

2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JULY 31—AUGUST 4
Louisville, KY



2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JULY 8—12
Memphis, TN



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GENERAL MINISTRIES



2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROGRAM & BUSINESS DOCKET

PROGRAM & BUSINESS DOCKET

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019



Demeurez en moi • Permanezcan en mí
Fè youn ak mwen • 내 안에 거하라
John 15: 1-5

JULY 20-24

IOWA EVENTS CENTER
730 3RD STREET
DES MOINES, IA

Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
in the United States and Canada

WHAT'S INSIDE

- SCHEDULE
- PROGRAM INFORMATION
- WORSHIP INFORMATION
- EDUCATION
- BUSINESS ITEMS

SCHEDULE

Please note: You need to be registered and wearing your badge to enter education and exhibit spaces. Voting representatives should wear badges in business sessions.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

July 19 & 20

Various pre-events

SATURDAY

July 20

► 11:45 am

Meal events

► 1:30 pm

Opening celebration

► 5:00 pm

Meal events

► 7:15 pm

Worship

► 8:45 - 10 pm

Aftersessions

SUNDAY

July 21

► Morning

Worship - in the community (Youth and Obra Hispana in the event center.)

► 11:45 am

Meal events

► 1:30 pm

Education begins

► 5:00 pm

Meal events

► 7:15 pm

Worship

► 8:45 - 10 pm

Aftersessions

MONDAY and TUESDAY

July 22 & 23

► 7 am

Meal events

► 8:30 am

Bible study

► 9 am

Business

► 11:45 am

Meal events

► 1:30 pm

Education sessions continue

► 5:00 pm

Meal events

► 7:15 pm

Worship

► 8:45 - 10 pm

Aftersessions

WEDNESDAY

July 24

► 7 am

Meal events

► 8:30 am

Bible study

► 9 am

Sending Out Celebration

Registration

Saturday 9 am-6 pm

Sunday 1-6 pm

Monday 9 am-6 pm

Tuesday 9 am-6 pm

Exhibit Hall Hours

Saturday 9 am-6 pm

Sunday 1-6 pm

Monday 9 am-6 pm

Tuesday 9 am-6 pm

Youth

Chi Rho & CYF

Saturday, July 20

8:45 pm Joint Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 21

1:30 - 3 pm Scavenger hunt

3:15 - 4 pm Mock business session

Monday, July 22 & Tuesday, July 23

8:30 - 9 am Joint session

9 - 11:30 am CYF activities

Chi Rho activities

1:30 pm Joint mission project

Tuesday only

8:45 pm Closing session

Children's Programs and Child Care

All meals will be with parents.

Saturday, July 20

1:15 - 4:45 pm

Sunday, July 21

1:15 - 4:45 pm

Monday & Tuesday

8:15 - 11:30 am

1:15 - 4:45 pm

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WHO WE ARE

Identity Statement

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

Our Values

The confession of faith that Jesus is the Christ, son of the Living God, and our Savior
 The open, inclusive Lord's Supper, God's Table
 The call to ministry that is on every Disciple
 The love of unity that God gives us
 The practice of the justice of God

Our Vision

To be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. (Micah 6:8)

Our Mission

To be and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Our Imperative

To strengthen congregational life for this mission. (Ephesians 4:11-13, 15-16)

Our Covenant

In accepting our vision, mission and imperative, we affirm our need to
 Be a pro-reconciliation/anti-racist Church
 Strengthen relationships among all expressions of the Church
 Share mutually and more fully the stewardship of God's gifts of our life in Christ
 Encourage our growing diversity within our Church family and communities
 Work with our ecumenical and global partners to heal the brokenness of the body of Christ and the human community.

2019 SPONSORS

We are very grateful for our many sponsors and their support of the 2019 General Assembly!

GENERAL MINISTRIES



Pension Fund
of the Christian Church
strong. smart. secure.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION
Helping Disciples Make a Difference



Disciples Church Extension Fund



HOPE
Partnership for Missional Transformation



NEW CHURCH MINISTRY
making disciples



National Benevolent Association
CALLED TOGETHER | CALLED TO CARE



Disciples Home Missions

PLATINUM

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power your passion

PHILLIPS SEMINARY

GOLD

Givelify
Tap. Give. Done.

SILVER

lexington THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CCH
More Than A Home



INSURANCE BOARD
Partners in Protection

ELECTED LEADERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens,
General Minister and President

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." —*John 15:1-5 NRSV*



Sue Morris
Moderator

Dear friends -

To "abide" means to remain, to stay, even to persist. And when we abide in Christ, and Christ in us, we bear much fruit. I invite you to soak in the rich fellowship and joy that comes when we meet in the General Assembly, as we abide—remain, persist—together with Jesus Christ as our center. I am looking forward to our time to stay together for a while in Des Moines as we learn more about the wide diversity that is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)—united and strong, but in no way uniform in style or opinion! It will be up to us to persist in our conviction that we are called together to the Lord's Table to show the world how it is indeed possible to disagree and yet go out as one to work to build God's kin-dom here on earth.



Beau Underwood
First Vice Moderator

The worship will be uplifting. The learning will be deep. Our opportunities for fellowship are so many and varied that they defy cataloging. We will be blessed by Bible study and prayer, workshops and shared meals, chance encounters and mission inspiration.



Timothy Lee
Second Vice Moderator

If you haven't already spent some time meditating on our theme verses, please do as you prepare for each worship, business session or workshop. (And there are eight studies on the General Assembly website that can help you focus!) Being rooted and grounded is necessary in order for us to bear the fruit that Jesus tells us will come if we abide in him. Take time each day during General Assembly to pray for our church, for those gathered at the General Assembly, and for each community we serve in the US and Canada. And once you are back home, abide—continue, remain, stay, persist—in Jesus as you listen to God through prayer and the written Word.



Belva Brown Jordan
Moderator-Elect

Join in the General Assembly with an open heart and abide a while in Des Moines with Disciples from across the United States and Canada. As we commit to abide in Christ, we will be prepared to bear much fruit, in Jesus' name.

With love for you and our Church -

Teresa Hord Owens

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Listed here are the planning partners from the Upper Midwest Region who are providing hosting, Good Times and countless volunteer hours. For each of the names listed, there are another 10 or more people donating their time and talents in 4 hour shifts at desks, at the airport or a myriad of other places.

Thank you, Upper Midwest Region!



Sue Woods

Chairperson

Sue Woods

Vice Chairs: Doug Pfeiffer, Gladys Sawyer

Secretary: Lori Kruse-Cayton

Treasurer: Jerry Woods; Assistant Treasurer: Bryan Jansen

Regional Minister: Bill Spangler-Dunning

Committee Chairs

Information Services: Kevin Howe, Lori Howe

Local Transportation: Dan Adolphson

Visitor Services: Stasia Fine

Registration & Credentials: Ted Olson, Peggy Olson

Message Center, Lost & Found Information: Laura Butler

Special Needs: Jerry Sawyer

Local Missions: Michael Simonson, Ashley Muff

Child Care & Pre-School: Diana Frieberg

School-Age Program: Lisa Thurston

Guest Reception: Alice Bolen, John Bolen

Security & Hospitality: Arnie Porath

Pulpit Supply for Worship in the Community: Owen Cayton

Chapel: Aubrey Dunbar

Green Room Hospitality: Marlene Risinger

Pre-Registration Promotion: Mark MacWhorter

Co-Chair for Communication: Connie Derby Dicks

Deacons/Ushers: Andrea Brownlee

Music: Mark Ehrhardt, Luke Ehrhardt

Communion Preparation & Logistics: Claudette Sederburg

PLANNING TEAMS, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

Special thanks to the moderators, general ministry partners, volunteers and staff for working together to manage the logistics, program and every aspect of the 2019 General Assembly.

General Assembly Officers

Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens, General Minister and President, Indianapolis, IN

Sue Morris, Moderator, Omaha, NE

Beau Underwood, First Vice Moderator, Jefferson City, MO

Timothy Lee, Second Vice Moderator, Fort Worth, TX

Belva Brown Jordan, Moderator-Elect, Claremont, CA

William Bailey, Parliamentarian, Fullerton, CA

Staff of the General Assembly and the Office of the General Minister and President

B.J. Barlow, Youth/Young Adult Activity Coordinator

Suzanne Castle, Plenary Production Manager

Leo Davis, Jr., Music Director

Gary Duncan, Plenary Hall Decorator

John Goebel, Vice President of Finance

Timothy James, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary for the National Convocation

Emily Martin, Communication & Disciples Mission Fund Coordinator

Lee Hull Moses, Chief of Staff

Brenda Rossy, Director of Meetings

Allison Ruari, Usher and Meeting Coordinator

Beth Sullivan, Corporate Secretary, Executive Assistant to GMP

Cherilyn Williams, Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communication

Jasmine Williams Flores, Financial Administrative Assistant

Gwen Woodard, Director of Accounting

Planning Committee (January 2018)

Edward Anderson, McCarty Memorial Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA

B.J. Barlow, Pasadena Christian Church, Pasadena, CA

Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder, Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, IL

Leo Davis, Jr., Mississippi Blvd Christian Church, Memphis, TN

Gary Duncan, Saint Andrew Christian Church, Olathe, KS

Randy Ehrhardt, West Des Moines Christian Church, West Des Moines, IA

Lisa Davison, Bethany Christian Church, Tulsa, OK

Timothy James, Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN

Shannon Lawrence, Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN

Nathan Loewen, First Christian Church of the Beaches, Neptune Beach, FL

Awit Marcelino, Sugarbush Christian Church, Guelph, ON

J. Michael McMahon, National City Christian Church, Washington, DC

Teresa Hord Owens, Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN

Bill Spangler-Dunning, Regional Minister - Upper Midwest Region

Kathryn Summers, First Christian Church, Mount Carmel, IL

Lori Tapia, Iglesia Alas de Salvacion, Chandler, AZ

Beau Underwood, First Christian Church, Jefferson City, MO

PLANNING TEAMS, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

Staff:

Sharon Coleman, Eastern Star Church, Indianapolis, IN

Beth Sullivan, Allisonville Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN

Cherilyn Williams, Federated Church, West Lafayette, IN

Production Team

Suzanne Castle, Plenary Production Manager, Fort Worth, TX

Tonee Jordan, Stage Manager, Claremont, CA

David Ruby, Production Assistant, Los Angeles, CA

Matthew Tiple, Assistant Stage Manager, Indianapolis, IN

Initial Production Group (IPG), Arvada, CO

Education Team Leaders

Maggie Archibald, Christian Church Foundation

Jon Barnes, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries

LaTaunya Bynum, Regional Minister, Northern California/Nevada

Bethany Guy, Division of Overseas Ministries

Rebecca Hale, National Benevolent Association

Rick Lowery, Disciples of Christ Historical Society

Brad Lyons, Christian Board of Publication

Matt Rosine, Pension Fund

Sheila Spencer, Disciples Home Missions

Craig Walls, Disciples Church Extension Fund

Staff:

Cherilyn Williams, Office of the General Minister and President

Bible Study Volunteers

Co-Chairs: Rev. Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon

Crowder, Chicago Theological Seminary; **Rev. Dr.**

Lisa Davison, Phillips Theological Seminary

Contributors:

Rev. Paul Carpenter, First Christian, Lubbock, TX

Miseon Choi, Disciples Seminary Foundation student

Rev. Dr. Donald Gillett, East Second Street Christian, Lexington, KY

Rev. Nestor Gomez, PhD candidate, University of Denver

Riley Jones, student, New York City

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Lindner, University of Chicago Divinity School

Rev. Dr. Ike Nicholson, South Suburban Christian, Littleton, CO

Rev. Yakelin Santos, chaplain, Washington DC

Staff:

Cherilyn Williams

Youth & Young Adult Planning Team

Janette Jara, Harbor Christian Church, Newport Beach, CA

Ian Pollard, First Christian Church, San Bernadino, CA

Jack Veatch, University of Chicago Divinity School

Gabriel Lopez, Iglesia de Este Whittier, Whittier, CA

Jacqueline Curtice, Daytona Beach Drive In Christian Church, Daytona Beach, FL

Randy Kuss, Disciples Home Missions

Staff:

B.J. Barlow

WORSHIP TEAM

Rodrick Dixon (soloist) - First Mennonite Church of Chicago. Chicago, IL

Mitchell Owens (composer in residence) - First Christian Church, Downers Grove, IL

Brian Nixon (worship lead) - First Christian Church, Keokuk, IA

Sheryl Neal (accompanist-piano) - West Des Moines Christian Church, Des Moines, IA

Elicia Garcia-Curry (children's choir-director) - Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN

Pastor Julian DeShazier (soloist) - University Christian Church, Chicago, IL

Andra Moran (vocal soloist) - Woodmont Christian Church. Nashville, TN

Keenan Shotwell (accompanist- keyboard) - Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN

Tevin Curtis (accompanist -drummer) - Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN

Antwon Jones (accompanist-bass guitarist) - Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN

Worship Planning Team

Suzanne Castle (production), Jacksboro Parish, Jacksboro, TX

Leo Davis, Jr. (music director), Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN

Gary Duncan (setting design), St. Andrews Christian Church, Leawood, KS

Randy Ehrhardt (local arrangements), West Des Moines Christian Church, West Des Moines, IA

Timothy James (National Convocation), Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN

Michael McMahon (liturgist), National City Christian Church, Washington DC

Terri Hord Owens (General Minister and President), Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN

Lori Tapia (Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries), Indianapolis, IN

Beau Underwood, First Christian Church, Jefferson City, MO

Olivia Updegrove (Family & Children's Ministries, Disciples Home Missions), Independence Christian Church,
Independence, KY

SPEAKERS

Saturday evening



Speaker: Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens, General Minister and President

Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens was elected as the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in July 2017. She is the first person of color and second woman to lead the denomination.

A descendant of one of the oldest African-American free colonies in Indiana and a Disciple since young adulthood, Hord Owens was dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School and pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL prior to her election. Hord Owens' resume includes more than 20 years in corporate America leading diverse teams in data management in health care and other industries before she entered seminary. After ordination, she served 15 years at the University of Chicago Divinity School, shepherding a varied student body in both background and theology.

Sunday evening



Speaker: Rev. Nancy Gowler, First Christian Church, Puyallup, WA

Rev. Nancy Gowler was selected to preach at the Sunday worship service from the worship committee's call for sermons in 2018.

A graduate of Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY, and ordained by First Christian Church in Eugene, OR in 1998, Rev. Gowler has served as the pastor of First Christian Church in Puyallup, WA, for 18 years.

Monday evening



Speaker: Rev. Ruben del Pilar, Community Worship Center, Gardena, CA

Ruben del Pilar is a second-generation pastor, coming from a long line of pastors and lay leaders beginning with his parents who established the first Hispanic Disciples of Christ Church in California in which they

pastored for 39 years.

In 2015, Ruben along with his wife Cindy and two children Jacob and Nerissa, planted Community Worship Center a multi-ethnic church in the city of Gardena where they serve as senior pastors.

Tuesday evening



Celebration of the Merger and Design

Speakers: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale and Rev. Mark Briley

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale is the founder and Senior Pastor of the Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Georgia.

A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Dr. Hale received a Bachelor of Arts in music from Hollins University; a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University; and a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary. She holds five honorary Doctorates of Divinity and an honorary Doctor of Law degree. Her vision and leadership led her to establish two ministries; Elah Pastoral Ministries, Inc. and the Women in Ministry Conference, Inc.



Rev. Mark Briley is a third generation Disciples of Christ minister and holds a Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. He is leader of the staff team, casting vision with the people of the Harvard Avenue Christian Church in Tulsa, and joining our spiritual leaders in caring for the needs of our people.

Mark serves the denomination as a member of the Week of Compassion Advisory Committee and on the leadership team of the Bethany Fellows.

Wednesday morning

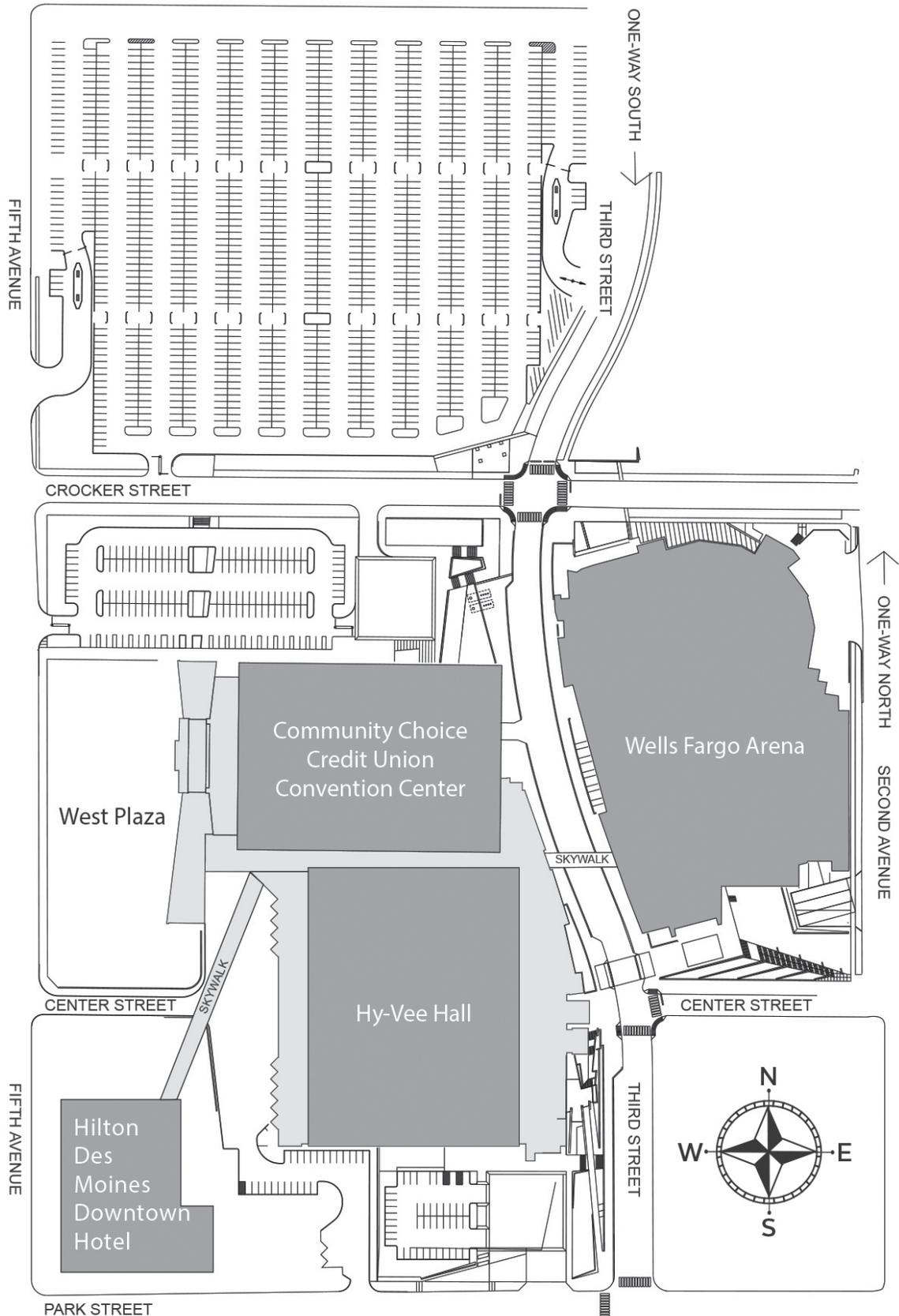


Celebration and Sending Out
Speaker: Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

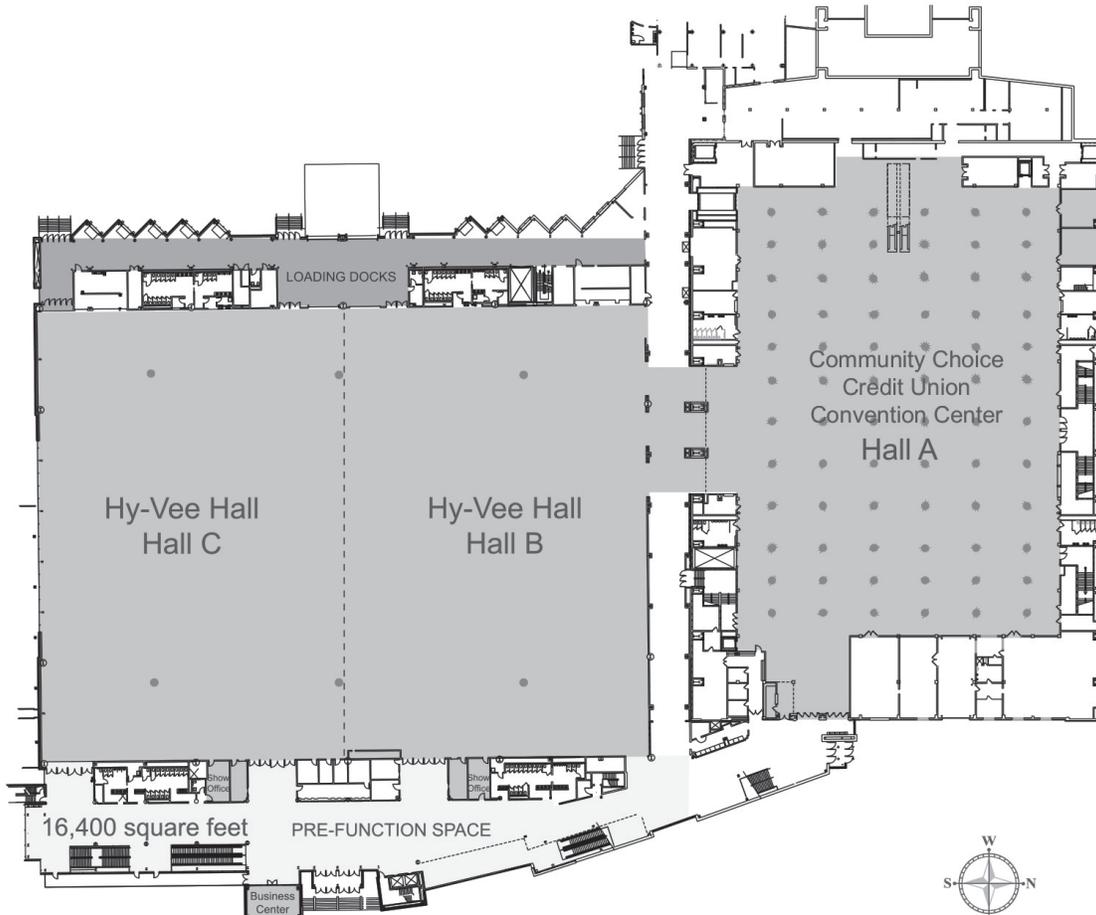
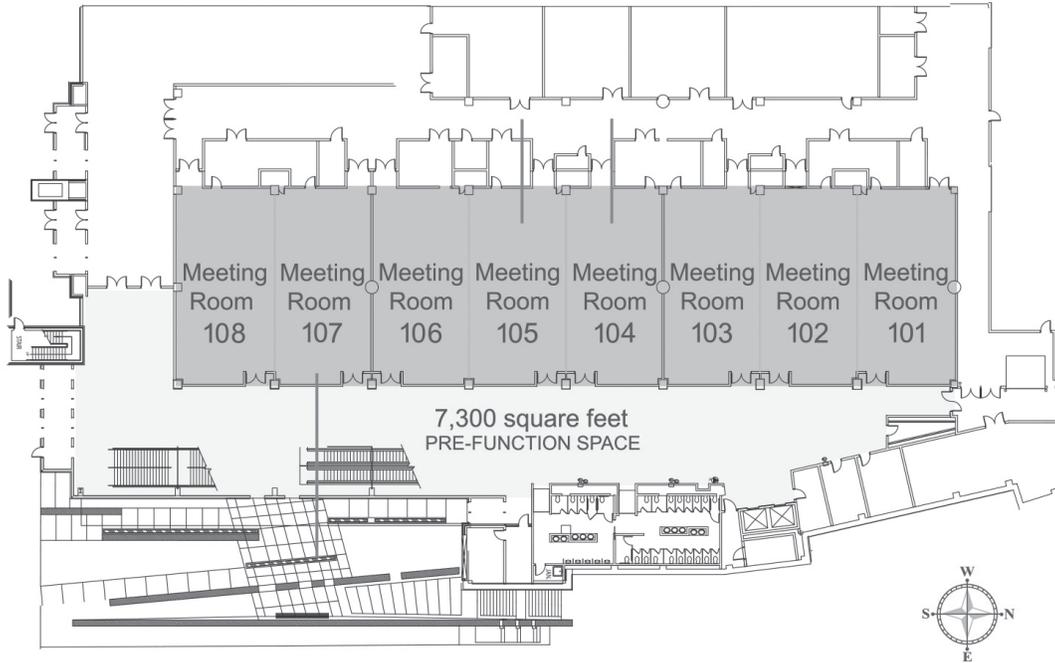
Recipient of a MacArthur Genius Grant in 2018, Rev. Barber founded Repairers of the Breach, a national leadership development

organization, in 2014 to expand upon the Moral Monday movement, and in 2017, he and colleagues launched a revival of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign that was originally spearheaded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many others. Merging moral and activist traditions, Barber is providing a faith-based framework for action that strengthens civic engagement and inspires the country to imagine a more humane society.

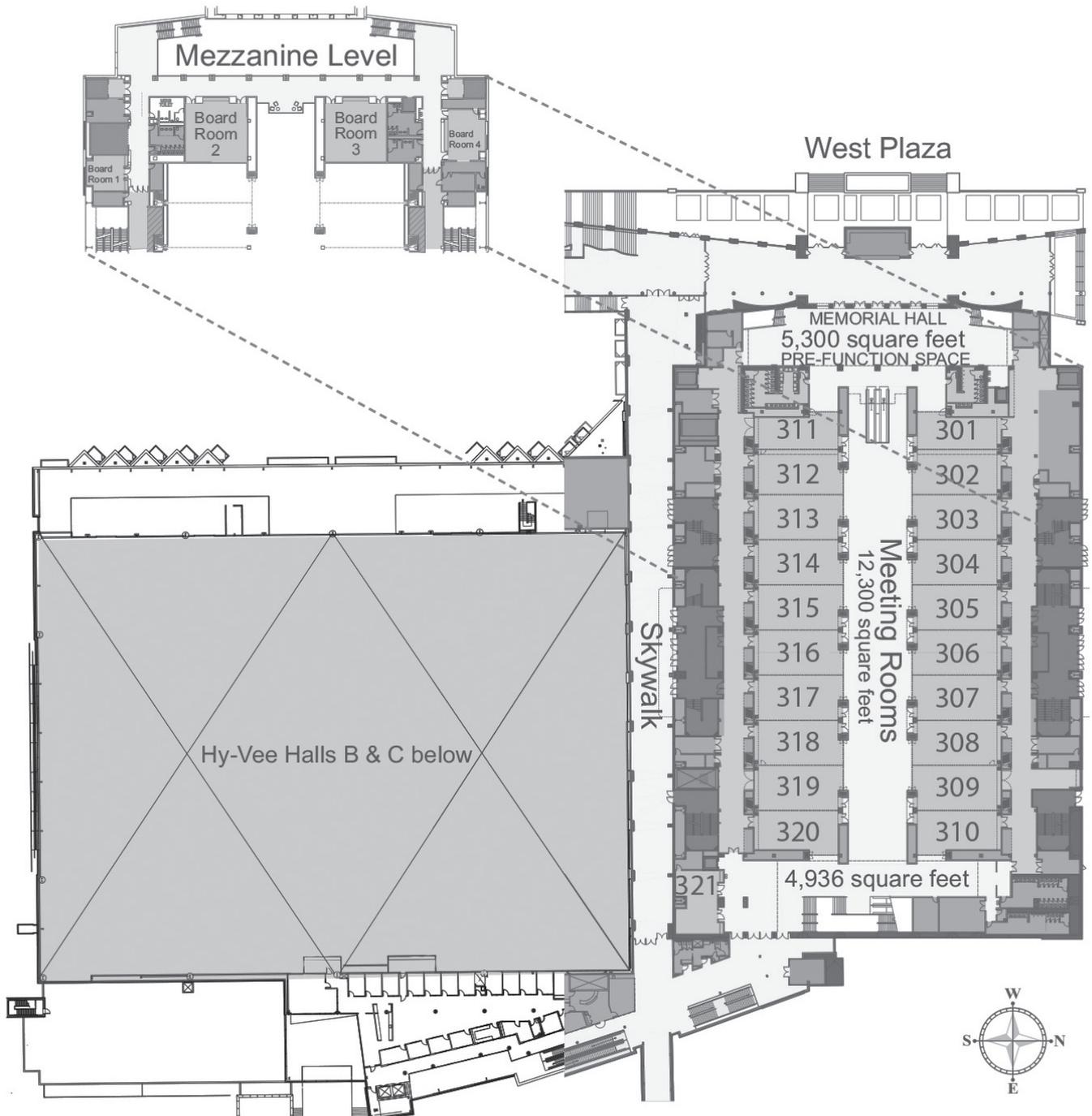
IOWA EVENTS CENTER MAPS—OVERVIEW



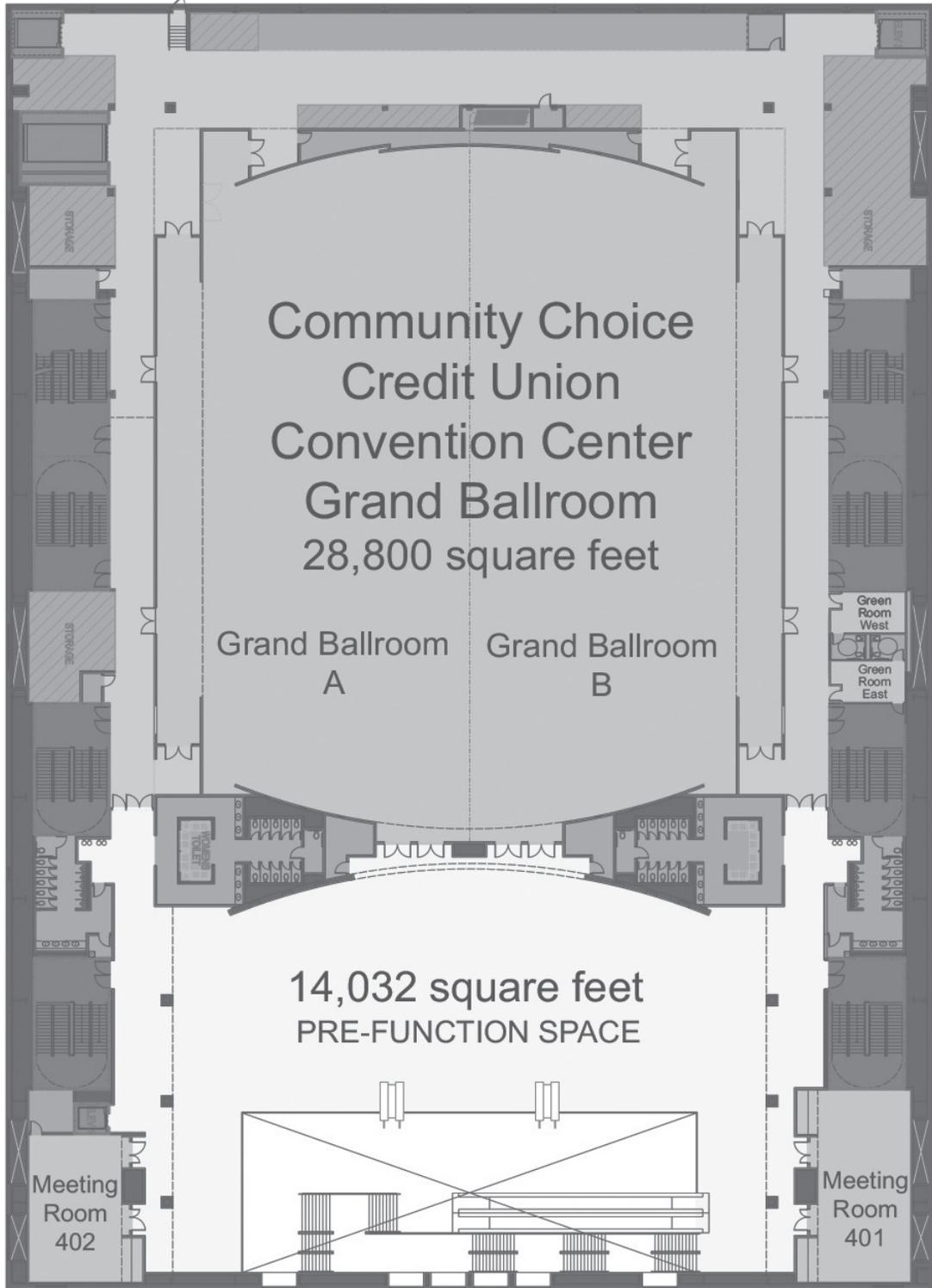
IOWA EVENTS CENTER MAPS—LEVEL 1, 2



IOWA EVENTS CENTER MAPS—LEVEL 3



IOWA EVENTS CENTER MAPS—LEVEL 4



ASSEMBLY SERVICES

Welcome Center

Includes registration and information booths

Sponsored by the Pension Fund

The registration booth and welcome center, located in the HyVee hall lobby (southeast corner of building near drop-off), will open each day throughout the Assembly during the following hours.

Saturday, July 20	9:00 am - 6 pm
Sunday, July 21	1:00 pm - 6 pm
Monday, July 22	9:00 am - 6 pm
Tuesday, July 23	9:00 am - 6 pm

Meal Tickets

You will be able to purchase meal tickets onsite at the meal tickets kiosk in the Welcome Center. Tickets will be available until the meal is sold out or up to one hour prior to the start of the event.

The General Assembly Office does not print or mail paper tickets - all meal tickets are electronic purchases!

Chapel

The Chapel is located on the upper northwest corner of the Community Choice Convention Center on the Mezzanine Level overlooking the West Plaza entrance.

Exhibit Hall

Visit more than 70 exhibitors to see new products; build and maintain professional contacts; meet new vendors; and learn about the many Disciples institutions of higher education. And don't forget to stop in and recharge - your electronics, as well as yourself - in the Charge Station and Lounge sponsored by Christian Church Foundation located in the Exhibit hall.

The Exhibit Hall, located in HyVee Halls B & C, will be open

Saturday, July 20	9:00 am - 6 pm
Sunday, July 21	1:00 pm - 6 pm
Monday, July 22	9:00 am - 6 pm
Tuesday, July 23	9:00 am - 6 pm

First Aid Room

The first aid station is located on the second floor of HyVee hall at the north end of the corridor near the elevators. Should you need assistance, any usher can direct you to the first aid station. Emergency medical technicians will staff this room at all times. Always carry identification in your purse or wallet with your full name, home address, and information about any health concerns or medications.

ASSEMBLY SERVICES

Message Center

A message center is in the Welcome Center. Announcements from the floor of the Assembly will be made only in the case of extreme emergencies.

Shuttle Transportation

Look for placards at the drop off across from HyVee Hall and the registration area to find out what time shuttle routes are running for your hotel. You will find matching information in the hotel lobby.

Parking

Parking is available at the Convention Center lots, as well as in city parking lots and on nearby streets. More information can be found at <http://www.parkdowntowndesmoines.org/>

Special Accommodations

The Special Needs Booth in the Welcome Center will be available to assist those with special needs, i.e., hearing or sight-impairment, mobility assistance, assistance to the elevators, assistance to the Plenary Hall, etc.

- **Medication Refrigeration** – the Special Needs committee will have a refrigerator available for those who need to refrigerate medication.
- **Wheelchairs and Scooters** – rental/pick-up and return for wheelchairs and motorized scooters will take place at this booth.
- **Hearing Accessibility (Hearing Loops)** – Wired electromagnetic “loops” are taped to the floor around seating section. Audio is transmitted through the wire loops and is received using a “t-coil” equipped receiver. Attendees with t-coil equipped hearing aids can receive an audio signal directly into their ears without requiring an extra receiver. Those without t-coil equipped hearing aids can check out a receiver and headphones.
- **Hearing Accessibility (CART-Communication Access Real-time Translation)** – A CART translator will type the words spoken in worship and business session and text will appear on a dedicated screen, allowing those with hearing difficulties to read what was spoken.

Please indicate your special need in the registration system in advance of your arrival, so that the committee can be prepared to assist you.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found Booth will be in the Welcome Center. It will be open during the Assembly to accept/ return lost and found items.

Information Services

Information Services, located in the Welcome Center, serves as the booth for facility information, mission information, RV Parks, restaurant locations, area points of interest, information for doctors and dentists, auto repair, etc., in the area.

ASSEMBLY SERVICES

Language Translation

Headsets for this service are available from the “Translation Table” near the entrance to the Plenary Hall or by asking any usher.

Voter Credentials

Obtaining your Voter Credentials

All members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who register for the General Assembly shall have all privileges of the Assembly, except voting privileges, which are limited to the following:

- Certified voting representatives from congregations;
- Certified voting representatives from regions;
- Ordained/licensed ministers with ministerial standing (designated by clergy ribbon);
- Chief administrative officers of institutions and general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);
- Members of the General Board;
- Past Moderators and Vice Moderators of the General Assembly.

The credentials booth, located in the Welcome Center, will be open during regular registration center hours.

Saturday, July 20	9:00 am – 6 pm
Sunday, July 21	1:00 pm – 6 pm
Monday, July 22	9:00 am – 6 pm
Tuesday, July 23	9:00 am – noon

“Voter” RIBBONS. A voter certification form will be available at the Credentials kiosk. Voters from the above categories should complete and sign their form and submit it to the volunteer. Once Voters are certified, they will then receive a RIBBON to apply to their name badge. **Voter RIBBONS** entitle voters to sit in a voters section for all business sessions of this Assembly.

“Clergy” RIBBONS. All confirmed ordained/licensed ministers can pick up their clergy ribbon at check in in the Welcome Center.

Committee on Reference and Counsel

The Administrative Committee of the General Board is the Committee on Reference and Counsel for the General Assembly. Announcement of meeting times will be made from the platform during plenary sessions. The committee will meet in Board Room 3 on the Mezzanine Level of the Community Choice Convention Center.

Communications and Media

Onsite: General Assembly Office
e-mail: news@disciples.org

ASSEMBLY SERVICES

News Operation

Communication Ministries staff will be co-located with the General Assembly office. The staff works with secular and religious news outlets, providing news and information about the Assembly. Secular and religious press (writers, bloggers, photographers, etc.) should contact Communication Ministries at news@disciples.org for appropriate credentials.

Assembly Reporting

A publication highlighting General Assembly events will be mailed to congregations and individual subscribers by the end of August 2019. General Assembly News orders can be placed through the registration system. The price for the publication is \$8.

Speaker Manuscripts

If manuscripts are submitted by Assembly speakers, they will be posted online at www.disciples.org/ga following the Assembly.

Audio and Video Recordings

Due to copyright concerns, please do not record and post portions of worship services, learning track events, or concerts on media sharing sites without permission from Communication Ministries.

Amateur Photography

Photographs are permitted during Assembly; however, we ask that you limit recording and taking close-up pictures of speakers to after sessions or during the first two minutes of an address. Flash or flood lights are not permitted except for designated assembly staff. Photography during communion services and business sessions is discouraged except for designated assembly staff or media credentialed by Communication Ministries.

Announcements

Time constraints limit announcements from the Assembly platform. Special announcements can be delivered to the Assembly Office.

Handouts

Only material approved in advance by the Assembly Office can be distributed in the Convention Center. Items handed to participants as they enter or leave the plenary hall must be directly related to Assembly business or services and approved by the office. They will be handed out by designated ushers. You must contact the General Assembly Manager to obtain permission. Contact the Assembly Office if you believe unauthorized materials are being distributed within the Convention Center.

Recording for Historical Archives

All plenary sessions, including business sessions, are recorded by the assembly production crew for historical purposes.

CHILD CARE

NURSERY, TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS CARE

We welcome your children to the General Assembly. We are praying for each child that they will feel loved and have an awesome time during the Assembly.

Care will be available during the following Program sessions:

- **Saturday, July 20 from 1:15 to 4:45 pm**
- **Sunday, July 21 from 1:15 to 4:45 pm**
- **Monday - Tuesday 8:15 - 11:45 am, 1:15 to 4:45 pm**

Because of the rules and regulations involved with food preparation, we are asking that parents provide an am and pm snack for their children each day and that they include the children in their meal plans for lunch and dinner each day.

Nursery Care at the Assembly is available for infants 6 weeks of age through 12 months of age in a safe, caring environment. Parents should provide diapers, wipes, change of clothes, baby food, formula, etc. as needed (all items labeled with child's name).

A Toddler's Program will be available for children age 12 to 36 months.

Toddlers and two-year olds will be engaged in age-appropriate activities that includes free play, arts and crafts, music, and story time. A daily schedule will be provided for each group that includes snack time and rest time. We ask that parents provide a bag that includes the following items each day: diapers/pull-ups, wipes, a change of clothing, a blanket and a snack for each session that the child attends. Please label each item with the child's name. Parents will be asked to provide breakfast prior to bringing the child in the morning. Parents will also be asked to pick their child up during lunch and dinner breaks.

The Preschool Program is designed for children ages 3 through 5 years.

Our theme will be All of God's Creation. We will have fun, structured activities that will allow kids to explore God's creation. Activities will include reading time, games, crafts, learning activities and exploration. This age group will be going to the Science Center of Iowa Monday afternoon and to Blank Park Zoo on Tuesday morning. Parents must identify which field trips their children will be going at the time of registration.

Children ages 3-5 years will need to bring a bag each day that contains a change of clothes, and extra underwear and a small blanket to be used during rest time. Please label each item with your child's name. We are also asking that you send a snack for each session that your child attends. We ask that each child be provided breakfast prior to being dropped off in the morning and parents pick up their children during lunch and dinner breaks.

Please note:

In order to provide all enrolled children with a safe, healthy and fun experience, we will not accept children into our program who are sick. Therefore, please do not bring your child/children to a session if he/she has had a fever, vomited, had diarrhea or had an infectious runny nose within the previous 24 hours of a session. If a child develops any of these symptoms during a session, we will contact parents to pick them up and they will not be allowed to rejoin the group until they have been symptom free for 24 hours.

CHILD CARE

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Children entering kindergarten through those entering fifth grade will have structured activities provided by the Local Arrangements Committee. Parents must register their children for these activities.

- Parents will be responsible for dropping off and picking up children on time.
- No meals will be provided as part of the Children's Program.
- There will be special family-friendly areas during evening worship.
- Parents will need to fill out permission slips for the field trips online or at the assembly.
- Activities will be provided Saturday and Sunday afternoons, Monday and Tuesday mornings and afternoons.

Children entering kindergarten through second grade

Saturday 1:15 - 4:45 pm

Opening activities followed by icebreaker games, learning activity, a craft, video, music, a game and closing activities.

Sunday 1:15 - 4:45 pm

Opening activities followed by games, learning, STEM activity, craft, music, game and closing activities

Monday 8:15 - 11:30 am

Opening activity, game, learning activity, craft, STEM, music and closing activity.
Lunch with parents

Monday 1:15 - 4:45 pm

Opening activity, game, learning activity, skywalk exploration, music, game, closing activity

Tuesday 8:15 - 11:30 am

Opening activity, trip to the Blank Park Zoo, closing activity
Lunch with parents

Tuesday 1:15 - 4:45 pm

Opening activity, game, learning activity, craft, game, video, closing

Children entering third through fifth grade

Saturday 1:15 - 4:45 pm

Opening activities followed by icebreaker games, learning activity, a craft, music, a game and closing activities.

