WHEREAS, in January 2015, the National Hispanic and Bilingual Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through its Hispanic Board of Directors and the Pastoral Commission, submitted a letter to the General Board via the General Minister and President and current Moderator team, naming significant concerns related to the role of Obra Hispana in the life of the church; and

WHEREAS, the first concern expressed was a greater clarity regarding the racial/ethnic ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in paragraph 69 of The Design; and

WHEREAS, as called for in the letter, a Task Force on Hispanic Ministries was created to address the concerns detailed in the letter, through “dialogue, prayer and concrete action”; and

WHEREAS, at their December 2016 meeting, the Task Force drafted language to address their concern regarding paragraph 69 of The Design and submitted to the Governance Committee of the General Board; and

WHEREAS, the draft language was submitted to the Governance Committee of the General Board for editing and review before forwarding it on to the full General Board for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee is charged with reviewing The Design and other governance documents for suggested changes and modifications;¹

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2017 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting July 8-12, 2017, in Indianapolis, Indiana, approve the amendment to paragraph 69 of The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as presented on the subsequent page.

General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly APPROVE GA-1726. (Discussion time: 12 minutes)

¹ General Board Standing Rules 6.2.5
69. The life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is blessed by the racial/ethnic ministries of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the National Hispanic and Bilingual Fellowship, the North American Pacific Asian Disciples, and other groups that may be recognized by the General Assembly. Where general ministries are called upon to serve the life of the church through reports and representation, these ministries shall be included.

69. The National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the National Hispanic and Bilingual Fellowship and the North American Pacific Asian Disciples witness to the diversity within the church. These ministries, with their unique historical relationships within the Christian Church and the rich cultural gifts they share, are empowered to speak to particular cultural contexts within the ecclesial needs of Disciples in the US and Canada and are charged with the development of their particular ministries.

These ministries make reports and are represented in places where general ministries are called upon to serve the life of the church through reports and representation. Their executive ministers shall serve in partnership and collaboration with regional ministers and other leadership groups throughout the church.