

**GA-1524**  
**(Sense-of-the-Assembly)**  
**CALL FOR A CHURCH-WIDE TASK FORCE ON THE**  
**SENSE-OF-THE-ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION PROCESS**

**WHEREAS**, being and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ includes prayerful consideration and faithful action regarding contemporary issues in the light of Scripture, faith, reason, and experience; and

**WHEREAS**, moral, ethical or religious matters confronting the church, our two nations, and/or the world are important in the life of the church, requiring spiritual discernment and informed engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Sense of the Assembly Resolution process provides few, if any, resources to congregations and pastors and few opportunities for meaningful dialogue by the majority of those who attend General Assemblies; and

**WHEREAS**, the exact status and purpose of Sense of the Assembly resolutions are often misunderstood by the media and by our own members to be official doctrine, stances or statements; and

**WHEREAS**, this misunderstanding can cause unnecessary confusion and dissension among and within our congregations; and

**WHEREAS**, our church, as it endeavors to be a movement for wholeness in a broken and fragmented world, has an opportunity to model alternative ways of talking about important issues with one another, ways that are inclusive, holistic and theologically grounded; and

**WHEREAS** congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and a Task Force of the denomination's Administrative Committee have faithfully worked over the past biennium on an alternative approach to how the church might engage in moral, ethical or religious matters confronting the church, our two nations, and/or the world; and

**WHEREAS**, our ecumenical partners, in addition to a number of our denominational ministries, have expressed concern about the ways in which some of the changes under consideration by this Task Force might negatively impact our ecumenical work, including but not limited to our partnership with the United Church of Christ through our combined Global Ministries; and

**WHEREAS**, Business Resolution 9522 ("Our Common Social Witness"), adopted by the 1995 General Assembly meeting in Pittsburgh, PA (see attached), affirms social witness as an expression of "the whole church," and locates "the important functions of advocacy, information, and action in matters of peace and justice" in the Office of the General Minister and President, Disciples Home Missions, and the Division of Overseas Ministries;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada meeting in Columbus, OH, on July 18 - 22, 2015, reaffirms Business Resolution GA 9522 and its authorization of the use of pastoral judgement by the Division of Overseas Ministries, Disciples Home Missions, and the Office of the General Minister and President in representing the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada in matters of justice and witness; and

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED** that this same General Assembly calls for the Office of General Minister and President, Disciples Home Missions, Division of Overseas Ministries, to convene a balanced broad-based and inclusive task force that shall include representatives of, but not limited to, these three ministries, the Council on Christian Unity, the General Board, historic justice and peace advocacy groups in the church, the three racial / ethnic ministries, and diverse congregations throughout our two nations for the purpose of bringing to the 2017 General Assembly, meeting in Indianapolis, IN, a jointly sponsored process for discussion of and education about important religious, ethical and social issues.

First Christian Church, Edmond, Oklahoma

Supported by:

Disciples Justice Action Network

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**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly  
ADOPT GA-1524. (Discussion time: 12 minutes)**

**No. 9522**

**(Operational Business Item)**

**SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION  
OUR COMMON SOCIAL WITNESS**

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, our Christian living is both personal and social, calling for discipline in our private lives and in our life together; and

WHEREAS, the church has the responsibility to carry on the tradition of the Biblical prophets who denounced sin whether in the religious community or in public life, who called out for justice, and who promised hope on the other side of judgment; and

WHEREAS, we as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are called upon to speak clearly about God's justice and to live into God's promised hope, and to do this in all of our manifestations: congregational, regional, and general; and

WHEREAS, we have historically understood that the Office of General Minister and President, the Division of Homeland Ministries, and the Division of Overseas Ministries have been the primary voices of the social conscience of the general manifestation of the church regarding advocacy for the oppressed, working for peace and justice at home and around the world, and effectively providing avenues for the witness of the whole church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting in Pittsburgh October 20-24, 1995, reaffirms the crucial importance of our Christian social witness, and that in concert with the whole church there be lodged in the Office of General Minister and President, the Division of Homeland Ministries, and the Division of Overseas Ministries the important functions of advocacy, information and action in matters of peace and justice, so that prophetic voices of the church might continue to find expression;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of General Minister and President, the Division of Homeland Ministries, and the Division of Overseas Ministries be requested to:

1. Identify staff persons and resources to fulfill this role,
2. Encourage and resource congregations, regions and other general units and institutions of the church to bear prophetic witness,
3. And share in social witness with ecumenical and interfaith partners and people of common concern.