Sunday 1:15 - 4:45 pm

Opening activities followed by games, learning, STEM activity, craft, game and closing activities

Monday 8:15 - 11:30 am

Opening activity, game, learning activity, STEM, music and closing activity.
Lunch with parents

Monday 1:15 - 4:45 pm

Opening activity, game, learning activity, skywalk exploration, music, game, closing activity

Tuesday 8:15 - 11:30 am

Opening activity, game, learning activity, craft, game, video

Tuesday 1:15 - 4:45 pm

Opening activity, trip to the Blank Park Zoo, closing activity
Lunch with parents

CYF SCHEDULE

This schedule is for young people entering 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade. This spring's high school graduates may attend the CYF or young adult events.

Saturday	
1:30 – 4:30 pm	All Assembly Opening Ceremony – Arena
Dinner	On your own
7 – 8:30 pm	All Assembly Worship – Arena
8:45 – 10 pm	CYF/Chi Rho Ice Cream Social
Sunday	
9 – 11:30 am	Worship with Obra Hispana or in the community
Lunch	On your own
1:30 – 3 pm	CYF/Chi Rho Scavenger Hunt – Exhibit Hall
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Mock Business Session
Dinner	On your own
7 – 8:30 pm	All Assembly Worship – Arena
Monday	
8:30 – 9 am	CYF/Chi Rho – GYC Testimony
9 – 10 am	Workshops (includes one for adult sponsors)
10:15 – 11:30 am	Workshops
Lunch	On your own
1:30 – 4:30 pm	CYF/Chi Rho – Onsite Mission Project
Dinner	On your own
7 – 8:30 pm	All Assembly Worship – Arena
Tuesday	
8:30 – 9 am	CYF/Chi Rho – GYC Testimony
9 – 10 am	Workshops (includes one for adult sponsors)
10:15 – 11:30 am	Workshops
Lunch	On your own
1:30 – 4:30 pm	CYF/Chi Rho – On Site Mission Project
Dinner	On your own
7 – 8:30 pm	All Assembly Worship – Arena
8:45 – 10 pm	CYF/Chi Rho – Closing Presentation and Reception
Wednesday	
9 – 11 am	All Assembly Sending Out & Celebration – Arena

Workshops

Difficult Conversations on Life and Faith	
Monday, 9 am	Anti-Racism/Pro Reconciliation Ministry in the Church
Monday, 10:15 am	How Not to Troll your Neighbors
Tuesday, 9 am	Inclusive Language: What the Bible Scholars Say
Tuesday, 10:15 am	Gun Violence
How to Adult	
Monday, 9 am	Preparing for College
Monday, 10:15 am	Managing Money
Tuesday, 9 am	Dealing with Stress: Balancing Commitments and Self Care
Tuesday, 10:15 am	Why Voting Matters
Sacred Arts: Creative Use of Arts	
Monday, 9 am	Finding Your Artistic Voice
Monday, 10:15 am	Worship Using the Arts
Tuesday, 9 am	Learning to Pray Through the Arts
Tuesday, 10:15 am	The Power in Arts in Action
Becoming a Counselor in Training (Leadership)	
Monday, 9 am	How to Welcome Newbies
Monday, 10:15 am	Games and Other Activities
Tuesday, 9 am	Healthy Boundaries at Camp
Tuesday, 10:15 am	Guiding Conversations in Family Groups

Chi Rho Schedule

Our dedicated youth activity planners have this schedule sketched out for the Chi Rho youth - those who are entering 6th, 7th, or 8th grade in the fall. Participants will be able to have all lunches and dinners with their family or church group. Parents and guardians are encouraged to take their Chi Rho youth with them to worship each evening.

Saturday	Ice Cream Social with CYF	8:45 – 10 pm
Sunday	Exhibit Hall Scavenger Hunt	1:30 – 2:45 pm
	Mock Business Session	3:00 – 4:30 pm
Monday	Opening meditation with CYF	8:30-9 am
	“Game of Life” activities	9 – 11:30 am
	Onsite Mission Project	1:30 – 4:30 pm
Tuesday	Opening meditation with CYF	8:30-9 am
	“Game of Life” activities	9 – 11:30 am
	Onsite Mission Project	1:30 – 4:30 pm
	Closing Presentation and Reception	8:45 – 10 pm

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

There are always plenty of opportunities to participate in local mission work at the General Assembly! The Local Arrangement Committee has all kinds of mission work for Des Moines. Inquire about details at the Welcome Center information booth. *SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

LifeServe Blood Center

Donate your blood to save lives. LifeServe is a non-profit community blood center. They are the sole provider of blood to more than 120 hospitals in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota!

To donate, a donor must:

- Present a form of ID upon registration
- Be 16 years of age or older. Individuals under the age of 18 must provide a signed parental/guardian permission form.
- Weigh at least 120 pounds.
- Not have made a whole blood, double red cell, platelet or plasma donation prior to becoming eligible.
- Have normal blood pressure, pulse, temperature and hemoglobin screenings.
- Not be pregnant.
- Not have a cold.
- Not be under a doctor's care for any serious illness or injury.

LifeServe will be taking donations from 11 AM – 4 PM on Monday July 22 and Tuesday, July 23 in the mobile unit in the southeast parking lot near HyVee Hall.

For any additional questions about donations please go to <https://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/>

Joppa

Joppa is an organization in Des Moines whose mission is to create communities of unconditional love, support and hope for the homeless as we work together to prevent and ultimately end homelessness. The transition program provides structured delivery of services to help residents transition to stable income and housing within 12-24 months.

— Tiny Home Build

- Disciples will actually build a tiny home.
- This volunteer opportunity will be available throughout the General Assembly
- Children may be able to contribute to some jobs such as painting but should have guardian supervision
- Tools will be provided

— Village Preparation

- It is expected that Joppa will have obtained the land on which the tiny home village will be built by July. If so, Disciples may have the opportunity to work at the tiny home village on a variety of projects to prepare for new residents- landscaping, community building preparation, painting, maintenance, etc

— Abandoned Camp Cleanup

- If there is a homeless camp site that has been abandoned, Disciples can volunteer to clean up the site.
- Long pants, closed toed shoes, work gloves, sunscreen, bug spray, and hats recommended.

Food Bank of Iowa

- Food Sorting: Labeling, counting, and boxing donated food.
- Volunteers must be aged 10 years or older. Wear layered clothing and must wear closed-toed shoes (no sandals).
- Date(s)/time(s): Monday, July 22nd [1pm-4pm], Wednesday, July 24th [8:30am-11:30am; 1pm-4pm]
- Location(s): Food Bank of Iowa Volunteer Center located at 2220 E. 17th Street Des Moines IA 50316

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Central Iowa Shelter & Services (CISS)

- Serve a meal to members of the community experiencing homelessness. Disciples will not be responsible for meal preparation, only serving.
- Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Date(s)/time(s): Tuesday July 23. 11:00am to 1:00pm
- Location(s): 1420 Mulberry St, Des Moines, IA 50309

Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC)

Red Barrel Events:

- Small groups of Disciples are invited to be present at various Des Moines area grocery stores to greet shoppers and encourage them to give cash or purchase donations to drop in the red barrel to benefit the food pantry system.
- All ages welcome.
- Location(s): Local grocery stores

Meals from the market:

- On Saturday, DMARC and Disciples will collect donations from farmers at the downtown farmers market.
- Date(s)/time(s): Saturday July 20, 2019. 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Location(s): Downtown Farmers Market
- Number of volunteer slots: 15 youth/adults.

Gardening in various large church gardens

- All ages. Wear old clothes, hat, gloves, sunscreen.
- Location(s): Gardens located at local churches and nonprofits

Blanket Project

Make blankets/lap robes for children and elderly during the General Assembly. The completed lap robes will be shared with area nursing homes to give to new residents as a welcome to the facility. The children's blankets will be distributed by our Department of Human Services throughout the state to be given to children who have to be removed from their homes. In both of these situations the blanket will help the recipient know that someone cares about them.

There will be yarn available at our location in the Iowa Events Center as well as a limited number of crochet hooks and knitting needles. We will also be making fleece tie blankets throughout the assembly. We will accept volunteers of all ages to help with the project but children 10 and under will need to be accompanied by an adult. We will be open from 9:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. daily during the assembly.

Letter Writing Campaign

During brief moments of free time at the General Assembly you can participate in this mission opportunity without leaving the Iowa Events Center. Send a handwritten letter to legislators and community leaders to express gratitude, build connections, and advocate for important issues. Stationery and examples will be available.

Iowa Homeless Youth Center

- Pulling weeds, watering plants, planting herbs, etc in a garden on the rooftop of the building where the homeless youth grow their own food and learn gardening skills
- Kitchen prep (help make a dish for lunch/dinner)
- Light cleaning of the facility (clean windows, art room, etc.)
- Organize donation closet (size clothes, put clothes on hangers)
- Do an activity with youth (play a game, make a craft, etc.)

Volunteer slots: 10-15 per day

Dates/Times: Monday July 22 and Wednesday July 24 for 2-3 hours

Location: Iowa Homeless Youth Center; 612 Locust St

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Dirty Disciples

- The Veterans Hospital, the City of Des Moines, and local churches have helped us identify several individuals in the community who need our help! Yard work is a common request but please let us know if you have a specialized skill (ex: plumbing) and we will see if we can match it with someone in need.
- Attire: closed toed shoes, long pants, hats, sunscreen, and bug spray recommended
- Tools/equipment will be provided
- Locations: approximately 35 sites around Des Moines and immediate suburbs
- Volunteer slots: 3-4 per site (a leader will be provided for each site. The goal is to have multiple sites clustered very near each other so transportation can be provided to a larger group easily.)

Central Iowa Shelter (CISS) Donation Sorting

On Monday, July 22, we could use a group of 10 to help sort donations (clothing or hygiene products) for 2 hours at CISS (1420 Mulberry Street in Des Moines). Our time frame is flexible based on the conference schedule. Close-toed shoes recommended. All ages are welcome.

CISS T-shirt Bags

Serve CISS without leaving the Iowa Events Center! We invite you to help us transform old t-shirts into reusable cloth bags that CISS clients use in the clothing closet. Please bring your own long sleeved, short sleeved, or sleeveless t-shirts and scissors if possible but some will also be provided.

Special Event - Hall A

Sunday 1:30-2:50 Refugee simulation

Facilitators: Linda Wolf, retired PhD in international and global education, and Vinh Nguyen of Center for New Americans, and others

Sunday 3-4:30 Refugee Q and A

Facilitator: Vinh Nguyen, ELL Accountability & Support, Center for New Americans. Disciples Home Missions Refugee & Immigration Ministry staff will also be present to share our Church's involvement in the issue.

EXHIBITORS

Subject to change

BOOTH #	ORGANIZATION
235	All By Hand
312	Association of Disciple Musicians
23	Barton College
25	Bethany College
316	Bethany Fellowships
231	Bethlehem Christian Family
811	Blackbaud
1012	Bridge of Faith
19	Brite Divinity School
213	Center for Faith and Giving
313	Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries
239	Chalice Press/Warner Press
26	Chapman University
221	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada
100	Christian Church Foundation
324	Christian Church Foundation Charging Lounge
512	Christian Church Homes
7	Christian Theological Seminary
314	Christmount
1	Claremont & Iliff Schools of Theology
910	Coach Approach Ministries/ Solid Ground Coaching
218	College of Regional Ministers
215	Council on Christian Unity
28	Culver-Stockton College
332	Decker-Smith Pottery
702	Disciples Church Extension Fund/Hope Partnership/ New Church Ministry

BOOTH #	ORGANIZATION
11	Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago
9	Disciples Divinity House/ Disciples Foundation Inc
201	Disciples Home Missions
715	Disciples Justice Action Network (DJAN)
712	Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance
219	Disciples of Christ Historical Society
711	Disciples Peace Fellowship
318	Disciples Seminary Foundation
5	Disciples Seminary Foundation
6	Disciples Seminary Foundation
29	Drury University
915	Education for Ministry
36	Eureka College
233	Fashions by Sarah
911	Givelify
108	Global Ministries/ Division of Overseas Ministries
315	Greenwood Cemetery
913	Hatchery LA
1022	Hearing Access Solutions LLC
21	Higher Education and Leadership Ministries
30	Hiram College
815	Insurance Board
331	Jeff Wunrow Designs
1014	Johnson University
17	Lexington Theological Seminary
31	Midway University
1020	Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO)

BOOTH #	ORGANIZATION
319	North American Pacific/ Asian Disciples (NAPAD)
401	National Benevolent Association
321	National City Christian Church
317	National Convocation of the Christian Church
912	NextSunday Resources
2	Pacific School of Religion (DSF)
1009	Pension Fund of the Christian Church
14	Phillips Theological Seminary
816	Phillips University Legacy Foundation
917	Reach Our Goals
810	Saint Paul School of Theology
3	San Francisco Theological Seminary
4	Seattle University School of Religion
335	Simply Fair
1016	Solihten Institute
330	Spirit of Creation
34	Texas Christian University
217	The Cane Ridge Meeting House
35	Transylvania University
914	United Camps, Conferences and Retreats
32	University of Lynchburg
900	Week of Compassion
916	Westminster John Knox Press & Flyaway Books
333	WomenSpirit and Abiding Spirit Vestments
1010	World Convention/Global Women Connecting
334	Worship Woodworks, Inc.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Locations are subject to change

Saturday, July 20	
9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration and Welcome Center open, HyVee Hall lobby
9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Exhibit Hall open, HyVee Halls B & C
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Opening Celebration and Business, Wells Fargo Arena Doors open 1:00 PM
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Meal Events Dinner Disciples Church Extension Fund/Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation/New Church Ministries Branch and Vine Dinner, Iowa Events Center, IEC Ballroom
7:15 pm – 8:30 pm	Worship, Wells Fargo Arena Preacher: Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President Doors open 6:45 pm
8:45 pm – 10:00 pm	Aftersessions Capital Area Region, IEC Lexington Theological Seminary, IEC NAPAD Gathering, IEC Youth Ice Cream Social, IEC 12-Step Support Group Meeting, IEC

Sunday, July 21	
7:00 am – 8:30 am	Meal Events Breakfast Disciples Peace Fellowship, IEC
9:00 am – Noon	Worship in the Community (times vary, some include lunch and/or transportation)
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Meal Events Lunch Disciples Women Luncheon, IEC Disciples Men Luncheon, IEC
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Registration and Welcome Center open
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Exhibit Hall open, HyVee B & C
1:30 pm – 2:50 pm	Education Session 1
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	CYF/Chi Rho Scavenger Hunt
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Education Session 2
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	CYF/Chi Rho Mock Business Session, IEC
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Meal Events Dinner National Convocation Heritage, IEC Ballroom

DAILY SCHEDULE

Locations are subject to change

SCHEDULE

7:15 pm – 8:30 pm	Worship, Wells Fargo Arena Preacher: Rev. Nancy Gowler, Call-for-Sermon selection, First Christian Church, Puyallup, WA Doors open 6:45 pm
8:45 pm – 10:00 pm	Aftersessions Christian Theological Seminary President's Reception, Hilton Disciples Home Missions Reception, IEC Christian Church in the Southwest Reception, IEC National Benevolent Association Trivia Night, River Center Chalice Press Books & Hymns, off site, 9:00-10:30 pm

Monday, July 22

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Meal Events Breakfast Pension Fund
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Bible Study, Wells Fargo Arena Rev. Dr. Lisa Davison, leading
8:30 am – 9:00 am	CYF/Chi Rho Morning Testimony, IEC
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Chi Rho Game of Life activities
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Business Session, Wells Fargo Arena
9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Exhibit Hall open, HyVee B & C
9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration/Welcome Center open, HyVee lobby
9:00 am – 10:00 am	CYF Workshops 1, IEC
10:15 am – 11:30 am	CYF Workshops 2, IEC
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Meal Events Lunch Barton College, IEC Bethany College, Hilton Downtown Chapman University, IEC Culver-Stockton College, IEC Drury University, IEC Eureka College, IEC Hiram College, IEC Jarvis Christian College, IEC Phillips University and Alumni Association, IEC University of Lynchburg, IEC Texas Christian University/Brite Divinity School, Hilton Transylvania University, IEC



DAILY SCHEDULE

Locations are subject to change

1:30 pm – 2:50 pm	Education Session 1
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	CYF/Chi Rho Mission Project, IEC
start at 3:00 pm	Education Session 2
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Meal Events Dinner CPOHM, HELM & NBA Dinner- <i>Young Adult Leadership Development: Intersections and Intersectionality</i> , IEC Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries, Hilton Downtown North America Pacific/Asian Disciples, IEC
7:15 pm – 8:30 pm	Worship, Wells Fargo Arena Preacher: Rev. Ruben del Pilar, Community Worship Center, Gardena, CA Doors open 6:45 pm
8:45 pm – 10:00 pm	Aftersessions Disciples Alliance Q Gathering, IEC Disciples Women, IEC Mid-America Region, IEC Pacific Southwest Region, IEC 12-Step Support Group, IEC

Tuesday, July 23

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Meal Events Breakfast Reconciliation Ministry, IEC
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Bible Study, Wells Fargo Arena; Rev. Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder, leading
8:30 am – 9:00 am	CYF/Chi Rho Morning Testimony, IEC
9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration and Welcome Center open, HyVee lobby
9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Exhibit Hall open, HyVee B & C
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Business Session, Wells Fargo Arena
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Chi Rho Game of Life activities
9:00 am – 10:00 am	CYF Workshops 1, IEC

DAILY SCHEDULE

Locations are subject to change

SCHEDULE

10:15 am – 11:30 am	CYF Workshops 2, IEC
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Meal Events Lunch Christian Theological Seminary Alumni & Friends, IEC Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago, IEC Disciples Divinity House of Vanderbilt University, IEC Disciples Seminary Foundation, IEC Lexington Theological Seminary, IEC Phillips Theological Seminary, Hilton Downtown
1:30 pm – 2:50 pm	Education Session 1, IEC
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	CYF/Chi Rho Mission Project, IEC
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Education Session 2, IEC
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Meal Events Dinner Christian Church Foundation, Hilton Downtown Disciples of Christ Historical Society/Council on Christian Unity: <i>One God, One Human Family</i> , IEC Week of Compassion, IEC Disciples Alliance Q, IEC
7:15 pm – 8:30 pm	Worship, Wells Fargo Arena Program: <i>A Celebration of the Merger and Design</i> featuring Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA, and Rev. Mark Briley, Harvard Avenue Christian Church, Tulsa, OK and a special video prepared by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society Doors open 6:30 pm
8:45 pm – 10:00 pm	Aftersessions Obra Hispana, IEC SERF Regions , IEC Youth aftersession, ICC

Wednesday, July 24

8:30 am – 9:00 am	Bible Study, Wells Fargo Arena Rev. Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder and Rev. Dr. Lisa Davison, leading
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Sending Out Worship Service Preacher: Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, Goldsboro, NC
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	After-Assembly Rally off site

MEAL EVENTS

Saturday, July 20

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

**Disciples Church Extension Fund/Hope
Partnership for Missional Transformation/
New Church Ministries Dinner**
The Branch and Vine Dinner
— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Sunday, July 21

7:00 am – 8:30 am

Disciples Peace Fellowship Breakfast
Join us in an interactive discussion about
peace-building in our local communities and
around the world.
— Iowa Events Center, \$25

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Disciples Men Luncheon
— Iowa Events Center, \$28

Disciples Women
— Iowa Events Center, \$30

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

National Convocation Dinner

National Convocation Heritage Dinner
— Iowa Events Center, \$35

Monday, July 22

7:00 am – 8:30 am

Pension Fund Breakfast
Speaker: Rev. Miguel Morales, Iglesia Cristiana
(Disciples de Cristo) en Puerto Rico
— Iowa Events Center, \$10

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Barton College Luncheon
Barton College Alumni and Friends
— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Bethany College Luncheon
— Hilton Des Moines Downtown, \$25

Chapman University Luncheon
— Iowa Events Center, \$30

Culver-Stockton College Luncheon
— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Drury University Luncheon
— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Eureka College Luncheon
— Iowa Events Center, \$22

Hiram College Luncheon
— Iowa Events Center, \$15

Jarvis Christian College Luncheon
— Iowa Events Center, \$30

**Phillips University and Alumni Association
Luncheon**
— Iowa Events Center, \$27

University of Lynchburg Luncheon
— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Texas Christian University & Brite Luncheon
— Hilton Downtown Des Moines, \$25

Transylvania University Luncheon
— Iowa Events Center, \$25

MEAL EVENTS

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Young Adult Leadership Development: Intersections and Intersectionality

CPOHM, HELM & NBA Dinner

Leadership and spiritual development panel conversation

— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Division of Overseas Ministries / Global Ministries Dinner

— Hilton Downtown Des Moines, \$25

North American Pacific/Asian Disciples Dinner

including a cultural presentation

— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Christian Church Foundation Dinner

— Hilton Downtown Des Moines, \$25

Disciples of Christ Historical Society & Council on Christian Unity Dinner

One God, One Human Family: Faith Making History featuring the Rev. Peter Marty, publisher of *The Christian Century*

— Iowa Events Center, \$29

Week of Compassion Dinner

— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Disciples Alliance Q Dinner

HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY, ALLIANCE Q!

— Iowa Events Center, \$40

Tuesday, July 23

7:00 am - 8:30 am

Reconciliation Ministry Breakfast

— Iowa Events Center, \$25

11:45 am - 1:15 pm

Christian Theological Seminary Luncheon

— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago Luncheon

— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Disciples Divinity House of Vanderbilt University Luncheon

— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Disciples Seminary Foundation Luncheon

— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Lexington Theological Seminary Luncheon

— Iowa Events Center, \$25

Phillips Theological Seminary Luncheon

— Hilton Downtown Des Moines, \$30

WORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

Altoona Christian Church, 2890 1 Ave. South, Altoona, IA 50009, (515) 967-4382, altoonadcc@msn.com 10.5 miles/18 minutes, **Rev. Nestor Gomez**, Transportation provided - please contact for reservation, Brunch provided, 9:15 AM

Ankeny Christian Church, 2506 SW 3rd St., Ankeny, IA 50023, 515-330-0135, ocayton@gmail.com, 10.5 mi/20 minutes, **Rev. Dietra Wise-Baker**, 9:30 AM

Bondurant Christian Church, 304 Grant St. S., Bondurant, IA 50035, (515) 967-2328, bondurantcc@gmail.com, 13.6 miles/17 minutes, **Rev. Vy Nguyen**, Transportation provided - please contact for reservation, Meal for freewill offering, 10:00 AM, Childcare and Handicapped Accessible, 10:00 AM

Capitol Hill Christian Church, 3322 E. 25th St., Des Moines, IA 50317, chccsecretary@gmail.com, 5 miles/7 minutes, **Rev. Feliberto Pereira**, Continental Breakfast at 9 - no fee, 10:00 AM, Childcare, limited Handicapped Accessible (Main floor/main door)

Carlisle Christian Church, 305 Market St., Carlisle, IA 50047, (515) 989-0176, carlisle.cc@q.com, 11.4 miles/24 minutes, **Rev. Anne Gregory**, Church-provided potluck, 10:00 AM

Covenant Christian Church, 2700 72nd, Urbandale, IA 50322, (515) 276-3781, church@covenant-christian.org, 7.7 miles/13 Minutes, **Whittney Ijanaten**, 10:00 AM

Downtown Disciples, 500 E. Locust, Des Moines, IA 50309, downtowndisciples@gmail.com, .8 miles/4 minutes (12 minute walk), **Rev. Justo Gonzales II** at 11, **Rev. Debbie Griffin** at 9, Meal for a small cost- Brunch from La Mie, 9 and 11 AM, Childcare provided. Church worship location

is in the skywalk system that is connected to the Convention Center. 601 Locust Street, Des Moines, IA 50309 (inside LaMie Elevate in the skywalk). It is a 2 minute drive. We are located steps from the Marriott Downtown and other Assembly hotels. Handicapped Accessible. Gender Inclusive Restrooms.

Elkhart Christian Church, 252 NW Washington Ave, Elkhart, IA 50073, eccsecretary@windstream.net, 18.2 Miles/19 minutes, **Rev. Amy LaCroix**, 10:00 AM

Fairview Christian Church, 400 McKimber St., Pleasantville, IA 50225, (515) 848-5172, iowafairviewcc@gmail.com, 30.7 Miles/41 minutes, **Rev. Paul Turner**, 9:30 AM

First Christian Church, Adel, 291 N. 9th St., Adel, IA 50003, 27.3 miles/30 minutes, **Rev. Dick Hamm**, If you have interest in transportation to and from the church for 9 a.m. worship and/or attending the meal after, please contact the church @ 515.993.4514 or contact@firstchristianadel.org by July 17.

First Christian Church, Ames, 611 Clark Ave, Ames, IA 50010, (515) 232-5766, maryjane@fccames.org, 35 miles/37 minutes, **Rev. April Johnson**, Transportation provided - please contact for reservation, meal provided, 9:30 AM

First Christian Church, Des Moines, 2500 University Ave, Des Moines, IA 50311, office@fccdm.org, 2.7 miles/7 minutes, **Rev. Don Gillett**, Reception and information for nearby restaurants, 10:30 AM

First Christian Church, Newton, 314 E. 2nd. St. N., Newton, IA 50208, fccnewton@gmail.com, 34.3 Miles/37 minutes, Speaker to be determined, 10:00 AM

WORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

First Christian Church, Oskaloosa, 119 A Ave E, Oskaloosa, IA 52577, (641) 673-4671, fccosky@mahaska.org, 61 Miles/63 minutes, **Dawn and Joe Weeks**, Transportation provided - please contact for reservation, meal provided, 10:00 AM

First Christian Church, Panora, 400 Locust St. #265, Panora, IA, 50309, pastor@panorafcc.org, 51.7 miles/54 minutes, **Global Missions Co-Worker**, Church-provided potluck, 10:00 AM

First Christian Church, Perry, 1224 Lucinda St., Perry, IA 50220, (515) 465-2215, 1stchristianperry@live.com, 39.6 Miles/45 minutes, **Rev. Laura Phillips**, 10:30 AM

Glen Echo Christian Church, 4323 Douglass Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310, glenechocc@msn.com, 6 Miles/13 minutes, **Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon**, 10:15 AM, Childcare available. The entryway to the church is wheelchair accessible, but we don't have fully accessible restrooms. We do have a lift so that folks with mobility issues won't have to negotiate stairs if they would like to go downstairs after church for the coffee fellowship.

Highland Park Christian Church, 4260 NW 6th Dr., Des Moines, IA 50313, joan.hpcc@gmail.com, 4 miles/10 minutes, **Rev. Carol Devine**, Meal available (small fee) vegan option available, 10:15 AM, Childcare and Handicapped Accessible, 10:15 AM

Indianola Heights Christian Church, 810 E. Park Ave., Des Moines, IA 50315, ihcc26@hotmail.com, 2.6 miles/10 minutes, **Ian Alexander**, 10:45 AM

Mitchellville Christian Church, 210 3rd St. NW, Mitchellville, IA 50169, (515)967-4286, mchristianchurch@q.com, 18.1 Miles/20 minutes, **Revs. Josh Baird and Laura Fitt-Baird**, Transportation provided - please contact for reservation, Meal provided, 10:30 AM

Norwalk Christian Church, 701 Main Street, Norwalk, IA 50211, (515) 981-0176, office@norwalkcc.org, 14 Miles/21 minutes, **Rev. Katie Hayes**, Transportation provided - please contact for reservation, Meal provided, 10:00 AM, Staffed nursery birth-5 yrs.

Park Avenue Christian Church, 3219 SW Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50315, dmillfishes@aol.com, 2.7 miles/7 minutes, **Rev. Sotello Long**, Transportation provided - please contact for reservation, Meal provided-freewill offering, 10:30 AM, Childcare and Handicapped Accessible

Taproot Garden, 10633 Drake Street, Norwalk, IA 50211, 515-201-8503, timdiebel@gmail.com, 11 Miles/21 minutes, **Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri**, refreshments provided, 8:30 AM, Private residence, Outdoor service with a labyrinth

Wakonda Christian Church, 3938 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, IA 50321, krisfitzgerald@wakondacc.com, 4.1 miles/10 minutes, **Rev. Megan Huston**, meal provided (no fee) also Continental Breakfast with Sunday School, 8:45 SS; 10:00 AM worship, Sunday School led by Rev. Danny Gulden

Waukee Christian Church, 29043 T Ave., Waukee, IA 50263, (515) 987-4937, waukeechristianchurch@msn.com, 17.4 miles/24 minutes, **Rev. Donna Rose-Heim**, Transportation provided - please contact for reservation, 10:00 AM

West Des Moines Christian Church, 4501 Mills Civic Pkwy, West Des Moines, IA 50265, (515) 223-1639, wdmcc@wdmcc.org, 10.3 miles/16 minutes, **Rev. Dr. Nancy Pittman**, Transportation provided - please contact for reservation, Breakfast at 9:00, 9:30 SS & 10:30 Worship, Sunday School - Global missions personnel

WORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY (NON-DISCIPLE CONGREGATIONS)

Ankeny Presbyterian, 317 SE Trilein Dr., Ankeny, IA 50021, eric@ankenypresbyterian.org, 12.8 miles/16 minutes, **Rev. Richard Voelz**, 9:30 AM

Ankeny United Church of Christ, 602 SE Delaware Ave., Ankeny, IA 50021, pastor@ankenyuucc.org, 12.5 miles/15 minutes, **Rev. Paul Tche**, 10:30 AM

Central Presbyterian Church, 3829 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312-2807, wbubar@dmcpcc.org, 2.5 Miles/8 minutes, **Rev. Erin Wathen**, Catered meal \$10 per person (first 100 people) - Reservation needed. Contact Sheri Egge at 515-279-3658 or segge@dmcpcc.org by Monday, July 15., 10:15 AM, Child care in the nursery is available during worship for infants through 5 yrs.

First Unitarian Church, 1800 Bell Ave, Des Moines, IA 50315, revjen@ucdsm.org, 3.1 miles/8 minutes, **Rev. Linda McRae**, 9:15 and 11:00 AM

Resurrection Lutheran (Ankeny - ELCA), 914 NW Ash Drive, Ankeny, IA 50023, pastor@resurrectionlutheran.org, 14.1 Miles/19 minutes, **Rev. Tabitha Isner**, 8:45 and 10:00 AM

St. John's Lutheran Church (ELCA), 600 6th Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309, (515)243-7691 ext. 225, pastorrachel@stjohnsdsm.org, 0.4 miles/2 minutes, **Rev. Elizabeth Grasham**, 8:00 and 10:00 AM

Urbandale United Church of Christ, 3530 70th St., Urbandale, IA 50322, (515) 276-0625, david.sickelka@urbucc.org, 7.8 miles/14 minutes, **Rev. Derek Penwell**, 10:00 AM

Plymouth United Church of Christ, 4126 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines, IA 50312, (515)255-3149 Ex. 17, mmardis-lecroy@plymouthchurch.com, 4.1 miles/7 minutes, Plymouth youth presenting worship, but they will be hosting a **Global Missions Representative for a Sunday School time**, Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 AM, Sunday School TBD

Grace United Methodist Church, 3700 Cottage Grove, Des Moines, IA 50311, (515) 255-2131, info@gracedesmoines.org, 3.5 miles/8 minutes, **Rev. Phil Snider**, 8:00 and 10:15 AM

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1201 Day St, Des Moines, IA 50314, revfgaddy@yahoo.com, 1.2 miles/4 minutes, **Rev. Chris Dorsey**, 10:00 AM

Trinity/Las Americas United Methodist Church, 1548 8th Street, Des Moines, IA 50314, (515) 288-4056, office@trinityumcdm.org, 2 miles/6 minutes, **Rev. Cherisna Jean-Marie**, Transportation provided - please contact church to reserve, Church providing potluck, 10:00 AM, Service is bilingual (Spanish and English)

SATURDAY WORSHIP

** Please stand if you are able.*

Gathering Music

Welcome/Announcements

***Opening Song:**

“Abide In Me”

W. Mitchell Owens, III

*Commissioned work for the 2019 General Assembly of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)*

***Call to Worship**

One: ¡Alaben al Señor!

주님을 찬양해!

Louez le Seigneur !

Praise the LORD!

Many: Praise the LORD!

One: Alaben a Dios en su santuario,
alábenlo en su poderoso firmamento.

*[Praise God in the holy temple;
praise the LORD in the mighty firmament.]*

**Many: Praise God for powerful deeds;
for boundless grandeur, praise God.**

One: 나팔 소리로 찬양하며 비파와

수금으로 찬양할지어다.

*[O praise the LORD with sound of trumpet;
give praise with lyre and harp.]*

**Many: Praise God with timbrel and dance;
give praise with strings and pipes.**

One: Louez-le avec des cymbales sonores ;
louez-le avec les cymbales de l’ovation.

*[O praise God with resounding cymbals;
give praise with clashing of cymbals.]*

Many: Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

One: ¡Alaben al Señor!

Many: ¡Alaben al Señor!

One: 주님을 찬양해!
Many: Joo Nim eurl chan yang hae!

One: Louez le Seigneur !
Many: Louez le Seigneur !

One: Praise the LORD!
Many: Praise the LORD!

One: Let us sing our praise!

***Song of Praise**
To God Be the Glory
 Words: Fanny J. Crosby; Music: William H. Doane

***Prayer**

Let us join our hearts in prayer.

O God, we come before you with thankful hearts,
 remembering that it is you who like a mother hen
 gathers us from many places.

You have sown the seed of your word deep within us
 and you have grafted us onto Christ, the true vine.

Still our hearts and make them burn
 as the scriptures are opened to us,
 so that we may abide in him
 and bear rich fruit for the life of the world.

We have gathered in the name of Christ your Son,
 and we make our prayer in his holy name.

All: Amen

Introduction of Preacher

Scripture: John 15:1-5

Hear these words of Jesus from the fifteenth chapter of the Gospel of John.

나는 참포도나무요 내 아버지는 농부라.
 Je suis la vraie vigne et mon Père est le vigneron.
 Yo soy la vid verdadera, y mi Padre es el labrador.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you.

Demeurez en moi comme je demeure en vous !
 Permanezcan en mí, y yo permaneceré en ustedes.
 내 안에 거하라 나도 너희 안에 거하리라.

Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

Yo soy la vid y ustedes son las ramas.
 Je suis la vigne, vous êtes les sarments.
 나는 포도나무요 너희는 가지라.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Abide in me as I abide in you.

Demeurez en moi comme je demeure en vous !
All: Demeurez en moi comme je demeure en vous !

Permanezcan en mí, y yo permaneceré en ustedes.
All: Permanezcan en mí, y yo permaneceré en ustedes.

내 안에 거하라 나도 너희 안에 거하리라.
All: Nae ahn eh guh ha rah na doh nuh hee ahn eh guh ha ree rah.

Abide in me as I abide in you.
All: Abide in me as I abide in you.

Musical Reflection

Rodrick Dixon (Tenor)
The Impossible Dream medley
 Words and Music by Mitch Leigh; Arranged by Fred Nelson, III

Sermon

Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens
 General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Song of Response

Abide in Me
 Words & music: Barbara Hamm

Prayers for the Church and WorldLeader 1:*

As you wish and as you are able,
 please raise your hands with us in prayer.
 As you have given birth to all things, O God,
 so now abide with the earth, the water, the air, and all living things,
 and give us all the will to care for the creation you have entrusted to us.

Leader 2:

Make your home among those who suffer and struggle.
 Set free those who experience injustice, discrimination, and racism.
 Hold in your tender embrace those who are sick or dying.
 Protect refugees and migrants and bring them to safety.

Leader 3:

Strengthen the hands of those who work for justice and reconciliation,
 and break down the walls that separate us from one another
 on the basis of gender, race, nation, language, sexual orientation, or gender
 identity.
 Send your Spirit to unite us as one family in you.

Leader 4:

As you live in us and among us, O God,
 may all the members of your church remain in Christ, the true vine
 so that we may bear rich fruit in witness to your love
 and in service to our siblings in the world.
 We make our prayer in Jesus' name.

All: Amen***Invitation to the Offering for Thirteenth Check of the Pension Fund****Checks can be made out to: Pension Fund.**Gifts can also be made by credit card on the General Assembly app.****Offering Music***

General Assembly Choir:
 "Let the People Say Amen"
 Words & music: Pepper Choplin

Invitation to Communion***Prayers at the Table***

God of all people,
 we give you thanks for Christ the true vine,

the one in whom we live and move and have our being.
By his death he has set us free,
by his rising he has given us a new life,
and through his Spirit he abides with us always.

Now send that same Spirit among us here,
that in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup
our eyes may be opened to recognize
the risen One in our midst.

May your Spirit fill us with longing for a deeper unity
in Christ's body, the church,
and with deeper commitment to your reign of justice.

We pray through Jesus Christ,
with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father . . . *Please use whichever version and whichever language you prefer as we join in praying together.*

Sharing of Bread and Cup

When You Do This, Remember Me

Words: Alexander Campbell, adapt. David L. Edwards;

Music: David L. Edwards, arr. Jane Marshall

Come, Share the Lord

Words & music: Bryan Jeffery Leech

****Prayer after Communion and Sending Forth***

****Hymn of Sending Forth***

How Great Is Our God (medley)

Words & music: Chris Tomlin

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Welcome/Announcements

***Songs of Praise and Worship**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Words: Edwin Hatch; Music: Robert Jackson

I Am a Friend of God

Words & music: Michael Gungor & Israel Houghton

***Call to Worship**

From the far corners of the Upper Midwest Region,
we bring the good soil that yields an abundance.
We praise you, O God, creator of the earth
and Lord of the harvest.

You visit the earth, give it water;
you fill it with riches.

**All: God's ever-flowing river brims over
to prepare the grain.**

And thus it is you who prepare it:
you drench its furrows;

**All: you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth.**

You crown the year with your bounty,
and abundance flows in your pathways.

**All: The pastures of the desert overflow,
and the hills are girded with joy.**

The meadows are clothed with flocks,
and the valleys are decked with wheat.

All: They shout for joy, and even sing!

Procession with Soil
Praise Ensemble: *New Wine*
Words & music: Brooke Ligertwood (Hillsong)

Prayer

Family Time

***The Peace**

Leader

The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

As we abide with Christ and one another,
let us use the gesture of peace and friendship that we learned a moment ago.

Praise Ensemble: *You've Made A Way*
Words & music: Travis Greene

Introduction of Preacher

Scripture: John 15:1-5 (French)

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Musical Response

Praise Ensemble: *Breathe (This is the air I breathe...)*
Words & music: Marie Barnett

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Nancy Gowler
Senior Pastor, First Christian Church, Puyallup, WA

Song of Response*Abide in Me**Words & music: Barbara Hamm***Remembrance of Deceased****Hymn***For All the Saints*
(stand on final verse)*Music: William W. How; Music: Ralph Vaughn Williams***Recognition of Ministries**

As your ministry of service is named, please stand and remain standing until after the song of response.

Song of Response*Abide in Me**Words & music: Barbara Hamm***Invitation to the Offering for Disciples Mission Fund**

Checks can be made out to: Disciples Mission Fund
Gifts can also be made by credit card on the General Assembly app

Offering SongPraise Ensemble: *Take My Life and Let It Be**Words & music: Frances Hayergal****Prayer of Thanksgiving*****Benediction*****Closing Hymn***Abide with Me**Words: Henry F. Lyte; Music: William Henry Monk*

MONDAY WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Welcome/Announcements

***Songs of Praise and Worship**

A New Hallelujah

Words & music: Michael W. Smith

Surely the Presence

Words & music: Lanny Wolfe

***Prayer**

Family Time

Hymn

Christ Be All Around Me

by David Leonard, Jack Mooring, Leeland Mooring, and Leslie Jordan

Invitation to Offering for Week of Compassion

Checks can be made out to: Week of Compassion

Gifts can also be made by credit card on the General Assembly app

Music

Children's Choir: *Come to Jesus*

trad. hymn, arr. Cedarmon Kids

Joy in My Heart

adap. and arr. Roll Dilworth

Introduction of Preacher

Scripture: John 15:1-5 (Korean)

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

Musical ResponseChildren's Choir: *Fruit of the Spirit**Words & music: Becky Slagle Mayo***Sermon***Rev. Ruben del Pilar*

Lead Pastor, Community Worship Center, Gardena, CA

HymnI Need Thee Every Hour**Words: Annie S. Hawks, refrain: Robert Lowry; Music: Robert Lowry***Prayers for Healing and Encouragement**

After the invitation, please feel free to approach one of the regional ministers to pray together for healing and encouragement.

Song*Bless The Lord/What A Beautiful Name**Words & music: Ben Fielding / Brooke Ligertwood****Concluding Psalm of Praise**

¡Alaba, alma mía, al SEÑOR!

All: ¡Alaba, alma mía, al SEÑOR!

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, the holy name of God.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all God's benefits.

Bénis le SEIGNEUR, ô mon âme !

All: Bénis le SEIGNEUR, ô mon âme !

It is the LORD who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.,
who fills your life with good things,
renewing your youth like an eagle's.

내 영혼아 여호와를 송축하라

All: 내 영혼아 여호와를 송축하라 [Nae young hon ah yeo ho wa reurl song chuk ha ra]

The LORD does righteous deeds,
gives full justice to all who are oppressed.
The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in love.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

All: Bless the LORD, O my soul!

****Hymn of Sending Forth***

Spirit of the Living God / Send Us Out
Words & music: Daniel Iverson / Matt Osgood

TUESDAY WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Welcome/Announcements

****Opening Songs of Praise***

Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/Hallelujah, You're Worthy To Be Praised
Jaime Cortez / Steve Taylor and Judith Christie McAllister

****Call to Worship***

This is a night of celebration
as we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary
of the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
and the merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention
and the International Convention of the Christian Churches.

Somos el cuerpo de Cristo!
We are the body of Christ!
Let us raise our voices in praise of the God
who brings us together in one body.

Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth,
Serve the LORD with gladness.

All: Come before God, singing for joy.

You are no longer strangers and aliens,
but you are citizens with the saints
and also members of the household of God.

**All: Know that the LORD is God,
who made us, to whom we belong.
We are God's people, the sheep of God's flock.**

You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

**All: Enter the temple gates with thanksgiving
and its courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks and bless God's name.**

In Christ the whole structure is joined together
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;
in whom you also are built together spiritually
into a dwelling place for God.

**All: Indeed, how good is the LORD,
eternal God's merciful love.
God is faithful from age to age.**

***Song**

We Are One

Words & music: Valeria Foster

Celebration of Our History

(Video)

Song

Praise Ensemble: *Make Us One*
Jesus Culture

Introduction of Preachers

Scripture: John 15:1-5

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

Song

For Every Mountain

Words & music: Kurt Carr

Sermon: Cynthia Hale

Song

Make Us One, Lord

Words & music: Carol Cymbala

Sermon: Mark Briley

Song**We Are One****Words & music: Valeria Foster****Prayers for the Church and World**

Tonight as we celebrate this particular manifestation of the church, we also recall that we are part of a larger ecumenical communion. We pray with them for Christ's church throughout the world and for the entire human family.

Let us pray for unity:
that God's Spirit may break down the wall of denominationalism,
inspire respect and appreciation for our unique traditions,
and unite us in the common mission we have received.
Make us one, O God!

All: Make us one, O God!

Let us pray for all who call themselves Christians:
that disciples of Christ, of whatever denomination,
may be built more and more into a holy temple of living stones,
offering compassion, advocating for justice, and serving others
as we abide together in Christ.
Make us your people, O God!

All: Make us your people, O God!

Let us pray for those who lead and serve in the church:
for pastors, chaplains, and missionaries;
for all who serve others, work for justice,
strengthen families, or promote reconciliation.
Strengthen us in your service!

All: Strengthen us in your service!

