

1 **GA-2340**

2 **BUILDING ON OUR CHURCH’S COMMITMENT TO FAITH-BASED INVESTING**

3 **(Sense-of-the-Assembly)**

4 **WHEREAS**, our biblical, theological, and historical heritage calls us to responsibility in  
5 all areas of our lives, including the management of money; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada  
7 calls for ministries of the church to engage in a theology of justice, kindness and walking  
8 humbly with our God; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Christian Church Foundation, Disciples Church Extension Fund, and  
10 the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (our “Financial Ministries”) are stewards with  
11 a fiduciary and covenantal responsibility to manage resources responsibly; and

12 **WHEREAS**, all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)—  
13 congregations, regions, general ministries, and affiliated organizations—have  
14 covenantal responsibility to manage their resources responsibly; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the  
16 United States and Canada meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 7-12, 2017, affirmed,  
17 by Resolution GA-1720, its shared accountability in addressing environmental, social  
18 and governance issues; and

19 **WHEREAS**, faith-based investing<sup>1</sup> is a critical tool in furthering the transformational  
20 ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

21 **WHEREAS**, the discipline of faith-based investing continues to evolve and mature; and

22 **WHEREAS**, social and environmental issues, injustices, exploitations, and degradations  
23 in the world continue to proliferate, resulting in social, economic, health and political  
24 disparities and inequities, and war; and

25 **WHEREAS**, our Financial Ministries, in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 7-12, 2017, by  
26 Resolution GA-1720, reaffirmed their commitment to be engaged with the Interfaith  
27 Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR<sup>2</sup>), an association of faith-based and values-  
28 driven institutional investors dedicated to direct engagement with corporations to effect  
29 positive change; and further, in Des Moines, Iowa, provided an educational program for  
30 the 2019 General Assembly addressing responsible investing policies and practices in  
31 support of the church’s total mission; and

32 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the General Assembly of the Christian Church  
33 (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada meeting in Louisville, Kentucky,  
34 July 29- August 1, 2023, affirms its shared accountability in addressing environmental,

35 social and governance issues through the faith-based investments of our financial  
36 resources; and

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) reaffirms  
38 its support of our Financial Ministries who invest in public markets, and their  
39 engagement with ecumenical partners through the Interfaith Center on Corporate  
40 Responsibility (ICCR <sup>2</sup>); and

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that our Financial Ministries explore and study through  
42 dialogue with other General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ways  
43 to respond to global and domestic partners' concerns about investments; and

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Office of General Minister and President create  
45 space annually for reports by and discussions with our Financial Ministries concerning  
46 their utilization of faith-based investing strategies including, but not limited to,  
47 responsible investing policies, board resolutions, analytical tools, strategies, practices,  
48 costs, qualitative and quantitative impact reports, and performance data in alignment  
49 with the evolving discipline of responsible investment and in alignment with the Church's  
50 total mission; and

51 **FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Church's Financial Ministries be asked to prepare  
52 educational resources—for example, study guides, sample faith-based investing  
53 policies and resolutions, strategies and suggested tools to measure performance and  
54 impacts—to assist our congregations, regions, general ministries, higher education  
55 institutions, and members in their investing.

56 Disciples Home Missions  
57 Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance

## 58 **BACKGROUND**

59 <sup>1</sup> Faith-based investing is an investment strategy which considers both financial return  
60 and the values of the church. Faith-based investing includes, but is not limited to,  
61 informed assessments of values, risks and returns utilizing human rights,  
62 environmental, social and governance screens, and direct proxy voting, among other  
63 tools.

64 <sup>2</sup>ICCR ([www.iccr.org](http://www.iccr.org)) was founded in 1971 and the Christian Church (Disciples of  
65 Christ) was a founding member. ICCR is not an investment manager or advisor, but  
66 rather a coalition of 275 faith-based institutional investors. By partnering with other faith-  
67 based investors we gain a broader and deeper source of information about corporate  
68 and societal issues, and can achieve greater impact.

69  
70 **The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-2340.**  
71 **(Discussion Time: 12 minutes)**