WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world; and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., along with many other affected people and moral leaders in the Poor People’s Campaign of 1967/68, began an effort to build a broad, fusion coalition that would audit America, demanding an accounting of promissory notes that had been returned marked “insufficient funds.” We have not finished their work; and

WHEREAS, we are a people of the Book and see the Bible as the foundation of our prophetic ministry today. The prophet Micah calls us “to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with the Lord” (Micah 6:8). Jesus inaugurates his ministry through quoting the prophet Isaiah:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.” (Luke 4:18)

As Disciples of Christ, we seek to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. As the Gospel of Matthew states that “when we have done it unto the least of these we have done it unto me,” Disciples stand in solidarity with the poor and oppressed; and

WHEREAS, while we as Disciples open our hands to the poor and engage in direct service, we need to question the policies and practices that keep the poor in poverty; and

WHEREAS, “The New Poor People’s Campaign: National Call for a Moral Revival”, led by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, launched in April 2017, invites people of conscience and faith to 40 days of action for the moral redemption of our country in 2018; and

WHEREAS, we are a pro-reconciliation anti-racist church with a long history of working for racial and economic justice, exemplified by the work of those such as the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, a fifth-generation Disciple rekindling the prophetic moral vision for justice and we recognize that,

“[O]ur struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2017 General Assembly meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana July 8-12, 2017, calls on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada as people of deep faith and moral courage to endorse
“The New Poor People’s Campaign: National Call for a Moral Revival,” being led by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all expressions of the church to support the New Poor People’s Campaign: National Call for a Moral Revival in 2018; and through our ministries of prayer and spirit-inspired action, designating resources to fund training, mobilize communities, activate our moral voices in the public square and to continue to serve in the struggle for justice through transformation nationally in both the United States and Canada, and in our local communities; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED THAT as a people of the Book we, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), affirm that:

“The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and shall be like a water garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.” (Isaiah 58:11-12)

Rev. Sydney Advent, Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, NY
Rev. Eddie Anderson, McCarty Memorial Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA
Heidi Barham, Ledgewood Christian Church, OH
Dave Boger, Compton Heights Christian Church, Saint Louis, MO
Rev. Nathaniel Cook, South Hills Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX
Toni Bond Leonard, Downey Memorial Christian Church, Downey, CA
Rev. Darlene Brewer, Wyndholme Christian Church, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada
Saundra Bryant, All Peoples Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA
Rev. Dr. Lawrence A. Burnley, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH
David Coatsworth, Saguaro Christian Church, Tucson, AZ
Alexander Cook, South Hills Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX
Rev. Tiffany Curtis, First Christian Church of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM
Dan Dalstra, First Christian Church, El Paso, TX
Rev. Alan Dicken, Carthage Christian Church, Novelty, OH
Rev. Wilson Dickinson, First Christian Church, Georgetown, KY
Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker, National Benevolent Association
Rev. Kaji Douša, Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, NY
Rev. Laurie Feille, First Christian Church, Minneapolis, MN
Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Foster, Compton Heights Christian Church, Saint Louis, MO
Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm, Central Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN
Ann Frazer Heltzel, First Christian Church, Vicksburg, MS
Rev. Dr. Peter Goodwin Heltzel, Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, NY
Rev. Mary Anne Glover, Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, NY
Rev. Shannon Smith Greenhaw, First Christian Church, Slidell, LA
Alanna Hunter-Grump, Cairn Christian Church, Lafayette, CO
Charisa Hunter-Grump, Cairn Christian Church, Lafayette, CO
Rev. Dr. Alvin O’Neal Jackson, Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, NY
Rev. Nora Jacob, UrbanMission, Pomona, CA
Rev. Sandhya Jha, Oakland Peace Center, Oakland, CA
The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1740.
(Discussion time: 12 minutes)