Let us pray for every member of the human family,
especially those who are most vulnerable:
for the homeless and those who live in poverty;
for migrants and refugees;
for victims of warfare and violence;
for those who experience the sting of racism or abuse;
and for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.
Have mercy on your people!

All: Have mercy on your people!

As we come together in remembrance and thanksgiving, O God,
remind us of our call,
strengthen our discipleship,
free us to abide in your love,
and nurture us to bear fruit
in justice, reconciliation, and compassion.
We pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen

Our Father . . . *Please join in praying together using whichever version and whichever language you prefer.*

Invitation to the Offering for Reconciliation Ministry

Checks can be made out to: Reconciliation
Gifts can also be made by credit card on the General Assembly app

Offering

Pastor Julian DeShazier

Invitation to Communion

Texts from the writings of Alexander Campbell

Upon the loaf and upon the cup of the Lord, in letters which speak not to the eye, but to the heart of every disciple, is inscribed, "When this you see, remember me." Indeed, the Lord says to each disciple, when receiving the symbols in hand, "This is my body broken for you." The loaf is thus constituted a representation of his body—first whole, then wounded for our sins. The cup is thus instituted a representation of his blood—once his life, but now poured out to cleanse us from our sins.

You, my beloved, once an alien, are now a citizen of heaven: once a stranger, are now brought home to the family of God. You have owned my Lord as your Lord, my people as your people.

All: Under Jesus the Messiah we are one. Mutually embraced in the everlasting arms, I embrace you in mine: your sorrows shall be my sorrows, and your joys my joys.

Joint debtors to the favor of God and the love of Jesus, we shall jointly suffer with him, that we may jointly reign with him.

Let us, then, renew our strength, remember our Sovereign, and hold fast our boasted hope unshaken to the end.

Prayer at the Table

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Praise Ensemble: *Table of Love*
Andra Moran

****Prayer***

****Benediction***

****Hymn of Sending Forth***

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Carl Gotthelf Glaser (arr. Mark Miller)

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Welcome/Announcements

***Opening Songs of Praise**

Marching to Zion

Words: Issac Watts, refrain Robert Lowry; Music: Robert Lowry

Everybody Clap Their Hands

Words & music: Percy Gray

***Call to Worship**

Praise the God of justice!

All: Praise the God of justice!

God does justice for those who are oppressed,
and furnishes bread to the hungry;
the LORD sets prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD raises up those who are bowed down.

Louez le Dieu de la justice !

All: Louez le Dieu de la justice !

It is the LORD who loves the righteous;
the LORD who protects the stranger
and upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

정의의 주님을 찬양해!

All: 정의의 주님을 찬양해! [Jung ui ui Joo Nim eurl chang yang hae!]

The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, from age to age.

¡Alaben al Dios de la justicia!

¡Alaben al Dios de la justicia!

Song of PraisePraise Ensemble: *Total Praise**Words & music: Richard Smallwood***Prayer****Commissioning of Global Ministries Mission Co-Workers****Introduction of Preacher****Scripture:** John 15:1-5 (*Spanish*)

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

Musical Response and Preparation**Sermon***Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II**Senior Pastor, Greenleaf Christian Church, Goldsboro, NC**Co-leader of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival***Musical Response**Praise Ensemble: *Order My Steps**Words & music: Glenn Burleigh****A Disciples Affirmation***from the Preamble to the Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*

God has gathered us in this place,
 Christ has invited us to abide in him,
 and now the Spirit moves among us to send us forth.
 Let us recommit ourselves as disciples of Christ,
 ready to accept once again the mission to which we have been called.

All: As members of the Christian Church,

**We confess that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God,
and proclaim his Lord and Savior of the world.**

**In Christ's name and by his grace
we accept our mission of witness
and service of all people.**

**We rejoice in God
make of heaven and earth,
and in the covenant of love
which binds us to God and one another.**

**Through baptism into Christ
we enter into newness of life
and are made one with the whole people of God.**

**In the communion of the Holy Spirit
we are joined together in discipleship;
and in obedience to Christ.**

**At the table of the Lord
we celebrate with thanksgiving
the saving acts and presence of Christ.**

**Within the universal church,
we receive the gift of ministry
and the light of scripture.**

**In the bonds of Christian faith
we yield ourselves to God
that we may serve the One
whose kingdom has no end.**

**Blessing, glory and honor
be to God forever. Amen.**

***Hymn**

We Call Ourselves Disciples
 Words: Jim Miller; Music: Henry T. Smart

Passing the Light of Christ for the next assembly**Charge, Benediction, and Dismissal**

The Spirit of God is upon us!

All: The Spirit of God is upon us!

L'Esprit du Seigneur est sur nous.

All: L'Esprit du Seigneur est sur nous.

주님의 영이 우리에게 내리셨다.

All: 주님의 영이 우리에게 내리셨다. [Joo Nim ui yeong yi u ri eh geh nae ree shyut da.]

¡El Espíritu del Señor está sobre nosotros!

All: ¡El Espíritu del Señor está sobre nosotros!

Let us follow the light of Christ from this place into the world,
 abiding always in Christ,
 and singing as we go.

***Song of Sending Forth**

“Abide With Me” W. Mitchell Owens, III

Commissioned work by the 2019 General Assembly of Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)

EDUCATION

SUNDAY

SESSION 1: 1:30-2:50 PM

Hearing Voices of Bi-Vocational Ministry

This workshop and its research have been made possible with a generous grant from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment.

Presenter: Rev. Kristen Bentley, Director, “Conversations on Stewardship & Finances” Project, Lexington Theological Seminary

Women in Vocational Ministry: Developing peer groups

Presenters: Administrators of “Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Female clergy and friends” Facebook Group

For Young Adults — Balancing Vocational Discernment and Professional Ambition

Presenters: HELM, NBA and Panelists

Building Generous Congregations in the Digital Age Summary

Presenter: Walle Mafolasire, Givelify CEO

Social Media and the Church: Best practices

Presenter: Tim Campbell, Strategist

Letting Go to Become Something New—the Process of Church Transformation

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Rick Morse. Hope Partnership and Disciples Church Extension Fund

Becoming a Welcoming Church: Safe sanctuary protocols for returning citizens

Presenters: Dean Bucalos and others, National Benevolent Association

Table Talk: Rethinking Communion and Community

Presenter: Rev. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residence and Minister of Spiritual Formation at Country Club Christian Church in Kansas City.

Mission as Gifted Relationship

Presenter: Rev. Josh Baird, Disciples Volunteering, Disciples Home Missions

Hearing the Story: Perspectives from the Middle East and Europe

Presenters: Partners from the Middle East and Europe and Dr. Peter Makari, Global Ministries Executive for the Middle East and Europe

Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Training from Reconciliation Ministries (six hours of sessions)

Presenters: Reconciliation Ministry trainers

Hearing the story: Perspectives from East Asia and the Pacific

Presenters: Partners from East Asia and the Pacific and Derek Duncan, Global Ministries Executive for East Asia and the Pacific

TRANSGENDER 101 - the “T” in LGBT

Presenter: Robin Knauerhase, Moderator, Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance

Refugee simulation

Facilitators: Linda Wolf, retired PhD in international and global education, and Vinh Nguyen of Center for New Americans, and others

EDUCATION

SUNDAY

SESSION 2: 3:00-4:30 PM

Workshop for Military Chaplains

Hosted by the Disciples Chaplain Association, Disciples Home Missions

Workshop for Institutional Chaplains

Hosted by the Disciples Chaplain Association, Disciples Home Missions

The State and Stories of the New Church Movement: 1000 New Churches, 1000 Different Ways?

Presenter: Pastor Terrell L. McTyler, New Church Ministries

Trusting Our Eyes or Trusting the Lord: How Do I Raise More Money for Ministry?

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Craig M Walls, Disciples Church Extension Fund

Money, Mission, and Ministry - Navigating the Stewardship Money Maze

Presenter: Bruce Barkhauer, Center for Faith and Giving

MoneyTalks: Driving positive change through financial practices

Presenters: Gary Kidwell, Christian Church Foundation; Todd Adams, Pension Fund; and Rick Reisinger, Disciples Church Extension Fund

Going Carbon Neutral - Saving Money as We Save God's Good Earth

Presenter: Rev. Carol Devine, Green Chalice Ministries

Bridle, Baton, and Building Blocks: Leadership styles

Presenter: Disciples Women

Justice and Unity: Congregational strategies

Presenter: Rebecca Littlejohn, Disciples Peace Fellowship

Finding Common Ground within Gun Violence Conversations

Presenter: Donald V. Gaffney, author of "Common Ground: Talking About Gun Violence in America"

Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Training from Reconciliation Ministries

(continued from previous session)

Southern Asia Initiative Introduction

Presenters: Partners from Southern Asia, Rev. Dr. Deenabandhu Manchala, Global Ministries Executive for Southern Asia

Telling Our Story: Crafting a story

Presenter: Rebecca Anderson, Gilead Church Chicago

Trans People, Human Stories

Panel session leader: Robin Knauerhase, Moderator, Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance

Refugee Q and A

Facilitator: Vinh Nguyen, ELL Accountability & Support, Center for New Americans. Disciples Home Missions Refugee & Immigration Ministry staff will also be present to share our Church's involvement in the issue.

EDUCATION

MONDAY

SESSION 1: 1:30 – 2:50 PM

Setting Healthy Boundaries 101 – Clergy only

(continues in next session)

Book purchase required prior to session. Regions accepting this training for ministerial standing include Arizona, Canada, Capital Area, Central Rocky Mountain, Michigan, Mid America and Northern California/Nevada. Regions not accepting this training for standing include Alabama/NW Florida and Indiana.

Disciples of Christ History & Polity

(continues in next session)

It is highly recommended that you read Duane Cummins' "The Disciples: A Struggle for Reformation," Cardwell & Fox's "Journey Toward Wholeness," and have a copy in hand or electronically of "The Stone-Campbell Encyclopedia."

Presenter: Rev. Jeff Gill

Clergy Financial Wellness

Presenters: Danny Gulden and Sarah Renfro, Pension Fund of the Christian Church

Legacy Giving – A New Stream of Church Funding

Presenters: Bobby Hawley and Randy Johnson, Christian Church Foundation

¿Cuál será tu legado?

Presenter: India Bobadilla, Christian Church Foundation

Change Your Questions, Change Your Church—Leading by Asking the Right Questions

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Rick Morse, Hope Partnership and Disciples Church Extension Fund.

Examining Your Role as Elder in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

(continues in next session)

Presenters: Leadership Initiative Team of Disciples Home Missions

Becoming Immigrant Welcoming Congregations

(continues in next session)

Presenters: Lori Tapia, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries; Sharon Stanley-Rea, Refugee & Immigration Ministries, Disciples Home Missions; Tana Liu-Beers, immigration counsel, Disciples Home Missions; Chung Seong Kim, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples; and National Benevolent Association Mental Health representatives

Advocacy, Activism and Organizing for Justice – How Can My Congregation Get Involved?

(continues in next session)

Presenters: Deitra Wise Baker, National Benevolent Association; Laurie Pound Feille, Disciples Public Presence member; and Disciples Activist Peer Group (and others from the justice organizing group which includes representatives from Disciples Justice Network, Disciples Center for Public Witness, Refugee & Immigration Ministries, and Reconciliation Ministry)

Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Training from Reconciliation Ministries

(continued from Sunday, continues through both Monday sessions)

Peace and Reconciliation in Korean Peninsula

(continues in next session)

Presenters: Paul Tche, Council on Christian Unity; Chung Seong Kim, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples; and others who have been involved the reconciliation of Korean Peninsula

EDUCATION

Being Disciples: Holding Together What Sometimes Tries To Fly Apart, Part I

(continues in next session)

Presenters: Michael Kinnamon and Jan Linn

MONDAY

SESSION 2: 3:00-4:30 PM

Setting Healthy Boundaries 101 – Clergy only

(continued from previous session; continues Tuesday with laity and clergy)

Disciples of Christ History & Polity

(continued from previous session; continues Tuesday)

Presenter: Rev. Jeff Gill

Paying the Pastor

Presenters: Aaron Smith and Matt Rosine, Pension Fund

Leading from the WHY

(Bilingual)

Presenter: Gilberto Collazo, Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation

Welcoming Abundance: Inspiring Engagement and Generosity through Storytelling

Presenters: Bethany Watkins Lowery, Disciples Church Extension Fund and Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation; and April Lewton, National Benevolent Association

Moving Money to Mission: Investing for the Present and the Future

Presenter: Jerry Lang, Christian Church Foundation

Examining Your Role as Elder in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

(continued from previous session)

Leadership Initiative Team of Disciples Home Missions

Becoming Immigrant Welcoming Congregations

(continued from previous session)

Advocacy, Activism and Organizing for Justice – How Can My Congregation Get Involved?

(continued from previous session)

Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Training from Reconciliation Ministries

(continued from previous session)

Peace and Reconciliation in Korean Peninsula

(continued from previous session)

Being Disciples: Holding Together What Sometimes Tries To Fly Apart, Part I

(continued from previous session)

The State of Engagement in Your Church: Using data for action

(continued from previous session)

EDUCATION

TUESDAY

SESSION 1: 1:30-2:50 PM

Setting Healthy Boundaries 102 - Laity and Clergy

(continues in next session)

Disciples of Christ History & Polity

(continued from yesterday; continues in next session)

Presenter: Rev. Jeff Gill

Should I Start a Church or a Nonprofit? A Workshop for Ministry Entrepreneurs in Discernment

(continues in next session)

Presenters: Terrell L. McTyler, New Church Ministries; and Rev. Ayanna Johnson Watkins, National Benevolent Association

Making a Difference with our Dollars in Human Trafficking, Earth Care, and Israel-Palestine

Presenters: Carol Devine, Green Chalice; Pat Donahoo, Disciples Women; Gary Kidwell, Christian Church Foundation; Peter Makari, Global Ministries; and Marilyn Fiddmont, Christian Church Foundation as moderator

Is Our Building More Tent or Temple? Should We Remodel, Relocate, or Re-envision?

Presenter: Craig M Walls, Disciples Church Extension Fund

Financial Things I Never Learned in Seminary - How to Keep the Church Finances in Order without Compromising Ministry!

Presenter: Belinda King, Disciples Church Extension Fund

#LC2 (continues in next session)

Lay and clergy leadership learning together

Presenters: Jackie Bunch, lay leader, Ohio; Mary Lou Kegler, pastor, Greater Kansas City; Dale Braxton, associate regional minister; Denise Bell, regional minister; William (Bill) Lee, retired pastor and mediation specialist

Mental Health: Creating an Effective Congregational Mental Health Ministry

(continues in next session)

Presenters: Angela Whitenhill, Hector Hernandez and others, National Benevolent Association

Bringing All Ages Together in Worship and at Home

(continues in next session)

Presenters: Olivia Bryan Updegrove, Lisa Engleken, Disciples Home Missions

Death and Resurrection in Latin America and the Caribbean: an approach to environmental, social and human rights issues in the Region

Presenters: Partners from Latin America and the Caribbean and Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto, Global Ministries Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean

Being a Responsible Global Citizen

Presenter: Rebekah Choate, Global Ministries Associate for Global Advocacy and Education

Being Disciples: Holding Together What Sometimes Tries To Fly Apart, Part II

(continued from Monday)

Presenters: Michael Kinnamon, Jan Linn, panel

EDUCATION

TUESDAY

SESSION 2: 3:00-4:30 PM

Setting Healthy Boundaries 102 - Laity and Clergy

(continued from previous session)

Disciples of Christ History & Polity

(continued from previous session)

Should I Start a Church or a Nonprofit? A Workshop for Ministry Entrepreneurs in Discernment

(continued from previous session)

Administrando Nuestros Recursos Financieros

Presenter: Rosario Ibarra, Disciples Church Extension Fund

Is Our Building Helping or Hindering our Ministry?

Presenter: Jim Michel, Disciples Church Extension Fund

Practical Giving: Good Gifts that Trim Taxes and Maximize Ministry

Presenters: Kirby Gould, and Ruth Weaver, Christian Church Foundation

#LC2 (continued from previous session)

Mental Health: Creating an Effective Congregational Mental Health Ministry

(continued from previous session)

Bringing All Ages Together in Worship and at Home

(continued from previous session)

Hearing the story: Perspectives from Africa

Presenters: Partners from Africa and Reverend Marco Cable, Global Ministries Executive for Africa

Do You Hear the Call? Opportunities to Serve with Global Ministries

Presenters: Mission co-workers and Catherine Nichols, Global Ministries Executive for Mission Personnel

Our Second Fifty Years

Presenters: Panel discussion including Disciples General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens

PREAMBLE TO THE DESIGN OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

*As members of the Christian Church,
We confess that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God,
and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.
In Christ's name and by his grace
we accept our mission of witness
and service to all people.
We rejoice in God,
maker of heaven and earth,
and in God's covenant of love
which binds us to God and to one another.
Through baptism into Christ
we enter into newness of life
and are made one with the whole people of God.
In the communion of the Holy Spirit
we are joined together in discipleship
and in obedience to Christ.
At the Table of the Lord
we celebrate with thanksgiving
the saving acts and presence of Christ.
Within the universal church
we receive the gift of ministry
and the light of scripture.
In the bonds of Christian faith
we yield ourselves to God
that we may serve the One
whose kingdom has no end.
Blessing, glory, and honor
be to God forever. Amen.*

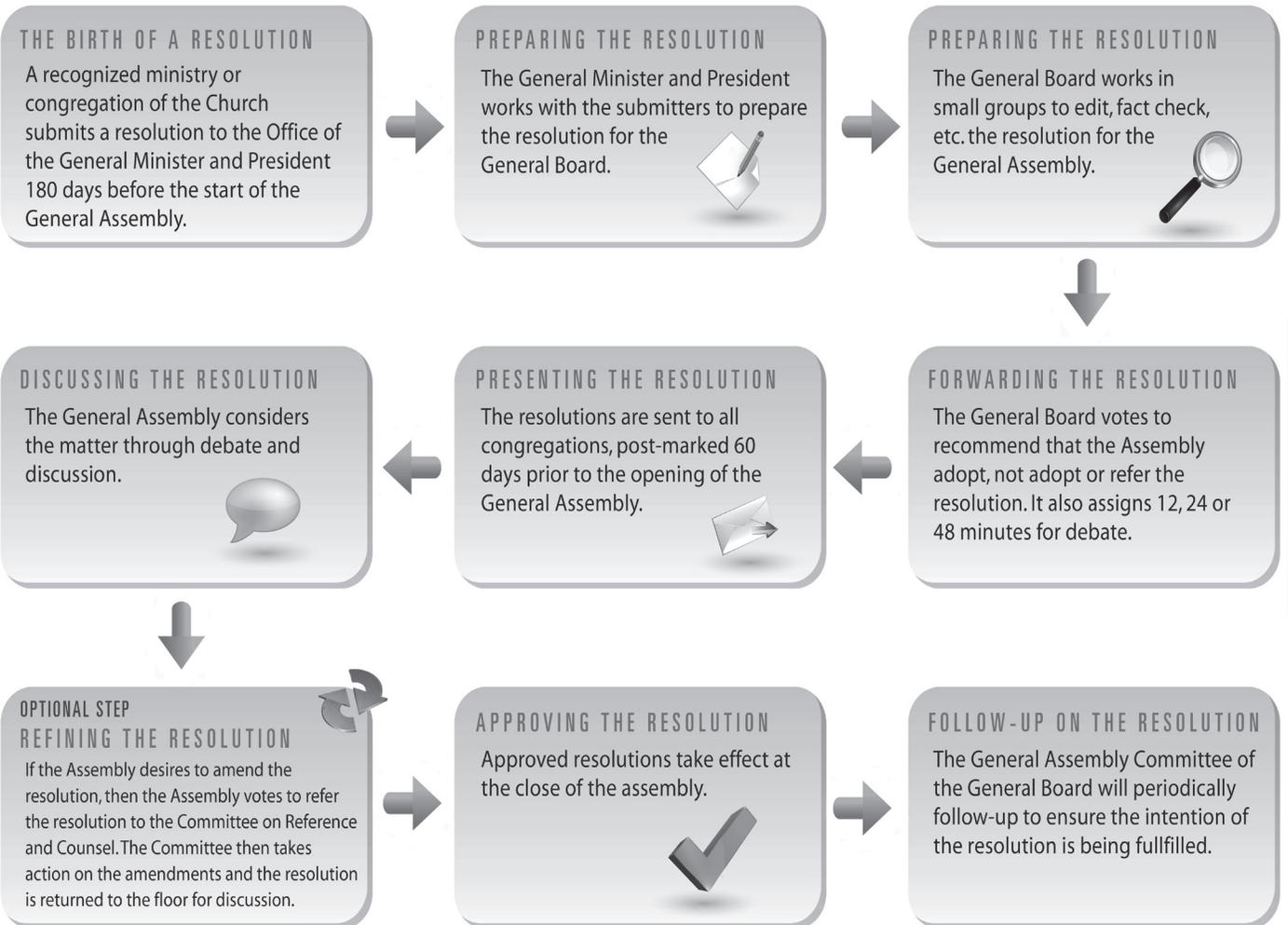
Helpful links

The Design: <http://disciples.org/our-identity/the-design/>
You will find links to governing documents on *The Design* page.
Past General Assemblies are linked from the bottom of disciples.org/ga



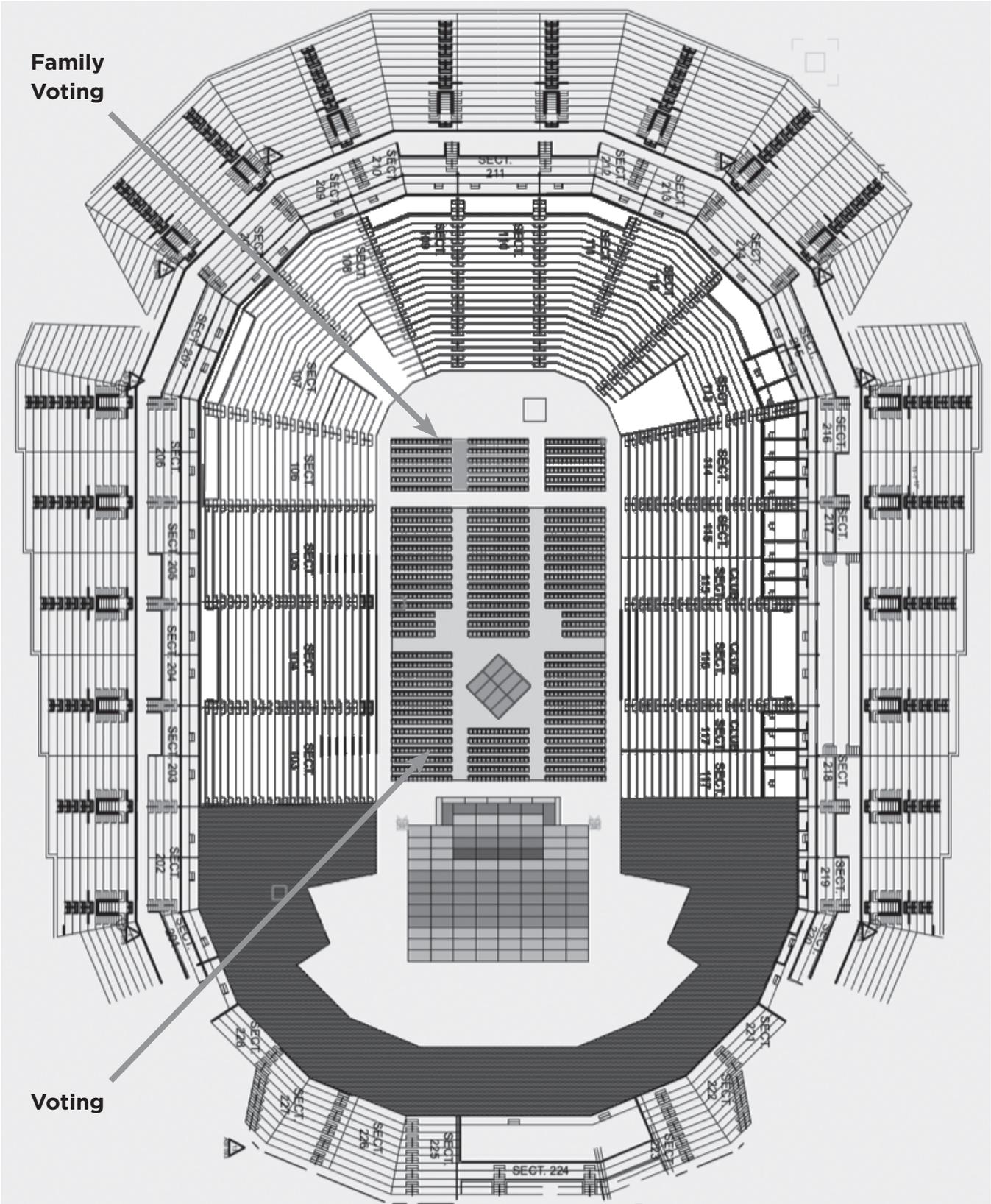
THE LIFE OF A GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

For more on General Assembly business, visit www.disciples.org/ga



BUSINESS

SEATING CHART



ORDER OF BUSINESS

**2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN THE
UNITED STATES AND CANADA
ORDER OF BUSINESS
July 20-24, 2019 Des Moines, Iowa
*Subject to change***

Saturday, July 20

1:00 pm

Doors open

Business Item Classifications
 * *Operational, Policy, Organizational*
 # *Report*
 ^ *Sense-of-the-Assembly*

1:30 pm

Opening Celebration

Welcome and Introductions Susan Morris, Moderator

Business Session Procedures Bill Bailey, Parliamentarian

Plenary Reminders Susan Morris, Moderator

Approval of the Agenda Timothy Lee, Second Vice Moderator

Presentation of Business Timothy Lee, Second Vice Moderator
(Discussion time is 12 minutes unless otherwise indicated)

- GA-1910# Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries
- GA-1917* Creation of a New Region in Montana and the Northwest
- GA-1924* Resolution to Celebrate the Formation of New
 Congregations and Continue the Collective Commitment to
 Make Disciples
- GA-1926^ Spirit of Active Listening
- GA-1925^ Addressing the State of Forced Global Migration
(Discussion time: 24 minutes)
- GA-1920# Update on GA-2017 General Assembly Resolutions
- GA-1904# Christian Church Foundation
- GA-1921# Report from the Social Witness Task Force
- GA-1928^ A Call to See and Respond to the Crisis of Domestic and
 Intimate Partner Violence

BUSINESS

ORDER OF BUSINESS

(Discussion time: 24 minutes)

- GA-1915# Pension Fund
- GA-1916# Christian Church Healthcare Trust

Speak Out
Announcements & Benediction

Monday, July 22

- 8:00 am **Doors open**
 - 8:30 am **Bible Study** Rev. Dr. Lisa Davison
 - 9:00 am **Opening Prayer** Beau Underwood, First Vice Moderator
 - Welcome and Plenary Reminders** Susan Morris, Moderator
 - Presentation of Business** Timothy Lee, Second Vice Moderator
- (Discussion time is 12 minutes unless otherwise indicated)*

- GA-1903# Christian Board of Publication/Chalice Press
- GA-1905# Church Extension Financial & Missional Resources
(including Disciples Church Extension Fund, Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation and New Church Ministries)
- GA-1932^ Acknowledging the Covenantal Affiliation of Tougaloo College
- GA-1933# Council of Colleges and Universities and Council on Theological Education

ORDER OF BUSINESS



SoulCare – Moments to Pause and Process

- GA-1929^ An Invitation to Education for Welcoming and Receiving the Gifts of Transgender and Gender-Diverse People
(Discussion time: 24 minutes)
- GA-1912# National Benevolent Association
- GA-1902# Central Pastoral Office of Hispanic Ministries
- GA-1914# North American Pacific/Asian Disciples
- GA-1906# Council on Christian Unity
- GA-1922* Full Communion with the United Church of Canada

Speak Out
Announcements & Benediction

BUSINESS

Tuesday, July 23

- 8:30 am **Bible Study** Rev. Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder
- 9:00 am **Opening Prayer** Beau Underwood, First Vice Moderator
- Welcome and Plenary Reminders** Susan Morris, Moderator
- Presentation of Business** Timothy Lee, Second Vice Moderator
(Discussion time is 12 minutes unless otherwise indicated)
- GA-1908# Disciples Home Missions
- GA-1930^ On Women and Just Peacemaking
- GA-1909# Disciples Women

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- GA-1927^ Concerning the Reopening of the U.S. Embassy in Cuba, Ending the U.S. Embargo Against the Island, and Promoting a Constructive Relation Between Both Countries
- GA-1911# Higher Education and Leadership Ministries
- GA-1923* Recommended Language for Prevention of Harassment for General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



SoulCare – Moments to Pause and Process

- GA-1913# National Convocation
- GA-1907# Disciples of Christ Historical Society
- GA-1918* Report of the Time and Place Committee (2021)
- GA-1919* Report of the Time and Place Committee (2023)
- GA-1931* Report of the General Nominating Committee
- GA-1901# Report of the General Assembly including the Office of the General Minister and President

Installation of 2019-2021 Moderator Team

Speak Out

Announcements & Benediction

REPORTS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GA-1901	General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) including the Office of General Minister and President
GA-1902	Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries
GA-1903	Christian Board of Publication
GA-1904	Christian Church Foundation
GA-1905	Church Extension Financial & Missional Resources (<i>Disciples Church Extension Fund/Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation and New Church Ministries</i>)
GA-1906	Council on Christian Unity
GA-1907	Disciples of Christ Historical Society
GA-1908	Disciples Home Missions
GA-1909	Disciples Women
GA-1910	Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries
GA-1911	Higher Education & Leadership Ministries
GA-1912	National Benevolent Association
GA-1913	National Convocation
GA-1914	North American Pacific/Asian Disciples
GA-1915	Pension Fund of the Christian Church
GA-1916	Healthcare Benefit Trust

From the Standing Rules of the General Assembly

2.1.Reports

2.1.1. Reports are summaries of ministries performed, plans for ministry, and audited financial statements of each general ministry, commission or other entity established or recognized by the General Assembly.

2.1.2. Annually the General Board shall review such reports and make whatever comments or recommendations it deems advisable.

2.1.3. In the year in which the General Assembly meets, the General Board shall forward the Reports to the General Assembly.

2.1.4. If a Report contains only an account of work done and is primarily for information, after appropriate General Assembly consideration, no action shall be required.

2.1.5. If a Report contains recommendations for action by the General Assembly or if the General Board proposes recommendations for action by the General Assembly, such recommendations shall be submitted separately as an Operational, Policy and Organizational Item.

2.1.6. When the timing of the General Assembly prohibits a General Ministry from including an audit of its financial statements in its report, such an audit shall be provided for the next meeting of the General Board. The most recently completed audit shall be provided to the General Assembly.

2.1.7. Covenantal relationships are demonstrated by annual informational reports of regions to the General Board and annual statistical reports of the congregations in the Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The reports of regions and congregations are not business items for the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Including the Office of General Minister and President

Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister and President

Office of General Minister and President

Administration

I am pleased that the Rev. Lee Hull Moses will join the OGMP staff in February 2019 as Chief of Staff. Rev. Moses most recently pastored a congregation in Greensboro, NC, and brings expertise in non-profit management and fundraising to her ministry with the OGMP.

Regional and Congregational Ministry Engagement

During 2018, I attended and preached at the majority of Regional Assemblies across the church, including Canada. I was honored to preside at the installations of new regional ministers: the Rev. Dr. Andy Mangum, (Southwest); Bishop Valerie Melvin, (North Carolina); the Rev. Dr. Betsy Goehrig, (Florida) and the Rev. Chris Morton, (Nebraska). When possible, I have preached at a local congregation at the conclusion of Regional Assemblies. I have also preached at several congregational milestone anniversary celebrations. It has been important to engage as widely as possible across the whole church in order to hear and learn, and to bear witness to local ministries, local challenges, and connect with Disciples where they are. As I stated in my Advent message, despite the challenges we face, the spirit of hope permeates our church.

I continue to work closely with the College of Regional Ministers in support of regional minister search processes, and as part of the CRM itself in its regular meetings. The focus of Several regions are in search for a new Regional Minister, including Pacific Southwest and Arizona, with Virginia having just completed a search. The Ohio region has collaborated with the four contiguous regions for congregational, clergy and Commission on Ministry support. A new Regional Transitional Team leads the work of visioning the future for Ohio. I, along with general ministry leaders, have been engaged as Ohio charts a new course.

I am working with the College of Regional Ministers (CRM) on a church-wide education plan to revive and renew spiritual practice across the church, particularly Biblical literacy. The goal is a collection of resources across various media that can be utilized by congregations to promote spiritual formation and practice, and theological reflection. A small group of Regional Ministers will work with me to identify resources and prepare to launch the program.

Data Initiative

I have convened a small group of Disciples laypersons with information technology and data backgrounds. We have identified 2 phases of priority: 1) the Yearbook data gathering and data mining functions, and 2) gathering data to assess clergy well-being and flourishing. We are preparing a proposal for external funding for this venture. The Yearbook phase will include database and query design, including standardized reports. Access must be both easy and useful, and providing congregations with valuable feedback is a key objective. We are also benchmarking with other mainline denominations to see what currently exists elsewhere.

Communications

We are working with a communications firm to help assess the clarity and consistency of our messaging, and to help improve both our communications across the church, but also our messaging in the public square about the ministry of the Disciples of Christ. A series of interviews with Disciples, lay and clergy, across expressions of the Church has highlighted that common language such as the identity statement, and other historical “mantras” are widely known and used. We also understand ourselves to be theologically diverse, welcoming all to the Lord’s table, and striving to live in the tension that that diversity and welcome often bring. We do, however, struggle with how to share that message beyond these formulated statements. We will continue to work on the messaging in preparation for a wider roll-out in the coming year. This consulting engagement is not just to deliver a new “campaign”, but rather to work with us on an ongoing basis to optimize communications re: key issues and events.

On another front, Communications Ministries will be reviewing and revising our web presence in the coming year to improve access and navigation across the site as we strive to make information more readily available across the church.

Racial/Ethnic Ministries

I attended the National Convocation, the Bi-Lingual Hispanic Assembly, and the NAPAD Convocation this summer. The leaders of these ministries are planning to co-locate their assemblies in 2020, as we all seek to live into our calling to be a church that reflects the family of God.

I was honored to preside at the installation of the first woman to lead La Obra Hispana as the National Hispanic Pastor, the Rev. Lori Tapia. I also presided at the installation of the Rev. Chung Seong Kim as the Executive Pastor of NAPAD.

Cabinet

The HR Task Force, comprised of General Ministry representatives, drafted language to be submitted to the General Board and General Assembly as recommended minimum standards for General Ministry policies on harassment, including sexual harassment. The Cabinet approved the recommended draft language, and some general ministries have already revised their HR policies accordingly. This language is presented to the General Board as a resolution for adoption and referral to the General Assembly.

Justice Ministry

The participation of Disciples in the Poor People’s Campaign during 2018, both within state-based campaigns and Disciples’ ministries, has generated organic energy for social justice advocacy and ministry. Not only were Disciples present in state Poor People’s Campaign actions, but Disciples were collectively present on several occasions with the national Campaign in Washington, DC. In September, Disciples who have been engaged in local justice work were invited to meet in Iowa at the “Disciples Public Presence” conference. Having witnessed the power of our collective presence and work, the goal was how to organize so that we can educate about social justice issues, informed by people in their own local contexts, and leverage our work together across the church. A team of small groups is working now to create a plan for future communication and collective action around social justice issues.

Disciples continue to engage in advocacy around immigration policy, across many expressions of the church. While there are specific human impacts on US soil, we also seek to educate and advocate about the root causes of global migration.

Recent trips to Good Samaritan Ministries (a ministry of the Southwest Region) in Texas, as well as to Tijuana, Mexico, with Global Ministries Partner, the Daniel F Romero Center for Border Ministries and Strategies (Centro Romero) allowed opportunities to see the challenges ministries face to provide relief and assistance as global violence, war, and poverty force many to seek safety and peace for their families.

Ecumenical Ministry

Along with Paul Tche, President of the Council on Christian Unity, and Jen Garbin, Regional Minister in Canada, I attended the General Council of the United Church of Canada. They approved our proposal to enter into a full communion relationship. A resolution is before the General Board and the General Assembly to approve this relationship in 2019.

I will attend the Puerto Rico Disciples Assembly later in February 2019. I will also attend the United Church of Christ General Synod.

I will be the Sunday Morning preacher for the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC, in April 2019. I continue to be active as a representative of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada at meetings of the National Council of Churches, and the World Council of Churches.

General Assembly

The work of the General Assembly Futuring Task Force has been key to the planning of the 2019 General Assembly in Des Moines. In addition to working to keep costs down and raise sponsorships, we have added value via educational offerings. Pastors who need boundary training or anti-racism training to maintain their standing can get those classes at the event. Commissioned ministers can get their Disciples history. Elder training and classes for college students navigating campus life are planned. That is in addition to the many workshops on administration, Global Ministries and even a panel discussion on the first 50 years of The Design.

Other innovations for this assembly include:

- Opening and closing celebrations
- Starting on Saturday afternoon and ending Wednesday morning to potentially save one night's hotel cost
- An open call for sermon submissions
- MissionFest! in the exhibit hall where congregations and ministries can share their ministry successes with other congregations and ministries looking for inspiration.

Recommended Action

The General Board receives the report from the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) including the Office of General Minister and President and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

Center for Faith and Giving
General Board Report
Spring 2019

Our Vision: *To create a culture of generosity across the life of the whole church*

Our Mission: *To provide resources that teach stewardship as a spiritual discipline and a whole life response to the abundance of God.*

Standing Committee Members: Eric Farris (LWM Kentucky); Denise Bell (CBF Georgia); Samuel Ramirez (CHM California); Melissa St Clair (CWF Central Rocky Mountain); Daphne Gascot Arias (CHF California). *Serving ex officio:* Randy Johnson (CWM Indiana); Sotello Long (CBM G-COM); Terri Hord-Owens (CBF G-COM). Bruce Barkhauer, Director (CWM, G-COM)

The Center celebrates with the church our ninth anniversary and the many ways we have been privileged to serve you. 2019 marked our sixth year of producing annual campaign materials for the church, including two years of partnership with the United Church of Christ (2017 & 2018) and our current partnership with the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. These popular resources offer complete guidance in the task of developing a successful annual fund in congregational life and encourage strong biblical and theological study through sermon and small group curriculum. They have also provided a necessary income stream for supporting the Center's operational budget, only 48% of which is projected to be underwritten by Disciples Mission Fund in 2019. We are grateful for the many partnerships we enjoy that strengthen our witness and provide the resources to empower this particular mission of the Disciples of Christ.

We are pleased to report that CFG was awarded an Oreon E Scott Grant to work extensively with congregations in the Ohio Region. Following the economic crisis in Ohio, the Center's leadership felt a keen awareness to join with other parts of the church that have come together to support these congregations and pastors while the Ohio Region reorganizes. Our efforts will focus on delivering stewardship and fiduciary "best practices" education for clergy and laypersons, including "generosity coaching" in up to two dozen congregations who apply for Generosity Plus. Participants will receive two intensive study sessions at the regional camp ground (one spring, one fall, two days each session) that include the pastor and at least two lay people from each church. For those that do not apply for Generosity Plus, a series of six webinars will be available for all of the Ohio Disciples during 2019 and the first half of 2020. The goal is to improve both clergy and congregational financial wellness and to equip future leadership for regional and general church service on boards with administrative responsibilities. Increased financial health will expand the capacity to practice generosity at the local, regional and wider expressions of the whole church, in keeping with our stated vision.

The Generosity Plus program is being piloted in Ohio and will become available to both regions and individual congregations in 2019. This fee for service coaching platform will allow the CFG to expand its capacity and provide a deeper level of assistance for parts of the church that wish to increase their generosity profile. We will still continue to provide our high-quality level of resources to the whole church via our website, in addition to this new program. We have hired (on a contract/part-time basis) the Rev. Janet Long, past Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who has just retired from her 33 1/3 years of service to Washington Avenue Christian Church in Elyria, Ohio. We are excited to have her join our Generosity Plus team.

Our Director continues to impact those studying for the ministry and vocational service to the church through teaching at several of our Disciple seminaries, including Lexington Theological Seminary which requires students to take a stewardship and church finance course in order to graduate in the MDiv program. In May of this year, Rev. Barkhauer will give the 4th James Reed Seminar on Stewardship, as a part of the Stalcup School of Theology, one of several recognitions that speak to the respect the Center for Faith and Giving has developed across the life of the church and amongst its peers. He has worked in consultation with the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving at the Indiana University School of Philanthropy, assisting in both the NASCEP (North American Study on Congregational Economic Practice) Study and the redevelopment of their ECRF (Executive Certificate in Religious Fund Raising) Certificate program. He also has participated as a mentor over the last three years to participants of Indiana Flourish (a clergy and congregational financial wellness program funded by the Lilly Foundation). Additionally, Rev. Barkhauer was recently elected President of the Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. Bruce will complete the necessary requirements to earn his ECRF designation this spring. He continues to be a sought after speaker and presenter among our ecumenical partners in the field of generosity and stewardship, particularly as it relates to the biblical and theological practice of stewardship as a spiritual discipline.

The Standing Committee bids farewell to the Reverend Erin Wathen who has completed a five-year term and twice served as chair. We welcome the Reverend Daphne Gascot Aries as she begins her term that will end in 2023. Our gratitude goes to those willing to serve and lead in this capacity.

Christian Church Services

PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

317.713.2405

Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens, president

Rev. Dr. Todd Adams, board chair

John Goebel, financial services

Cherilyn Williams, interim staff

Christian Church Services (CCS) is the umbrella corporation that coordinates the shared services of the Disciples Center such as building lease, phone system, reception and insurance. Since the last report to the General Board in April of 2018, longtime staff Sharon Coleman moved to another position within the Disciples Center in June 2018. Cherilyn Williams and John Goebel have filled the gap until the anticipated arrival of a chief of staff for the Office of General Minister and President, Rev. Lee Hull Moses, in February 2019.

The board met in June and December of 2018 to review operations. The following are highlights:

- A new phone software system task force, led by Pension Fund’s Rick Mahoney, selected Level365 as a vendor. The software transition occurred in December 2018.
- Meetings also included updates on finances, procedures, manuals and training cycles as well as schedule of holidays for the building.
- Gary Kidwell was elected as board chair for 2019-2020.

College of Regional Ministers Report

President Greg Alexander, Kentucky
President Elect, LaTaunya Bynum, N. California-Nevada
First Vice President, Nadine Burton, Great River
Second Vice President, Bill Rose-Heim, Greater Kansas City
Secretary, Christal Williams, Tennessee

The College of Regional Ministers is made up of lead staff members of each of the 32 regional churches and the leaders of the three Ethnic Ministries and meets 2-3 times annually for spiritual renewal, mutual encouragement, continuing education, and matters of church oversight and service.

On non-General Assembly years, the CRM holds a meeting in the summer which includes the Moderators of each of the regional churches for community building and skill building. The CRM also meets for a meal function at each General Assembly and invites the former members of the CRM and their spouses to the function at a reduced cost to continue the ties of friendship and fellowship within this group of church leaders.

The officers of the CRM, known as the CRMX, meet 6-8 times a year online for business between the formal meetings of the CRM. Officers of the CRM are elected for a two-year term of service during the off General Assembly year gathering in the summer.

The CRM is divided into five fellowship groups based on geography. The Fellowship Groups meet in person once a year for community building and program coordination. Two of the five groups are currently meeting together for this function.

The funds of the CRM are managed by the OGMP Office. The CRM work is funded through annual dues contributed by the regional churches, invested funds, and regional church budgets through voluntary work done by its members.

