that the recommendations of the Recommendations Committee of the National Christian Missionary Convention as approved in the Annual Assembly should be accepted and implemented with the exceptions of-Item D and Item E. The reasons for these exceptions are listed below.
2. It was agreed that the purposes for which Item D. was suggested, namely, the appointment by the Council of Agencies of an Interracial Commission are already provided for in the existing channels of Protest and Expression and in she new relationships that would be established under the recommendations set forth in the merger proposals. Specifically, these include:
  - a. The continuation of a biracial Board of Trustees for the National Christian Missionary Convention.
  - b. A staff committee within the United Society including the Negro staff members to deal with problems that may arise in regard to program and services growing out of the Merger.
  - c. The presence of the Executive Secretary of the National Convention on the cabinet of the United Society.
  - d. Negro membership on the Board of Trustees of the United Society.
  - e. The Annual Assembly of the National Convention.
  - f. The Committee on Recommendations and the Annual Assembly of the International Convention.
  - g. Council of Agencies, etc.

It is therefore the judgment of the representatives that the creating of a special Interracial Commission on a continuing basis would not be necessary.

The representatives of the National Christian Missionary Convention and The United Christian Missionary Society join in recommending that the Executive Secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention be one of the Negro staff members of the United Society. The selection of the Executives Secretary would be by mutual agreement between the Board of Trustees of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the Board of Trustees of The United Christian Missionary Society.

3. He would be a member of the cabinet by virtue of this office. The committee gave very careful consideration to the recommendation of the Recommendation Committee that the Executive Secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention be outside the

United Society as set forth in Item E of the report. The representatives point out that if the Executive Secretary were outside:

- a. It would be necessary for the National Convention to approach the Negro churches for financial support of the Executive Secretary and his office. This would continue the direct competition between the approach of the National Christian Missionary Convention and Unified Promotion for local church support.
  - b. If the Executive Secretary were outside the United Society, it would make communication and cooperation between the Convention and the United Society much more difficult in the area of program and staff services.
  - c. It should be noted that the Executive Secretary would be free to fulfill his service to the National Christian Missionary Convention under the direction of the Board of Trustees of the Convention and its officers. This would be accomplished in somewhat the same fashion as Willard M. Wickizer presently serves as Administrative Secretary of the Home and State Missions-Planning Council. Therefore, this arrangement on the one hand would not limit the freedom of action and expression on the part of the Convention and on the other hand, it would serve to make the Executive Secretary an effective means of communication and administration between brotherhood agencies including the United Society and the National Convention.
4. The representatives recommend that the matters relating to finance be explored with the understanding that:
- a. The present allocation within the budget of the United Society would continue to be available to under gird the merger.
  - b. That other agencies presently supporting the National Convention be asked to continue that support until the program can be fully incorporated within the regular budget of the United Society.
  - c. That the churches presently supporting the National Christian Missionary Convention be urged to continue that support.
  - d. That Unified Promotion be approached with a view to bringing National Christian Missionary convention support from local churches into Unified Promotion to be incorporated into the regular budget allocations of the United Society.
5. It is recommended that careful consideration be given to the possibility of implementing the merger by July 1, 1960.
6. It is recommended that detailed matters of staff assignments, status, tenure, etc., be negotiated by the administration of both groups.

VOTED: That the administration of the United Society proceed to negotiate the merger of the program and services of the National Christian Missionary Society on the basis of recommendations outlined above by the Joint Committee Merger

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## MERGER STAFF POSITIONS

Merger Staff Positions: Christian Education, Evangelism, Women's Work, Ministry

Christian Education: Master Teacher, Principal, Superintendent who effects Congregational leader development and Education, Black Church Work leader development and education and Biennial Session educational oversight through the school of faith and life.

Evangelism: Congregational and Organizational development consultant who effects Congregational revitalization, New congregation establishment, Congregational conflict management and Evangelism.

Women's Work: Initiator, coordinator, facilitator and resource agent for Congregational women leader development and empowerment, Black Church Work women leader development and empowerment, Biennial Session women leader development and empowerment.

Ministry: Through General Assembly Resolution 7147 provide nurture and training for Black Ministers through working with lay and ordained ministry candidates in their identification and mentoring through development which involves consulting with regional commissions on ministry, colleges and seminaries; being a pastor to pastors involving conflict management and assistance in placement; enabling renewal through the Black Ministers Retreat.

## OBSERVATION

The 1960 Merger of Staff and Services was an act of delayed justice which had been in process through the support of NCMC since it's inception by denominational agencies.

# 1969 MERGER OF THE NCMC WITH THE ICCC



1964 Civil Rights Act



1965-68, 329 "racial disturbances" in 257 cities



1966 Design for Renewal and Growth



[The following is the title page and the cardinal recommendations of this critical assessment and strategic

plan. Review of these statements reveals that five years into the Merger of Staff and Services and in preparation for the Merger of NCMC and ICCC there was evidence of “dreams deferred” and increased need for watchfulness. The statements also reveal that faced with these difficulties the leadership of NCMC was resolved to be an agent of facilitating wholeness within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).]

