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For immediate release
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General Assembly adopts resolution urging welcome of all

At the July 2013 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Orlando, a resolution was brought forward by a group of 20 congregations entitled *Becoming a People of Grace and Welcome to All*. The intent of the resolution is to urge Disciples to welcome into our congregations and other ministries *all* who seek Christ.

The General Assembly speaks only for the people gathered for the event and it speaks TO congregations, regions and general ministries, not FOR congregations, regions or general ministries. For this reason, the resolution does not constitute a "stance" on an issue for the entire denomination.

This resolution carries symbolic importance in the life of our Church. It reminds us that our baptism into the living Christ continues to be our common ground. Within the broad membership of Disciples there have always been gay and straight, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender persons who participate fully in the life and leadership of the church.

Here is what this "Sense of the Assembly" resolution is not:

- It is not a policy change. Individual congregations will not be requested to establish (or change) a policy on gay or lesbian persons in the life of the Church. The region is not required to change its policies on ordination. Pastors are not required to bless same-gender marriages.

- It is not a theological mandate. It does not say that we have the same biblical understanding of sexual orientation or gender identity. Disciples, prayerfully and with biblical study and other research, come to their own understanding on these matters.

For links to past resolutions related to this issue, go to the Grace-full Table page and look for the "assembly resolutions tab" on www.disciples.org

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