One of the challenges/opportunities of the CRM is the high level of turnover in the membership. The report submitted to the **2018 General Board** listed this range of service of the regional ministers in regions by their amount of tenure. Add a year to each category for 2018.

- Five regions have been served for 14-22 years;
- Six regions have been served for 6-11 years;
- Six regions have served for 3-4 years;
- Seven regions have been served for 1-2 years;
- Two regions called permanent staff in February 2018,
- Six regions are served by interim ministries/strategies.
- In addition, two regional churches have changed their models to have multiple regional ministers as teams. This reality means adding five more persons using the title of Regional Minister for ministry. While the college only has one member per regional church that attends its meetings, this still translates into exceptional transitional movement in the CRM.

Highlights of 2017-2018

- The CRM developed "An Ethical Covenant for Regional Ministers." The members of the CRM believed Regional Ministers must be held accountable to appropriate ethical standards. At the February meeting of the CRM, all the Regional Ministers will participate in a signing service in the context of worship.
- John Mobley (Alabama NW Florida) works as Chairperson of the Calling, Advisory, and Orientation Committee to assist Regions in leadership transition. He works with the General Minister and President to recommend persons to serve in positions of interim leadership. He assigns CRM members to partner with search teams in Regions that are seeking new regional ministers. Since the beginning of 2018 the following Regions have benefited from this assistance: Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Mid-America, Nebraska, North Carolina, Northeast, Ohio, Pacific Southwest, South Carolina, Southwest, and Virginia. Currently five regions are in various stages of search processes and are working closely with members of the CRM in the process.
- Five of the CRM members serve on the General Commission on Ministry.
- Teresa Dulyea-Parker (Illinois Wisconsin) and Bill Spangler-Dunning (Upper Midwest) represent the CRM on the Administrative Committee.
- The CRM maintains a webpage for the public to learn about their work with a private area for confidential business. The CRM also maintains an active listserv system for fluid and quick communication.
- Susan Gonzales-Dewey (Pacific SW) represented the CRM in the planning and implementation of the July 2018 FORM (Fellowship of Regional Moderators) meeting in Birmingham, Alabama in the days preceding the National Convocation gathering. The CRM meets in the same time frame with part of the time spent with both groups together. This date and location allowed many of the CRM members to stay for all or part of the Convocation. A strong and vibrant network of the Regional Moderators emerged that will continue to develop identity and purpose in this next biennium.
- The CRM is preparing to address some challenging conversations that it must have. The CRM has become very intentional to build greater degrees of trust and transparency into the developing relationships among all its members. These conversations will address the deeper systemic issues of institutional racism that still haunt the structures of our denomination; the challenges facing our current regional structures and the need to explore alternatives that will carry our witness and work forward for generations to come; the changing landscape of congregational life and its impact on our current ministry structures (education, ministerial identity, recruitment, and Search and Call).
- Twelve of the General Units have at least one Regional Minister on their Board of Directors/Trustees. Regional Ministers serve on all of the Ethnic Ministries boards, Disciples Women Leadership, Reconciliation, Week of Compassion and General Commission on the Ministry. Four Disciples Colleges and six Disciples Seminaries have Regional Ministers on their boards.

- The four Regional Ministers from the five contiguous regions to the Ohio Region (Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania/West Virginia) have entered into a covenant to provide Regional Ministry support services to congregations/ministers of the Ohio Region during this time of transition and renewal for that Region. Four geographic areas have been identified and one assigned to each of the four Regional Ministers.
- The eight regions of the Southeast Regional Fellowship (AL/NWFL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN, and VA) received a grant from the Oreon E. Scott Foundation to bring key leaders and regional staffs together at Christmount in a three-day retreat to explore areas where ministry/resources could be shared among the eight regions. A follow-up retreat is planned for late February, 2019.
- WWOW Event - In April 2018 The Wild Women of the West event was a multi-regional event that included worship, workshops, good food and good fellowship. Joined by women from the Office of Disciples Women, leaders of the Disciples Women's Leadership Conference, and General Minister and President the weekend was rich in community and enhanced by visitors from Puerto Rico and Latin America. It was a wonderful weekend. Another Wild Women of the West gathering will take place in June 2020 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Goals moving into 2019 - 2020 remain the same as for 2018-2019 as they are a continuation of intentional self-reflection and the actions they call forth:

- Continuing to form a deep and collegial relationship with the new GMP;
- rewriting our training manual for regional ministry;
- reengaging at a deeper level our anti-racism work;
- re-examining the distribution strategy of the regional church pool of DMF;
- creating innovative methods for regional churches to work together in new partnerships;
- taking better advantage of on-line meetings to share resources and training;
- initiating a monthly online conversation about one aspect at a time of regional ministry work;
- creating a covenant around search and call practices with representatives from CRM and all three Ethnic Ministries' leadership;
- rewriting the CRM bylaws;
- redefining the CRM identity in light of new emerging models of regional ministry leadership; and
- continuing to find ways forward in collaboration with all the ministries of our whole church that we may be a CRM that helps to bind together the work of the whole church and the congregations through mutual relationship, vision and action.

Rev. J. Gregory Alexander, President
 January 31, 2019

Communication Ministries

PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

317.713.2496

Cherilyn Williams, Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Emily Martin, Communication and Disciples Mission Fund Coordinator

General communications

- Supported the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival via social media, web page and e-letters, as instructed by the 2017 General Assembly resolution
- Began work with grassroots Disciples Public Presence group based in the Upper Midwest region; attended conference in September
- Began work with West End Strategies Team on communication audit and additional communication projects
- Convened general ministry communicators for a retreat and monthly meetings that included targeted discussions of shared challenges such as social media practices and policies
- Consistently distributed of *Disciples News Service* weekly and *Disciples Together* bi-monthly e-letters for general and pastor audiences respectively
- Posted daily on Facebook and Twitter general accounts, consistently posted and monitored special interest groups: General Assembly, Disciples Local Impact and Disciples Exchange
- Produced original stories for *Disciples News Service* highlighting a number of notable congregational and other ministries
- Gathered data on audience response for electronic communications. Now that we have approximately 18 months of consistent data we will be able to begin a more careful analysis of audience preferences.
 - Statistics (January-November 2018)
 - Facebook: 1,559 new page likes in 2018; 3.2% average engagement rate (industry average is 0.17%)
 - Twitter: 534 new followers; 2% average engagement rate (industry average is 0.055%)
 - E-mail open/click rates:
 - Disciples Together: 37% average open rate; 13.7% average click rate
 - Disciples News Service: 33.1% average open rate; 14.5% average click rate

(industry average for religious organizations: 26.3% open rate, 7.3% click rate)

Website traffic:

- disciples.org: average 2,349 page views per month, 425,176 total. The most clicked link from the home page is Our Identity
- disciplesmissionfund.org: average 195 page views per month, 25,332 total. The most clicked links from the home page are What Is DMF and Special Day Offerings

Disciples Mission Fund

- Implemented new practice of featuring related stories in *Disciples News Service* during offering periods; coordinated the production and distribution of Disciples Mission Fund special day offering materials (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
- Set strategic goals for DMF development; at the time of this report, we had exceeded goal for increasing number of new individual donors in 2018
- Refreshed Disciples Mission Fund website organization, creating two new pages for worship resources and online giving
- Increased touch points with Disciples Mission Fund donors (both congregations and individuals) by sending quarterly letters and email solicitations
- Developed informational Disciples Mission Fund brochure

Year Book & Directory

- Supported the Year Book & Directory operations of gathering data and updating records, in partnership with regional ministers, and in layout and print production of final product.
- Connected with Year Book staff of several other denominations to compare best practices and share ideas
- Revised year book form and data gathering plan for 2019 cycle

General Assembly

- Coordinated 2019 General Assembly preparation of
 - Bible studies
 - Educational offerings
 - Promotional mailings, ads and videos
 - Website update
 - Local Arrangements Committee, including missions
 - Sponsorship solicitation and ad sales
 - Exhibit booth sales
 - Initial space allocations for education, child care, etc.
 - Mobile app for the event via a third-party vendor

The Disciples Center for Public Witness

December 2018 Report for the OGMP

Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker Langston

Executive Director

Introduction: The Disciples Center for Public Witness (DC4PW) is a justice advocacy ministry within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Originating as a shared ministry of National City Christian Church and the Christian Church Capital Area, DC4PW is now a shared ministry of seven founding congregations and several other partner congregations. (We are continuing to reach out successfully to new congregations). DC4PW has official status as a recognized organization through the Office of the General Minister and President; and our finances are handled by Disciples Home Missions.

The mission of DC4PW is two-fold: to use our denomination's passion for justice and vision of true community to evaluate and influence the laws and policies that affect all of us—especially marginalized persons and communities—in the United States, Canada, and around the world; and to inform, connect, and empower Disciples and other people of faith for ecumenical and interfaith justice advocacy in the United States and Canada. Our larger goal is to promote and help achieve the Beloved Community envisioned by Dr. King, a vision based on the Biblical promise of shalom and Jesus' proclamation of the inbreaking reign of God.

Overview: This year has been a year of increased investment in increased capacity and further expansion, especially in two areas of our ongoing work: communications and fundraising. With the help of consultants, contracted staff, and volunteers, we have increased our social media presence, revised our website, published weekly newsletters, and developed a database that better allows us to segment and communicate with our donors and grassroots advocates. Two of our contracted staff have taken fundraising courses, and the executive director has been helped on a regular basis by both a fundraising coach and an informal network of fundraisers within the denomination.

At the same time, we continue our program activities in many issue-areas, including racial justice, gender justice, worker justice, health care, mass incarceration, gun violence, domestic violence, torture (including solitary confinement), religious liberty, drone warfare, Cuba, and Palestine/Israel. In most of these issue-areas, we work with our ecumenical, interfaith, and secular partners. We also work with our denominational partners on racism, immigration, refugees, women and children, criminal justice reform, and care for God's creation.

Special Programs: Two special programs of DC4PW are the *Ecumenical Poverty Initiative* (EPI) and *Let Justice Roll* (LJR). EPI is an anti-poverty ministry of DC4PW that is shared with the ecumenical community. It pulls together national and local religious leaders to work on a variety of racial and economic justice issues: exposing the negative effects of pay day lending, opposing budget cuts to programs that help people who are struggling economically, opposing the increasing debt for college students, and promoting more equal distribution of the resources available to public schools.

Let Justice Roll (LJR) is currently a virtual organization that uses its online presence and social media to inform and empower people of faith to do three things: promote a living wage on the national level, get more involved in state campaigns that are working to increase the local minimum wage, and oppose disparities in pay between different ethnic, racial, and gender groups. LJR’s motto is: “A job should keep you out of poverty, not in it.”

Special Projects: In addition to our regular activities and the activities associated with EPI and LJR, there were a number of special projects in which DC4PW was involved this year. One of these was *Journey to Justice* (J2J), a project in which a new pastor of African descent was given the opportunity to learn more about diverse forms of social witness by engaging in three areas of witness: public policy advocacy, justice-oriented networking with other church leaders, and faith-based activism.

Another special project was *Labor in the Pulpits*. In this project, we encouraged Disciples to invite labor leaders or people of faith involved in some form of worker justice ministry to speak in their congregations on or around Labor Day.

Still another special project was our involvement in *Torture Awareness Month*. Throughout the month of June, we encouraged congregations to do three things: give a sermon and/or host a discussion on torture; show a film about U.S. participation in torture; and hang a banner declaring opposition to torture.

Finally, we were actively engaged in *Faithful Democracy*, a project where we collect and distribute useful information about voter registration, voter education, and voter mobilization to regions, congregations, and faith-based groups.

We were able to accomplish the work necessary for the success of these special projects with the help of college students participating in our summer internship program.

Campaigns: DC4PW has been very involved in three major campaigns: *The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call to Moral Revival*, where we attended planning meetings and participated in public gatherings and events in Washington, DC; the National Council of Churches’ *ACT Now*, which began with an event on the U.S. National Mall in which DC4PW organized and staffed a Disciples booth that received a good deal of traffic from participants in the gathering; and *MLK50*, where we encouraged participation by Disciples in events around the United States that were sponsored by the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN.

Collaboration with other Disciples ministries: In terms of DC4PW's collaboration with other Disciples ministries, we worked with Refugee and Immigration Ministries and the coalition to which it belongs, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, to oppose such things as the separation of undocumented immigrant children from their families, the tearing apart of immigrant families by our current immigration policies, the severe limiting of the number of refugees who are allowed to enter the United States, and the changes in statutory and regulatory definitions that make it even harder for immigrants legally to enter our nation.

We also worked closely with Green Chalice with and through the coalition to which we both belong, Creation Justice Ministries, on clean air and water, the preservation of national parks and monuments, the protection of the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWAR), a quicker transition away from fossil fuels, and opposition to both the Keystone Pipeline and increased offshore drilling.

And, finally, we worked with Family & Children's Ministries with and through the coalition to which we both belong, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence. Alongside other people of faith, we actively promoted universal background checks, the banning of assault weapons, restrictions on high capacity ammunition magazines, and making gun trafficking a federal crime.

DC4PW also collaborated on a number of projects and events with Reconciliation Ministry, Week of Compassion, the National Benevolent Association, the Council on Christian Unity, the Division of Overseas Ministries, the Office of the General Minister and President, and the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Conferences in which DC4PW actively participated: Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice, Black Ministers Retreat, the National Convocation, Winter Talk, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Asamblea Nacional Hispana Y Bingue, the Christian Unity Gathering of the National Council of Churches, Festival of Homiletics, National Immigrant Integration Conference, MLK50 Gathering for People of Faith.

Regional Assemblies where DC4PW had a strong presence: Canada, Florida, Tennessee, and the Christian Church Capital Area.

Coalitions with and through which DC4PW works: The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, Interfaith Worker Justice, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Creation Justice Ministries, Paycheck Fairness Coalition, Coalition Against Religious Discrimination, International Religious Freedom Roundtable, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, Heads of Washington Offices of the Washington interreligious Staff Community, Washington Working Group on the International Criminal Court, Domestic Human Needs, Coalition on Human Needs, Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare, School of the Americas Watch, Medicaid Coalition, Jubilee, USA, Bread for the World, the Interfaith Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, the Interfaith Health Care Coalition, and the Committee on Religious Liberty.

European Evangelistic Society

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 www.eesinc.org
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 Tony Twist, President

2018 General Board Report

The European Evangelistic Society (EES), incorporated in 1946, has now been in existence for 70 years. The Institute for the Study of Christian Origins was established in Tübingen, Germany in the early 1960s. Its purpose is to encourage and guide research in the earliest church and to focus the application of that research on the church today. Over the years the Institute has gained the respect of the faculty of theology at the University of Tübingen and as a result occupies a place of honor among scholars of the New Testament and early church history around the world.

The mission of EES in its 70 years of history has not changed. It remains: To develop Christian leaders for significant service through higher learning. The vision of EES is that every nation has effective leaders of disciple-making movements making a global impact on their churches, cultures, and countries for Christ. This vision reflects the common mission priorities of the Disciples of Christ as a movement for wholeness that welcomes all to the Table, and fulfills the last command of Jesus – “. . . as you are going, make disciples of all nations immersing them into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching obedience to all that I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

The mission of EES is focused on this concern of leadership development necessary to realize the Four Priorities of the Church as outlined in the 2020 Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). EES views its priorities in terms of developing Christian leaders and future Christian leaders that have unique access to the University for significant service, especially international students who are coming in increased numbers. This is done through providing practical assistance, counsel, and hospitality when they arrive on campus in order to establish relationships; then through prayer, fellowship, and studies as they get more involved.

Through the Institute for the Study of Christian Origins at the University of Tübingen, Germany, EES is actively involved in research supervision and publication. In conjunction with the Protestant faculty, a doctoral colloquium is offered in which international doctoral students have the opportunity for research supervision at a major European University. This mission expresses itself in three primary areas of ministry:

- To develop international leaders through advanced studies
- To assist emerging leaders in research and publication of relevant national articles, books, and other materials
- To help encourage the establishment and development of churches, colleges, and agencies focused on evangelism and disciple making.

At the present time, the educational ministry at The Institute for the Study of Christian Origins, led by Director Dr. Beth Langstaff, continues to function alongside Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen, Germany. The Institute has a long and productive relationship with the prestigious and influential University. The influence of this ministry has been felt all over the world, as international students have come to the University for academic purposes and have been a part of the Institute. It pursues basic New Testament research, offers colloquia through the academic year, and engages in continuing dialogue with professors and students from around the world.

The **English-German Colloquium in New Testament** serves as a forum for visiting professors and scholars to read works in progress. The Colloquium also provides an opportunity for doctoral students to present their work (dissertation proposals, chapter, conference papers, etc.) and to receive feedback. Moreover, it offers an unusual opportunity for scholars at all levels—master’s students, doctoral candidates, post-doc fellows, and professors—to meet and to discuss current research with one another.

A few special lectures in 2018:

- In January, colloquium members went on a guided tour at the Bible Museum in Stuttgart, which had a special exhibition on “Gott und Geld (God and Money)”. In the evening, Professor Marius Reiser gave a guest lecture on the intriguing topic of “The Bible and Money.”
 - Another fascinating and timely topic—German theology during the Third Reich—was addressed at a well-attended guest lecture in June; Professor Anton Segev, from the Philosophy Dept of Loyola University in Chicago, read a paper on “Gerhard Kittel: Religion and Politics”
- In July 2018, Gregory Fewster from the University of Toronto gave a talk on “Origen, the Alexandrian School, and Critical Philology of the corpus Paulinum in Egypt”.

Courses in Theological German and Theological English are taught at the University with some translation and linguistic work. The classes include readings from a variety of Christian authors, in addition to Scripture, all with a view toward deepening relationships with God and others. Both classes and colloquia provide good opportunities for probing questions as well as opportunities to meet outside of class for deeper discussions. Increasingly the colloquium is serving international scholars as well. The position that the Institute has by being part of the University officially gives them a great advantage and status as they develop these ongoing relationships. In order to serve more effectively as Bible college professors, presidents, mission directors, and in other high capacity positions, many from these networks will need the type of advanced preparation that EES can provide.

The **Theological German class** has included students from all over the world: during the past year, the participants came mainly from the UK and USA. In the winter semester (2017-18), we read and discussed the 2012 book, Jesus, written by the famous Catholic theologian Hans Küng, who has spent many years here in Tübingen. In the summer semester, we focused on the writings—poems, notes, sermons, prayers—that Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote during his imprisonment from April 1943 to his execution in April 1945.

The **Theological English class** is made up mostly of German students, some of whom are preparing to head overseas for an exchange semester/year. During the winter semester (2017-18), we explored “Theologies of the Global South”—getting to know a range of Christian theologians from Peru to Papua New Guinea, from South Africa to South Korea. The topic for the summer class was “J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis: Story and Theology”; we discussed theological motifs such as creation, good and evil, death and eternal life, and redemption in their fantasy writings. The Tolkien/Lewis class was so large that we had to use a seminar room at the University—and it included a good number of native English speakers, as well.

During the past year, the Institute has also offered guest accommodation to visiting scholars, such as Ronald Heine, one of the speakers at the Symposium on the Lord’s Prayer, who was here in Tübingen with his wife Gill.

The Institute for the Study of Christian Origins is being positioned to help develop dedicated leaders for significant service throughout Europe, Russia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and beyond.

EES Goals:

- Develop relationships between EES and other universities to help provide access to resources and research opportunities for the growing number of graduate students needing advanced studies.
- Provide more doctoral mentoring, supervision, and opportunities for graduates and others through the EES networks.
- Provide opportunities for
 - ♦ Mentoring doctoral students
 - ♦ Teaching theological English and theological German to students at Tübingen University
 - ♦ Preparing students from Eastern Europe and Central Asia to conduct research, write, and publish quality materials in their own languages
- Continue to conduct the Doctoral Colloquium in conjunction with Protestant Faculty at Tübingen University.

On the basis of the respect earned by EES, the Institute has been able to sponsor, with the help of Tübingen's New Testament faculty and that of the University of Munich, two symposia with scholars from around the world. These meetings help to fulfill the mission of the EES to stimulate study of early Christianity among scholars so our movement to restore New Testament Christianity can be taken seriously at the highest level. The volume of papers from the 2014 Symposium ("Make Disciples of All Nations") is being published by Mohr Siebeck. A third symposium was held in Tübingen in October 2018. The symposium focused on the Lord's Prayer in the context of Judaism, the New Testament, and early Christianity. The symposium was organized and sponsored by Prof. Michael Tilly (Universität Tübingen), Prof. Loren Stuckenbruck (LMU Munich) and Dr. Beth Langstaff (Institute for the Study of Christian Origins). Once again, speakers were invited from other regions of the world (e.g. Eastern Europe, North America, Israel, South Africa) and from a variety of religious traditions (Protestant, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Jewish).

Although EES does not work specifically in any one congregation, it seeks to promote the cause of reconciliation throughout the world by developing leaders who will demonstrate our commitment to the idea of a faithful, growing church that exhibits true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice. The work of EES in Germany at the University of Tübingen is truly a multi-cultural community. Since 2000, doctoral colloquium presentations have been given by visiting professors and doctoral students from Australia, Canada, Germany, Finland, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, South Africa, The United Kingdom, and the United States. EES seeks to be an international witness for the Christian gospel in one of the most significant theological settings in the world. In keeping with the original vision of the European Evangelistic Society, the goal is to see churches thriving and flourishing throughout the world by equipping capable leaders to serve.

EES is characterized by a deep and abiding interest in the oneness of the Body of Christ. The original purpose of the organization was to effect a channel through which it might cooperate in accomplishing the divine mission transmitted to the Church through the New Testament, and that its fraternity in this cause should be recognized as a fellowship for advancing the Christian mission. That interest has not changed with the passing of 70 years of ministry. The European Evangelistic Society is one of the few ministries among Stone-Campbell churches that has historically sought to work among all three streams of the American expression of this ideal. For over half a century, the dream of a united Church, bound by its commitment to the New Testament as the revelation of God about the person of Jesus Christ, has been the unchanging focus of its mission.

The General Commission on Ministry

D. Newell Williams, Chairperson

The General Commission on Ministry [GCOM] of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is composed of members appointed by the General Minister and President in consultation with various constituencies across the life of the church. In odd-numbered years, the General Minister and President may present a slate of members to the General Board for confirmation.

In 2018, the following persons served on the General Commission on Ministry: **Cynthia Adcock**, pastor, Northwest Christian Church, Columbus, OH; **Greg Alexander**, Regional Minister, Christian Church in Kentucky; **William Almodovar**, local pastor, Indianapolis, IN; **Linda Brown**, layperson, Main Street Christian Church, Parker City, IN; **LaTaunya Bynum**, Regional Minister, Christian Church in Northern California; **Eugene Fisher**, Pension Fund Representative; **Pam Holt**, Regional Minister, Christian Church in Oklahoma; **Eugene James**, Regional Minister, Christian Church in Michigan; **Timothy James**, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation; **Chung Seong Kim**, Executive Pastor of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples; **Sotello Long**, Disciples Home Mission President; **Holly Miller-Shank**, United Church of Christ Representative; **Terri Hord Owens**, General Minister and President, ex-officio; **William Rose-Heim**, Regional Minister, Christian Church of Greater Kansas City; **Matt Rosine**, Pension Fund Representative; **Glen Stewart**, retired Regional Minister, Nashville, TN; **Lori Tapia**, National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries; **D. Newell Williams**, Seminary Representative [President, Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX]; **Tom Yang**, pastor, Glenview (IL) Christian Church. In addition, **Warren Lynn**, Director, Office of Christian Vocation, met by invitation with the Search and Call Committee to share information directly related to his work and **Beth Sullivan**, Executive Assistant to the General Minister and President, provided staff support to the Commission as a whole and in particular to the Support Committee which reviews applications for ministerial standing.

GCOM meets twice per year. In 2018, we met February 12-13 in Indianapolis and August 27-28 via electronic conferencing. By the time this General Board gathers, GCOM's first meeting of 2019, January 7-8 in Indianapolis, will have concluded.

Since GCOM last reported to the General Board, it has addressed the following issues:

- **Policies and Procedures for Responding to Clergy Misconduct:** Several editorial changes were approved for the sake of increased clarity. This document is reviewed annually. The Commission approved a motion that the current document be reviewed by legal counsel.
- **Revision of Standing Form used by the Commission:** The Commission recommended that all persons applying for standing from the Commission be sent a link to two documents: Policy and Procedures for Responding to Clergy Misconduct and Ministerial Code of Ethics, and that applicants be required to check a box for each of the documents indicating they have read the document. Since August, this addition has been included in the standing forms used by the Commission.

- **Standing for retired regional ministers:** GCOM affirmed that standing for retired regional ministers is held in the region where the retired regional minister resides.
- **Potential benefits across the church of a “Ministers’ Registry” distinct from Search and Call that could be created by a standardized annual minister’s standing form adopted by all regions:** GCOM appointed Greg Alexander to request the College of Regional Ministers (CMR) to take this issue under consideration.
- **Use of Search and Call by racial/ethnic pastors and congregations:** Challenges include: language barriers, length and content of the current profile, regional differences among commissions on ministry and policies of search and call, and overlapping responsibilities of regional and racial/ethnic pastors that can create tension and confusion. Three action steps were approved: 1) Issue to Suran Systems a request for development (RFD) by which a pastor entering Search and Call could fill out multiple language profiles to be circulated simultaneously, allowing congregations to review their profiles in their native languages and allowing pastors to be considered in congregations beyond their native languages; 2) Initiate a conversation within the CRM about the development of a shorter and more appropriate Search and Call Ministerial Profile; 3) Request the CRM to name those elements they have in common in doing Search and Call and elements that could be done in a more consistent format to bring more consistency to our practices.
- **Standing granted to clergy for whom Standing is lodged with GCOM:** 166 clergy were granted Standing. Specific joys and needs were noted and responded to, as well as requirements for Boundary Training and Diversity Training.

We welcome your input, comments, questions, ideas, and concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
D. Newell Williams, Chairperson

National Christian Missionary Convention

Donald K. Gillett, III, President

Timothy M. James, Corporate Secretary

And its Subsidiary

GREENWOOD CEMETERY OF NASHVILLE, TN., INC.

William Lee, President

Dwayne Bell, General Manager

The National Convocation Board of Trustees is elected by the General Assembly as the Trustees of the National Christian Missionary Convention, Inc. The Trustees are basically tasked with the oversight of the resources bequeathed to the National Christian Missionary Convention by our founder, Rev. Preston Taylor. From these resources, funds are contributed to the Black Disciples Endowment Fund and to the continued growth and development of Greenwood Cemetery.

THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION:

The funds of NCMC are invested with the Disciples Church Extension Fund and Christian Church Foundation. Transactions related to NCMC operations are handled in the office of the National Convocation.

The Black Disciples Endowment Fund is owned by NCMC. The BDEF is purposed to strengthen the ministry of Black Disciples. The BDEF assists in sponsoring the African American School of Faith and Life, offered during the Biennial Session of the National Convocation. The fund sponsors scholarships and funds for Black Disciples congregations and leadership development.

A portion of the Lillian Merchant Fund held by Christian Church Foundation is allocated to the BDEF for ministerial recruitment and nurture. The Office of African American Clergy and Leadership Development recruits and nurtures prospective ministers and work to continue the training legacy of our founder through the Preston Taylor Institute, William Lee, Director.

Trustees of the National Christian Missionary Convention are: Donald K. Gillett, President; Irie Session, Vice President; Pamela Dubose, Secretary; James Vertreese, Treasurer; Milton Bowens, Ken Brooker Langston, Delesslyn Kennebrew, Joanne Walker Flowers, William Smith, Cicely Staton-Holt, Juanita Greene, and Beverly Goines. Ex-Officio officers are: Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President; Sotello Long, President Disciples Home Ministries; and Timothy James, Corporate Secretary.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY:

The Greenwood Cemetery of Nashville, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation organized to manage the cemetery properties owned by NCMC. Under the able leadership of Dwayne Bell, the cemetery operates three separate sites which are becoming well known by its historic significance. It has become more attractive to the people of Nashville and we would like for it to be recognized and used by more Disciples of Christ.

Members of Greenwood Cemetery Board of Directors are: William Lee, Chairman; Freddie Lawton, Vice Chairman; Juanita Greene, Treasurer; Pat Penelton, Dale Braxton, Norman Reed, John Tiggie, Beverly Dickason, Ahmed White, Marvin Owens. Ex-Officio Officers: Timothy James, Corporate Secretary; John Foulkes, Investment Committee Chair; and Dwayne Bell, General Manager.

National City Christian Church Foundation

John Arterberry, Chairperson
 Stephen Gentle, Senior Minister
 5 Thomas Circle, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20005
 Telephone: (202) 232-0323
 Web site: www.nationalcitycc.org

National City Christian Church was created to live out Alexander Campbell's vision to uphold a momentous church facility in the city known for its national and world leaders so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ might be proclaimed. National City Christian Church Foundation is honored to be one of the recognized organizations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. The Foundation holds in trust the ownership of the church property and its facilities on behalf of the wider church. It is led by a national Board of Trustees and reports to the General Assembly. The Foundation is yoked in partnership with the congregation of National City Christian Church to provide a national facility for worship, study, ministry, and mission in the U.S. capital.

The Foundation of National City Christian Church ("The Foundation") exists for the purpose of maintaining the financial and physical assets of the Foundation so that the congregations and/or wider ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may pursue mission at 5 Thomas Circle. In order to accomplish this, the Foundation shall: preserve and grow the endowment; manage its facilities and property to maximize its use by tenants whose purposes are consistent with the values of the Foundation and its donors; and maintain the facilities in a manner that protects the Foundation's assets and honors perpetual care agreements. For the purpose of reporting to the 2019 General Assembly, the following information includes activities in 2017 and 2018.

Richard L. Hamm led the Foundation as the chairperson for the Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2017. In November, 2017, National City Christian Church thanked Dr. Hamm for his eight years of distinguished leadership which has brought the Foundation to a place of strength and vitality. The Foundation is grateful for Dr. Hamm's continued service on the Board of Trustees. John Arterberry became the new chairperson following many years of dedicated service as the vice chairperson. Mr. Arterberry, now residing in Nashville, Tennessee, is the retired Deputy Chief for the Department of Justice Fraud Section and longtime member of National City Christian Church. For Mr. Arterberry's depth of institutional knowledge and longstanding, gifted leadership in the Foundation and the congregation, National City Christian Church is truly grateful. In March, the Foundation was delighted to welcome Steven Baines to the Foundation staff as Senior Strategist for Foundation Development, Outreach, and Spiritual Formation. The Foundation is appreciative and humbled by the remarkable leadership and generous support from the Board of Trustees, Disciples of Christ leadership throughout North America, the National City Christian Church staff, and the congregational leadership.

National City Christian Church Foundation, in partnership with the congregation, completed a two-year capital campaign called “Renew and Transform” with the purpose of addressing deferred maintenance and repairs to the facilities. The goal of \$800,000 was overwhelmingly supported with over 1.1 million dollars being raised. The following projects were completed: boiler replacement, Beasley Building roof replacement, air conditioning repair, security entry system installation, carpet for the Sanctuary and the Beasley Building, courtyard pavers replacement, courtyard fountain repair, portico railings replacement, flat roof of the Sanctuary repair, exterior Sanctuary doors restoration, and the front steps received some much needed repair to its damaged limestone. The Foundation is grateful to the capital campaign leadership team led by chairperson Kathleen Burger Gerada and consultant James Powell. In conjunction with the capital campaign, the congregation launched a new permanent fund policy for legacy gifts that will support both Foundation and congregation in its future work and ministries. Christian Church Foundation Vice President Randall Johnson gave superb leadership and skilled guidance in this endeavor, and the congregation commends the work of Christian Church Foundation to all congregations interested in establishing permanent funds.

The Board of Trustees is in the midst of a discernment process concerning the sale of the 64-year-old education building that was formerly occupied by a public charter school. With expert assistance from Rock Creek Properties, the Foundation has been able to successfully navigate the complicated D.C. requirements of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, the Zoning Board, and the Historic Preservation Board. Presenting before each board or commission, we were delighted to hear board members and commissioners speak so highly of National City Christian Church and its contributions to the Washington, D.C., community. We were impressed that municipal organizations valued our ministries and wanted to preserve – what one commissioner described as – “the jewel of Thomas Circle.” The education building has been cleared, and the asbestos abatement and other demolition work has been accomplished.

The Foundation is grateful to the staff and congregational leadership that is engaged in ministry and mission in the greater Washington, D.C., area. In 2018, the congregation entered into a time of strategic planning with Hope Partnership through the Epiphany program. The congregation has enjoyed many highlights, including the 175th anniversary of Disciples of Christ worshipping in Washington, D.C., the ordination of Chaim Abramowitz Rodriguez and his installation as Pastor of Iglesia Cristiana Nacional, and the PhD graduation of Assistant Pastor Beverly Janet Goines. National City opened its doors to share with many neighbors: 10,000 bags of food were distributed to those who were hungry; hundreds of persons were welcomed with hospitality and face-painting at the church booth at Capital Pride; and many neighborhood pet owners and their canine companions joined in the annual blessing of the animals on the portico steps. In 2018, the congregation began hosting “My Neighbor Ministry” to employ an advocate to work with the poor and teach members how they can extend greater hospitality and care to those who live on the streets.

The first weekend of November, 2017, was yet another historic moment for National City Christian Church. Newly-elected General Minister and President Teresa Hord Owens preached a challenging message on the importance of knowing one's history. The Foundation dedicated the Oscar Haynes Exhibit on permanent loan by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. This new exhibit celebrates 100 years of the African American Convention movement that is now called the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Associate General Minister and National Convocation Administrative Secretary Timothy James, Central Rocky Mountain Regional Minister Joan Bell-Haynes, National Convocation Board President Patricia Penelton, and Historical Society President Emeritus Peter Morgan each spoke eloquently and powerfully on behalf of the National Convocation and the Oscar Haynes family. During that same weekend, National City was honored to host the installation of Historical Society President Richard Lowery and the Kirkpatrick Lecture presented by the Reverend Dr. Delores Carpenter.

The facilities of National City Christian Church continue to be a gathering place in the U.S. capital for Disciples of Christ and ecumenical partners. Some of the gatherings and significant events that have occurred in the past two years have included:

- Disciples Home Missions Board of Directors meeting; Higher Education and Leadership Ministries Fellows annual training; U.N. Youth Conference of the Ohio region, Moral Revival of the Poor People's Campaign teach-in led by William J. Barber II and James A. Forbes; Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, National Interfaith Prayer Service for Marriage Equality, National AIDS Conference, National Masonic Day of Thanksgiving and Remembrance, and D.C. Interfaith Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service with Sister Simone Campbell speaking.
- The Festival of Homiletics welcomed 1,600 clergypersons to National City Christian Church for four days of preaching and worship, lectures and fellowship. During one of the evenings of the Festival, Sojourners hosted Reclaiming Jesus candlelight vigil, filling the sanctuary with nearly 1,000 people and hundreds more listening out on the steps of the church building. Disciples speaking that evening included Teresa Hord Owens, Sharon Watkins, and Dick Hamm, along with other impressive ecumenical leaders including Bishop Michael Curry, Jim Wallis, Barbara Williams-Skinner, Richard Rohr, James Forbes, Walter Brueggemann, Otis Moss, and Tony Campolo.
- National City hosted several musical events, including weekly Friday organ concerts for the community and quarterly two-day Heritage Festival choral adjudication events for high school groups from across the U.S. Musical groups from around the community also performed in the sanctuary: the 120-voice Congressional Chorus, Fessenden Chamber Ensemble, Heritage Signature Chorale, Thomas Circle Singers, and the National Children's Chorus (which is housed at National City).
- Partnering with the Christian Church Capital Area, National City hosted a region-wide leadership training event called "Salt and Light" and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. worship service with CTS Professor Frank Thomas preaching.

As a partner with the General Church, National City is pleased to provide offices and meeting space for the Disciples Center for Public Witness, Disciples Home Missions' Refugee and Immigration Ministries, the Ecumenical Poverty Initiative, and the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. In 2017, National City Christian Church shared worship materials for the Sunday before the U.S. Presidential Inauguration that were made available to Disciples congregations and ecumenical partners for worship experiences.

Church Historian Peter Morgan and Videographer John Scott Williams have created a four-part educational DVD on the history of National City Christian Church in the context of the Stone-Campbell movement. Copies of the DVD may be obtained by contacting Church Administrator Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org.

As a multiracial/multicultural, bilingual, open and affirming congregation, National City Christian Church enjoys welcoming and worshiping with Disciples from all around the world. National City is *your* church in the U.S. capital. Tours of these facilities are available during the week upon request. All are invited to learn more about this unique Disciples witness at www.nationalcitycc.org or by visiting 5 Thomas Circle, N.W., in Washington, D.C.

Reconciliation Ministry

2019 General Board Report

Mission Statement: *Reconciliation Ministry advances the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)'s journey toward wholeness by empowering each expression of the Church to implement structural change to address historic fractures caused by racism and the systems that perpetuate it.*

Context:

As one of the four mission imperatives of the 2020 vision, “becoming a Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racist Church”, we are well on target to achieving this identity. The Church is living a new normal, a church that is both transformed while it is transforming. We have made significant qualitative and quantitative progress toward embracing this identity.

Ministry Highlights –

Equipping: Training in the analysis of anti-racism has become embedded in our institutional identity. In the 12-month period that encompasses this reporting period, our ministry has facilitated full day or two-day training events in every regional expression of the Church. At this juncture in this component of the equipping program of our ministry, over 75% of our Regions have an anti-racism educational requirement either for clergy and leader standing or as part of their Region’s healthy boundaries cycle. Of the seven Regions that do not currently require this educational element, all are intentionally addressing ways to incorporate an ongoing commitment to AR training. We have officially turned a corner in developing the capacity for self-examination of our policies and practices as well as building our capacity for structured dialogue about the continuing impact of our racialized histories.

Engaging: Two of our newer projects were designed to invite Disciples to creative engagement toward our anti-racist identity. One Bag of Tea, One Conversation, One Relationship, launched at the 2017 General Assembly, has provided opportunities for our congregations to learn about their own socio-cultural history as well as that of their inter-faith and ecumenical neighbors. It has had a warm reception and a moderate implementation. Congregations have also been invited to make this conversational model their own. A follow-on project from One Bag of Tea launched last Fall was our “What’s the Tea with Reconciliation?” bi-monthly podcast. It has featured guests included Terri Hord Owens, our General Minister and President, Rev. Debbie Griffin of Downtown Disciples in Des Moines, IA a new church start, and Phil Snider, Pastor of Brentwood Christian Church and author of *Preaching Resistance* published by Chalice Press and has been shared broadly on social media.

Empower: We have spent significant social media bandwidth re-presenting Reconciliation as a mission fund. This means that the most visible presence of our ministry rests in our capacity to fund anti-racism and pro-reconciliation activities and projects in the three expression of the Church through our granting program. We awarded four diverse projects that included intentional dialogue between four historic Disciples congregations in Atlanta, GA; a racial justice conference and an organizing and equipping training in Mid-America; a mentoring program with NBA Prison and Jail ministries; as well as a story-telling project in the Coastal Plains area of the Southwest Region. Part of empowering the saints for a pro-reconciling identity has allowed us to also support an immigration attorney in collaboration with Disciples Home Missions and other ministry partners through this granting program.

Funding: Attention to promoting Reconciliation Ministry as a Mission Fund resulting in a small increase in overall giving. This in light of Disciples simultaneous generosity during a devastating hurricane season in September.

Opportunities: As we live into this new reality of equipping, engaging and empowering the Church to embrace our 20/20 vision’s missional identity, we are inviting Disciples to pray and support our future-ing efforts to build capacity to continue to interpret reconciliation in every expression of the Church. In order to accomplish this re-visioning of our current and future reality, the Reconciliation Ministry Commission with our ministry partners will begin a planning process to structure a response to Resolution 1721 – “A Renewed Commitment to Reconciliation Ministry.”

Submitted by,

Rev. April G. Johnson

Minister of Reconciliation, January 2019

Treasury Services

John Goebel, Vice President of Finance

OGMP Treasury Services' (TS) team has grown to 7.5 members as a new position (Controller) was created. Our HR consultant, Gregory & Appel, has been a great assistance in hiring the Controller, improving our evaluations, job descriptions, and professional development. We look forward to enhancing our ministry to the church.

We are thankful for the following partnerships as we provide accounting services:

- seven ministries of OGMP (as Year Book and Promotion merged with TS & Communication Ministries (CM)),
- six general ministries: Council on Christian Unity, Christian Church Services, National City Christian Church Foundation, College of Regional Ministers, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, and Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, and
- 20 regions: Florida, Greater Kansas City, Upper Midwest, Illinois-Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Northwest, Mid-America, Capital Area, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Central Rocky Mountain, Southwest, Oklahoma, Great River, Ohio, Arizona (2018), Michigan (May, 2018), Nebraska (September, 2018) and Virginia (2019).

The United Christian Missionary Society

1099 North Meridian Street,
Suite 700, Indianapolis, IN 46204-1036
P. O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986

Sotello V. Long, President
Julia Brown Karimu, Vice-President
Email: shansen@cef.disciples.org

The United Christian Missionary Society continued to furnish financial support for the Division of Homeland Ministries, dba Disciples Home Missions (DHM), and the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM), by investing and managing its endowment and permanent funds for the benefit of the two Divisions.

During 2018, there were three gift annuity contracts released. The total residual released amount was \$9,904. There was no activity on released life income contracts. When gift annuities or life income agreements are released, the funds are either distributed outright to DHM and DOM or added to the permanent endowments of the Society depending on the beneficiary designation. The Society received \$84,625 through 8/31/2018 in Miscellaneous Unrestricted Receipts with \$15,000 each distributed to DOM and DHM and the remainder is invested in the pool of the Campbell Multi-Strategy Fund and Beasley Growth Fund at the Christian Church Foundation. A small undesignated mineral interest in Lincoln County, OK was also received. The Society received \$16,616 in Estate Distribution from the Ethel Hartman estate designated for overseas ministry and the Cloe Kelly Estate was \$1,402.

The Society continued to be involved with ethical issues which related to its investments and was active with the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR). ICCR is an ecumenical organization of 17 Protestant denominations and approximately 200 Roman Catholic orders which cooperate concerning ethical and social concerns as expressed by actions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Society, which has eight trustees and four officers, has no active employees. Beginning in 1993, the Society contracted with the Christian Church Foundation, Inc. to perform the treasury services for the Society. The current officers of the Society are as follows: Sotello V. Long, President; Julia Brown Karimu, Vice President; Kathy Watts, Corporate Secretary, and Lonna Owens, Treasurer. Four trustees are nominated by each of the two Divisions served by the Society. They are elected by the General Board of the church and serve a term of four years. Their responsibilities are to oversee and determine policies concerning the investments of assets owned by the Society. The protection as well as the income realized from these assets is of paramount concern for the trustees. Their invaluable service is recognized and this report is submitted on their behalf.

The Society distributed the following from the investment pool in 2017: DHM - \$735,710; DOM - \$1,038,021; and other entities - \$59,205.

The Society distributed the following from the investment pool in 2018: DHM - \$726,429; DOM - \$1,022,942; other entities - \$59,000.

