CONCERNING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

WHEREAS, the Merger Agreement is presented as a part of the orientation offered to Board Members of the National Convocation, however, it is not enough in regards to the increased interest and questions that have arisen around the National Convocation and the Biennial Session; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has adopted the priority to become a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist denomination, and a better understanding of the Merger Agreement would help to implement inclusiveness and diversity, wholeness and Christian Unity; and

WHEREAS, the National Convocation, the North American Pacific Asian Disciples and the Central Pastoral Office of Hispanic Ministries are recognized as the Racial/Ethnic Ministries, each having unique histories and relationships within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Merger Agreement is solely between the General Assembly and the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

WHEREAS, at their December 2015 meeting, the Board of Trustees of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) assigned their Executive Committee to draft a resolution that would serve to encourage the education of the denomination regarding the Merger Agreement beginning with the 24th Biennial Session of the National Convocation meeting at Overland Park, Kansas (Greater Kansas City) and the 2017 General Assembly meeting at the Indiana Convention Center; and

WHEREAS, the 24th Biennial Session of the National Convocation meeting in Overland Park, Kansas (Greater Kansas City), approved this resolution and forwarded it to the 2017 General Assembly in Indianapolis;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Indianapolis, IN, July 8-12, 2017, celebrates the reprinting of the 1990 edition of JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS: A History of Black Disciples of Christ in the Mission of the Christian Church: Vol. 1, From Convention to Convocation, by Brenda Cardwell and William K. Fox, Jr., as a proactive measure to assist in the education of our denomination on the Merger Agreement in particular and our history in general; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the church is encouraged to include the aforementioned book in the libraries of all our church affiliated colleges and seminaries and that it serve as a resource for the teaching of Disciples of Christ History and Polity; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforementioned book become a regional office resource and be available with the selected books in local church libraries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Merger Agreement is presented as part of the orientation offered to General Board members; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the study of the Merger Agreement be promoted across all three expressions of the church and higher education through all channels available.

National Convocation

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1718. (Discussion time: 12 minutes)