

Resolution: Discipleship NOW in the Greater Pacific Northwest (USA) Mission Center

WHEREAS, there is always a need for deepened and expanded understanding of discipleship and opportunities for putting discipleship into practice; and

WHEREAS, *Discipleship NOW* is a three-year intensive program for discipleship formation with six or seven weekend retreats, each on a specific mission-related theme taught by Community of Christ experts and supported by local mentors, and concludes with a one-year mission project led by each participant; and

WHEREAS, *Discipleship NOW* already has been fruitfully implemented many times in other Mission Centers in the Western Field and has promoted deeper exploration and real-world application of Christian discipleship in the contemporary world; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Pacific Northwest (USA) Mission Center enjoys a diverse membership interested in deeper discipleship and many experienced, proficient ministers, teachers and mentors to support *Discipleship NOW*; and

WHEREAS, participation in *Discipleship NOW* requires significant sacrifice by participants, including investments of time, money, preparation, faith, retreat attendance, spiritual reflection and mission creativity and practice in their home communities over three years; and

WHEREAS, providing funding to reduce the costs of the program demonstrates a faithful desire and commitment by Greater Pacific Northwest (USA) Mission Center members to invest in these disciples; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Pacific Northwest (USA) Mission Center has sufficient financial reserves in its Operating Investment Fund to invest in this program and its disciples, and the costs for each year of *Discipleship NOW* will vary widely by year, making it impractical to budget it as a fixed annual operational cost; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Greater Pacific Northwest (USA) Mission Center create a first cohort of *Discipleship NOW* beginning in 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Greater Pacific Northwest (USA) Mission Center establish a fund of \$10,000 from its Operating Investment Fund to be accessed in 2015 and years following to subsidize costs associated with the program, such as instructor travel expenses, materials, local staff coordination, participant scholarships, retreat facility and food, and other considerations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a report be made to the annual Greater Pacific Northwest (USA) Mission Center Conference, on the success, accomplishments and evaluation of the *Discipleship NOW* program by no later than 2017.