Week of Compassion

Cindy Kim-Hengst, Chair, Board of Stewards
 Vy Nguyen, Executive Director
 P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206
 317-713-2442
www.weekofcompassion.org

Mission: As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

Vision: A world where God’s people transform suffering into hope

Core Values:

- CONNECTION-* Partner with individuals, congregations, and organizations to serve the needs of the world
- INTEGRITY-* Honor the commitment to faithful stewardship, ensuring gifts entrusted to Week of Compassion are making the most impact
- ACCOMPANIMENT-* Embody God’s grace by committing to a long-term presence with communities in need

As the number of displaced people worldwide rises daily as a result of natural disasters and civil and political conflicts causing millions of people to seek refuge, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), through Week of Compassion, stands in solidarity with these families and communities. By working with international partners we not only provide immediate and long-term relief, but also we continue to be the church serving and caring for our most vulnerable neighbors at home and around the world.

Severe natural disasters and global conflicts continue to displace more people every day. By the end of 2018, we were faced with the highest levels of displacement on record—an unprecedented **68.5 million** people (an increase of 2.9 million since our last General Assembly in 2017). Among them are nearly **25.4 million refugees**, over half of whom are **under the age of 18**. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, about **44,400 people a day** are forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution; that is roughly one person every two seconds. This has been largely fueled by new crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Myanmar, as well as the ongoing conflict in Syria.

Week of Compassion is grateful for our partners, especially Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, Disciples Home Missions’ Refugee and Immigration Ministries and Legal Counsel, Church World

Service, and ACT Alliance. These ministries work closely on the ground with internally displaced people and refugees here in North America and around the world, especially in Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Middle East, and the Horn of Africa. Through these partnerships, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) accompanies those forced to flee encroaching danger by walking with them as they seek refuge in different countries. In Central America, many mothers and children are fleeing imminent threat and severe poverty by walking thousands of miles to reach our southern border, only to be turned away. Our partners at Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in South Texas and Global Ministries partner, Centro Romero Center in San Diego continue to provide emergency medicine, food, shelter, and protection for these individuals.

At home in North America, Week of Compassion continues to respond to myriad small- and medium-scale disasters that affect communities where Disciples have a presence, as well as to large-scale disasters. In the fall of 2017, powerful Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria impacted Texas, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, causing extreme flooding and destroying billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure and homes. 2018 saw another damaging hurricane season with Hurricanes Michael and Florence causing extreme damage in Florida and North Carolina. Today, Week of Compassion is working with communities in these places to help rebuild through Disciples Home Missions' Disciples Volunteering and other partners. With Disciples Volunteering, we have established a mission station at First Christian Church, Texas City, Texas, that continues to receive volunteers. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, our response has been through the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative, a collaboration among Week of Compassion, Disciples Volunteering, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, and Brethren Disaster Ministries to provide support, mentorship, and encouragement in the development of local Long-term Recovery Groups through a sustained on-site presence.

In Puerto Rico, we continue to provide grant support to the Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico, a bilateral partnership through the Division of Overseas Ministries. This grant supports repairs to buildings and campus infrastructure, cash-flow assistance (due to decreased tuition income), tuition assistance for students, and emotional and spiritual care for students, staff, and faculty. Home repairs continue through the Programa Edifiquemos of the Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo). With Week of Compassion's support, ICDCPR hired a full-time program director, Jose Molina, and a part-time construction manager, Rev. Rafael Rivera Bidot. They have created and assessed work plans for more than three dozen homes and have acquired materials for at least half of those projects. Our partners in Puerto Rico continue to be in need of more volunteers, and they are ready to receive Disciples from the mainland to help rebuild.

Climate change is creating more powerful hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, and other major disasters on a more regular basis. In the fall of 2018, one wildfire in Northern California wiped out 95% of the town of Paradise, while two other major wildfires simultaneously roared in the southern part of the state. In Zimbabwe and Kenya, extreme droughts

block communities' clean water access, forcing many to migrate to new areas. In India and Bangladesh, severe flooding continues to destroy homes and roads, making rebuilding more challenging for volunteers. We are grateful for our partners at ACT Alliance and Church World Service who are on the ground providing relief and long-term recovery in many of these areas. Disaster response organizations, especially in the United States, have collected concrete data showing that destructive natural disasters have increased in the last several decades. A comprehensive report was recently released stating that climate change could soon imperil our way of life, changing every part of the world, imposing frustrating costs on the global economy, and harming the health of virtually everyone. Climate change will have a major impact on Week of Compassion and how we will be able to respond to many of these ever-stronger disasters, thus making our disaster preparedness initiatives more crucial in the near future. It is vital to help many of our churches, regions, and general ministries prepare to serve communities when severe disasters hit.

Our partners continue to provide crucial, sustainable infrastructures that are improving lives in many communities. Week of Compassion's Women's Empowerment Fund has provided vital resources to many women who have gained entrepreneurial skills that have lifted their families and communities out of extreme poverty. Our partner at IMA World Health has been providing vital health services in Africa to women, while our partner at Prosperity Catalyst is providing livelihood skills to Iraqis to generate revenue to support their families. From providing access to clean water in Mexico, to girls being able to go to school in Cambodia, to mothers receiving loans to open up businesses, the impact the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Week of Compassion is making a difference in creating peace and justice around the world.

Financially, Week of Compassion continues to remain strong due to the many generous donations from local churches and individuals, enabling this ministry to have an important impact in vulnerable communities. As of the end of November 2018, Week of Compassion's year-to-date undesignated giving totaled over \$1.7 million, a decrease of 19.14% from the prior year's giving. This is a result of the extremely generous giving in 2017 for the various hurricanes in the Caribbean. Comparing the undesignated giving of 2018 to our budget, Week of Compassion giving is slightly up, by less than .10%. Designated giving at the end of November 2018 is at \$550,000, a decrease of 75% from the prior year. Again, the designated giving in 2017 was for major hurricanes, which accounted for that significant difference.

The nature of relief, refugee response, and sustainable development continues to shift and change in significant ways. Week of Compassion continues to build strong partnerships and position itself to respond to the greatest needs in our world. In 2019, Week of Compassion welcomes a new full time Associate Director for Communications and Marketing to help us better share our impact, stories, and resources with our partners and congregations. As we work together through this life-saving ministry, we serve as a vital, visible sign of our witness to Christ in the world, so that we can bring healing, reconciliation, and wholeness in a fragmented world.

World Convention
(Christian – Churches of Christ – Disciples of Christ)

Gary Holloway Executive Director/General Secretary

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2018 REPORT

Plans for Global Gathering

In 2018 World Convention continued its mission of embodying and encouraging fellowship, understanding, and common purpose within the global family of Christian-Churches of Christ-Disciples of Christ churches in 199 countries and territories. We did this through personal visits to national meetings, through our website and newsletters, and through planning for our next Global Gathering.

As I reported last year, the World Convention board approved holding our Global Gatherings more frequently. They accepted an invitation from churches in Swaziland to have our next Global Gathering in Manzini, eSwatini, April 18-21, 2019. However, internal tensions among Churches of Christ in southern Africa made it impossible to have our planned Global Gathering in eSwatini.

Our board has accepted an invitation from our churches in Poland to have our next Global Gathering there in June 2021.

Third Global Christian Forum

World Convention related our churches to other Christians in many ways in since our last meeting. The most notable was participation in the third gathering of the Global Christian Forum, held in Bogota, Colombia April 24-27, 2018. Paul Chimhungwe, President of World Convention, and I were blessed to attend, along with 251 other Christian leaders from 64 countries and 24 church families. Paul Tche and Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto from the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council were also there.

The Global Christian Forum (GCF) is a unique gathering of global Christian churches and organizations bringing together all the major streams of world Christianity. The GCF is an open space where all Christians can meet to nurture unity by fostering mutual respect and understanding as well as by addressing together common challenges.

The formal sessions in Bogota were of great benefit. Some of the greatest blessings were informal discussions around meals and between sessions. For me, these included:

- A Christian from China sharing how the church has been faithful there even though local political leaders are destroying church buildings and Christian schools.
- Testimony regarding a woman who walked four hours to receive a Bible in her own language for the first time.
- Christians in Athens, Greece who feed 2500 hungry people each day.

The list of blessings goes on and on, from uplifting worship together to sharing our faith stories to fellowship around dinner tables to discussion of how to work together.

Year Book & Directory

PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206
 317.713.2453

John Goebel, Vice President of Finance

Cherilyn Williams, Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Emily Martin, Communication and Disciples Mission Fund Coordinator

The editorial team worked to review many of the data collection and production processes as the 2018 Year Book & Directory was produced. Generally, Treasury Services staff process orders, financial data and relate to the database providers. Communication Ministries staff gather congregational data and produce the final document. Regional ministers and staff are vital partners in connecting directly with congregations.

Changes in 2018 included:

- Inclusion of the 2018 General Board reports. In past years, those reports have not appeared until the following year. The 2018 book included **both** the 2017 and 2018 reports. The 2019 Year Book will include the 2019 General Board reports.
- Payment for Year Books occurred at the point of order, saving invoicing and collection costs.
- Fonts and format were updated slightly for legibility.
- Forms were translated into both Spanish and Korean.
- No CD versions of the year book were produced. Electronic access is provided via PDF files of the various sections of the book.

Changes in processes for 2019 include:

- Additions to the reporting form to include information about mission participation and giving that has not been requested before. There are also a few opportunities to connect to ministries for additional information.
- Elimination of full page pre-filled forms mailed to congregations that will be replaced with postcards encouraging online submission (Paper forms can still be downloaded.)
- More frequent information provided to regional staff to assist in raising response rates and offer opportunity to connect

General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens is encouraging several ministries of the Church to integrate the data that makes up the Year Book with the hope that we will be able to access real-time data in the next biennium. This will involve cooperation between the databases currently maintained in at least four formats and locations.

With sadness, we report that our communion had some losses in numbers for 2018.

- 7 were removed by their region for inactivity (lack of reporting or contact with the region or general ministries)
- 14 were reported as closed
- 16 formally withdrew

With great joy, we report that we have added to our numbers with 20 congregations recognized in the following regions:

- Alabama/Northwest Florida (3)
- Canada (1)
- Central Rocky Mountain (1)
- Florida (1)
- Illinois-Wisconsin (1)
- Kentucky (1)
- Mid-America (1)
- North Carolina (2)
- Northwest (2)
- Oklahoma (1)
- Oregon/Southwest Idaho (1)
- Pacific Southwest (2)
- Southwest (2)
- Upper Midwest (1)

GA-1902

CENTRAL PASTORAL OFFICE FOR HISPANIC MINISTRIES

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2019 Report

I. Mission:

The *Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries'* (CPOHM) mission is threefold: to offer pastoral care to Hispanic ministers and congregations; to advice and counsel the different manifestations of our denomination about Hispanic Ministries; *and to be an advocate for Hispanic people, congregations and their issues.*

We, the Obra Hispana, belong to Jesus as one family, sharing our resources to grow together through our relationships. (revised identity statement, Dec. 2016)

II. Personnel

The CPOHM has two persons on staff: the National Pastor and an Administrative Assistant to assist, communicate, organize, and manage finances and programs for the CPOHM and Hispanic churches.

III. Members of the Pastoral Commission for Hispanic Ministries (2018-19)

The members of the Pastoral Commission for Hispanic Ministries are:

Samuel Ramirez

*Moderator, National
Hispanic and Bilingual
Fellowship (PSW)*

Aurelio Lopez

*Vice-Secretary
Moderator, AZ
Convention*

Selena Reyes

*Moderator, SE
Convention*

Joel Saucedo

Past Moderator (SW)

Soriliz Rodriguez

*National Hispanic &
Bilingual
Women's Ministry
President*

Vilson Hurtado

*Representative, SE
Convention*

Evangelina Perez

Moderator Elect (SW)

Ruben Cruz

*Representative, MW
Convention*

Israel Martinez

*Vice-Moderator
Moderator, SC
Convention*

Pamela Lira

*Young Adult
Representative*

Karen Sarabia

*Representative, AZ
Convention*

Isuí Vazquez

Youth Representative

Delmy Amaya

*Moderator, Pacific
Convention*

Rossy Ricart

*Secretary
Moderator, MW
Convention*

Pedro Valladarez
*Representative, Pacific
 Convention*

Vacant
*Representative, NW
 Convention*

Jackie Bunch
*General Board
 Representative, Ohio*

Jose Cisneros
*Moderator SW
 Convention*

Rodolfo Acosta
*Moderator, Central
 Convention*

Judith Allen Dalton
*General Board
 Representative, SW*

Isis Villaroel
*Representative, SW
 Convention*

Jorge Vela
*Representative, Central
 Convention*

Rogelio Martinez
*Representative of the
 Hispanic Board of
 Directors/Obra Hispana
 Rep to the General Board*

Myriam Martinez
*Representative, NE
 Convention*

Vacant
*Representative, SC
 Convention*

Ex-Officio Members

Chaim Rodriguez
*Representative, NE
 Convention*

General Board
 Representatives

Teresa Hord-Owens
*General Minister and
 President
 CC(DOC) in USA and
 Canada*

Bernice Rivera
*Moderator, NW
 Convention*

Bill Rose-Hiem
*CRM- Regional Minister,
 GKC*

Lori Tapia
*National Pastor
 for Hispanic Ministries*

Theresa Dulyea-Parker
*CRM- Regional
 Minister, IL/WI*

IV. Future Vision

For the Obra Hispana, 2018 represented a historical moment with the election of the first female, first Mexican-American to serve as National Pastor. In addition, there are several historical moments that are vital to mention in this report to the General Board.

1. For more than a decade there have been six formally recognized Hispanic Conventions that are designed to provide support, fellowship and capacity building for the congregations located within these boundaries. The expansion of Hispanic ministries had created areas where these boundaries hindered participation for many. A realignment of these geographical lines to increase connectivity was approved at the 2018 National Hispanic Assembly, increasing this number to nine. The new Conventions are recognized as the Northwest Convention (Oregon and Washington), the Central Convention (Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska) and the South-Central Convention (Alabama, Northwest Florida, Tennessee and Georgia). Congregations in these areas are encouraged to connect in the new geographical area, but also to remain connected in the former as possible.
2. A revision to the Constitution restructured the elected membership to include a young adult representative (19-29) and a youth representative (16-18) as members with voice and vote. Additionally, the President of the National Hispanic and Bilingual Women's

Ministry was on the board in an unofficially named capacity as an at-large member and this revision placed this position as a formal (not at-large) member with voice and vote. These changes came into effect and were a positive contribution to the December 2018 annual board meeting.

3. To enhance the programming of the Obra Hispana, three new ad-hoc committees were developed at the December 2018 board meeting through of the CPOHM. Historically, Finance, Personnel and Assembly Program Planning, have been the recognized sub-committees and the inclusion of these additional committees will enhance and strengthen the ministry of the Obra Hispana at the local, regional and general levels. These committees will be referred to the 2020 Hispanic Assembly for formal inclusion in the constitution as standing committee. New committees are: 1) Education, 2) New Church, and 3) Marketing.

Each of these areas are in alignment with the five priorities set by the National Pastor and approved by the Board and Pastoral Commission in December 2018. The five priorities are: **1) Pastoral Care, 2) Education and Capacity Building, 3) Youth and Young Adult Leadership Development, 4) Development of Contextual Resources, and 5) Branding for Strengthened Identity.**

V. Theological Education

The CPOHM is committed to increased access to quality theological education, which is accessible, affordable and relevant to the multi-cultural needs of the Obra Hispana in all its expressions. The Obra Hispana continue to focus on strengthening our present programs, while continuing to find ways to expand through new and innovative partnerships and by utilizing the gifts of members of the Obra with more intentionality.

While there are additional streams to capacity building and theological education, three programs provide structured theological education opportunities:

Disciples Seminary Foundation:

Certificate of Ministry Studies Program (CMS) is an intensive, two year program offered in Claremont and San Diego, California, and in 2018 expanded to Portland, OR. Students are engaged in continuous learning, and weekend intensive courses which are all offered in Spanish. The program is recognized by the PSWR as a high level educational opportunity and partnership with CST provides pathways to seminary for graduates of this certificate program. The Certificate of Ministerial Studies (“CMS”) is designed for adults who are interested in an introduction to the kind of studies found in seminary and is for recognized for completing the educational requirements for commissioned ministry, learning more about advanced theological education, enrichment for lay leaders, or any combination of reasons. CMS is a unique program focused on contextual learning for ministry today. Part of the richness of the CMS is that individuals bring their personal experiences and/or professional considerations to the program. An average of 60-70 students attend annually.

Diploma of Ministry Studies Program (DMS), implemented in 2018 to offer extended education beyond the CMS program, is designed for people who are interested in seminary level studies of the Bible, Theology, and Ministry and have already completed the Certificate of Ministry Studies Program (CMS). This program is ideal for commissioned or licensed minister, or a lay leader who wants to learn more about the Bible, Theology and Ministry. All CMS graduates, and anyone who has completed college level study

or other Biblical studies and want to continue their education in a program that offers seminary quality classes should consider this program.

Lexington Theological Seminary:

Certificate in Hispanic Ministries Program provides theological, biblical and ministerial training to men and women for leadership in Spanish speaking and bilingual Hispanic congregations. The program is co-sponsored by the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries and courses in this program examine the 16 competencies as required by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as submitted by the GCOM. To accommodate the heavy schedules of clergy and lay leaders already serving, students attend a week long intensive training, covering three courses, once a year for four years. Each course is offered in Spanish, and students who successfully complete all 12 courses will earn a Certificate in Hispanic Ministries or CEU credit. 2016 was the pilot of this program with 42 pastors and lay leaders from across the life of the Obra Hispana attending. In 2019, over 30 individuals will become the first graduating class, witnessing the desire of the Spanish speaking community to enhance ministry through theological education and yet, this reminds us of the scarcity of this valuable resource for the whole church. Evaluation of the four year pilot program are presently undergoing and the program will be adapted to a two year, continuous learning program in the fall of 2019.

LTS Certificate 2019 program dates: June 3-7

Courses: Church Administration, Christian Ethics, Diversity in a Global World

Southwest Hispanic Convention:

Continuing Education Summer Program provides access to continuing education and growth opportunities for pastors and lay leaders in an intensive, week-long summer program held in partnership with Brite Divinity School. This program is for recognized by the Southwest Region for completing the educational requirements for commissioned ministry and is designed to meet the 16 competencies, as well as providing opportunities for learning more about advanced theological education, enrichment for lay leaders, and capacity building for a vital church.

2018 program dates: June 17-21

Escuela de Formación Ministerial (School of Ministerial Formation)

This program is designed to expose pastors and lay leaders to quality theological education, ministry formation and faith development in a three year (2 semesters per year), three level program that equips students to meet the 16 competencies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This Institute is registered with the State of Texas, and is recognized by the region and the convention. Each year an average of 25 new students begin the program.

CPOHM is determined to seek out help from our Disciples partners in mission, as we envision the future of theological education in new ways for the Obra Hispana and beyond. In collaboration with AETH (Association for Hispanic Theological Education) we are moving to have the above programs recognized and accredited in the near future.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Domingo Rodriguez Permanent Fund provides support for scholarships for students seeking an M.Div from an ATS Seminary. The increased access to certificate and other programs has directly impacted the number of students seeking formal seminary education.

In 2017, 7 Latinx students were awarded scholarships, while in 2018 this number doubled with new students requesting support for the Spring 2019 semester.

Hispanic ministries recognized the need to equip and prepare quality Latino and Latina ministers, not only for Spanish speaking and bilingual Hispanic context congregational ministry, but for the whole Church.

VI. The CPOHM & the Church-at-Large

Over the past several years, the rapidly changing climate of society has created a need to focus on advocacy, education and awareness beyond what the “norm” was for the Hispanic community of faith. Dialogue around politics, the ins and outs of our legislative systems, immigration reform, racism and more, were not the focus of most sermons and teachings. The need to engage and support has led the work of CPOHM into new and diverse relationship and partnership throughout the Church. Difficult circumstances related to the ongoing immigration crisis, violence and hate crimes, increased mental health issues, and more, has led CPOHM to increased advocacy and outreach. Below are some ways CPOHM has furthered the priorities our Church:

1. Pro-Reconciliation: The National Pastor is part of the *Reconciliation Commission*. Collaboration with the Reconciliation Ministry, bilingual and bi-cultural (Spanish/English) individuals have been trained as anti-racism trainers/facilitators, increasing the opportunity for the Spanish speaking community to engage in rich and in-depth discussion around racism and create systemic change through increased awareness. This will additionally facilitate anti-racism training requirement for Spanish speaking clergy who are within regions that are unable to provide this resource. The number of Latinx clergy and lay leaders who have been exposed to training has more than doubled over the past two years and this is expected to continue. Anti-racism training has been an integral component to the #laObraNOW Young Adult Leadership Experiences held in 2018, and will continue moving forward.
2. New Church: CPOHM supports the growing number of Hispanic new congregations and networking with *New Church Ministries*, supporting leadership academy and other efforts. Formal relationship with the College of Regional Ministers continues to foster a spirit of collaboration when working with new church development. The CPOHM emphasizes the importance of partnership in supporting new church starts into relationship with the convención, region and Obra Hispana. Over the past two years, at least 4 new church starts have launched, with 7 more actively engaged in the pre-process.
3. Transforming congregations: The different educational ventures of the CPOHM seek to empower and transform our existing congregations, particularly by helping our ministers to be better pastoral leaders. Increased access to training and resources in Spanish will continue to enhance the life of the church.
4. Forming and reforming leadership: CPOHM continues its emphasis on leadership development. CPOHM also organizes and resources ministerial retreats, workshops and assemblies for Latino and Latina ministers. Many of these workshops and seminars take place during Hispanic Convention Assemblies and others during pastoral visits from the National Pastor where some Hispanic churches gather for a Saturday Workshop. Additionally, support to local congregations who are experiencing difficulties continues the rise, and is a sign of the effects of a changing climate in which we live. Training and

resourcing remains in high demand in the areas of immigration, healthy boundaries/ethics, leadership development and church administration.

5. Ecumenical: The National Pastor is engaged in the ecumenical work of Christian Churches Together, with a leadership role in the Hispanic Network of CCT. These are Executive Hispanic leaders from the Historical Protestant, Evangelical, Catholic, Charismatic, Pentecostal churches, and Independent leaders who gather to discuss issues of unity, immigration, younger generations, poverty and more. Additionally, through Advocacy efforts on poverty, equality and immigration, increased ecumenical participation with other entities.

VII. Financial Statements

CPOHM finances are managed by the OGMP's Treasury Services and has been positive and has fostered increased understanding of the fiscal position of the CPOHM. Year-end 2018 financial statements demonstrate an increase in giving from the local congregation, individual and others. The Obra Hispana continues to experience growth relationally and this in turn is reflected financially. We continue to invest for future viability of the Obra Hispana and hold funds with both Christian Church Foundation and Church Extension.

VIII. Conclusion

CPOHM is committed to serve the growing Hispanic Disciples constituency. Our strengthen identity has fostered enhanced connection and this has energized Hispanic ministry at the local, regional and general level. Strengthened relationship in and among the Hispanic community, and across the expressions has enabled the CPOHM to better serve our Church.

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1903

CHRISTIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION/CHALICE PRESS

483 E. Lockwood, Suite 100, St. Louis, MO 63119

Website: www.ChalicePress.com – facebook.com/ChalicePress –

[Twitter.com/ChalicePress](https://twitter.com/ChalicePress)

800-366-3383 – customerservice@chalicepress.com

CBP's mission is to publish resources inviting all people into deeper relationship with God, equipping them as disciples of Jesus Christ, and sending them into ministries as the Holy Spirit calls them. Every resource we offer and everything we do is part of our effort to live into God's invitation.

While Disciples remain our core audience, we continue to seek a wider audience while remaining aligned with Disciples' core values of an open table:

- A world that recognizes each person as a unique gift from God, and knows God loves us despite the challenges each of us face.
- A world that rejects racism, discrimination, and bigotry and seeks reconciliation and understanding so we can continue our journey of becoming the Beloved Community.
- A world in which all people, regardless of faith tradition, are inspired and encouraged to challenge harmful theology, find our common ground, and work together for justice.
- A world in which a growing number of people welcome the wondrous diversity that surrounds us. As LGBTIQ equality works its way into the justice system and our society, more and more people move from mere tolerance to fully living the way of Jesus.
- A world in which families can grow in faith and love through daily practices and experiences across generations.
- A world that recognizes the planet we inhabit is under siege and must be cared for as the gift from God it truly is.
- A world in which the growing number of 'spiritual-but-not-religious' have resources to inspire them on their unique journeys.

We continue to fortify our reputation in the publishing industry as the go-to publisher for progressive, inclusive Christian resources.

After modest sales growth in 2017, we anticipate 2018's sales being fairly close to that same level. We watch our cash flow cautiously to ensure we have the resources needed to make the most of our opportunities. In late 2018, we entered into a new sales and distribution agreement that we believe will improve our visibility to bookstores large and small, brick-and-mortar and online. The expectation is that this visibility will make our books easier to find and purchase.

We continue to keep expenses in check despite creeping costs for resources, and we now have the ability to produce small print runs in our Atlanta-based warehouse that

keeps our assets liquid and our inventory minimal. But it continues to be a very challenging time to be a small publishing house.

A 501c3 non-profit, the Christian Board of Publication does not receive support from Disciples Mission Fund or the special offerings. Everything we do, we do almost entirely on income from the sales of products and services.

– Brad Lyons, President and Publisher

2018 Titles from Chalice Press, CBP & TCP Books

Religion, Culture, and Social Justice

Preaching as Resistance: Voices of Hope, Justice, and Solidarity (Phil Snider, editor)

Preaching about Racism: A Guide for Faith Leaders (Carolyn B. Hesel)

True Inclusion: Creating Communities of Radical Embrace (Brandan Robertson)

Urbansouls: Reflections on Youth, Religion, and Hip-Hop Culture (Osagyefo Sekou)

Gods, Gays, and Guns: Religion and the Future of Democracy (Osagyefo Sekou)

Spiritual Formation and Faith Practices

I Am Mary Advent Devotional (Carol Howard Merritt)

Leaning In, Letting Go Lenten Devotional (Nicole Massie Martin)

Drawing on Holy Currencies: Awesome, Amazing, and Animated Activities for Stewardship (Eric H. F. Law and Dave Law)

Coloring Women of the Bible (Natalie Turri and Christopher Rodkey)

Disciples Identity

The Living Pulpit: Sermons that Illustrate Preaching in the Stone-Campbell Movement 1968-2018 (Mary Alice Mulligan, general editor)

Annual Planning Guide & Calendar 2019-2020

2019 52-Week Annual Planning Guide & Calendar

Congregational Life and Mission

The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention (Rachael A. Keefe)

99 Prayers Your Church Needs (But Doesn't Know It Yet) (Bethany Fellows, Cara Gilger, editor)

InsideOut Christian Camp Resources

Outdoor Ministries 2019: Peace Works

Topics addressed in 2019 publications will include:

- Religious and spiritual resilience
- Anti-racism, pro-reconciliation
- Church leadership and transformation

- The radical ministries of Jesus and Paul
 - Forgiveness and gun violence
 - Disciples identity
 - Pastoral and congregational sabbaticals
 - Death and grieving
 - Pushing back on fearmongering
 - America's national parks and spiritual connections
 - InsideOut Christian Camp Resources 2020: This Is Our Prayer
- As well as our annual devotionals and denominational resources.

Chalice Press, CBP, and TCP books and e-books are available at ChalicePress.com or by phone at (800) 366-3383.

While our books are available anywhere you purchase books, a purchase directly from Chalice Press provides twice as much support for your Disciples ministry. We are grateful for your support.

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the Christian Board of Publication/Chalice Press and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1904

CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

Gary W. Kidwell, President

Are Disciples less generous than we were 30 years ago? The decline in mainline churches—including ours—is well documented. In 1986, Disciples reported 764,413 participating members. By 2016, that number had declined to 273,966. Giving to Disciples outreach causes over the same period declined from \$31.5 million to \$17.8 million. So, are we giving less to the church than we were in 1986?

To find an answer, I looked through some old Year Books and discovered that per capita giving (total giving reported by congregations divided by total participating membership) in 1986 was \$464. In 2016, our per capita giving was \$1,408. Disciples' total giving has not only kept pace with inflation, it has nearly doubled in real dollars. I think we can stop the hand wringing over the decline in our generosity!

The Foundation's growth is a testimony to the generosity of Disciples. Every gift we receive and every investment entrusted to us represents the faith and witness of a faithful donor. We are grateful for their commitment and their examples.

Gifts and investment deposits were strong again in 2018. Through the first nine months of the year, gifts and deposits totaled \$21.1 million.

Volatility returned to the financial markets in 2018 as President Donald Trump's multiple trade skirmishes with China, the European Union, and others caused investors to question the prospect for future global growth. Withstanding volatility is a vital objective for all of our investment portfolios, which held up well during last year's stress. Through tactical allocations across numerous non-correlated assets, we will continue to navigate through volatile periods and deliver long-term value.

In November, the Christian Church Foundation's board of directors approved the creation of a new investment fund. The Bostick Select Fund will continue to uphold the Foundation's commitment to being an active, faith-based investor while also excluding investments in fossil fuels, weapons manufacturers, and companies targeted for divestment because of their involvement in perpetuating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The fund will actively invest in environmentally sustainable companies as well as those responding to an increasing global population. The Bostick Select Fund honors the ministry of Rev. Sarah Lue Bostick, one of the first African-American women ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Rev. Bostick served the church for over 40 years until her retirement. She was a devoted worker for Christian Woman's Board of Missions and the National Christian Missionary Society.

India Bobadilla became Vice President of the Great Lakes Zone on July 1, following the retirement of Enrique (Quique) Ocasio. India's area includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Marilyn Fiddmont, Vice President of the Southwest Zone (Southern California, New Mexico, the southern tip of Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii), added the Northeastern Region to her oversight this year. Maggie Archibald began her ministry with the Foundation on March 1 as Director of Communications.

Our treasury services team now totals ten full-time and three part-time staff—seven with a CPA, MBA, or both, and seven with at least twelve years of service to the Foundation.

The Foundation mourned the loss of two leaders who played key roles in our ministry—Marvin “Ozzie” Osborn and Orval Holt. Ozzie was one of the early pioneers in the field of fundraising. He served as a consultant to founding Christian Church Foundation President James Reed for nearly 30 years and was essential in shaping the strategic direction and model of the Foundation. Orval Holt joined the Foundation staff in 1980 and was the first Vice President for the South Central Zone. Orval’s quiet, calm, stable and pastoral style helped form how we do this work. Orval taught us that listening for gifts is much more important than asking.

We celebrate the continued faithfulness and generosity of Disciples. We are inspired by our donors’ lives and legacies, and by the amazing, creative, life-changing outreach of Disciples ministries. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

Gary W. Kidwell
President

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the Christian Church Foundation and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1905

CHURCH EXTENSION FINANCIAL & MISSIONAL RESOURCES, INC.

Inclusive of **Board of Church Extension
dba Disciples Church Extension Fund**

Erick D. Reisinger, President
and

Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation
Gilberto Collazo, President

1099 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204
P.O. Box 7030, Indianapolis IN 46207-7030
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In 2018, Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) and Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation (Hope Partnership), under the umbrella of Church Extension Financial & Missional Resources (CEFMR), partnered with Disciples in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico and, in some cases, other Christian denominations throughout the U.S. and Canada to find new and innovative ways to transform communities through service-driven mission and ministry.

Congregational vitality and sustainability are, in part, the result of effective stewardship of capital and leadership resources. These are the missions of DCEF and Hope Partnership. Our ministries recognize that a church is much more than a building or a once-a-week service. At its best, it is a manifestation of the divine at work in the world, of people living the teachings of Jesus Christ and, through service and celebration, connecting both with God and neighbors. For this reason, our services and programs are focused on helping congregations look beyond themselves and their own immediate, internal concerns to the larger world and a future vision of the role they may play in transforming their communities.

In this way, the question most often asked by the local ministries with whom we partner evolves from “How do we survive?” to “Why do we exist?” Answering this different question, through collaboration with DCEF and Hope Partnership, has established new and enhanced existing mission and ministries wherever Disciples can be found.

Disciples Church Extension Fund

Disciples Church Extension Fund inspires and empowers congregations to create Holy Places where people connect with God, each other and their community.

Disciples Church Extension Fund is the primary Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ministry that provides congregations with building planning and capital funding services. In part, this is done through loans for new construction, renovation, repair, accessibility improvements, “green” initiatives, special facility projects, relocation, and more. Our mission is to partner with congregations and ministries as they create, re-create, fund, and use/re-use their Holy Places (conventional or other, owned or not) as instruments for connecting with God; places to gather as Christians who are called to love and serve each other and their neighbors, inside and outside church walls.

Despite late year market volatility, 2018 was a year of generally positive financial trends for DCEF, including continued growth in the number of churches seeking loans for capital projects and purchases. This was the second consecutive year of such growth in loan demand and the second highest advance total in the last ten years. After deferring routine maintenance and delaying facility improvements for nearly a decade of recession in the U.S. economy, many congregations are now feeling more confident about the future. We anticipate this trend to continue. For this reason, DCEF will endeavor to significantly increase investor participation in 2019 so that we have the liquidity needed to fund the growing excitement of Disciples to reimagine and revitalize their Holy Places for mission and ministry.

DCEF offers investment opportunities to Disciples congregations and individuals at competitive interest rates through our demand and term Notes. Our investors *benefit their Church* by providing funds that allow us to make loans and provide capital services to Disciples ministries, *and benefit themselves* by earning good rates of return.

October of 2018 kicked off a year of commemoration for Disciples Church Extension Fund and its predecessor organizations as we began celebrating our 135th year of service. Back in 1883, at the 34th annual meeting of the American Christian Missionary Society, Convention Secretary Robert Moffett raised the issue of material aid to new churches. He said to those assembled there, “Your Board thinks it advisable to begin the creation of a fund, the principal of which shall be loaned on easy terms to such weak churches and mission stations as may stand in need of such aid.” Ultimately, the convention concurred and so began both the Church Extension Fund and its Board of Church Extension, now known as DCEF. In the intervening years, the fund has grown from \$2,605 to more than \$167 million; made more than 13,500 interest-free and interest-bearing loans; and, provided a total of more than \$926 million in funds used to benefit churches and church-affiliated organizations.

Even more amazing, at age 135, DCEF continues to evolve to better deliver its ministry. Glendale Mission and Ministry Center of Glendale, AZ serves as a case in point and pilot program of established and new DCEF services. A collaborative vision of the former First Christian Church Glendale (FCCG), the Arizona Region, and Disciples Church Extension Fund, the center has worked creatively to help those in the Glendale community by enhancing established ministries and starting new ones. The congregation of FCCG voted to cease its worshipping ministry in the Fall of 2017, naming the Christian Church in Arizona as its successor and empowering its Chair of

Trustees to negotiate its final desires, one of which was “to promote an outreach center at this location.”

DCEF is partnering with the Arizona Region to honor this request, helping to ensure that dedicated Disciples can continue to benefit their communities even if their congregations cannot. The building evaluation for the former First Christian Church Glendale was conducted in September 2017 by Disciples Church Extension Fund, which is now providing on-going property management for the facility.

Now, from its three-acre, five-building campus, Glendale Mission and Ministry Center serves more than 820 free lunches and distributes 110 emergency food bags and 60 hygiene kits, plus clothing, to the area’s poor and homeless each month. The center also supports various local non-profits with meeting and office space, houses a much-needed Head Start Program run by Catholic Charities, and provides a Holy Place of worship to three congregations who nest there including Iglesia Hispana de Glendale, and Iglesia de Cristo Sion which has used the space for 20 years. DCEF is very grateful to participate in this exceptional example of a mission-driven investment in a community for the good of its people.

Last year was also one of recovery for many Disciples congregations. In 2018, 15 congregations received immediate facilities assistance from a DCEF advisor through our Disaster Response Service after their buildings were damaged by natural disasters such as fire, flood, and hurricane. These congregations are located in eight states throughout the country including Florida, North & South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and California.

Off-shore, recovery continues in Puerto Rico following the devastation of Hurricane Maria in 2017. Within weeks of that storm, DCEF President Rick Reisinger and Hope Partnership President Gilberto Collazo, a Puerto Rican native, flew into San Juan as participants in a meeting of the Joint Commission of US and Puerto Rican Disciples. Other Joint Commission members included General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens, Lori Tapia, Julia Brown-Karimu and Angel Rivera-Agusto. Representatives of other general ministries and Week of Compassion were also in attendance. All met with the leadership of Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo) en Puerto Rico, toured the island, and visited many of the church facilities as their damage was being assessed. This resulted in a \$1,000,000 unsecured line of credit from DCEF for emergency repairs and rebuilding projects. In the year since, a great deal of progress has been made but much is left to do. For this reason, DCEF has committed to providing on-going support and partnership, including an additional \$300,000 increase to the line of credit to cover more extensive damage than was originally assessed.

In addition to the preceding highlights, 2018 was a year of increased capital fundraising activity and increased loan participation among our ecumenical partners. Because the need to reimagine our Holy Places as evolving instruments of God’s work is not unique to Disciples congregations, DCEF has established and continues to enhance relationships with our ecumenical and para church partners. We all bring unique gifts to

finding solutions to the capital planning and funding challenges of creating Holy Places where connections to God, each other and community occur. The church extension funds of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), and the United Church of Christ (UCC) represent some of the denominations that have come together with DCEF and Hope Partnership in 2018 to host and participate in ecumenical events. In these settings, congregational leaders explore creative ways to design and use our Holy Places for mission and transformational change.

Three DCEF services in particular are effective in helping congregations answer the question of how best to utilize their assets to empower mission and ministry:

- **Building Evaluation** – This service sends an expert DCEF advisor or contractor with a background in facility and construction management to assess the condition of a congregation’s facility and to recommend a plan that addresses building condition, maintenance issues and requirements. By engaging church leadership throughout the evaluation process, this service teaches “Building Know How 101” so that each congregation will be able to internally recognize and address facility issues in the future.
- **Building Planning** – Effective planning is essential to ensure that mission is driving the design, use, management, expenses, location, and even ownership status of our Holy Places. This service helps to ensure that a congregation’s overall facilities strategy is based primarily on building relationships and connecting with God, each other and community. The strategy often includes a ministry plan, developed in cooperation with Hope Partnership’s Mission Pathways service, which puts mission priorities at the center of any project to create, re-create or situate a Holy Place.
- **Capital Fundraising** – With DCEF’s counsel, a congregation generates funds for special projects or needs, using processes that involve identifying a purpose/vision that relates to a church’s ministry; clearly defining and articulating the project/need and case for support; discerning the most effective fundraising methodology and sources of revenue for the need; developing themes, timelines and goals based on capacity; and, determining leadership responsibilities.

In addition, DCEF also offers services designed to help congregations with more specialized projects: **Architectural Consultation** is an advisory service provided by experienced church architects selected by DCEF, and **Relocation Services** assist congregations with relocating their ministry to a different venue.

This past year, our Advisors had more than 60 General Consultations with congregations; reached out to more than 350 local churches through the end of November; and, held 12 Shine Events to let our congregations know what services are available to them as part of DCEF’s ministry.

Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation

Hope Partnership empowers courageous leaders to guide the Church into life-giving expressions of ministry for this era of God's mission.

Since its formation in 2012, **Hope Partnership** has been dedicated to achieving its goal of empowering and equipping clergy and lay leaders so that their congregations can be strengthened and the lives of people inside the church and out in the community can be transformed. Our services engage congregations in conversations of informed discernment that most often result in empowered churches offering community-transforming ministries. Whether by planting a new faith community or transforming an existing congregation, Disciples leaders are boldly guiding the Church to new possibilities for life-giving expressions of mission and ministry. Hope Partnership is called to walk alongside these courageous leaders by offering services and programming designed to train, nurture, and coach faith leaders. Hope Partnership is also the general ministry home to New Church Ministry and transformational leadership programming.

Over the past six years, Hope Partnership has served more than 1,300 congregations in the US and Canada. Utilizing feedback loops, data-monitoring and customer evaluation surveys, we are constantly improving our services so that congregations can more effectively make bold decisions and step out in faith to meet the needs of the evolving, real world.

For clergy and lay leaders in established church contexts, Hope Partnership's transformational services offer training and support through proven procedures and protocols that promote conversations about future mission and vision. Congregations within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have transformed their ministries and connected with their communities in new and innovative ways after engaging with Hope Partnership through these services:

New Beginnings – For the congregation that knows it can't continue "as is" but doesn't yet know what to do. More than 1,000 congregations have engaged in the New Beginnings process, with 99% finding clarity and embracing a new vision for their future ministry. This six-to-eight month process helps churches clarify their context, explore ministry options, and make an informed decision about their future missional direction.

Mission Pathways – For the congregation that wants to move forward and needs a plan. The Mission Pathways process shows congregations how to use the capital, relational, and spiritual assets they currently have to be a transformative force in their communities. During the approximately three-month, self-led process, church leaders identify current resources and create a road map for their future ministry plan.

Epiphany – For the congregation longing to become a transforming presence both inside and outside of their church walls. The Epiphany service is designed to help

churches imagine, and then live into, a new vision for mission. During the one-plus year process, congregational leaders will shift the focus from “what” the church is doing to “why.” By finding clarity on *why* they exist, a congregation will discover innovative ways to do ministry to transform their community.

Because the need for leader development crosses denominational lines, as with DCEF, Hope Partnership has established and continues to enhance service relationships with a number of ecumenical partners, who now represent a growing portion of our services portfolio. In fact, 2018 has been a year of significant growth in this area and Hope now works with churches in the United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church (USA), Presbyterian Church (Canada), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Episcopal Church.

One innovation that developed in 2018 is a new ecumenical partners service offering called Mid-Level Judicatory, or The Partnership Option. It is a way for our ecumenical partners to utilize proven Hope Partnership resources with clusters of congregations within a Region/Conference/Synod. We provide the mid-level judicatory with infrastructure, training and administrative support for the delivery of our services to their congregations. Individuals from the mid-level judicatory offices are trained to work directly with their congregations as facilitators and coaches.

Combining aspects of the New Beginnings and Epiphany services described above, The Partnership Option guides groups of congregations through discernment that results in intentional decisions concerning “how” each congregation would like to re-develop (the New Beginnings service). It is anticipated that several of these congregations will then continue to work through elements of the Epiphany process engaging in coaching and additional services that support their plan implementation.

There are multiple advantages to this new service offering for both the ecumenical partner and for Hope Partnership. Unlike with our traditional transformational services in which Hope Partnership facilitates directly with the congregation, congregations benefit from a proven process *provided by their own denomination’s representatives* with The Partnership Option. In this way, the Region/Conference/Synod has more engagement with congregational successes and congregations see their denominational leadership as providing the service. In addition, as of this writing, Hope Partnership President Gilberto Collazo reports that he is in serious conversation with two Disciples of Christ Regions for Mid-Level Judicatory consideration in 2019.

We continue to work closely with our sister ministry Disciples Church Extension Fund whose Board of Directors recently approved a \$100,000 contribution toward Hope Partnership’s operating costs in 2019. In addition, DCEF has allocated \$85,000 of its 2019 budget for grants to qualifying Disciples congregations to cover up to 50% of the cost of Hope services, thereby making these proven transformational programs more accessible to the churches who need them most.

It is an exciting time for **New Church Ministry** which continues to be integral to the work of Hope Partnership, because the stewardship of leaders and developing congregations are at the center of the Disciples' new church movement. Under the 2020 Vision, we have grown the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) family by welcoming many new and affiliated faith communities into the fold. Our partners in these communities are eager to answer God's call to share the gospel in new ways and places. The 2018 Year Book & Directory reports an additional 14 new congregations 'in formation' through November, 2018.

A key tactic for growth is continued connection with our Regions/Areas. For this reason Terrell L. McTyler, the Minister for New Church Strategies, has visited 21 regions and participated in gatherings of the National Convocation, Obra Hispana and North American Pacific/Asian Disciples.

In addition, in 2018, Hope Partnership . . .

