ACKNOWLEDGING THE COVENANTAL AFFILIATION OF TOUGALOO COLLEGE AND REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO HIGHER EDUCATION

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

WHEREAS, in the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) formal education has been a top priority going back to the early days of the Stone-Campbell movement, with over 200 colleges, universities and theological institutions having been founded throughout that history, demonstrating a strong Disciples commitment to higher education; and

WHEREAS, Southern Christian Institute of Edwards, MS, was founded in 1882 by the Home Missionary Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a private boarding school for black students during the Jim Crow era, and trained several generations of African American educators, clergy and other leaders, before merging with Tougaloo College in 1954 and continuing its central mission of education, while also playing a critical role in advancing the cause of freedom and justice during the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, Tougaloo College has continued to appreciate its affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with leadership changes at the College and in the life of the Church, Tougaloo never signed the 1977 Covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), but continued its relationship with the Church and recently at its October 19, 2018 Board of Trustees Meeting voted to affirm its commitment to the current Covenant between Colleges and Universities and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and officially requested to join in full affiliation with the other fourteen affiliated colleges and universities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, The Council of Colleges and Universities, and the Administrative Committee of the General Board, have all subsequently voted to affirm Tougaloo’s affiliation in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in this historic moment, the General Assembly celebrates the history and heritage of Tougaloo College as a Disciples institution of higher education continuing in the tradition began by the Southern Christian Institute and fully living into its current mission of preparing its students to be lifelong learners who are committed to leadership and service in a global society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly deepens its commitment to promoting and supporting higher education across the church, with special attention being given to the fifteen colleges and universities in covenantal relationship and our seven theological institutions; and
FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that all members, congregations, ministries, organizations, and institutions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada will continue to pray for and encourage our institutions of higher education and will continue encouraging students to seek educational opportunities at all of the various Disciples related educational institutions.

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries

Background Information

Current Covenant of the Colleges and Universities plus the list of Colleges and Universities

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1932. (Discussion Time: 12 minutes)