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## **DESIGN FOR RENEWAL AND GROWTH**

**projections on the work of the  
disciples of christ  
among negroes**

**William K. Fox  
Chairman**

**Emmett J. Dickson  
Staff**

**NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY  
CONVENTION  
1966**

### **CARDINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

from the

COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND STRUCTURE  
of the

## NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION

to all

Boards and Service Agencies of the  
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

August, 1966

1. That the National Christian Missionary Convention secure the means by which a staff person can be employed to implement the special emphasis on developing Negro churches as indicated by the two-year study of this Committee on Program Structure.
  - \* Explore National Christian Missionary Convention resources
  - \* Explore all service agencies
  - \* Establish an office for the coordination of Church Development services
2. That there be a continuation and expansion of the “Star Supporter” program sponsored by the National Christian Missionary Convention as initiated by the National Christian Men’s Fellowship.
  - \* Ask churches for definite goals
  - \* Channel funds from churches in merged states toward the “Star Supported” program
  - \* Encourage “This Ministry” support through will
3. That the National Christian Missionary Convention take definite steps to close the work of the Assembly by 1969 and indicate how the need for fellowship will be met.
  - \* Assign implementation to present Committee on Merger and Brotherhood Relationships
  - \* Urge National Christian Missionary Convention officers and staff to give initiative to the implementation
4. That the corporation of the National Christian Missionary Convention be continued.
  - \* Review official documents to discover any need for changes in agreement
  - \* Provide for the corporation to convene and report
5. That the concerns of Negro congregations, conventions and Negro religious life become the concerns of the service agencies within the limits of their charters. (i.e. Board of Church Extension, Board of Higher Education, Christian Board of Publication, International Convention, National Benevolent Association, Pension Fund, Unified Promotion, The United Christian Missionary Society and state and area associations and societies)
  - \* Each board and agency be memorialized through the Council of Agencies
  - \* Members of National Christian Missionary Convention churches now serving on brotherhood boards press for Negro church concerns as they may relate to the respective boards
  - \* Encourage agencies to adopt a policy of “image making” (not mere tokenism) through employment of Negroes and other racial minorities

Signed by: William K. Fox, Sr., Chairman; New Jersey

R.H. People, Co-Chairman; Indiana  
 Emmett J. Dickson, Staff; Indiana  
 William H. Brown; Georgia  
 Lewis Deer; Indiana  
 Miss Ann Dickerson; Tennessee  
 Norman S. Ellington; Missouri  
 Mrs. Rebecca Galloway; Virginia  
 Kenneth E. Henry; Texas  
 Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs; Mississippi  
 Eugene W. James, Sr.; Ohio  
 J. William Kemp; Kentucky  
 S.S. Myers; Missouri  
 Paul A. Sims; Texas  
 A.C. Stone; Ohio  
 George Oliver Taylor; Indiana  
 Harold Watkins; Indiana  
 Mrs. Eli Wilbert; Ohio



1968 Kerner Commission Feb. 29,



1968 Resolution 6844 Concerning merger of ..... Enabling Action



[The following is resolution No. 44 from the 1968 International Convention of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ). As you will note, the resolution is primarily an enabling action for negotiations between the partners of the church to enable the merger. Items “2. c-i” were added to the initial resolution through action Aug. 1969 action of NCMC and as you will note, are designed to protect the legal integrity of NCMC. NCMC was neither assimilated by ICCC nor replaced by the National Convocation.]

**Resolution No. 44**

**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:**

11. 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 provides 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;
  - 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.
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 -
- 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        52nd Annual Assembly, National Christian Missionary  
Convention at Jarvis Christian College;  
Vote by NCMC on proposed merger;
- September 1968              Presentation to ICCC of 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 Convocation of the  
Christian Church;
- August 1969                      Last meeting of the National Christian Missionary  
Convention and establishment of the National Convocation  
of the Christian Church;
- August 1970                      First of the biennial meetings of the National Convocation  
of the Christian Church.

Respectfully submitted:

Joint Committee on Merger and New Brotherhood Relations: Kenneth L. Tegarden, Indianapolis, IN; S.S. Myers, Kansas City, MO; Kenneth A. Kuntz, Indianapolis, IN; James Griggsby, Hannibal, MO; Mrs. Bernice Holmes, Oklahoma City, OK; A.C. Stone, Cincinnati, OH; Melvin Dickson, Dallas, TX; R.H. Peoples, Indianapolis, IN; R.L. Saunders, Brooklyn, NY; Mrs. Mary M. Dale, Indianapolis, IN; Everett H. Kussmann, Kansas City, KS; Mrs. Joseph M. Smith, Indianapolis, IN; Mrs. Riley Gaines, Philadelphia, PA; Howard E. Dentler, Indianapolis, IN; James F. Whitehead, Jr., Athens, GA; Emmett J. Dickson, Indianapolis, IN;

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[We have seen from the negotiations on the 1960 Merger of Staff and Services that the title of Administrative Secretary had major import in the life of the church. Willard Wickizer and later Kenneth Kuntz served as Administrative Secretary of Home and State Missions Planning Council. From that vantage point both of these servants of the church gave major direction to the life of the church. Choosing the designation of Administrative Secretary for

the senior servant of the National Convocation was in fact an intentional prophetic framing of the proposed position. It is important to revisit the framing of the position and the negotiations that were conducted to put the position in place.]

### THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

The role of the Administrative Secretary, as described in the General Assembly's 1968 action was:

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.



1969 Black Manifesto April, 26,



1969 National Voting Rights Act



1969 GB Res. 6919 July, Reconciliation

Kenneth A. Kuntz reported to the August 6, 1969 meeting of the NCMC a statement that “had been cleared with” A. Dale Fiers, the General Minister of the Christian Church on merger.

He reported that there is recognition of the need for a person to have the major responsibility for the National Christian Missionary Convention or the National Convocation of the Christian Church, (NCCC) without conflict with other roles. It is the intent of the General Office to see that the Executive Secretary will have status as an assistant to the General Minister and President with primary responsibility as Executive Secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention or its successors. He may have other functions related to this position; it is likely that the individual might have responsibilities in the Reconciliation program.



[ Dr. Kuntz had given oversight to the Executive Secretary of NCMC being employed as a UCMS staff person with

service to NCMC being just one of his portfolio assignments. It was out of that experience that he argued for the position as “major responsibility” and related as staff to the General Minister and President. Possible responsibility related to the “Reconciliation Program” placed the position in relationship to the liberation agenda imaged in the Reconciliation Program growing out of the church’s response to the Black Manifesto.]

Dr. Kuntz’s report and the report on “Next Steps in the Implementation of the Merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention” were “approved, upon satisfactorily answering any questions”. The 4th step in the “Next Steps” document was:

The establishment in the general office of the position of administrative secretary for the Convocation should include an adequate job description that would include:

- Responsibility for developing the total life and witness of congregations, especially Negro congregations;
- Responsibility for any program and services shall be coordinated through liaison relationships with the Division of Church Life and Work of the United Christian Missionary Society;
- Service as administrative secretary for the committee on interim developments in Negro church life;
- Responsibility for the development of consultative processes leading to adequate and effective structures, programs and services for Negro congregations in all the regions; and administrative units of the church.

Dr. A. Dale Fiers, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) met with NCMC Board of Trustees on August 8, 1969 “to clarify any questions the board members might have regarding the proposed Merger and Articles of Operation.”

The following points were made in Dr. Fiers’ responses:

- In regard to personnel policy, it is the responsibility of the General Office of the Christian Church to consult with the National Convocation of the Christian Church and the United Christian Missionary Society in regard to hiring an executive secretary for the Convocation.
- The Board of Trustees of the National Convocation of the Christian Church would be competent to submit a resolution to the General Assembly, qualifying as a governing board.

- The National Convocation of the Christian Church will not be an administrative unit but will have certain purposes when convened; it will not create a Department of Negro Church Work but an intensification of black witness.
- The National Convocation of the Christian Church will have no fund raising responsibilities; funding of the Convocation will be done through the General Office of the Christian Church.



1969 Oct. Merger of NCMC and ICC, Resolution 6938



[There was a dramatic moment in the 1969 General Assembly of the Christian Church in Seattle, Washington when the assembly passed resolution 6938 and Raymond E. Brown, the President of NCMC, walked across the stage and shook hands with A. Dale Fliers, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The following is the text of that Resolution which is a legal act of merger of two corporations.]



### **Resolution No. 38**

#### **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.

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## THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION

What Emerged from Res. 6938? The National Convocation

### THE MISSION

The purpose of the National Convocation shall be to provide an instrumentality within the structure of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)...as shall support and strengthen the congregations involved in the total mission of the church.

### AN INSTRUMENTALITY



Board of Trustees



Administrative Secretary



Division of Homeland Ministries Staff Employed by Merger Agreement



Biennial Session

### WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

The Administrative Secretary, as staff to the General Minister and President, carries the concerns of the National Convocation to all decision making bodies of the Christian Church. The Board of Trustees has direct access to the decision-making bodies of the Christian Church including the General Assembly.

### SHALL SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE CONGREGATIONS






The primary focus of the ministries of the National Convocation is vital congregational life. That focus grows out of the recognition that the African American Church is the only organization in American life that grows out of the African American experience and is totally accountable to that experience.

### INVOLVED IN THE TOTAL MISSION OF THE CHURCH

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.

### MISSION IMPERATIVES

The purpose of the National Convocation shall be 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.

The 1969 merger of NCMC and ICCC was framed in fear and that fear is the basis of issues to this day.



[The non-violent liberation ministries of the 1950's by Southern Descendants of former African Slaves in the



United States (DOSAFITUS) brought fear to Northern DOSAFITUS because they were anything but non-violent. The racial incidents by Northern DOSAFITUS of the 1960's brought fear to all DOSAFITUS because it identified the intensity of their rage and the reactions to that rage. Both the 1950's and 1960's experiences brought fear to the American church because she hadn't reconciled her theology of heart and head with the cost of resolve. The present call to be an anti-racist pro-reconciling church is the continuing challenge of that fear.]