- hosted the Coaching Academy in Indianapolis, IN May 17-19. The event brought together clergy and lay leaders to train a team of coaches to walk alongside the leaders/pastors of both new church and transformational church projects. The three-day event featured coaching demonstrations, in-depth training on coaching procedures and best practices, and educational sessions with keynote speaker Robert E. Logan. Logan is the founder of Logan Leadership and co-author with Sherilyn Carlton of *Coaching 101: Discover the Power of Coaching*.
- conducted Leadership Academy in September which brought together 35 registered trailblazers from across the life of the church to share leadership experiences, wisdom, and training. Pastors, leaders and **new church planters** gathered to collaborate with colleagues in church development, including headliners like DOC General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens; Eric Law, Executive Director of the Kaleidoscope Institute; and Angela Whitenhill, Mental Health Initiative Manager of the National Benevolent Association.
- continued to engage in strategic conversations with Regions and Areas, National Convocation, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, and North American Pacific/Asian Disciples about how we can work together to collaborate with **new churches**, often through coaching, to improve our 60+% new church sustainability rate (at the five year mark).

Through the Pentecost Offering, which benefits both New Church Ministry and regional new church work, Hope Partnership continues to encourage the wider Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to become more involved in supporting courageous new church planters, whose vision and energy are so vital to the future of God's Church.

Moving forward

Looking ahead, the offices of Disciples Church Extension Fund and Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation are preparing to say 'good-bye' in 2019 to some long-term

and highly valued partners in ministry. Ellen Mitchell, COO and Corporate Secretary for DCEF and Hope Partnership, will retire in March after nearly 39 years of service. Mary Beight, DCEF and Hope Partnership Vice President, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary, will retire in June, 2019 after an amazing half century of service. And, Rick Morse, Vice President, will retire this coming August following 18 years of serving both DCEF and Hope Partnership. Though we plan to give each a celebratory send-off, their dedication to mission and service will be sorely missed.

Still, Disciples Church Extension Fund and Hope Partnership remain committed to delivering our ministries in close collaboration with each other and with our Disciples of Christ partners, supporters and friends for the benefit of congregations currently struggling with a variety of issues. In 2019, we will continue to dedicate our various resources, expertise, perspectives and experience to live in the teachings of Jesus Christ and live out God’s call to help Disciples in the real world, in real ways – enabling congregations to thrive and communities to transform.

And, because this need to redefine and reimagine ministry opportunities is not unique to Disciples congregations, DCEF and Hope Partnership have expanded our exciting collaboration with five building funds that serve four of our closest ecumenical partner denominations, including The Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Under this new collaboration, each church extension fund will contribute financial and operational support to train and coordinate the expanded ecumenical network of assessors and facilitators needed to deliver transformational services to member churches. Continuing to grow in 2019, our transformational and capital services will now be available to a wider ecumenical network of congregations than ever before.

Living into our foundational calling as Disciples to let Christian unity be our polar star, Hope Partnership and DCEF are committed to collaborate with our ecumenical partners in this exciting and evolving way. However, we remain resolute, first and foremost, in our devotion to the principle of ‘Disciples helping Disciples’ wherever and whenever needed, today and tomorrow.

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from Church Extension Financial and Missional Resources, Inc., and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1906

COUNCIL ON CHRISTIAN UNITY

Rev. Paul S. Tch , President

- ⁸ I will listen to what God the LORD says;
 he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
 but let them not turn to folly.
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
 that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together;
 righteousness and peace kiss each other. (Psalm 85:8-10, NRSV)

Reflection on Today’s Ecumenical and Multifaith Landscape

Early in November, I was invited to be a panel member for the workshop “At the Intersection of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations,” along with my colleagues from the United States and Canada at the 2018 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Toronto, Canada. Amidst the rapid social and cultural changes in this global religious landscape, Christian communions, churches, denominations, and councils of churches are increasingly exploring what it means to be a Christian, and, more important, what it means to seek Christian unity in this multifaith world. It seems to me that surely, considering today’s religious landscape, it is time for us to take this question seriously!

For almost ten years, I served in Kentucky at various local churches, big and small, urban and small-town. While I was serving as a solo pastor at a historic church in a small town in Kentucky, I had about ten new members who joined my congregation, and interestingly, none of them were from the faith tradition called the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Not a single person! What did my new members look for when they consider joining the church? Simply put, it was who the church members were as a collective body and what they were becoming as a group of Christians.

To live in this post-denominational era, however, does not mean that we need no longer seek Christian unity. Rather, we must sit down together as one body of Christ; then, we must ask what it means to engage, as Christians, with our neighbors of different faiths and how we will work together for the world that God so loves.

The most distinctive feature of Christianity is, in my understanding, its mandate to care for the marginalized and to value every person as we value ourselves: that is, to treat others as humans Created in the image of God. I do not believe that such a minority group as Christians in the early first century would see only those who joined this new faith movement as God’s children. No matter who they encountered, they simply treated one another as if they had seen God in them. Everyone was equally a divine being in the eyes of these newly converted religious “zealots” in the Roman Empire.

Those who were treated as God’s children for the first time in their lives probably wanted to know why these followers of the guy named Jesus—a very common name in Judea at that time—valued and cared for them in such a way that was suspicious and strange. When disciples of Jesus explained how they had been treated by other Christians and how transformative these encounters and new relationships were, people also wanted to join this “Jesus movement.”

Christianity is all about relationship: relationship with God, relationship with neighbors, relationship with power and with oppressors, and relationship with the marginalized and the oppressed. Likewise, the ecumenical movement is all about relationship: relationship among churches, communions, denominations, institutions, parachurch organizations, and Christian movements, and now, most important, relationship with people of other faith traditions.

I believe that our multifaith engagements are all about relationship. The more we meet with our interfaith neighbors, the better we understand each other. The more we understand each other in deep relationships, the more we will speak of each other with high regard. The world will then be transformed, I am certain. Isn’t this what Jesus envisioned as he prayed for the unity of his followers in chapter 17 of the Gospel according to John?

We should not listen to what people in the world—including, of course, many Christians—say about one another. If Christians do not see God in every human being in this world, regardless of their religious or life convictions, God’s glory would not dwell in our land.

When I was given a moment for my last comments at the workshop of the Parliament of the World’s Religion, I finally had to say who I think I am as an ecumenist. I regard myself an “ecumenical Don Quixote.” My biggest challenge now is that I do not have Sancho Panza at my side while charging windmills. I do not know whether I am fighting what I am supposed to fight. No one has told me how I, once again as an ecumenist, could participate in the good fight for the right causes in this rapidly changing religious landscape.

I do not believe that I am alone in this sentiment. As a matter of fact, we, as an ecumenical movement, do not know whether we are fighting for what we are supposed to fight for. Now, God is calling us to listen to a wise Sancho, and I believe that we’d better listen to him well. Who is our “Sancho”? Our interfaith friends!

Now, let me share some highlights of the ministry of the CCU—Christian Unity and Multifaith Relations.

Multifaith Endeavors

Last summer, the CCU published a curriculum for a group study, *Disciples of Christ in a Multifaith World*. In the lesson plan for the first session, Rev. Daniel E. H. Bryant, pastor of First Christian Church, Eugene, Oregon, describes the purpose of this study guide:

This study is not a study of world religions; rather, our goal is to understand why we, in the tradition we call the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), should engage in interfaith relations, how those relations intersect with our Christian witness, and what gifts we as Disciples have to bring to such relationships (page 4).

When we engage in any multifaith activity, we do so as “disciples.” But who do we say we are as a collective body? This study guide will help our congregations reflect on our tradition and the gifts we can offer to other multifaith neighbors as one of our countless Christian traditions.

This study guide was published thanks to the generous support of the Oregon E. Scott Foundation. You can download this study guide with other resources on our ministry website: <https://councilonchristianunity.org/>

Currently, the CCU is planning another study series in the coming years. The purpose of the next study guide will be to listen to voices from a multifaith world. Basically, we will invite people of other faiths and ask them why they believe it is important to have a relationship with other people of faith. For example, why do Muslims in an Islam-dominant country think it is important to establish and maintain a relationship with and protect their Christian friends who are a minority? In the same way, we will listen to Christians in the land of Islam, Hindu, or Buddhism. We will try to understand the religious and cultural contexts in which a religious minority is living under a dominant religious hegemony. Also, if we go to Latin America, especially, a dominantly Catholic country, we had better listen to Catholics tell us why they value relationships with Protestants and how Protestants feel and live in a Catholic culture.

I am thrilled that the CCU makes this study guide more accessible using new media, such as video clips and multimedia tools, along with a hard-copy study guide. Please note that you can make this project possible by praying or providing intellectual gifts or financial support.

The CCU has also been engaged in various interreligious conversations through the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCUSA): Jewish–Christian Conversations, Christian–Buddhists Dialogue, Christian–Hindu Dialogue, and Muslim–Christian Dialogue.

I personally continue to work closely in various areas with Rev. Dr. Peniel Jesudason Rufus Rajkumar, Program Executive of the Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Central Committee Meeting and 70th Anniversary of the World Council of Churches

The Central Committee of the WCC met in Geneva, Switzerland, in June 2018. One highlight of the meeting was Pope Francis’ visit to the WCC to celebrate this historic ecumenical institution and to urge us to go further as one body of Christ for the sake of

Christ and the world. Also, the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, delivered a sermon to the Central Committee members congratulating us on this historical milestone. In 2018, the WCC, with its member communions and partners, offered various opportunities to celebrate the birth of ecumenism and to focus on “envisioning our common future: united in faith, eager for witness, and fearless in the quest for justice and peace” (WCC Brochure, *70 Years of the World Council of Churches: Walking Together, Serving Justice and Peace*). You can learn more about this celebration at www.oikoumene.org/wcc70.

One important agenda item for this Central Committee meeting was the location for the 11th General Assembly of the WCC, and Karlsruhe, Germany, was chosen for the 2021 General Assembly. In 2020, the WCC will welcome a new General Secretary as Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit exits.

For me, personally, the highlight of the Central Committee meeting was to sing a hymn and a traditional Korean folksong with the delegates of the Korean Christian Federation of the People’s Democratic Republic of Korea, commonly known as North Korea. Impressively, the four-person delegation included two young female leaders of North Korean churches for the first time since they have been engaged in this ecumenical movement.

In the declination of the Disciples Mission Fund, the Disciples do not contribute to the WCC financially as much as we used to. However, the Division of the Overseas Ministries and the Week of Compassion also supports WCC programs, and I have been serving on the Central Committee on behalf of the Disciples since the retirement of Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins.

Toward a Full Communion Relationship with The United Church of Canada

In July 2018, Rev. Teresa Hord Owens and other representatives of the Disciples in the US and Canada attended and participated in the 43rd General Council of The United Church of Canada, Oshawa, Ontario, where they were introduced and welcomed along with other ecumenical partners. At one morning session, the Council passed the resolution to endorse the full communion relationship with the Disciples. The resolution was passed by 98 percent of the voters.

The Disciples are looking forward to ratifying this relationship in July 2019 in Des Moines, Iowa. Meanwhile, the Disciples and The United Church of Canada are in conversations about the reconciliation of the ordered (or ordained) ministries, local and regional cooperation, and opportunities to celebrate our full communion relationship. This is for the first time since 1989 that the Disciples has entered into full communion with the United Church of Christ.

I was deeply impressed by the efforts of our United sisters and brothers to respect and preserve indigenous groups and culture in Canada. They officially apologized to the indigenous people, especially for the boarding schools that the United Church opened

to assimilate indigenous children into Western culture and languages, which has been regarded as “cultural genocide.” They have acknowledged their sin and faults toward the First Nation people, and now they are working together to promote the rights of indigenous people.

Christian Churches Together in the USA

The Christian Churches Together in the USA had its annual convocation in October 2018 in Wichita, Kansas, under the theme of “Let’s Talk About Life.” At the gathering, participants discussed the document “Unity Statement on Poverty and Racism.” You can read a full report from Rev. Carlos Malavé, director, as well as the statement, at <http://christianchurchestogether.org/cct-annual-convocation-2018/>.

National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA

The annual Christian Unity Gathering (CUG) and the Governing Board meeting of the National Council of Churches took place in the US in November 2018 in College Park, Maryland. These events were dedicated to searching for the next steps in the NCC’s main campaign, “A.C.T. to End Racism.” Our own Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins now serves as a staff member for this initiative.

With the theme “A.C.T. Now to End Racism: Hard Truths in Beloved Community,” Rev. Dr. David Anderson Booker led the plenary sessions focusing on anti-racism. He pointed out that, to end racism, its costs would include 1) institutional structure; 2) theology; 3) personal privilege, power, prestige, and identity; and 4) financial commitments. He also pointed out that the church is not yet willing to pay these costs.

Two Disciples seminarians from the Claremont School of Theology, Eula Nicola Pagdilao, and Taulau Tupua, were present for the seminarian program at the CUG, and other Disciples attended these events.

The four Convening Tables also met during the CUG and discussed whether this new structure of the NCC is suitable for the tasks that the Convening Tables have undertaken in replacing commissions. The Governing Board had an opportunity to hear what was discussed during the CUG and reflected upon the mission and the stewardship of the institution.

Canadian Council of Churches

I was invited to be a presenter at the Canadian Forum on Inter-Church Dialogues of the Canadian Council of Churches. Along with Canadian colleagues Rev. Dr. André Lavergne of the Lutheran Church in Canada, Dr. Gail Allan of the United Church, and Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman of the Canadian Anglican Church, I shared what it means to be in full communion with one another and its challenges and promises.

Ministries of the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council [DECC] (i.e., Disciples of Christ World Communion)

The meaningful mile marker for the DECC was that it concluded **the fifth phase of the International Dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church** in June 2018 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The current phase began in 2013 on the theme, “Christians Formed and Transformed by the Eucharist.” At this point, each communion is carefully reviewing the final report of the fifth phase. I anticipate that the report will be published in early 2019. You can learn more about the history of the International Dialogue between the Disciples and the Roman Catholic Church here:

<https://councilonchristianunity.org/disciples-roman-catholic-dialogue/>

As General Secretary of the DECC, I attended the Executive Committee meeting of the **World Communion of the Reformed Church (WCRC)** in May 2018 in Seoul, South Korea. The DECC urged the Executive members of the WCRC to find ways to strengthen the relationship between the WCRC and the DECC, two world communion bodies, in mission and ministries as they presented the new organizational strategy.

The journey toward becoming a world communion as a global body continues. The first step has been to change the name to the **Disciples of Christ World Communion (DCWC)** because the name DECC is no longer relevant to its own members and the ecumenical community. In relation to the World Convention of Churches of Christ (WCCC), the DECC represents only national bodies of the Disciples Churches and the United Churches into which the Disciples merged, while the WCCC represents individuals, local churches, and global partners of the Stone Campbell movement. The evangelical and missional zeal of the Puerto Rican Disciples and other member churches in the Global South have expanded the global presence of the Disciples, and these newly established national churches are firmly rooted in their identity as Disciples of Christ—not as the Stone-Campbell tradition. As historical Disciples churches struggle with membership and finance challenges, those churches are vibrant and evangelical. It is my strong conviction that the Disciples of Christ, as a world communion—that is, a distinctive global Protestant tradition—will together fulfill God’s calling for us in this world: praying for, promoting, and bringing unity to Christians.

I have contacted our current members about this change. With the exception of one member communion, most churches have welcomed this direction. I also visited and contacted new potential member communions, and so far, **the Disciples of Christ in Colombia** and **the United Church of the Philippines** have expressed their intention to join the DECC.

Becoming a Just, Peacemaking Church

The CCU—Christian Unity and Multifaith Relations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) remains to urge our churches to be engaged in actions for peace that entail justice. With ecumenical partners, the CCU and the DECC work with the Ecumenical Forum for Peace, Reunification, and Development Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum for Justice and Peace.

The Ecumenical Forum for Korea had a meeting in Geneva last June 2018; and, as I shared above, the KCF of North Korea fully participated in the meeting.

I was also invited to the Roundtable for Peace on the Korean Peninsula, organized by the Korean Methodist Church, World Methodist Council, and the United Methodist Church in November 2018 in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Jimmy Carter, former US President, and Rev. Dr. James Laney, former US Ambassador to South Korea, welcomed participants to the Jimmy Carter Center and shared their insights on the Korean Peninsula. The NCC Korea, the NCC Japan, the WCC, the NCCCUSA, and the WCRC also participated in this event.

As a Korean American, I have fully endeavored to bring our ecumenical efforts together for peace in northeast Asia. Japan is about to pass the amendment to the so-called *Peace Constitution*, which will allow Japan to engage fully in military actions and warfare. Taiwan is caught in a struggle between two global superpowers, the US and China. North Koreans are dying of hunger mostly because of economic sanctions imposed by the UN. Many traces of colonialism remain in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines. Indigenous peoples in Taiwan and the Philippines are struggling to be heard and recognized. And, as you can imagine, many issues require ecumenical responses in Northeast Asia. I believe this is time for the ecumenical community to act together to bring peace to this region. And my role is to point out the intersectionality of these regional issues—how they affect one another.

Let me conclude my report by reminding us of our calling: Christ urges us to live life in unity not for ourselves but for the world that God so loved that God gave Her only begotten son!

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the Council on Christian Unity and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1907

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

General Board Report
January 2, 2019
Rick Lowery, President DCHS

A stable foundation for the future

Disciples of Christ Historical Society has been in a period of transition the last few years, as we have relocated from Nashville, Tennessee, to Bethany, West Virginia. The move is now complete, and DCHS is well positioned to accomplish our mission to preserve and proclaim the story of Disciples of Christ within the broader Stone-Campbell tradition, with its distinctive witness to the essential unity of the church as sign and “harbinger” of God’s transforming work of justice and peace in the world.

Our finances are stable. Our budget is balanced. Our future is bright.

Thanks to the strong leadership of our Board, the prudent investment strategy of Christian Church Foundation, which now manages the bulk of the investments that help fund our ministry, and the competent and rigorous accounting of Treasury Services in the Office of the General Minister and President, we are financially secure and transparent in our stewardship of resources devoted to this important ministry. We have strict and reasonable rules in place for the responsible management and growth of our endowment. Our finances are audited as part of Treasury Services’ annual audit. We are living within our means. We are hopeful about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

In 2017, the Historical Society conducted a national search for a new president, following the Executive Search Process established by the General Board (rev. 04-08-2013). I was called and subsequently installed as president on November 5, 2017, at National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C., an event that coincided with the dedication of DCHS’s Oscar Haynes Exhibit on African American Disciples History, on permanent loan to National City. In 2019, we will update that exhibit with additional papers, photographs, and other important artifacts that chronicle the historic contribution of African-American Disciples to the life and witness of our church.

Under the leadership of archivist Shelley Jacobs, a team of part-time workers, including several Bethany College students, continues to organize the archival collection and unpack our extensive library of books and journals related to the Stone-Campbell movement. We continue to receive and process files and documents from congregations, regions, and various ministries from the three major “streams” of the Stone-Campbell tradition.

In the coming months we will begin the long, careful process of checking and digitizing our card catalog and making it available online. We are, in the normal course of responding to research requests, scanning materials and increasing the number of

documents, files, and photos stored in digital as well as physical form. That process will continue and, we hope, accelerate in the future. Our goal is to make the collection more accessible to researchers who may not be able to travel to Bethany, WV.

In 2018, we responded to research requests from scholars and other researchers from around the world from all three streams of the Stone-Campbell movement and from a variety of other Christian and religious and non-religious backgrounds. For example, we hosted and assisted a prominent Church of Christ historian writing a new biography of Alexander Campbell, and, in the process, discovered what we believe is a never-before-published image of Campbell. We provided access to materials for use in books, articles, genealogical research, and televised documentaries. In August, for example, in collaboration with Global Ministries, we hosted a television crew from Nanjing, China, making a documentary about Disciples mission workers Lewis Smythe and James McCallum, who helped protect Chinese civilians during the Nanjing Massacre in 1937-1938 and later filed affidavits with their diaries and letters to document the atrocity. DCHS preserves many of their papers and diaries. This documentary, which aired recently on Chinese television, was a follow-up to an earlier documentary that also featured materials from DCHS about Nanjing Disciples mission workers Minnie Vautrin and Miner Searle Bates who, in an effort to protect civilians, also stayed in Nanjing when the Japanese army entered the city. (A striking bronze relief of Minnie Vautrin facing off soldiers to protect Chinese women and girls behind her outstretched arms is prominently featured in the Nanjing Massacre Museum in Nanjing.) Preserving and telling these and other stories of courage and faith is the beating heart of our mission at DCHS.

In 2018, we closed our “Welcome to Bethany!” Capital Campaign, which brought more than \$300,000 of gifts and pledges to complete renovations to the Bethany facility and thus support the work of the Society. DCHS is especially grateful to our capital campaign chairs, Peter and Lynne Morgan, whose good names, diligent work, and unyielding faith in the mission of the Historical Society inspired the many contributors who made the campaign such a resounding success.

We are continuing to improve our website, having accomplished a major overhaul in 2018. We plan in 2019 to add features that will increase the usefulness of the website for online research.

In 2018, the DCHS Board took the initial step toward a strategic planning process with a day-long session immediately before our fall Board meeting. We anticipate refining the results of our initial conversation in preparation for our Board meeting in March of 2019.

Additions to our 12-person Board of Trustees, effective in January 2019, enhanced diversity, giving us 50-50 gender balance and increasing representation by persons of color to 33.3%.

Collaboration among the three “streams” of the Stone-Campbell tradition

DCHS has a distinctive mandate to promote collaboration between the three major streams of the Stone-Campbell movement: Disciples of Christ, Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, and a *cappella* Churches of Christ.

To embody that mandate, our ByLaws require that we have at least one representative from the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ and one representative from the Churches of Christ on our Board of Trustees. We are in compliance with that requirement and cherish the insightful contributions and dedicated work of these Stone-Campbell partners.

In other ways as well, we have worked to maintain and strengthen ties with all three streams of the movement. In June 2018, I attended and staffed a DCHS booth at the North American Christian Convention in Indianapolis. Also in 2018, DCHS participated in a National Endowment for the Humanities grant proposal led by Abilene Christian University to digitize and connect backlist titles related to Stone-Campbell history. Our hope, should the grant proposal succeed, is to create a place on the web where researchers can locate and access basic resources in the various Stone-Campbell collections. This effort is consistent with the explicitly stated desire of our Board that DCHS encourage collaboration between the various libraries and archives of the three streams of the Stone-Campbell tradition.

Here at Bethany, we continue to arrange for tours of the Campbell Mansion for pastor’s classes and other visitors from congregations representing all three streams.

Among constituencies within the Disciples stream of the Stone-Campbell movement in 2018, I represented DCHS at General Board and General Cabinet meetings and at the biennial assemblies of National Convocation, Obra Hispana, and NAPAD.

In 2018, I covered both ends of the Stone-Campbell historical spectrum, giving the Founder’s Day Address at Bethany College in March and the Cane Ridge Heritage Day address at Cane Ridge Meeting House in Kentucky in June. In these lectures, I explored the morally mixed legacy evident in the writings and practices of Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone with regard to the abhorrent American practice of human enslavement.

Telling stories suppressed, ignored

An especially important part of the mission of DCHS in the next period will be to help recover and tell stories that have been by default or design suppressed or under-reported in the overall telling of our story as a church.

We will take a significant step in that direction at General Assembly this year.

In the 1880s, Preston Taylor, an African-American Disciple born in 1849 as an enslaved person in Louisiana, started a funeral business and bought land for a cemetery on the top of a hill in Nashville, Tennessee, the current site of the historic Greenwood

Cemetery. It was a humane and revolutionary act, because African Americans had severely limited access to proper funeral care and burial in Nashville at that time. In fact, cemeteries there typically had rules explicitly forbidding the burial of people of African descent. Taylor also created an amusement park on the property he bought that allowed African-American children to have access to recreation otherwise available in Nashville to “whites only.” Taylor also organized the first black bank in Nashville and took the lead in creating the Tennessee State Agricultural and Industrial Normal School for Negroes (later, Tennessee A&I State College), which is now Tennessee State University, an historically black state land grant university that today serves a diverse population of students from Middle Tennessee and around the world.

In 1917, Taylor was instrumental in forming the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC), an auxiliary organization to the International Convention of Christian Churches (ICCC), to serve needs of African-American Disciples being inadequately addressed, he and others thought, in the agencies and structures of the ICCC. Taylor served as president of NCMC from its founding until his death in 1931.

In the mid-1950s, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. R.H. Peoples, pastor of Second Christian Church in Indianapolis, NCMC began to develop a process to eventually merge the work of NCMC with that of ICCC and the United Christian Missionary Society.

In 1968, Disciples approved two historic documents. The first, “A Proposed Recommendation on Principles for Merger...” (commonly called “*The Merger Agreement*”) formally brought together NCMC and ICCC, to bring to full fruition a process that had already begun in 1960. The second document, *The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*,” was, effectively, the constitution of our denomination. In 1969, the restructured church held its first biennial General Assembly in Seattle, Washington. The 2019 General Assembly marks the 50th Anniversary of that first General Assembly of the new church that emerged from the *Merger Agreement* and *The Design*.

On Tuesday evening of the 2019 General Assembly, we will commemorate these two historic documents and look to the “second fifty years” of our life as a denomination. DCHS is collaborating with the Office of the General Minister and President and the General Assembly worship committee to plan and conduct this liturgical celebration of our past and our future at this key moment in our church’s history. As part of this evening celebration from the main stage of the Assembly, we will show a brief video of interviews with people who were close-up eye-witnesses to *The Merger Agreement* and *The Design*.

At this General Assembly, we will also sponsor a panel discussion evaluating *The Merger Agreement* and *The Design* at the half-century mark.

DCHS is also collaborating with Chalice Press to publish a book centered around transcriptions of audio-taped interviews conducted in 1990-1991 by James Seale,

former president of DCHS, with a number of key figures in the process of Restructure that led to the *Merger Agreement* and *The Design*. The book, co-edited by myself, Duane Cummins, Peter Morgan, and Lawrence Burnley, will include comments on the broader social-historical context of Restructure, as well as reflections by Disciples leaders today on where we stand as a denomination at the half-century mark. This will be the first volume in the new James and Mary Dudley Seale Series on Disciples and Public Engagement. It will be available for purchase at General Assembly.

There, we also will launch the multi-year “Make Disciples History” audio archive project. Modeled on NPR’s “StoryCorps,” “Make Disciples History” will invite people to record about 5 minutes of response to the questions, “What difference does my church make in my life?” and “What difference does my church make in the world?” We are particularly hopeful that this project will highlight the racial-ethnic diversity of our church and give voice to those who often have been underrepresented in published histories of our tradition. In concert with this project, we are offering a workshop on storytelling.

We also are joining with the Council on Christian Unity for an evening meal at General Assembly featuring the Rev. Peter Marty, publisher of *The Christian Century*, who will speak about Disciples minister C.C. Morrison, who bought the failing Disciples publication in 1908 and refocused it as a “nondenominational” magazine committed to the “social gospel” understanding of Christian faith. Marty will explore how Morrison’s vision of faith for the public good plays out today, particularly in issues of interfaith understanding and collaboration.

A final word

My colleagues in the General Cabinet have been wonderfully supportive of the Historical Society and of me personally as I have worked to get up to speed in the job. I particularly appreciate the leadership and support of the DCHS Board and of our General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens. I am honored to serve in this important ministry of remembrance and ongoing recommitment to the core values that have sustained and defined us a movement for wholeness in this fragmented world.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Lowery

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1908

**DIVISION OF HOMELAND MINISTRIES
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
dba DISCIPLES HOME MISSIONS**

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2018 President's Report
to the General Board
Submitted: January 2, 2019

Disciples Home Missions (DHM) is a collective of ministries designed to equip Disciples for Christ, facilitate the ministry of Christ and connect people to the life-changing love of God in relationship with its partners. Our top priority is supporting congregations and their leaders who have discerned their need to transform congregational life and find their future by:

1. Identifying congregations and their leaders who are committed to the care of creation and assist them to become Green Chalice congregations in partnership with Eco America and Blessed Tomorrow.
2. Partnering with Family and Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Young Adult Ministries, and the Racial Ethnic Ministries in faith formation and leader development.
3. Providing consulting services to congregations through our Ministry of Evangelism, Congregational Transformation, and Black Ministries in conjunction with Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation.
4. Continuing to work with the National Benevolent Association toward the development of a Disciples Exchange Network, incubating new ministries, and supporting NBA's XPLOR program for young adults in intentional community.
5. Offering opportunities for Disciples across the United States and Canada to participate in mission trips to help rebuild churches and homes in the aftermath of natural or human-made disasters and to work on special projects in between disasters, i.e. Disciples Volunteering and Church of the Brethren Disaster Services for Children.
6. Providing resources for congregational leaders – pastors, elders, deacons, teachers, etc. – to strengthen faith, inspire excellence in ministry and congregational leadership, and inform them through social and print accessible media of the various ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), i.e. YouTube, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, bi-weekly Constant Contact correspondence, thrice yearly *Disciples' Advocate* publications, Week of the Laity, Black History Month, Advent and Lenten Devotional Series, etc.

7. Continue to explore the possibilities of greater collaboration and partnership in our work, mission, and ministry with the Executive Committees of Overseas Ministries/Global Missions, the Council on Christian Unity, and Disciples Women.

We are integrally designed to further the priorities of the church in becoming a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church; the formation of 1,000 new congregations by 2020; the transformation of 1,000 current congregations by 2020; and the leadership development necessary to realize these new and renewed congregations.

Becoming a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist Church

DHM has established a Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racism (PRAR) Team comprised of staff and board members engaged in its transformational journey as a vital part of its commitment to becoming a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church. The team leads DHM in a 6 year cycle resourcing the whole board and staff in training, readings, community building, group outing experiences; assessments and recommendations aimed at transforming the culture and relationships of DHM among its myriad of ministries. The team has outlined the new cycle of readings for 2019 with two books – *Lies My Teacher Told Me* and *Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism*. The team has arranged to have Dr. Carolyn Browning Helsel, Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas and the author of *Anxious to Talk About It...* as our November 13, 2019 PRAR Training facilitator.

DHM's board participated in a cultural bus tour of Saint Louis, MO & dinner at Sweetie Pies as a part of its May meeting. The bus tour went through several communities of St. Louis shed light on the back-story of the certain communities and the historic racism that has influenced their evolution. It was educational and informative. We are thankful to our board member, Pastor Derrick Perkins, of Centennial Christian Church for coordinating the tour.

The Formation of 1,000 New Congregations by 2020

DHM is a collegial partner in the formation of new congregations through its Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation led by R Wayne Calhoun, Sr.; the Leadership Initiative Team (LIT) with its ministry liaison, Lonnie Graves; and collaborations with New Church Ministry.

The Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation is charged with the responsibility of empowering local Disciples congregations to move into their vision and mission. The ultimate goal of this office is to engage Pastors, congregational leaders and congregational participants individually and collectively to seek effective methods of evangelism as well as striving to be transformative communities of faith in their ministries of context. This office is committed to engaging and helping local congregations accomplish these tasks by employing the following strategies:

- Resourcing the development and implementation of evangelism and church growth strategies utilizing forums such as the School of Life and Faith at the Biennial Session of the National Convocation.

- Aiding the development and implementation of evangelism and church growth strategies utilizing the School of Life and Faith at state/regional conventions, convocations and fellowships.
- Working to develop and continue the enhancement of skills in congregational evangelism, church growth and transformation strategies through congregational interventions.

The Office of Evangelism is networked with Evangelism Connections, which is an ecumenical group of Christians who strive to frame evangelism, hospitality, and church vitality wisdom and witness in a 21-st Century context and provide shared resources toward that end. These colleagues from partner denominations are representative of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, American Baptist Church, Church of the Brethren, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church of Canada, Presbyterian Church in the USA, the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the United Church of Canada, the United Methodist Church, as well as other interested observers.

Evangelism Connections met at the Disciples Center on October 24 hosted by our Office of Evangelism. Plans are in the making for a US and Canadian evangelistic conference in May of 2019 in Minneapolis, MN.

The Leadership Initiative Team began as new ministry initiative simply called “LIT!” LIT is convened by Disciples Home Missions and involves a collaboration of leaders in the service of leader development around any focus of ministry. The concept of this initiative is to design leader development around issues pertinent to the body’s (congregation’s/region’s/ district’s/area’s/fellowship group’s/etc.) ministry context. If your ministry needs resources or help designing resources for leader development around evangelism, social justice; men’s ministry; women’s ministry; youth ministry – you name the interest, then LIT is available to help.

LIT designs ministry from the ground up starting with listening to you, the active leaders who are engaged in the ministries, of the Regions, Districts, Fellowship communities, and Congregations among other recognized bodies. LIT listens with intentionality, to hear how and where God is moving in your ministry context. LIT listens to hear your needs and help identify what helpful resources may be needed to help your ministries be more successful. LIT also listens with an openness to receive the leading of God’s Spirit in response to prayer, dialogue and the expectations of your ministry context. LIT uses the collective resources, connections, skills and mutual wisdom of its networks *in accompaniment with “you”* to design contextual ministry resources. These resources may either be the “Do-It-Yourself” (DIY) kind such as especially designed curricula, and targeted resource tools that are facilitated by you, or be collaborative, where you incorporate the gifts of a facilitator, drawing from a member, or members of DHM’s LIT “Speakers Bureau”.

We are invested, optimistic, and enthusiastic about the “LIT” team convened by Disciples Home Missions (DHM) as a part of its leadership initiative. It is a commitment to living into “*accompaniment leadership*” as a focal point. The plan is simple, yet profound. We have convened a network of diverse persons who excel, and have passion within certain areas of leadership. We gather those in Christ’s service, who are

“lit” (excel and have passion) around evangelism, women, men, youth, young adults, clergy, technology, social justice, etc. DHM seeks to build relationships among networks through dialogue, as we work toward developing mutual understandings of each member’s passion for ministry. DHM and the Leadership Initiative Team (LIT) will work collectively to engage communities in the service of the church as followers of Jesus Christ, supporting positive leadership growth within the church and as we share our services in the larger communities... even unto the ends of the earth.

The goal of LIT is to provide support, resources and speakers to compliment the training and development of Disciples leaders throughout the recognized organizations of the church: Regions, Districts, Fellowships and/or congregations among other bodies!

The objectives of LIT are to:

- Listen to leaders of recognized ministries
- Listen in community with connected partners for mutual understanding regarding your ministry context
- Listen to God’s Spirit in initiating and/or responding to God’s activity in your ministry context
- Design resources fit for a specific ministry context
- Share collective resources for leader development

With respect to the formation of new congregations LIT is in partnership with Terrell McTyer, Minister for New Church Strategies, as a part of the team.

Collaborations with new church ministry involved two direct partnerships as DHM President. First, I had the privilege to participate in addressing participants at the Leadership Academy (LA) in Indianapolis September 17 – 21 at Westview Christian Church. The LA is a leadership event that brings together leaders from across the nation to share leadership experience, wisdom, and trainings. The conference is a five-day event hosted Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

I also had the privilege to participate in the New Church Hacks series sponsored by New Church Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation on December 12 via “Webinar Jam”. Specifically, I addressed the audience to inspire leaders to discover their personal, spiritual and church’s purpose.

Hosted by Pastor Terrell L McTyer, Minister of New Church Strategies, New Church Hacks (NCH) provides practical (and sometimes peculiar) prompts for churches from start to restart. Why only do new *or* better when you can be both! NCH is jam packed with clever solutions to tricky problems and empowers courageous leaders with the tools, tips and how to start, sustain and strengthen congregations. #churchlife

The topic for the installment was **“Find Your Church’s Purpose with these Hacks”**. Here is the description:

What purpose does your church serve in your local neighborhood? A purpose statement is different from a vision or mission statement. Purpose answers the question, “Why does my church existence?”

- Understand the difference between purpose, mission and vision [Purpose answers why; mission answers what; vision answers aspiration/hope/expectation]
- Discover who you are and your divine destination
- Engage a purpose for your church that brings meaning, momentum, fruit, and growth
- Realize the power that comes when your church is united behind passion and purpose

NCH brings you must-have hacks to develop a purpose-driven church. The featured guests included Jose Martinez of Multi Nation Christian Church, Kansas City, MO and Amy Shoemaker, Senior Minister, Broadway Church, Kansas City, MO with a special appearance by the President of Disciples Home Missions.

The Transformation of 1,000 Current Congregations by 2020 and the Commensurate Leadership development

DHM is at the heart of congregational transformation and leader development. It does so not only through the aforementioned ministries of Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation and the Leadership Development Team but also engaging a diversity of focuses missions. These include Agencies Serving Youth, the Association of Disciple Musicians, The Office of Black Ministries (OBM), Christian Education, Christian Vocations – (Pastors, Chaplains, Specialized Ministers – All clergy), Disciples Men, Disciples Volunteering, Disciples Women (DW), Evangelism, Family & Children’s Ministries, Green Chalice, Mission Centers & Legacy Ministries including

All Peoples Christian Center, Los Angeles, CA www.allpeoplescc.org/

Inman Christian Mission Center, San Antonio, TX www.inmancenter.org/

Kansas Christian Home, Newton, KS www.kschristianhome.org

Kentucky Appalachian Ministries now evolved into Disciples Appalachian Scholarship Ministries. www.kentuckyappalachianministry.com

Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries Los Fresnos, TX www.swgsm.org

Urban Spirit Louisville, KY www.urbanspirit.org

Yakama Christian Mission White Swan, WA www.yakamamission.org

Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Immigration Legal Counsel, Disciples Farm Worker Ministry, Scholarship Opportunities, the Young Adult Commission (YAC), and the General Youth Council (GYC).

I will share the reports of three of these ministries spotlighting their engagement: Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel, Disciples Volunteering, and Refugee and Immigration Ministries.

Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel – Tana Liu Beers

Immigration policy and practice are changing at a furious pace these days. Here are some highlights from my recent work. ... Peace, Tana

Numbers for April – September 2018

New cases opened: 52 Total open cases: 63

Regions served: 19

Arizona, Pacific Southwest, Southwest, Indiana, Kansas City, Northern California/Nevada, Florida, Kentucky, Illinois-Wisconsin, Northwest, Canada, West Virginia, Capital Area, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Alabama-Northwest Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Central Rocky Mountain

Countries of origin of clients: 23

Mexico, Colombia, Canada, Sierra Leone, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, South Korea, El Salvador, Honduras, Western Samoa, Dominican Republic, Germany, Cameron, Venezuela, Myanmar, Malaysia, Slovakia, South Africa, Liberia, China, India, Cuba

The “Invisible Wall”

In recent months US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), the agency with which I interact most frequently, has officially changed its mission from serving immigrants to keeping immigrants out. New policies and regulatory changes create an “invisible wall” by torpedoing the process of legal immigration. They cause delays and stress for our students and pastors trying to change their status or get work permits.

It is a constant effort to keep up with the barrage of policy changes affecting my clients in particular and our congregations more broadly. I have reviewed my full caseload and contacted clients individually to inform them about recent policy memos and to make contingency plans for their cases.

Consultations

With the rapidly-changing policies of this administration, consultations are an important service for immigrants seeking to understand their situations. Salvadorans and Haitians facing the end of TPS are seeking screening for other immigration options. DACA youth are seeking help with renewals and understanding the effects of recent court decisions.

Travel

This summer I traveled to Asamblea Hispana y Bilingue and NAPAD Convocation. As always, these are valuable points of connection with the groups. I serve most directly as well as other ministries. I also had the joy of meeting several clients and their families in person for the first time, some of whom I have represented for years over the phone and email.

Community Education

Immigration Legal Counsel has a new twitter handle @DOCIImmigration, which I have begun using to get the word out about Immigration happenings. Facebook is still my primary means of providing immigration updates to Disciples.

The family separation crisis on the U. S. – Mexico border has been a travesty, but it has also been an opportunity to educated Disciples about the longstanding family detention and deportation system. I collaborated with Disciples Seminary Foundation, the Arizona Region, the Illinois-Wisconsin Region, Reconciliation Ministries, and Week of Compassion to provide written pieces, webinars, and teleconferences about current immigration issues.

Disciples Volunteering

Disciples Volunteering connects, supports, and equips Disciples serving in mission. This work is carried out in three ways: Sending Teams in Mission, Shaping Servant Leaders, and Supporting Local Missions. At the core of this work are three faith values: learning, serving, and growing relationships. As Disciples, we are students, learning through action and reflection, striving to deepen our faith by living it with others. In serving, we model ourselves after the one who came not to be served but to serve, giving and receiving in humility, and expecting the gifts of each one. Through community, we connect our faith and our lives with others, with deference for those with whom we serve, growing together in faith. Disciples Serving Community move from volunteer to servant to neighbor to friend, as we get dirty for Jesus together.

Sending Teams in Mission

One area of focus for Disciples Volunteering is supporting disaster response and recovery. Disciples Volunteering responds to disasters in partnership with Week of Compassion, Regions, and local congregations (as well as ecumenical, interfaith, other NGO, and government partners) with a particular focus on long-term recovery and the recruitment, when appropriate, of mission teams for providing labor in service with those affected by the disaster.

Disciples Volunteering is currently supporting fully operational mission responses in several communities. A Mission Station has been operational with First Christian Church, Texas City, TX, since the start of the year with commitments to enable service opportunities throughout 2019. The summer schedule ran near capacity and next summer is already beginning to fill in. Mission teams coordinated by long-term volunteers in partnership with the local long-term recovery group are enabling case managed work and the matching of resources to see the work through as homes are rebuilt across Galveston County. In March, Disciples Volunteering also supported work at First Christian Church, Port Arthur; plans are being laid for a similar repair blitz at Iglesia Cristiana Bethania in Corpus Christi in the spring of 2019. Several summer weeks were an exciting new partnership with Reach Beyond Mission.

Mission opportunities are also available in Puerto Rico and Disciples Volunteering is excited to have the first group go there in December; the first six months of 2019 are beginning to fill in as well. This collaborative response, called Program Edifiquemos, includes Week of Compassion, Global Ministries, and the Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo) in Puerto Rico (ICDCPR). Through Disciples' membership with National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD), Program Director Jose Molina Resto is able to access up to \$5,000 worth of building materials from FEMA for every home Disciples work on; since July 8, homes have already been repaired utilizing local volunteers.

The Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI), a cooperative effort with Week of Compassion and the disaster ministries of the Church of the Brethren and the United Church of Christ, enabled Disciples Volunteering to engage two specialists, Rachel Larratt and Tim Sheaffer, to support communities affected by disaster. There was a particular and acute need for this service in the U. S. Virgin Islands, where the recovery has now advanced to the stage where local leaders are ready to coordinate and receive mission groups. At the close of that response, the DRSI partners chose to renew

Rachel's contract and continue to serve with a particular emphasis on early community engagement, resourcing, and support.

Disciples Volunteering is also calling for servant mission teams to aid in the recovery of communities impacted by flooding in Missouri and West Virginia and by hurricanes in Daytona, Florida, where folks are referred through First Christian Church, Daytona. Work with congregations on Iowa and North Carolina continues through the early stages of recovery, including the possibility of partnering with International Orthodox Christian Charities to support muck and gut work in North Carolina. In addition, Disciples Volunteering supports a growing network of Disciples-based mission sites. Ridglea Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Pacific Grove, CA are the most recent congregations hosting mission teams for service and learning; the addition of a partner site in Indianapolis is under exploration. Disciples Volunteering has been in contact with the local Missions Planning Team for the 2019 General Assembly and that work is progressing well.

Shaping Servant Leaders

Building on the strength of relations with United Church of Christ and Church of the Brethren colleagues, Disciples Volunteering co-led the third joint servant leadership-training event in April. Participants are prepared to serve as long-term volunteers and mission station managers after a disaster. Training together provides for richer, deeper, and broader experience, equipping new leaders to support missions with each of the participating denominations. In an effort to expand the reach of long-term volunteers, Disciples Volunteering continues to encourage and equip these servant leaders to identify, resource, and support other missions that are developing within their local and regional settings.

The Summer Mission Intern program also continues to evolve. Along with Deb Conrad, Summer Mission Intern Coordinator, this year's training was co-led by former intern, Whitney Waller-Cole. Five interns were initially matched with placement sites; unfortunately, in the time leading up to training two withdrew. The training is being broadened for next summer to include mission interns as well as young adults who serve in congregational intern settings (if you know churches with such positions please let us know).

Supporting Local Missions

Because answering the call to serve begins at home, Disciples Volunteering is making strides toward a broader effort of supporting, connecting and resourcing those missions and ministries as they exist or are emerging from congregations and regions/areas. A variety of resources are also being collected, ranging from basic information about serving to specifics such as planning a mission trip and how best to serve after a disaster. Disciples Volunteering continues to support the disaster recovery network in the Pacific Southwest Region, which is now focusing on disaster preparedness and in late October [co-led] an organizational event with the Christian Church in Oregon and Southwest Idaho. Other local missions support has already been mentioned above, for example, working with congregations that are hosting mission teams for service and learning opportunities. Disaster response also provides an opportunity for supporting locally led missions as church members are educated and resourced for engaging in long-term recovery within their own community.

I am grateful, as always, to the Board of Disciples Home Missions and the Committee for Week of Compassion for your support in this ministry that we share.

Josh Baird
Director, Disciples Volunteering

Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries: Responding with Hope Amid Threats & Challenges

Racial and ethnic exclusion, religious discrimination, and efforts to criminalize, prosecute, and put immigrants into prison and detention have surfaced in US immigration policies and laws at various points throughout U. S. history. Yet in recent months, deep and new threats have emerged which further induce fear among refugee and immigrant communities, and threaten our nation's values of welcome. In these times, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, a ministry of Disciples Home Missions, continues to work with churches to offer hope and hospitality. Recent highlights include:

Historically, the U. S. has resettled an average of 85,000 refugees per year – until 9/17, when the U. S. named its lowest goal number of refugees since beginning resettlement in 1980: 45,000. In the end, the U. S. resettled only 22,941 refugees in FY 2018, less than half its goal. In response:

- Disciples RIM, with funding from Week of Compassion, and working with the General Minister and President, led a #Pray4Refugees campaign in Aug. thru Sept. In the campaign, the GMP, Regional Ministers, and Pastors encouraged Congress to resettle at least 75,000 refugees for FY2019. See all 16 videos at <http://bit.ly/2PuXb8N>, including the amazing story of Disciples Governor Ray of Iowa, who helped welcome 10,000 refugees to the state, inspired by his faith! Sadly, in Sept. the U. S. named a historically low goal, of only 30,000, for FY2019.
- Disciples led in multiple White House vigils and Congressional visits near World Refugee Day and throughout the summer, and got free publicity with a shout out by Trevor Noah in October!
- RIM invited Disciples to share stories of refugee welcome on Refugee & Immigrant Welcome Sunday, celebrated this year on June 17th, the Sunday nearest World Refugee Day (6?20). See multiple worship and story materials at: <http://bit.ly/2AgLBC>
- Disciples are continuing to urge congress to hold the administration accountable to resettle the full goal number of its 30,000 refugees this year! Go to: <http://bit.ly/H2xuDr0> to help!
- Decisions are soon to come regarding cuts to funding for refugee resettlement agencies that could greatly dismantle US refugee resettlement structure. Our response in needed!

Immigrant and Asylee Restrictions and Growing Enforcement

In April 2018, the administration unveiled its intent to enact immigration laws in the most extreme way by “Zero Tolerance” which separated immigrant children from their parents at the border and charged parents with unlawful entry or unlawful re-entry. Despite an

EO that claimed to end separations on June 20, hundreds are yet separated, key parts of “zero tolerance” remain, and families are now held in longer term, more restrictive detention. With more enforcement at the border and interior, and restrictions in child/family and asylee protections, Disciples RIM:

- Spoke at multiple national actions in Congress, outside the White House, and at DHS to share faith values of family and compassion, lead prayers, and support congregations.
- Compiled response resources to help connect Disciples with Families Belong Together and other national actions to help separated families.
- Led together with the GMP and Week of Compassion a letter against family separation that was signed by early 3,000 Disciples.
- Worked with partners like the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Women’s Refugee Commission, and Defund Hate to seek to reduce enforcement funding
- Chairs the DC Sanctuary Congregation Cluster to support asylee families, and works to link congregations to help asylee families, through RIM WRAP alerts.

Loss of Protections or TPS/DED, DACA, Farmworkers, Refugees & Others

Protections have been systematically removed since our last report for 300,000+ persons with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and 4000 Liberians with Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)> Also previous refugees stateless persons, Farmworkers, & Dreamers remain at risk and seeking protection. Amid these, RIM:

- Continues to work with TPS led partners (such as the National TPS Alliance and Alianza Americas) to support a national solution for these TPS recipient country numbers scheduled to lose status by dates below unless there is a fix: Sudan/1,040 by 11/2/18; Nicaragua/2,550 by 1/5/19, Nepal/8,950; by 6/24/19, Haiti/46,000 by 7/22/19; El Salvador/195,000 by 9/9/19, Honduras/57,000 by 1/5/20. An Oct. 4 court injunction gives reprieve for persons from El Salvador, Haiti, and Sudan, as RIM continues to engage in advocacy to support other protections, and a national solution for all groups.
- Works with our Disciples Liberian congregation in Maryland to strengthen their national leadership to develop a solution for 4,000 Liberians for whom DED status will end on 3/31/19.
- Partners with dreamer led organizations such as the United We Dream to support legislative protections for dreamers, and encourage congregations to build relationships of support with dreamers in their areas. RIM also offers support for NAKASEC (Korean dreamers), who RIM invited to present at NAPAD’s [Convocation].
- Working with additional populations now targeted by ICE for removal, despite no criminal records; including hundreds of stateless, previously enslaved Mauritians now living in Columbus, Ohio. In addition, 16,000 Southeast Asians who entered as refugees are also being targeted, and RIM’s Director serves on a national board of SEARAC to help support protections for these populations.
- Leads Disciples in connecting with farmworkers, through our partnerships with National Farm

Worker Ministries, where RIM's Director serves on NFWM's board. In recent months, key partnerships for our congregations include our ongoing boycott of Wendy's until it signs the Fair Food Program (to support tomato farmworkers with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers), 2) sharing of Managers' Letters with Starbucks to urge awareness of their milk (sold as "Lucerne") purchased from 400 Darigold dairy farms in the Northwest where farmworkers have died and experienced worker abuses, and 3) requested to WAWA and 7-11 store managers to remove "VUSE" electronic cigarettes from their shelves, as sales support Reynolds related tobacco farms where workers are not allowed to organize for better wages and safety.

Rule Changes That Need Our Help for Children and Families

The administration is seeking to change myriad federal regulations; resulting in the removal of vast opportunities for many to enter the country legally, adjust status, and receive protections. Comments [were retrieved] on two issues of Flores protections and Public Charge.

Disciples Border Evaluations & Actions

In the face of family separations, migrant needs, and border discussions, RIM:

- Encouraged Disciples from various locations who participated in three border trips during Aug-Oct: including El Paso, Tucson, and Brownsville areas.

Partnership Building/Resources:

- RIM participated in a national Disciples Justice gathering held in the Upper Midwest Region, and provided training for Disciples Reconciliation Ministries to strengthen partnerships.
- RIM regularly produces "Holy Days & Holidays" resources, & compiles other video resources, which can be found at: <http://bit.ly/IICholidays>
- RIM continues to develop models for Immigrant Welcome Congregations.

Connect with Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley Rea, Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries

sstanley@dhm.disciples.org
 @StanleyRea on Twitter
 And <http://bit.ly/RIMFacebook>

One or two significant challenges faced by our ministry:

1. Gathering our collective wisdom and implementing effective initiatives around ministry fund development. DHM needs to form an effective development arm for its collaborative ministries.
2. Doing as much or more with less. DHM models tapping into the resourcefulness of collaboration and partnering with ministries aligned with our diversity of missions.

A few bright spots on the horizon are:

1. The Leadership Initiative Team (LIT) is a ministry birthed in response to the call "to keep from becoming 'deaf' to the cries for help emanating from

- congregational life, responding to those cries with a spirit of compassion and accompaniment.”
2. The collaboration of several general ministries and regional ministries in the financial and collegial support of our Immigration Legal Counsel!
 3. Continuing relationship with Blessed Tomorrow allowing the Disciples an integral and impactful voice in creation care and climate change initiatives.
 4. Two new Mission Centers aligned with The National Youth Event for both Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ youth.
 5. The Rest & Renewal Policy for Ministry Associates allowed two weeks of R&R in 2018 for Kelly Harris and Kathy Watts.
 6. Sheila Spencer rejuvenated in a 3-month sabbatical in 2018 and sabbaticals for Olivia Updegrove, Sharon Stanley Rea and Lonna Owens are in process for 2019.
 7. Our continued sharing of financial services with Overseas Ministries/Global Missions.
 8. Our School of Faith and Life is an annual opportunity for leader development and we are exploring way to expand its outreach in cluster, regional, district other advantageous ministry contexts.
 9. The establishment of a new scholarship aimed at students of Appalachia through the Disciples Appalachian Scholarship Ministry.
 10. The Call of a dynamic duo in offering leadership with Disciples Men in the persons of Greg Alexander, former General Minister and President of the Christian Church in Kentucky and Alex Ruth, the pastor of Marshfield Christian Church, Marshfield, MO
 11. The initiative of “Ministries Across Generations” (MAG) in convening voices from across the denomination and a diversity of racial ethnic expressions for equipping in contextual intergenerational ministry.
 12. The transformational impact of our PRAR team on DHM’s ministry as a whole in living into becoming a pro-reconciling and antiracist general ministry.

Let me end my remarks with a story. A Disciples pastor had the audacity to obey the leading of God’s Spirit to go to a community gym and get the attention of a teenager playing a pick-up game of basketball. He called aside the teenager off the basketball court. The pastor invited the teenager to have a seat with him on a couch in the hallway. The pastor came straight out with it as he told the teenager, “I believe you’re gonna be a preacher!” The teenager looked steely eyed and unmoved on the outside. Oh, but on the inside he wondered how the heck did the pastor know his secret? The teenager had indeed been in the midst of having imaginations, experiences and an inward witness of God’s call rooted in the stories of Jesus that resonated deep within his longing heart but he kept them at arm’s length. Instead the teenager occupied himself with excelling in school and competing in athletics, but not ministry, because he just knew he was not ready. He knew he wasn’t good enough for God to use - or so he thought. The teenager nevertheless was struck to his core by the pastor’s words and kept them at heart.

Years later, another pastor prayed with that same teenager, now a young man in college, in a prayer line. As he prayed, he offered a word of prophecy, saying to the young man, “I see you leading ministries!”

Now the Disciples pastor is Colonel W Sutton, who is as of this submission, alive and well into his nineties. He was the pastor of Grove Park Christian Church in Kinston, NC. The other pastor was Mac Timberlake, now deceased, but at the time was the pastor of

Christian Faith Center, a non-denominational congregation in Creedmore, NC. The teenager and subsequent young man to whom both pastors spoke a word of life is yours truly, Sotello Long. God has positioned me in this place of service not because of any perfection on my part, but because of God's amazing grace bestowed on me when I said yes to God's call. I am humbled to serve as President of Disciples Home Missions for the United States and Canada - our denominational "breadbasket" of ministries connecting people with the life changing love of God – transforming lives!!!!

Minister to Agencies Serving Youth

Rev. Scott Thayer

The following is my report to the Department of Homeland Ministries and to the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the year 2018.

- **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISCIPLES SCOUTERS** – An information letter went out by mail in February to all current and prospective members of the National Association, informing them of events and activities and also soliciting membership dues. All dues were sent to DHM for deposit. Future communication with the membership will take place electronically in the form of a quarterly newsletter that is being developed in partnership with P.R.A.Y. (Programs of Religious Activities for Youth). [See next bullet item].
- **PROSPECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH P.R.A.Y.** – I have been in consultation with Mr. Jason Noland, Executive Director of P.R.A.Y. about working cooperatively to produce and distribute a quarterly newsletter to all Disciples Boy Scout units and adult Scout leaders. [This newsletter could also be extended to include Girl Scout adult leaders and other youth serving agencies]. Other denominational groups have already undertaken such a partnership with P.R.A.Y., to great benefit (eg., Lutherans and Baptists). P.R.A.Y. personnel would design, produce, and distribute the newsletter electronically. I would be responsible for writing informational pieces each quarter to include in the newsletter. The newsletter would promote both Disciples Scouting and the religious emblems program that is offered by P.R.A.Y. This religious emblems program is the largest and most effective of its kind. It is used by thousands of young people and their religious leaders all over the country. It is ecumenical and interfaith and can be utilized by any young person without regard to membership in Scouting. I still need confirmation that P.R.A.Y. can use the red chalice & cross logo of the Disciples of Christ. The cost of this program will be about \$250 per year. I am still waiting for the national office of the Boy Scouts to release the contact information for all of our Disciples Scout leaders to P.R.A.Y.
- **DISCIPLES YOUTH SERVED BY THE P.R.A.Y. RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS PROGRAM IN 2018**
 - Cub Scouts: ('God & Me') – 116
 - Webelos Scouts: ('God & Family') – 130
 - Boy Scouts ('God & Church/God & Life') – 99
 - Girl Scouts: 8
 - Other: 18
 - Total Youth Served: 371**

- **BOY SCOUTS STATISTICS**

According to national BSA statistics, 356 Cub Scout Packs, 357 Boy Scout Troops, and 53 Venturing Crews are chartered to Disciples congregations nation-wide, for a total of 17,249 youth served. 8,319 adult leaders are associated with these units. I was not able to secure similar statistics for Girl Scouts in the U.S.A. or for other youth serving agencies that might be connected with Disciples congregations.

- **NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING, BOY SCOUTS IN THE UNITED STATES**

In May, 2018 I attended the National Annual Meeting (NAM) of the Boy Scouts in the United States in Dallas, TX. This was an extremely productive meeting at which I was able to network with other members of the National Religious Relations Committee (NRRC), P.R.A.Y. leadership, and much more. Here are some highlights:

- ❖ New Chaplain/Chaplain Aide training and a new statement on Duty to God were approved by the NRRC
- ❖ New national leadership is emphasizing more diversity in Scouting
- ❖ Partnership with P.R.A.Y. and DOC was planned
- ❖ Potential partnership with the United Church of Christ and DOC to host a combined information booth at future U.S. National Scout Jamborees
- ❖ Discussion of a portion of national training shifting from Philmont Scout Training Center in New Mexico to the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia
- ❖ Strategies for incorporating girls into the Cub Scout program nation wide
- ❖ Strategies on how to proceed after the departure of the Church of Latter Day Saints as chartering partner beginning next year

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE 24

I have been chosen to serve as a subcamp chaplain at the World Scout Jamboree (July 22-August 2, 2019) at the Bechtel Summit Reserve in West Virginia. Unfortunately this will preclude my ability to attend the 2019 DOC General Assembly in Des Moines. I will make arrangements to appoint representatives to host the Scouting booth in the DHM exhibit hall area.

GIRL SCOUTS IN THE U.S.

I have reached out to the national leadership of GSUSA in an attempt to partner with them on projects of mutual benefit. I have issued a formal invitation to the GSUSA to join with the Boy Scouts in hosting a common information booth at the 2019 DOC General Assembly. The invitation has not yet been accepted.

SCOUTS FOR EQUALITY

I have joined an organization called Scouts For Equality and now serve as a board member. The organization is dedicated to advocating that any young person who desires to be a Scout should be allowed to do so, regardless of race, physical/intellectual ability, sexual orientation/identity, religion (or no religion). It is a very progressive organization and it is an honor to be named to its board.

GOALS AND DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE

- 1) Encourage DOC churches that already host Scouting units to continue and grow.
- 2) Recruit new DOC churches to host Scouting units, advocating to church leaders the benefits of Scouting to their congregations and communities. Occasional articles in DHM publications such as The Advocate would help to achieve this. The proposed quarterly newsletter from P.R.A.Y. will enhance communication and promotion.
- 3) Serve as DOC denominational representative to the P.R.A.Y. Board. Encourage more DOC youth to earn religious emblems.
- 4) Be actively involved with local, Area, Regional and National levels of Scouting (and other youth serving agencies when possible) to strengthen relationships between the various youth serving agencies and DOC churches.
- 5) Participate in the National Committee on Religious Relationships in Scouting and similar committees in the other youth serving agencies.
- 6) Revive The National Association of Disciples Scouts by re-constituting the membership roster and by recruiting a leadership team to start planning significant events for DOC Scouts and adult leaders.
- 7) Seek to raise financial support for the National Association of Disciples Scouts to pay for postage, promotion, signage and booth space.
- 8) Increase interest among DOC ministers and laity in becoming a chaplain at Scouting events. Offer training at national and regional church events.
- 9) Serve as a good-will ambassador from the Disciples church to youth serving organizations nation-wide.
- 10) Represent youth serving agencies at General Assembly meetings.
- 11) Report on youth serving agency activities, events and religious emblem achievement to the DHM Board and the General Board.
- 12) Interface with leaders of the Church of Christ-Disciples of Christ and with all Regional Ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), informing them of events and activities of youth serving organizations in their respective jurisdictions.

This concludes my report for 2018. I remain grateful to be able to serve in this capacity and I eagerly solicit any and all suggestions from DHM board members.

Office of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministry

It is both an honor and privilege to serve as the Endorsing Officer for Disciples serving in chaplaincy ministries across our denomination. I have completed just over one year of service in this position. I am thankful for and blessed by the trust and support I have received from our chaplains and from the leadership of OHM and our Church. Thank you for all that you are doing to recognize and lift up our Disciples who serve faithfully in the wide variety of chaplain ministries where they are engaged daily.

The maintenance of current ecclesiastical endorsement by a recognized faith group is a regulatory requirement for chaplains who minister in Federal settings including the Veterans Administration and all branches and components of the U.S. Military. Denominational endorsement for chaplain ministry is also a requirement for most hospital, hospice, prison, law enforcement, and workplace settings where professional chaplains are employed. It is the responsibility of the Office of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministry to provide endorsement services as well as to recruit, support, and account for our denominationally endorsed chaplains. It is a condition of endorsement that chaplains be members of a local Disciples congregation and have ministerial standing in one of the Regions of the Church or with the General Commission on Ministry.

Where our 331 Disciples Endorsed Chaplains currently serve as of October, 2018:

- U.S. Navy: 14 (Active Duty and Reserve)
- U.S. Air Force: 15 (Active Duty, Reserve, Air National Guard)
- U.S. Army: 22 (Active Duty, Reserve, Army National Guard)
- Federal Bureau of Prisons: 2
- Civil Air Patrol Chaplains: 1
- Veterans Administration Chaplains: 18
- Institutional Chaplains: 251 (hospital, hospice, retirement homes, nursing homes, state prison, fire department and law enforcement)
- Pastoral Counselors: 8

Each one of these chaplains provides an annual report to our office with information about their current status of service, changes to personal information, continuing education, congregation and Regional activities, and an opportunity for the sharing of joys and concerns. All endorsed chaplains are also members of the Disciples Chaplains Association - an informal community of support and connection.

The Office of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministry has been graced with the staff support of Ms. Anne Marie Moyars, our dedicated Ministry Associate for over 10 years. Anne Marie maintains current paper and electronic files on each endorsed chaplain. In addition she watches over and provides access to the online Chaplain Endorsement Application process and the Disciples Chaplains electronic information interface. Anne Marie also publishes the monthly "Disciples Chaplain Check-in" newsletter. Our chaplains and our ministry are grateful for her professional attention and support. She is the "voice" of chaplaincy for all who call seeking information.

Currently the Disciples Chaplain Endorsing Officer is a deployed program staff, quarter-time position. As such I work primarily from my home in Vancouver, Washington. I have represented our Disciples Chaplains, OHM, and our Church this year by attending annual meetings of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces and the Armed Forces Chaplain Board in Washington, DC, the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Association of Professional Chaplains in Anaheim, California. I also participated in the Virginia Regional Assembly and the Northwest Regional Assembly. In addition I visited with our chaplains in North Carolina, New York, Virginia, Washington, DC, Georgia, Alabama, Nevada, California, Oregon, and Washington. I attended the funeral of one of our Disciples Chaplains and the graduations from military chaplain training for two others who are just entering into their chosen vocations.

The Disciples Chaplains Association will be active at the Des Moines General Assembly by offering workshop sessions, an informal meal gathering, participation in Assembly Worship, and informational presentations in the OHM exhibit area.

Thank you for your continued support of our Disciples Chaplains as they serve in vital and life-changing ministries. They serve in places of armed conflict, places where trauma, death, and life-altering illness are an everyday reality, provide hope and comfort for those behind bars, and spiritual support without restriction to all who cross their paths. They covet our prayers and efforts to bolster their numbers. Many feel that they are lone voices for inclusion and affirmation in a ministry environment that isn't always that way.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Thomas A. Yates, D.Min, BCC, CH (LTC) US Army, retired
Disciples Chaplain Endorsing Officer

Christian Vocations

The nature of ministry through the Office Of Christian Vocations is expressed mostly through areas related to Search and Call (clergy relocation), Ministers Directory (clergy credentialing), and Ministry Educational/Formation (Scholarships & Grant programs for students and credentialed clergy, & Spiritual Formation resources). Along with Ministry Associates in these areas, I strive so that those making use of our ministries have a positive experience that is ultimately fruitful for their life and vocational calling.

Within the day-to-day responsibilities of this ministry, there is much detail-oriented work, troubleshooting of complexities and needed attention to minutia. For such, I count on the three Ministry Associates of this office to offer a high degree of professionalism upon all that must be dealt with. With gratitude, I am proud to say Anne Marie Moyars, Brenda Tyler and Kelly Harris each offer significant and generous service to those who need our care. They, each, empower our ministry to be one that is trustworthy, compassionate, just, and fair.

Each year, we evaluate systems for highest priority needed updates to improve efficiencies, create a more-helpful system for users, and incorporate new technologies. In 2018, we integrated new tools to allow for increased automation of information sharing between regions and DHM, regarding clergy credentials, status, and personal information. This facilitates a more-effective means to maintain up to date information about clergy at regional and general offices.

This year, we also worked with our vendor, Suran Systems, to identify ongoing training needs for regional staff-persons who also use the CDM+ system. As a result, Suran staff was better able to help regional staff learn and use the systems we have in place.

Regions are also increasing their use of our Ministry Position Listing tool we maintain, which allows clergy better knowledge of what positions are available.

The Well-Fed Spirit Website: www.wellfedspirit.org continues to be popular with clergy, as we are regularly hearing from them regarding their gratitude for having such a resource available. This site is unique within our denominational system in it's offering of wellness and spiritual formation/practice resources for church leaders (clergy and lay).

Senior Regional Ministry Staff positions continue to turnover, and we have done a good job of facilitating regional search committees seeking candidate profiles, as well as clergy seeking to be considered for such. In this process, we continue to help new regional leaders build technical and ecclesiastical capacity in areas of ministry data and clergy records, Search And Call, and policies that bind our mutual ministries in areas for the support of local clergy.

Upon request for a summary paragraph report to General Board, the following is what I provided regarding the ministry responsibilities of my office:

The ministry of the Office of Christian Vocations is primarily focused on four areas of responsibility. The first area is Search and Call; wherein we facilitate the General Ministries portion of the clergy relocation program for the denomination, and provide support to regional offices. The second area is in regard to the Ministers Directory; in this area we provide a system for an accurate recording, reporting and archiving process through which our denomination maintains the legal database of clergy and their credentials/status within our church. The third area focuses on Vocational Ministry formation. In this area we provide direct and collaborative efforts to help empower initial vocational formation, and ongoing vital ministerial capacity, for clergy and ministry-candidates. The remainder of our responsibilities include liaison and varying degrees of support to other church-related bodies, such as Association of Disciples Musicians, General Commission On Ministry, and Chaplains Endorsement Office to name a few.

Throughout all of this work, my office is committed to serve professionally and effectively, as partner and initiator, so that leaders in the Christian Church are more able to be who G_d calls us to be in this world.

-Warren Lynn

The Disciples Center for Public Witness

Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker Langston

Executive Director

Introduction: The Disciples Center for Public Witness (DC4PW) is a justice advocacy ministry within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Originating as a shared ministry of National City Christian Church and the Christian Church Capital Area, DC4PW is now a shared ministry of seven founding congregations and several newer partner congregations. (We are continuing to reach out successfully to other congregations). DC4PW has official status as a recognized organization through the Office of the General Minister and President; and our finances are handled by Disciples Home Missions, with which we enjoy an increasingly close relationship.

The mission of DC4PW is two-fold: to use our denomination's passion for justice and vision of true community to evaluate and influence the laws and policies that affect all of us—especially marginalized persons and communities—in the United States, Canada, and around the world; and to inform, connect, and empower Disciples and other people of faith for ecumenical and interfaith justice advocacy in the United States and Canada. Our larger goal is to promote and help achieve the Beloved Community envisioned by Dr. King, a vision based on the Biblical promise of shalom and Jesus' proclamation of the in-breaking reign of God.

Overview: This year has been a year of increased investment and further expansion in two main areas: communications and fundraising. With the help of consultants, contracted staff, and volunteers, we have increased our social media presence, revised our website, published weekly e-newsletters, and developed a database that better allows us to segment and communicate with our donors and grassroots advocates. Two of our contracted staff have taken fundraising courses, and the executive director has been helped on a regular basis by both a fundraising coach and an informal network of fundraisers within the denomination.

At the same time, we continue our program activities in many issue-areas, including racial justice, gender justice, worker justice, health care, mass incarceration, gun violence, domestic violence, torture (including solitary confinement), religious liberty, drone warfare, Cuba, and Palestine/Israel. In most of these issue-areas, we work with our ecumenical, interfaith, and secular partners. We also work with our denominational partners on racism, immigration, refugees, women and children, criminal justice reform, and care for God's creation.

Special Programs: Two special programs of DC4PW are the *Ecumenical Poverty Initiative* (EPI) and *Let Justice Roll* (LJR). EPI is an anti-poverty ministry of DC4PW that is shared with the ecumenical community. It pulls together national and local religious leaders to work on a variety of racial and economic justice issues: exposing the negative effects of pay day lending, opposing budget cuts to programs that help people who are struggling economically, opposing the increasing debt for college students, and promoting more equal distribution of the resources available to public schools.

Let Justice Roll (LJR) is currently a virtual organization that uses its online presence and social media to inform and empower people of faith to do three things: promote a living wage on the national level, get more involved in state campaigns that are working to increase the local minimum wage, and oppose disparities in pay between different ethnic, racial, and gender groups. LJR's motto is: "A job should keep you out of poverty, not in it."

Special Projects: In addition to our regular activities and the activities associated with EPI and LJR, there were a number of special projects in which DC4PW was involved this year. One of these was *Journey to Justice* (J2J), a project in which a new pastor of African descent was given the opportunity to learn more about diverse forms of social witness by engaging in three areas of witness: public policy advocacy, justice-oriented networking with other church leaders, and faith-based activism.

Another special project was *Labor in the Pulpits*. In this project, we encouraged Disciples to invite labor leaders or people of faith involved in some form of worker justice ministry to speak in their congregations on or around Labor Day.

Still another special project was our involvement in *Torture Awareness Month*. Throughout the month of June, we encouraged congregations to do three things: give a sermon and/or host a discussion on torture; show a film about U.S. participation in torture; and hang a banner declaring opposition to torture.

Finally, we are actively engaged in *Faithful Democracy*, a project where we collect and distribute useful information about voter registration, voter education, and voter mobilization to regions, congregations, and faith-based groups.

We were able to accomplish the work necessary for the success of these special projects with the help of college students participating in our summer internship program.

Campaigns: DC4PW has been very involved in three major campaigns: *The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call to Moral Revival*, where we attended planning meetings and participated in public gatherings and events in Washington, DC; the National Council of Churches' *ACT Now*, which began with an event on the U.S. National Mall in which DC4PW organized and staffed a Disciples booth that received a good deal of traffic from participants in the gathering; and *MLK50*, where we encouraged participation by Disciples in events around the United States that were sponsored by the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN.

Collaboration with Disciples Home Missions (DHM): In terms of DC4PW's close working relationship with DHM, we worked with Refugee and Immigration Ministries and the coalition to which it belongs, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, to oppose such

things as the separation of undocumented immigrant children from their families, the tearing apart of immigrant families by our current immigration policies, the severe limiting of the number of refugees who are allowed to enter the United States, and the changes in statutory and regulatory definitions that make it even harder for immigrants legally to enter our nation.

We also worked closely with Green Chalice with and through the coalition to which we both belong, Creation Justice Ministries, on clean air and water, the preservation of national parks and monuments, the protection of the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWAR), a quicker transition away from fossil fuels, and opposition to both the Keystone Pipeline and increased offshore drilling.

And, finally, we worked with Family & Children’s Ministries with and through the coalition to which we both belong, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence. Alongside other people of faith, we actively promoted universal background checks, the banning of assault weapons, restrictions on high capacity ammunition magazines, and making gun trafficking a federal crime.

Conferences in which DC4PW actively participated: Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice, Black Ministers Retreat, the National Convocation, Winter Talk, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Asamblea Nacional Hispana Y Bingue, the Christian Unity Gathering of the National Council of Churches, Festival of Homiletics, National Immigrant Integration Conference, MLK50 Gathering for People of Faith.

Regional Assemblies where DC4PW had a strong presence: Canada, Florida, Tennessee, and the Christian Church Capital Area.

Coalitions with and through which DC4PW works: The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, Interfaith Worker Justice, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Creation Justice Ministries, Paycheck Fairness Coalition, Coalition Against Religious Discrimination, International Religious Freedom Roundtable, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, Heads of Washington Offices of the Washington Interreligious Staff Community, Washington Working Group on the International Criminal Court, Domestic Human Needs, Coalition on Human Needs, Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare, School of the Americas Watch, Medicaid Coalition, Jubilee, USA, Bread for the World, the Interfaith Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, the Interfaith Health Care Coalition, and the Committee on Religious Liberty.

Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel

Tana Liu-Beers

Immigration policy and practice are changing at a furious pace these days. Here are some highlights from my recent work.

Thanks to dedicated fundraising by Sotello Long and Cathy Myers Wirt, DHM was able to increase my hours from 20/week to 25/week beginning this February. This increase could not have come at a better time, as you'll see below.

As always, thanks for your ongoing support. Knowing that so many of you have my back gives me strength to face the attacks on our immigrant communities and the decimation of our immigration system.

Numbers for the Past 6 Months

New cases opened: 52

Total open cases: 63

Regions served: 19

Arizona, Pacific Southwest, Southwest, Indiana, Kansas City, North California/Nevada, Florida, Kentucky, Illinois-Wisconsin, Northwest, Canada, West Virginia, Capital Area, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Alabama-N Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Central Rocky Mountain

Countries of origin of clients: 23

Mexico, Colombia, Canada, Sierra Leone, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, South Korea, El Salvador, Honduras, Western Samoa, Dominican Republic, Germany, Cameroon, Venezuela, Myanmar, Malaysia, Slovakia, South Africa, Liberia, China, India, Cuba

The “Invisible Wall”

In recent months U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), the agency with which I interact most frequently, has officially changed its mission from serving immigrants to keeping immigrants out. New policies and regulatory changes create an “invisible wall” by torpedoing the processes of legal immigration. They cause delays and stress for our students and pastors trying to change their status or get work permits.

It is a constant effort to keep up with the barrage of policy changes affecting my clients in particular and our congregations more broadly. I have reviewed my full caseload and contacted clients individually to inform them about recent policy memos and to make contingency plans for their cases.

USCIS' new policies promote denials and delays wherever possible, causing hardship for immigrants and increased workload for their attorneys. Full representation cases that used to take on average 30 hours of work time from opening to completion are now taking 50-100 hours.

Consultations

With the rapidly-changing policies of this administration, consultations are an important service for immigrants seeking to understand their situations. For example, I've had many calls from Cubans trying to navigate the closures at the U.S. embassy in Havana. Salvadorans and Haitians facing the end of TPS are seeking screening for other immigration options. DACA youth are seeking help with renewals and understanding the effects of recent court decisions.

Travel

This summer I traveled to Asamblea Hispana y Bilingüe and NAPAD Convocation, as well as the Committee on Week of Compassion meeting. As always these were valuable points of connection with the groups I serve most directly as well as other ministries. I also had the joy of meeting several clients and their families in person for the first time, some of whom I have represented for years over phone and email.

Community Education

Immigration Legal Counsel has a new twitter handle @DOCIImmigration, which I have begun using to get the word out about immigration happenings. Facebook is still my primary means of providing immigration updates to Disciples.

The family separation crisis on the U.S.-Mexico border has been a travesty, but it has also been an opportunity to educate Disciples about the longstanding family detention and deportation system. I collaborated with Disciples Seminary Foundation, the Arizona Region, the Illinois-Wisconsin Region, Reconciliation Ministries, and Week of Compassion to provide written pieces, webinars, and teleconferences about current immigration issues.

Disciples Women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
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Disciples Women's Ministries is a conduit for diverse connections empowering each woman to find her voice and live out her call. ***Micah 6:8***

Disciples Women are serving in ministry in various capacities. Women continue to try new ways of doing ministry and of being Disciples Women groups. Since my last report I have keynoted, preached, led workshops, marched, served with, and/or gathered in conversation with Kentucky DWM; FCC Richmond, IN; Poor Peoples' Campaign on Capitol Hill; General Ministry Cabinet; Disciples Peace Fellowship; Governance Committee of General Board; the Summit – World Change through Faith and Justice; DHM Development Committee; Heartland Interregional; Expensify Training; Valerie Melvin Installation as Regional Minister; Obra Hispana Assembly; National Convocation; Fairhill Manor CC; NAPAD Assembly; Justice Summit; HOPE Leadership Academy; Junia Conference; Alabama-NW Florida DWM; Executive Committee; FCC Bloomington, IN; Capital Area Regional Assembly; IL/Wisconsin Regional Assembly; FCC Bloomington, IL; CTS – Grace Embodied; Great River Region Regional Assembly; and Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising training.

We continue in close covenant with Disciples Home Missions and continue in anti-racism/pro-reconciliation efforts and training. We have a healthy partnership with HELM in sharing Lisa Hubbard as a Ministry Associate to provide full-time employment for her while handling both of our support needs.

Our Woman-to-Woman Worldwide (W2WW) program facilitates journeys to visit our global partners each year. In partnership with Global Ministries we prepare delegations for what they will encounter during journeys through study, training, and conversation. Chesla led a delegation to Cuba in October in cooperation with the Caribbean Initiative of Global Ministries. Next year the delegation will be going to Morocco followed by a journey to Southern Asia in 2020 as part of the new global ministry initiative focused there. Among other projects, last year's delegation to India was excited and moved by the work being done to fight trafficking especially for the most vulnerable. The delegation was excited to fund a project that would provide training and support for 7-10 women to begin their own business to provide for their families and keep them safe from the dangers of poverty. \$6,000 was required and has already been completed.

In its 10th year of publication, *Just Women Magazine*, the designated resource for Disciples Women has begun to publish the Bible study annually. The theme for 2019 is "The Church: Mission Possible". Given the loss of our quarterly publication we are

working to find ways to continue to communicate regularly with Disciples women across the continent. Chesla and Regenia are developing a e-newsletter.

Disciples Women continues to use #DWConnect as a means of better understanding the value of shared stories, resources, and concerns. Recognizing the strength of being connected to one another helps to provide for the needs of women throughout the United States and Canada. We will also be providing finger labyrinths to General Assembly attendees to encourage the development of spiritual disciplines and will label each with the woman's name, congregation, and location to celebrate that Disciples women are serving in ministry far and wide.

New members for the Executive Committee have been chosen to begin their terms in 2019. This will be our first time with a President-Elect and staggered terms for members. We are excited about the help this will be in continuity of leadership.

Chesla Nickelson, program director and merger staff, continues to update and improve the Leader Apprentice Program (LAP) to continue to provide leadership training for women of color. Past graduates are now serving at all levels of the Disciples church. We are currently in the process of developing a similar program that will focus on young women, middle and high school age, to include not only leadership training but also financial responsibility, and body and personal agency. Chesla is also working on new volumes of our Wisdom of Women by interviewing women leaders to capture and share their wisdom.

Disciples Women continue to contribute to the whole mission of the church through their ministries and giving. We appreciate the covenant with DHM that continues to share funding from DMF. With our current funding we are unable to do the breadth of ministry we are called to do. We continue to explore ways to improve it. We have established a legacy fund in hopes that we can inspire women to participate in the ministry by remembering Disciples Women in their estate planning as well as provide gifts to an endowment fund to support the ministry into the future. We will be celebrating our 145th 'birthday' in 2019 and are hoping to celebrate it by encouraging Disciples to celebrate by giving monetary gifts to the ministry.

Respectfully,

Patricia A. Donahoo
Executive Director, Disciples Women

Disciples Volunteering

Disciples Volunteering connects, supports, and equips Disciples serving in mission. This work is carried out in three ways: Sending Teams in Mission; Shaping Servant Leaders; and Supporting Local Missions. At the core of this work are three faith-values: learning, serving, and growing relationships. As DISCIPLES, we are students, learning through action and reflection, striving to deepen our faith by living it with others. In SERVING, we model ourselves after the one who came not to be served but to serve, giving and receiving in humility, and respecting the gifts of each one. Through COMMUNITY, we connect our faith and our lives with others, with deference for those with whom we serve, growing together in faith. Disciples Serving Community move from volunteer to servant to neighbor to friend as we get dirty for Jesus together.

Sending Teams in Mission

One area of focus for Disciples Volunteering is supporting disaster response and recovery. Disciples Volunteering responds to disasters in partnership with Week of Compassion, Regions, and local congregations (as well as ecumenical, interfaith, other NGO, and government partners) with a particular focus on long-term recovery and the recruitment, when appropriate, of mission teams for providing labor in service with those affected by the disaster.

Disciples Volunteering is currently supporting fully operational mission responses in several communities. A Mission Station has been operational with First Christian Church, Texas City, TX, since the start of the year with commitments to enable service opportunities throughout 2019. The summer schedule ran near capacity and next summer is already beginning to fill in. Mission teams coordinated by long-term volunteers in partnership with the local long-term recovery group are enabling case managed work and the matching of resources to see the work through as homes are rebuilt across Galveston County. In March, Disciples Volunteering also supported work at First Christian Church, Port Arthur; plans are being laid for a similar repair blitz at Iglesia Cristiana Bethania in Corpus Cristi in the spring of 2019. Several summer weeks were an exciting new partnership with Reach Beyond Mission.

Mission opportunities are also available in Puerto Rico and Disciples Volunteering is excited to have the first group go there in December; the first six months of 2019 are beginning to fill in as well. This collaborative response, called Program Edifiquemos, includes Week of Compassion, Global Ministries, and the Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo) in Puerto Rico (ICDCPR). Through Disciples' membership with National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD), Program Director José Molina Resto is able to access up to \$5,000 worth of building materials from FEMA for every home Disciples work on; since July, 8 homes have already been repaired utilizing local volunteers.

The Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI), a cooperative effort with Week of Compassion and the disaster ministries of the Church of the Brethren and the United Church of Christ, enabled Disciples Volunteering to engaged two specialists, Rachel Larratt and Tim Sheaffer, to support communities affected by disaster. There was a particular and acute need for this service in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where the recovery has now advanced to the stage where local leaders are ready to coordinate and receive mission groups. At the close of that response, the DRSI partners chose to renew Rachel's contract and continue to serve with a particular emphasis on early community engagement, resourcing, and support.

Disciples Volunteering is also calling for servant mission teams to aid in the recovery of communities impacted by flooding in Missouri and West Virginia and by hurricanes in Daytona, Florida, where folks are referred through First Christian Church, Daytona. Work with congregations in Iowa and North Carolina continues through the early stages of recovery, including exploring the possibility of partnering with International Orthodox Christian Charities to support muck and gut work in North Carolina. In addition, Disciples Volunteering supports a growing network of Disciples-based mission sites. Ridglea Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Pacific Grove, CA are the most recent congregations hosting mission teams for service and learning; the addition of a partner site in Indianapolis is under exploration. Disciples Volunteering has also been in contact with the Local Missions Planning Team for the 2019 General Assembly and that work is progressing well.

Shaping Servant Leaders

Building on the strength of relations with United Church of Christ and Church of the Brethren colleagues, Disciples Volunteering co-led the third joint servant leadership training event in April. Participants are prepared to serve as long-term volunteers and mission station managers after a disaster. Training together provides for a richer, deeper, and broader experience, equipping new leaders to support missions with each of the participating denominations. In an effort to expand the reach of long-term volunteers, Disciples Volunteering continues to encourage and equip these servant leaders to identify, resource, and support other missions that are developing within their local and regional settings.

The Summer Mission Intern program also continues to evolve. Along with Deb Conrad, Summer Mission Intern Coordinator, this year's training was co-led by former intern Whitney Waller Cole. Five interns were initially matched with placement sites; unfortunately, in the time leading up to training two withdrew. The training is being broadened for next summer to include mission interns as well as young adults who serve in congregational intern settings (if you know churches with such positions please let us know).

Supporting Local Missions

Because answering the call to serve begins at home, Disciples Volunteering is making strides toward a broader effort of supporting, connecting, and resourcing those missions and ministries as they exist or are emerging from congregations and regions/areas. A variety of resources are also being collected, ranging from basic information about serving to specifics such as planning a mission trip and how best to serve after a disaster. Disciples Volunteering continues to support the disaster recovery network in the Pacific Southwest region which is now focusing on disaster preparedness and in late October will be co-leading an organizational event with the Christian Church in Oregon and Southwest Idaho. Other local missions support has already been mentioned above, for example, working with congregations which are hosting mission teams for service and learning opportunities. Disaster response also provides an opportunity for supporting locally led missions as church members are educated and resourced for engaging in long-term recovery within their own community.

I am grateful, as always, to the Board of Disciples Home Missions and the Committee for Week of Compassion for your support in this ministry that we share,

Josh Baird
 Director, Disciples Volunteering

Evangelism & Congregational Transformation

Merger Staff

Celebrating Year #16 in the Office of Evangelism & Congregational Transformation

Fifteen years ago, I was given the honor of being called to Disciples Home Missions to be the Minister of Evangelism and Merger Staff for the National Convocation of the Christian Church. It has been a wonderful fifteen years. Come October 1st of this year I will begin my sixteenth year of service to DHM and the General Church.

Report and Updates of the Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation, Disciples Home Missions

I have two updates I would like to share with you. First, the Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation is getting ready to unveil a “new process” for accomplishing “evangelism” in local congregations in a 21st century context. We first unveiled it earlier this year at the African-American Institute of Faith and Life during the 25th Biennial Session of National Convocation this summer in Birmingham, Alabama. As the world around us has transitioned from a 20th century context to a 21st century context, the church must also come into a 21st century context. Everything that local congregations do moving forward must be transformed from a 20th century context to a 21st century context. Helping Disciples congregations to “**Reclaim the Great Commission: A New Evangelism**” will be the goal and mantra of this office for the next six to seven years moving forward.

I often remember so well the excitement and feeling I had fifteen years ago when I arrived at DHM to begin a new season in my life and ministry to this community of faith I have been a part of for most of my 61 years on this earth. I remember how excited I was to be able to have the opportunity to help this church rediscover one of the core values, which propelled the Stone-Campbell Movement unto the landscape of the American frontier as it was then in 1801 with Barton Warren Stone in Kentucky at the Cane Ridge Meeting House. Now please do not misunderstand me, I am no Barton W. Stone, but the excitement he created at Cane Ridge is the same excitement I felt in August of 2003 when DHM extended me the offer to be the evangelist of this community of faith.

About two years ago, I began the process of thinking seriously about my time, work and accomplishments over the course of the last 38 years of ministry to this church I love called the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in the United States and Canada. I thought seriously about what legacy I wanted to leave to the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ and even more important to the National Convocation. It occurred to me, that I had met, fulfilled and achieved all the requirements and expectations that my church had set before me some 38 years earlier. Now in year number 39 and moving very quickly toward year number 40, as I anticipate the last season of my ministry to this church, what legacy do I want to leave when my time and ministry come to an end.

Well! Here it is in a “nutshell”, I would like to see this church “**Reclaim the Great Commission.**” So, for the next six to seven years of my tenure in this office called Evangelism and Congregational Transformation, my goal will be helping Disciples congregation to Reclaim the Great Commission, and I am going to need your help and assistance. The time and season have come again that Disciples of Christ congregations need to Reclaim the Great Commission, in other words, “evangelism” will

become a core value if you will, as Jesus instructed his disciples in the latter part of Chapter 28 in the Gospel of Matthew, *Go! And make disciples! And baptize! And teach the world! About this Savior name Jesus who transforms lives!*

Report on the third initiative of the 2020Vision/Congregational Transformation

Speaking of transforming, this brings me to the second observation I want to make in this report to you. All of you should be aware of by now that we Disciples are presently working on a vision and mission called the 2020 Vision. One of the four goals of that vision and mission, this office has direct charge of, it is called “congregational transformation.” The goal is simply this, by the year 2020, this community of faith is working on having 1,000 of our established congregations committed to being “congregation in transformation”, in other words, the ultimate goal by the year 2020 is to have at least 1,000 Disciples congregations who are intentionally and actively working on being transformational congregations. At this juncture in our journey, we have about 650 congregations in transformation.

My partners in Hope Partnership’s New Church initiative have a saying, “starting 1,000 new churches in a 1,000 different ways.” The Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation does not advocate transforming 1,000 congregations in a thousand different ways, but I do advocate and encourage Pastors, congregational leaders and congregations to seek out a transformational process they think might work best for their ministry context and work that process toward being a transformed congregation. I would also like to inform the DHM Board of Directors, that the Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation does offer and have in place a very effective congregational transformational process that it offers to congregations. With that said, I also need to inform you that although DHM’s CT process has worked well for many of the congregations that have engaged it, there are other effective and good processes available in the marketplace. I am not concerned whether Disciples congregations engage my office in becoming a transformed congregation, but simply that congregations engage a process to become a transformed community of faith. Here is the bottom-line, if Disciples congregations in the 21st century are going to be relevant in their mission and ministry context, they will need to be committed to a transformational process as they move into being transformational bodies in the context, which they now find themselves doing mission and ministry.

We are about a little more than a year from the year 2020 and we are approximately 350 congregations from our goal of 1,000 congregations in transformation. Therefore, my hope is that you will continue to pray with me as I continue to pray that we reach our goal of 1,000 congregations in transformation by January 1, 2021. One last point on my second observation, although the goal is 1,000 congregations in transformation, the reality is all 3,500 of our congregations in the United States and Canada need to be congregations in transformation.

As the Executive for the OECT, I felt that the DHM Board should be aware and kept informed of where the church, in general, is as it relates to the third initiative of the vision that DHM has been entrusted with leading. I hope you find this report helps to that end.

Gracefully submitted,
Rev. Dr. R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr.
Executive for Evangelism and Congregational Transformation

Family and Children's Ministry

Olivia Updegrave

I have been at this "part-time" job for 5 ½ years! Things continue to change, shift and adjust. This year included making sure the new President was aware of the connections between the multi-levels of our ministries. Connecting the dots between Families and Children (me), Youth (Randy Kuss and GYC), Young Adults (YAC), Children Worship & Wonder (Lisa Engelken), Justice responses (Kate Epperly), and what that looks like alongside our constituency groups with Ministries Across Generations in formation. Combining the visions that were already forming with the visions of our new leader takes time, but he seems to have gotten on board and taken inclusive initiative with the Leadership Initiative Training (LIT).

Highlights:

- Travel: End of 2017:
 - PRAR Meeting and Youth Ministry Update (both in Indianapolis);
 - NBA outreach for Hurricane Harvey Pastors retreat in AZ,
 - Black Ministers Retreat (D.C)
 - Obra Hispana Convecion (AZ)
 - Canadian Regional Assembly and Youth Encounter (Guelph)
 - CCIW Regional Assembly
 - North Carolina Regional Assembly (Greensboro)
 - Created to Be Me Camp
 - Kentucky Spring Women's Retreat
 - Ministries Across Generations Gathering (December, 2018)
- Ongoing: Website, Newsletters, Social Media, DHM Updates and Articles, and Critical Responses
- Worship Planning Team for General Assembly 2019. Lisa Engelken and I have also been in conversation with Kaye Edwards (my predecessor and the creator of the "Family Spaces" at General Assembly about updating.
- Light a Candle for Children 2018. (Check out the videos - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfHqk4jzqgxQgjzxEUxW-qOw10jZ3daXY>) Sotello, Tana, Lisa, Shantha, Randy, Kate, and me all contributed to sharing our thoughts on "**Realizing Our Vision for Our Children.**"
- I continue to be a part of the planning team for the *Intergenerate* conference. The 2nd event will be held on May 20-22 in Nashville. The first event published a book that included as article about my work with Children Worship & Wonder in corporate worship. This conference combines scholarship and practices of the best ways to serve across generational lines.
- Ongoing work continues to create a Children's History of our denominations and its constituency groups.

It was not possible to continue the Disciples 5K for this third and final year.

I will be taking a sabbatical from Jan. 1 to March 31 in 2019. (Thank you, Jesus!)

General Youth Council

The General Youth Council continues to meet monthly to discuss and plan how to best engage with both and partners across the life of the denomination. Earlier this year, the group met in Indianapolis for their mid-winter retreat which provided an opportunity to discuss the councils mission, purpose and goals. GYC has identified its guiding mission and reason for existence is to help plan, implement and evaluate the total youth ministry program for the Christian Church (DOC).

There are several projects they have identified to help them live into that mission. To better connect with a wider audience, GYC now has quarterly newsletters that are available for download through the DHM website along with videos which will be created every few months as well.

The council has developed a goal of hosting annual events for youth that empowers young voices, includes leadership development and further lifts the mission of GYC. Initial plans are underway for a kickoff event to be held in 2020. More details will be revealed as they become available.

One of the challenges for the group is in recruiting new members/applications. A very much needed goal for GYC is to increase its diversity in applicants and thereby the council. They will continue to reach out to our ethic constituent groups to build authentic relationships that be mutually beneficial for all.

Finally, General Youth Council has been working with the General Assembly planning team to give shape to the 2019 youth program. We are excited that some of the old traditions will continue while bringing in some other new elements to remain relevant. Although GYC/DHM is not in charge of the program this GA cycle, they have been very involved and will continue through the duration of assembly.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Trayce Stewart

Green Chalice 2018

Carol Devine

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Out of our call to “do justice” (Micah 6:8), we strive to demonstrate the fullness of God’s shalom through living out our faith by caring for God’s creation. From Hawaii to Ontario to Florida, and everywhere in between, Disciples’ congregations are caring for creation in unique and inspiring ways. Our mission is to connect Christian faith, spiritual practice and creation consciousness in order to demonstrate the fullness of God’s shalom.

Green Chalice is a partner ministry between Disciples Home Missions and Christian Church in Kentucky and is led by two part-time ministers, Rev. Carol Devine and Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri. We give great thanks to Rev. Sotello Long and Rev. Greg Alexander along with the DHM and CCK Boards for their continued support and advocacy for this critical ministry.

The primary focus for Green Chalice in 2018 is to create a model for support and guidance to congregations and ministries going carbon neutral. First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Midway, KY is the first congregation to actively work toward carbon neutrality.

Administrative Work Summary

- Monthly e-newsletter, *Green Chalice News*
- 153 Green Chalice Ministries (Congregations, Camps, Regional Office)
- **9 - Certified Green Chalice Congregations**
 - Green Chalice Regional Teams in KY, OH, IN, and OR/ID, Pacific Southwest Region
 - Green Chalice Covenant - Individuals, creation care teams and congregations continue to sign.
 - Aqua-Marine Certified Chalice Congregation – Pacific Grove Christian Church has the Blue Theology Mission Station and earned the first Aqua-Marine Chalice.
 - Community Gardens –updates to the map with Disciple’s community gardens regularly.
 - Numerous phone calls, emails, meetings and workshops about creation care every month.
 - Website – updates every few months
 - Social Media - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - new posts, almost daily.
 - Numerous Writings including: Disciples Advocate, E-publication articles, Patheos Blog
 - *Eco-Challenge*- Green Chalice is using the North West Institute to help support more participation in climate solutions and action. The 21-day challenge begins Oct. 3.
 - *Climate Data and denominational Leaders*: G.C. is exploring opportunities for DOC financial and property influencers to work with Climate Scientists for adaptation and mitigation behavior. Leadership would include insurance boards, pension funds, church loan officers, new church start ministers, and disaster relief leaders. Preparing a faith/spirituality track of the Climate City Expo offered in April 2019.

Partnerships

- *Eco-Palms* (ethically & sustainably grown and harvested.)
- Carol is Chair of the Creation Care team of the *Kentucky Council of Churches* and helped organize a Day of Prayer and Advocacy on Climate at KY Capitol as part of the Poor People’s Campaign

- Carol is Secretary of the Executive Board of *Creation Justice Ministries* and traveled to DC for the annual Board Meeting in D.C . in May and attended an interfaith reception.
- *State of Appalachia Conference with CJM, IPL, Franciscan Action Network and Creation Care Alliance* (March 2018)
- Scott attended and led a climate and faith panel at *Wild Goose Festival* in Hot Springs, NC
- Scott partnered with *Christmount* for S.O.I.L. (Spiritual Opportunities for Intentional Living Conference), 2017 & 2018, looks at faith through sustainability, justice, service, and climate.
- *Scott presented how to green your church at Elders and Deacons Retreat with Leah Schade Keynoting at Christmount*
- Scott represents Disciples on the *Climate Realities Project* faith leader advisory team.
- *National, Religious, Partners for the Environment.*
- *Interfaith Power and Light* - Carol presented at “Waste Not Want Not: Helping churches go Zero Waste” (April 2018)
- Rev. Devine helped organize and lead a G.C. Regional Meeting in KY and is working with Lex. Theological Seminary to become the first Green Chalice Seminary (Spring 2018)
- Rev. Devine trained Disciples Peace Interns in Climate and Faith, May 2018, DHM meeting of leaders on G.C. and Carbon Neutrality, June 2018
- Green Chalice was at the *National Convocation* Biennial Gathering in Birmingham, AL. G.C. established and strengthened relationships with denominational leaders. (July 2018)
- *Carbon Neutral Pilot congregations*: Congregations are beginning to commit to carbon neutrality. We are still in process of creating the pathway to carbon neutrality with Midway Christian Church leading the way.

Blessed Tomorrow

- Blessed Tomorrow National Climate and Faith Leadership Forum, Auburn Seminary, New York City, Carol and Sotello attended. (May 2018)
- *DOC Focus Groups for clergy and congregational leaders*- The focus groups were conducted in Fall of 2017. Still working to draw together denominational leaders for review. Waiting for email response.
- Continued work to improve communications
- Work to create and distribute Carbon Neutral Guide

General Assembly 2019

- Workshops for adults and youth, Interactive Booth in Assembly Hall.
- Clergy Retreat in Iowa 2019

CCK Regional Assembly 2018

- Green Chalice will have a booth in the Display Hall and Carol is leading a workshop on Carbon Neutrality.

Justice and Advocacy for Families and Children

DHM Board Report 2018 by Rev. Kate Epperly D. Min.

I have been at this “five hour a week” ministry as Coordinator of Justice and Advocacy for Families and Children for approximately 4 years. I continue to be delighted to be able to resource the denomination in which I was born and raised in five primary areas:

1. **Networking with/participating in and sharing with Disciples** about ongoing *family and children related* educational and advocacy resources/actions through the following organizations:
 - Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence (member: Education and Communication Committee)
 - Interfaith Disability Advocacy Collaborative (affiliated with AAPD)
 - Ecumenical Advocacy Days (an annual education and advocacy event in DC)
 - Children’s Defense Fund and Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute
 - The National Council of Churches (Unite to End Racism Initiative)
 - Disciples Immigration and Refugee Ministries
 - The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
 - Disciples Center for Public Witness
 - Global Ministries (Depending upon Global Ministries staff cooperation)
 - Bridge of Hope (congregation based homeless ministry)
 - Sandyhook Promise and Grandmothers Against Gun Violence (I, personally, am a member).

2. **Sharing out to Disciples Family and Children Justice and Advocacy resources and actions by:**
 - Writing *Advocate* articles, writing *Kids to Kids* and other FCM webpage resources
 - Writing a “*Disciples Justice 4 Children*” blog (www.disciplesjustice4children.org),
 - Writing a “*Disciples Justice 4 Children*” Facebook Page shared out to 5+ other Disciples leadership FB pages. (In lieu of a “Constant Contact” option.)
 - Writing occasional *Tweets*

3. **Two ongoing major projects:**
 - *Initiating the launch of an Ecumenical Children’s Advocacy Coalition* through the Children’s Defense Fund (DCF) Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute of child advocacy which recently established a multi-seminary program of academic credit for its annual summer Institute This offers a database for initiating such a coalition. My research shows that a judicatory based database for such a coalition is impossible due to the elimination of staffing designated to family and children’s justice advocacy.
I have also conferred with Sharon Watkins about launching such a coalition through/with the National Council of Churches and its Unite to End Racism initiative. However, it is too early in the life of this initiative for such action.

- *Creating an Online Intergenerational Conversation and Action Resource for Congregations on Gun Safety and Gun Violence Prevention** (the 35 page booklet is currently being formatted for online publication by Olivia Updegrove and should be available soon!)

In addition I have participated in:

- Regular DHM staff meetings (leading opening worship twice) (via Go to Meeting)
- DHM regular Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism (PRAR) Team meetings (via Go to Meeting)
- PRAR Annual Staff Training with CTS Dean Leah Gunning Francis (in person)
- Ecumenical Children’s Faith Formation Conference at UCC in Cleveland (in person)
- UCC/Disciples Global Ministries Partnership Conference at UCC in Cleveland (in person)
- Annual Ministries Across Generations start-up meetings in Indianapolis (in person)

I look forward to new opportunities to form partnerships for justice and advocacy ministry across various Disciples regions through the new DHM LIT relational ministry approach to leadership which Sotello Long and Lonnie Graves are launching.

* Finding no existing” family and child friendly” faith based resource for conversation and action about gun safety and gun violence prevention, I decided to create my own online resource. This project grew exponentially as I recognized God’s call for congregations to not only to respond to but to transform the current gun violence epidemic and our nation’s predominant culture of violence. Meeting this challenge called for my including an innovative theological approach calling faith leaders and families to explore Jesus as a non-violent “Suprahero” (above all other Superheroes). In keeping with this, is the call to take on the challenge of modeling and teaching non-violent communication and conflict resolution, and offering children and youth a wide variety of spiritual warrior/guardian disciplines such as Calmer Choice/breath prayer, Tai Chi, and Kung Fu.

Seeing Jesus as a “superhero” has been around in VBS curricula for some time, but in light of my daily care for my 6 and 8 year-old grandsons, I realized that I had to take it a few steps further by providing resources for faith leaders and families to engage in concrete ways of non-violent, spiritual empowerment in the way of Jesus.

Leadership Initiative Team (LIT)

Lonnie Graves, Ministry Liaison

Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus Christ,

Please receive this report from DHM's Leadership Initiative Team.

Capable, sustainable leaders must have support, direction, training, mentors and appropriate resources to be successful. Leaders in the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) must also be able to understand, articulate and incorporate the principles of the movement as followers of Jesus Christ, that are found in the preamble of the church.

As years, even decades have progressed regions and other entities have struggled to find the leadership tools that will allow them to thrive and grow in their ministries. Recognizing the growing need for this type of support, DHM has been proactive in prayerfully creating a team, dedicated to spreading the news of Jesus Christ offering their ministries, callings and gifts in various ways, on the Leadership Initiative Team (LIT). Because of its unique prayer, faith and follow format; with the intention to follow where God is leading, LIT continues to be an unfolding work in program design, based on the needs of each region or group needing the LIT support.

The goal of the Leadership Initiative Team (LIT) is to provide support, resources and speakers to compliment the training and development of Disciples leaders throughout the recognized organizations of the church: Regions, Districts, Fellowships and/or congregations among other bodies!

The objectives of LIT are to:

- Listen to leaders of recognized ministries
- Listen in community with connected partners for mutual understanding regarding your ministry context
- Listen to God's Spirit in initiating and/or responding to God's activity in your ministry context
- Design resources fit for a specific ministry context
- Share our collective resources for leader development

The opening and current team are:

- R. Wayne Calhoun, Executive for Evangelism & Congregational Transformation
Affiliation: DHM Staff
- Kate Epperly, Coordinator, Justice and Advocacy for Family and Children's Ministries
Affiliation: DHM Staff
- Lonnie Graves, Consultant
Affiliation: Business Owner, Course Design/
Interpersonal Communications
- Randy Kuss, Coordinator, Youth & Young Adult Consulting Services
Affiliation: DHM Staff
- Sotello Long – President DHM
- Warren Lynn, Executive Minister for Christian Vocations
Affiliation: DHM Staff
- Lashaundra McCarty, Consultant
Affiliation: Business Owner, Social Media
Specialist/ Communications

- Terrell McTyer, Minister for New Church Strategies Affiliation: Church Sustainability
- Cathy Nichols, VP and Executive for Mission Personnel Affiliation: Division of Overseas Ministries
- Chesla Nickelson, Program Director, Disciples Women Affiliation: IDWM
- Sheila Spencer, Director Christian Education/Faith Formation Assistant to the President Affiliation: DHM Staff
- Olivia Bryan Updegrove, Minister of Family and Children’s Ministries Affiliation: DHM Staff
- Richard Williams, Men’s Ministry Director Affiliation: Ray of Hope Christian Church

More information on each of the team members, their background and ministries can be found on the DHM website. Lonnie Graves has also been asked to be the Ministry Liaison of DHM’s Leadership Initiative Team through the end of this year. The team has met a number of times this year via conference networking.

The first request for assistance came from the Georgia Region, asking for leadership and facilitation training for their Regional Elders and Board of Directors and other leaders as they were kicking-off their LIFT Initiative. After two plus years of research, the Georgia region finally concluded that their goals are to:

- L. Love everybody
- I. Inspire all generations
- F. Focus on Jesus Christ
- T. Transform Communities

Their five key regional strategies for the Georgia region, as they are moving forward are:

- Evangelism
- Clergy Health
- Congregational Health
- Outreach / Mission
- Social Concerns

Lonnie Graves was able to provide facilitation training via digital media, and was the LIT representative and presenter at their region-wide kick-off event this past summer. Graves was able to present each of the Leadership team, their ministries, contact information etc. within her presentation and to also share DHM/Leadership resources and links that will support Georgia regional ministries in the future.

As the LIT later debriefed the Georgia experience, we discussed ways of offering some of the same resources and support to other regions as we move forward as a team. We now also have a special (generic) Power Point Presentation that reveals what LIT has to offer that can be used “as-is” or modified and added to other types of training.

Stay-tuned as the Leadership Initiative Team “grows” forward, prayerfully, in faith, listing for Gods call.

Faithfully submitted,

**Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries:
Responding with Hope Amid Threats & Challenges**
Sharon Stanley-Rea

Racial and ethnic exclusions, religious discrimination, and efforts to criminalize, prosecute, and put immigrants into prison and detention have surfaced in US immigration policies and laws at various points throughout U.S. history. Yet in recent months, deep and new threats have emerged which further induce fear among refugee & immigrant communities, and threaten our nation's values of welcome. In these times, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, a ministry of Disciples Home Missions, continues to work with churches to offer hope and hospitality.

Recent highlights include:

Highest Refugee Numbers in World, but Lowest Ever U.S. Resettlement Goals

Historically, the U.S. has resettled an average of 85,000 refugees per year—until in 9/17, when the named its lowest goal number of refugees since beginning resettlement in 1980; 45,000. In the end, the U.S. resettled only 22,491 refugees in FY 2018, less than half its goal. In response:

- Disciples RIM, with funding from Week of Compassion, and working with the General Minister & President, led a #Pray4Refugees campaign in Aug. thru Sept. In the campaign, the GMP, Regional Ministers, and Pastors encouraged Congress to resettle at least 75,000 refugees for FY2019. See all 16 videos here: <http://bit.ly/2PuXb8N>, including the amazing story of Disciples Governor Ray of Iowa, who helped welcome 10,000 refugees to the state, inspired by his faith! Sadly, in Sept. the U.S. named a historically low resettlement goal, of only 30,000, for FY2019.
- Disciples led in multiple White House vigils and Congressional visits near World Refugee Day and throughout the summer, and got free publicity with a shoutout by Trevor Noah in October!
- RIM invited Disciples to share stories of refugee welcome on Refugee & Immigrant Welcome Sunday, celebrated this year on June 17, the Sunday nearest World Refugee Day (6/20). See multiple worship and story materials at: <http://bit.ly/2AgLBZC>
- Disciples are continuing to urge Congress to hold the administration accountable to resettle the full goal number of its 30,000 refugees this year! Go to: <http://bit.ly/2HxuDr0> to help!
- Decisions are soon to come regarding cuts to funding for refugee resettlement agencies that could greatly dismantle US refugee resettlement structures. Our responses will be needed!

Immigrant and Asylee Restrictions and Growing Enforcement

In April 2018, the administration unveiled its intent to enact immigration laws in the most extreme way; by “Zero Tolerance” which separated immigrant children from their parents at the border and charged parents with unlawful entry or unlawful re-entry. Despite an EO that claimed to end separations on June 20, hundreds are yet separated, key parts of “zero tolerance” remain, and families are now held in longer term, more restrictive detention. With more enforcement at the border and interior, and restrictions in child/family and asylee protections, Disciples RIM:

- Spoke at multiple national actions in Congress, outside the White House, and at DHS as at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/children-clergy-protest-ice-in-capitol-with-blankets-and-cages/> to share faith values of family unity and compassion, lead prayers: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/families-belong-together/>, and support congregations: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/saguaro-christian-church-holds-daily-prayer-vigil-for-families/>
- Compiled response resources to help connect Disciples with Families Belong Together and other national actions to help separated families here: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/>
- Led together with the GMP and Week of Compassion a letter against family separation that was signed by nearly 3,000 Disciples, at: <http://bit.ly/FamSepDisc>
- Worked with partners like the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Womens Refugee Commission, and Defund Hate to seek to reduce enforcement funding, as at: <http://bit.ly/IICDefundHate>
- Chairs the DC Sanctuary Congregation Cluster to support asylee families, and works to link congregations to help asylee families, through RIM WRAP alerts, such as: <https://conta.cc/2EyCBDt>

Loss of Protections for TPS/DED, DACA, Farmworkers, Refugees & Others

Protections have been systematically removed since our last report for 300,000+ persons with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and 4,000 Liberians with Deferred Enforced Departure (DED). Also previous refugees, stateless persons, Farmworkers, & Dreamers remain at risk and seeking protections. Amid these, RIM continues to work with TPS led partners (such as the National TPS Alliance and Alianza Americas) to support a national solution for these TPS recipient country numbers scheduled to lose status by dates below unless there is a fix: Sudan/1,040 by 11/2/18; Nicaragua/2,550 by 1/5/19; Nepal/8,950 by 6/24/19; Haiti/46,000 by 7/22/19; El Salvador/195,000 by 9/9/19; Honduras/57,000 by 1/5/20. An Oct. 4 court injunction gives reprieve for persons from El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Sudan, as RIM continues to engage in advocacy to support other protections, and a national solution for all groups.

Yakama Christian Mission

Report of Activities

As reported last year the Yakama Christian Mission's top three priorities are: Build denomination wide congregational support for indigenous justice (2017 Repudiation Resolution's Resolved #6). Work denominationally to create a permanent Indigenous position (Resolved #3). Develop and provide educational resources and opportunities to learn and understand the impact of the Doctrine of Discovery in all manifestations of the Church (Resolved #2 & 5). While also having a direct presence on the Yakama Reservation. A few highlights are noted below.

Reservation

Skate Park: This feature is now completed. Today work has expanded to include basketball courts as well. Important to this additional park feature is Tribal programs have lent money and power.

Universities, Colleges, and Congregations: Groups continued to visit the reservation this year. The two most requested areas of conversation were indigenous justice through the lenses of the Doctrine of Discovery and eco-justice.

Wilbur Memorial United Methodist Church: At the core of this year's work were conversations of identity. These conversations were to help build and understanding of how the local church's identity is based in the Doctrine of Discovery and racism. This work is a first step toward imaging how the voice of the local church—due to its unique identity—has a distinctive story for the larger Church.

Other:

Organizing the High School Baccalaureate is a highlight of the year.

Directly related to the local work is the denominational work of anti-racism.

As normal, sad to say, the year within the reservation boundaries has experienced an abnormal (based on off-reservation statistics) number of suicides, death due to diabetes and liver disease, and car accidents. All of which have taken time and energy.

Off Reservation / United States and Canada

Standing Rock: The youth trip to Standing Rock — organized by Bill Spangler-Dunning and Laurie Feille of the Upper Midwest Region — I spoke of last year occurred the first week of June. Organized as a youth conversation on indigenous justice, youth had the occasion to speak with a number of Lakota and Dakota leaders who laid a base from which an ongoing conversation might occur. The success of the event has led to a second trip come June of 2019.

The drive to and from Standing Rock also allowed the opportunity to begin conversations with the Flathead, Blackfeet, Crow, and Northern Cheyenne. Congregationally (thinking of the repudiation resolution), the best opportunities to create

relationship are between the Kalispell congregation and Flathead and the Billings area congregation's and Crow. Additionally, this drive allowed for some travel along the Missouri River—including the headwaters—which impacts the many ancient people of this particular landscape including those of Standing Rock (more thoughts on this below).

Oak Flat: The February trip to the San Carlos Apache reservation and the Oak Flat march included travel to Laguna Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo, Acoma Pueblo, and Gila River Reservation. In each setting conversations were begun. Each having the chance of becoming a location where Disciple congregations might begin a conversation on relationship. On first blush, the best opportunities for relationships may be between the Gila River people and Phoenix congregations and the Laguna people and Albuquerque congregations.

The march was much like in the past. Not an overly large group—some whom have marched since Oak Flat was first opened to potential mining. Being present is beginning to raise a level of recognition which in turn has allowed conversations not previously possible. A few people arrived due to YCM publicity. All of whom do not identify as “Disciple.”

Winter Talk 2018: Experienced a good turnout which included Terri Hord Owens, GMP. Though Chase Iron Eyes, the events keynoter, could not make it due to legal issues arising from the Standing Rock occupation, the event turned out better than hoped. Having the opportunity to spend more time dealing directly with the Doctrine of Discovery (DOD) and its impact on the DOC, the event allowed for a re-energizing of people who have been engaged for years *and* created a commitment to indigenous justice work for many new to the DOD indigenous story.

This event has led to three Winter Talks coming up in 2019. This year's annual Winter Talk is at Tulsa, OK at Phillips Theological Seminary with Rev. Chebon Kernell keynoting. Then the Northwest and Montana Region's will hold their first regional Winter Talks with Sarah Augustine keynoting the Northwest and Julie Cajune keynoting Montana's. Conversations have begun to spread these regional Winter talks in 2020.

Landscape Mending Council: Last year's report spoke about Landscape Mending Council (LMC) becoming council to the *Minister for Indigenous Justice* of YCM, within the DHM structure. It went on to note that while the DHM Board was agreeable to the proposal, Ron Degges and the Board could not finish the foundational work to make that happen before his retirement. As a consequence, LMC began counseling the *Minister for Indigenous Justice* with hopes this would be worked out in the coming year. Good conversations were had between DHM, the *Minister for Indigenous Justice* and LMC during the first two-thirds of this year. However, it became apparent to LMC that formal change was not on the near horizon. Based on that understanding LMC took two actions in this liminal time: One, LMC will continue to council YCM's *Minister for Indigenous Justice* informally. Two, LMC changed its name to the *Center For Indigenous Ministries (DOC)* (CIM). CIM looks forward to a greater and closer

relationship with Yakama Christian Mission and DHM, holding onto the hope that a relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will form and one day lead to recognized indigenous ministry.

In this liminal space I have begun using CIM's people (and expertise) to broaden YCM's impact ecumenically and tribally. One example is YCM and Disciples were represented at the Skä·noñh—Great Law of Peace Center where discussions there about next steps concerning the Doctrine of Discovery were held. Another example is dealing with the YCM/DOC boarding school history. YCM and Disciples will be represented at the first national conference of National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition concerning *The Spirit Survives: A National Movement Toward Healing* thanks to CIM representation. The importance of this event, I believe, is invaluable as Disciples work toward healing the unfathomable divide between Denominational and Tribal. Ecumenical: The one keynoted event this year was the western Methodist Women's event, *MissionU*. The event focused on indigenous justice and the Doctrine of Discovery.

Gatherings: Alongside the gatherings listed above, conversations have begun toward creating "in-the-landscape" indigenous immersion events for young adults and pastors. With that in mind, next June—either going to or returning from the Standing Rock event—I will visit Canadian indigenous landscape's while following Sitting Bulls travel from Canada to Fort Buford to Fort Yates where he was killed. On the reverse route, I will spend more time on the Missouri River (noted above) working toward some understanding of its course and ancient history. The goal is to create a gathering in 2020 or 21 following either the Siting Bull story from Canada to Fort Yates or the Missouri River story from the head waters to Fort Yates.

Additionally, this year has seen some travel in the Bears Ears region. No formal gathering is planned for Bears Ears this or next year, however, the goal is to be prepared to have folk present in the region, when needed, should the current administration work further to dismantle Bears Ears National Monument status.

Respectfully,
David B Bell
Minister for Indigenous Justice

Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Rev. Randy Kuss, Coordinator

- **Consultant Support** – Provided Consultant Travel Support for three YYA Ministries Leadership Events:
 - **Florida – Regional Young Adult Event, January 5–7, 2018** – Lori Tapia keynoting.
 - **Pacific Southwest – UNITE Youth & Young Adult Retreat – February 16–19, 2018** – Sandhya Jha keynoting.
 - **DYMN 18 – Disciples Youth Ministry Network – March 4–6, 2018** at Christmount – Dr. Andrew Root keynoting.
- **Family & Children’s Ministries Collaboration – Ministry Across Generations** – Continued work with the Family & Children’s team including serving on the team working on **Ministry Across Generations**. Next gathering of this team is **November 28–December 1, 2018** in Indianapolis. Submitted two video reflections for use in the **2018 Light a Candle for Children Prayer Vigil**.
- **DYMN** – Worked with Disciples Youth Ministry Network Team on the **DYMN Retreat, March 4–6, 2018 at Christmount**. The event drew 18 youth ministers from ten regions. Dr. Andrew Root from Luther Seminary keynoted the event with a focus on learnings from Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s ministry with young people. There was also an option to stay over to attend the **Progressive Youth Ministry Event** at nearby Montreat Conference Center, offering DOC youth leaders two excellent events with no additional travel costs. (See PYM note). Plans are underway for the **2019 DYMN Retreat**. I continue service on the DYMN planning team.
- **Progressive Youth Ministry Event** – Gathered with 15 Disciples Youth Leaders attending the **2018 Progressive Youth Ministry Event at Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina, March 7–9, 2018** for networking, event updates, and sharing questions and concerns. Worked with PYM planners to share expenses for our keynoter and also to arrange an event discount for DOC registrants.
- **General Youth Council** – Continuing support and work with the GYC in their mission to help plan, implement and evaluate the total youth ministry program for the Christian Church. GYC met in Indianapolis, February 16-19, 2018, and has regular monthly video conference calls. Current work includes working with the General Assembly Youth and Young Adult Team in planning for the 2019 General Assembly, exploring new approaches to increasing the diversity of the Council, and initial steps toward an event in 2020 focused on leadership development and empowering young voices.

- **Young Adult Commission** – Continuing support and work with the Young Adult Commission. YAC met in Indianapolis, February 16-18, 2018 and has regular conference calls. For several years, the YAC has been a rather small team. This past year the YAC expanded the team to nine members to broaden representation and strengthen effectiveness of its work. YAC is represented on and working with the General Assembly Youth and Young Adult Team toward the 2019 General Assembly. Each month from March to December of 2018 a member of the Young Adult Commission is uploading a “passion video” sharing their passion on an issue. These Passion Videos are posted on the Disciples Young Adult Commission Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/disciplesyoungadults/> and will soon be linked on the DHM page as well.
- **Young Adult Service Opportunities** – Collaborated with NBA XPLOR, DHM’s Disciples Volunteering, Christmount, Disciples Peace Fellowship, and Global Ministries on development of a new promotional piece on Young Adult Service Opportunities available through the General Ministries of the Christian Church. This flyer was rolled out at the 2018 constituency gatherings and at regional events.
- **General Assembly 2019** – Serving on the General Assembly Youth and Young Adult Team and coordinating connections with GYC and YAC as all three groups work on plans for youth and young adults at the 2019 General Assembly.
- **Leadership Initiative Team** – Serving on DHM’s Leadership Initiative Team as the group works to identify skills and resources and develop fresh ways DHM can listen and respond as “accompaniment leaders” to expressed needs of regions, districts, fellowships, and congregations.
- **Outdoor Ministries Connections** – Connecting with leaders from regions, curriculum developers, and others on the current status of Outdoor Ministry within the Disciples and partnerships to strengthen them going forward.

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from Disciples Home Missions and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1909

DISCIPLES WOMEN OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

REV. DR. PATRICIA A. DONAHOO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Report to 2019 General Board and General Assembly

Disciples Women's Ministries is a conduit for diverse connections empowering each woman to find her voice and live out her call. Micah 6:8

Disciples Women are serving in ministry in various capacities. Women continue to try new ways of doing ministry and of being Disciples Women groups. Both the Executive Director and Program Director have keynoted, preached, led workshops, led international journeys, marched, served with, and/or gathered in conversation with regional women's groups, justice groups, congregations general ministry partners, general cabinets, interregionals, trainings, Obra Hispana assembly, NAPAD assembly, National Convocation Assembly, regional assemblies and observances, ecumenical colleagues, Christian Theological Seminary, and both have attended training in the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising training offered by Lilly and the Lake Institute. I attended a conference in Kupang, Indonesia in partnership with Global Ministries with churches and partners in the region faced with the challenges of widespread Human Trafficking issues.

We continue in close covenant with Disciples Home Missions and continue in anti-racism/pro-reconciliation efforts and training. We have a healthy partnership with HELM in sharing Lisa Hubbard as a Ministry Associate to provide full-time employment for her while handling both of our support needs.

Our Woman-to-Woman Worldwide (W2WW) program facilitates journeys to visit our global partners each year. In partnership with Global Ministries we prepare delegations for what they will encounter during journeys through study, training, and conversation. Since the last General Assembly, we have led delegations to India and Cuba in partnership and cooperation with Global Ministries and Global Ministries Initiatives. Next year the delegation will be going to Morocco followed by a journey to Southern Asia in 2020 as part of the new global ministry initiative focused there. Among other projects, last year's delegation to India was excited and moved by the work being done to fight trafficking especially for the most vulnerable. The delegation was excited to fund a project that would provide training and support for 7-10 women to begin their own business to provide for their families and keep them safe from the dangers of poverty and trafficking. The \$6,000 goal was reached through the generosity and enthusiasm of Disciples Women in the US and Canada.

In its 10th year of publication, *Just Women Magazine*, the designated resource for Disciples Women has begun to publish the Bible study annually. The theme for 2019 is "The Church: Mission Possible". Due to low subscriptions we discontinued the quarterly publication and are working to find ways to continue to communicate regularly with Disciples women across the continent. We have published our first e-newsletter and share information regularly through our app.

Because of generous donors to the Disciples Women Endowment Fund we offer grants twice a year for new and creative ministries by Disciples Women for the benefit of Disciples Women. This is an opportunity to support innovative ideas that need a bit of seed money to begin or to support those serving in new ways that benefit women's ministries.

Disciples Women continues to use #DWConnect as a means of better understanding the value of shared stories, resources, and concerns. Recognizing the strength of being connected to one another helps to provide for the needs of women throughout the United States and Canada. We will also be providing finger labyrinths to General Assembly attendees to encourage the development of spiritual disciplines and will label each with the woman's name, congregation, and location to celebrate that Disciples women are serving in ministry far and wide.

New members for the Executive Committee began their terms in 2019. This is our first time with a President-Elect and staggered terms for members. We are excited about the help this will be in continuity of leadership.

Chesla Nickelson, program director and merger staff, continues to update and improve the Leader Apprentice Program (LAP) to continue to provide leadership training for women of color. Past graduates are now serving at all levels of the Disciples church. We are currently in the process of developing a similar program that will focus on young women, middle and high school age, to include not only leadership training but also financial responsibility, and body and personal agency. Chesla is also working on new volumes of our Wisdom of Women by interviewing women leaders to capture and share their wisdom.

Disciples Women have been invited to participate in the UN's Commission on the Status of Women in 2019. Both the Executive Director and Program Director as well as the IDWM President will be part of the delegation.

Disciples Women continue to contribute to the whole mission of the church through their ministries and giving. We appreciate the covenant with DHM that continues to share funding from DMF. With our current funding we are unable to do the breadth of ministry we are called to do. We continue to explore ways to improve it. We have established a legacy fund in hopes that we can inspire women to participate in the ministry by remembering Disciples Women in their estate planning as well as provide gifts to an endowment fund to support the ministry into the future. We will be celebrating our 145th 'birthday' in 2019 and are hoping to celebrate it by encouraging Disciples to celebrate by giving monetary gifts to the ministry.

Respectfully,
Patricia A. Donahoo
Executive Director, Disciples Women

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from Disciples Women and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1910

DIVISION OF OVERSEAS MINISTRIES/GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Julia Brown Karimu

President of DOM and Co-Executive of Global Ministries

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The Division of Overseas Ministries has participated in a joint witness in mission with Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ for twenty-two years. This ministry is under the auspices of Global Ministries, which has 291 partners located in 91 countries. The mission of Global Ministries is “to share and receive the good news of Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation and peace”. In addition, Global Ministries continues to appoint mission co-workers in response to specific requests from overseas partner churches and organizations. These appointments are made through the lens of Critical Presence, “that is meeting God’s people and creation at the point of deepest needs; spiritually, physically, emotionally, and economically”. One hundred and five individuals served as mission co-workers in 2018. The number included twenty-seven fully supported mission co-workers, thirty global service workers (long-term volunteers), ten global mission interns, and thirty-eight global associates. The Global Service Worker is the fastest growing category of mission co-worker appointments. Twenty-five individuals also served as short-term volunteers.

This past year found partners in the Middle East and Latin America responding to the needs of the mass movement of people. Partners in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in East Asia and the Pacific responded to the impact of climate change, which has resulted in droughts and floods. Partners in Southern Asia are working to prevent human trafficking. Peace efforts continue in Colombia, the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East. Interfaith relations have become more critical as we are called to address interfaith tensions within the United States and around the world. Many of the critical issues in mission are cross-regional, and area executives are exploring new ways of collaboration to address them. The area reports will give a glimpse into the daily challenges of our brothers and sisters and the ways in which the church is engaged in working to address them.

The Caribbean Initiative was completed December 31, 2018. It included the following countries: Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. The purposes of the initiative were to enable members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ to understand the religious, social and political realities of partners in the region and to provide mutual exchanges. (A more detailed report is found in the Latin America and Caribbean Report.)

The next initiative will be related to Southern Asia and will be launched at the 2019 General Assembly. It will include the following countries: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, East Timor, and Indonesia.

The Division of Overseas Ministries sponsored a People-to-People Pilgrimage for new regional ministers to Ghana and South Africa. This is a discrete program of the Division of Overseas Ministries. It is designed for regional ministers to have the opportunity to visit overseas partner churches and organizations in order to better understand Global Ministries. The following regional ministers participated in this pilgrimage: Nadine Burton, Regional Minister of the Great River Region; LaTaunya Bynum, Regional Minister of Northern California and Nevada; Penny Ross-Corona, Regional Minister Team Leader for the Christian Church of Mid-America; William Rose-Heim, Regional Minister of Greater Kansas City; Jen Garbin, Regional Minister for Canada; and Dale Braxton, Associate Regional Minister of Alabama and Northwest Florida.

College of Mission Interns

Abimael Betancourt, a student at Claremont School of Theology, and Fiyori Kidane, a student at Texas Christian University, served as College of Mission Interns in the Indianapolis office from June to August in 2018. Abimael worked on the Caribbean Initiative and Fiyori worked with the Mission Personnel Office.

Collaborative Efforts

Disciples Home Missions and Disciples Women continue to collaborate with Global Ministries in a variety of programmatic areas. Under the leadership of Sotello Long, the new president of Disciples Home Missions, a new leadership team composed of staff from different ministries has been established to respond to specific requests for resources from congregations and regions. Cathy Nichols, Vice President of the Division of Overseas Ministries, represents the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries on this team. The team is organized to accompany a congregation or region in addressing a specific need.

Disciples Home Missions and the Disciples Women continue to participate in the Global Ministries' regional initiatives. Global Ministries facilitated a Woman-to-Woman Pilgrimage to Cuba in 2018. The Disciples Women are planning a Woman-to-Woman Pilgrimage to southern Asia as part of the next regional initiative and continue to collaborate with Global Ministries related to human trafficking.

The leadership of the National Benevolent Association (NBA) met with the Area Executives and Co-Executives of Global Ministries to explore possible exchanges related to the NBA's Incubate Initiative. This is a new program of the NBA that provides expertise and grants to local non-for-profits and for-profit organizations related to health, social development, and micro-enterprise projects. Representatives from NBA will visit micro-enterprise projects of partners in Southern Asia and Latin America in order to learn about their processes and procedures to determine possibilities for an exchange with similar organizations in the United States and Canada.

The Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries collaborated with the Disciples Peace Fellowship in sponsoring Ricardo (Ricky) Rivera from the United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico to serve as a Peace Intern during the summer of 2018. He spoke in a number of Disciples regional youth camps on topics related to the issues facing the church in Puerto Rico and peace.

Staff Changes

Tom Morse resigned from his position of Executive for Mission Engagement, effective April 23, 2018.

Francesca Klein, Program Associate in the Finance Office, resigned, effective August 24, 2018.

Rune Nielsen began as a temporary worker in the Office of Resource Development April 2, 2018, and became a regular DOM employee on June 4, 2018. She serves as the Database Manager and Administrative Assistant.

Beth Guy, former Program Associate in the Resource Development Office and a former Global Mission Intern became the Director of Communications on August 20, 2018. Bethany has a B.A. degree from Park University in Parkville, MO and an MTS degree from Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas.

David Barickman began as a Program Associate in the office of Resource Development on October 29, 2018. David has a degree from Christian Theological Seminary.

Yashira Flores began her work as Administrative Assistant in the Mission Personnel Office September 18, 2018.

Finance

Lonna Owens, Executive

The Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) revenue for 2018 is estimated to be nearly \$6.5 million. It is too early to know the actual revenue for the year.

Of the total revenue, some is designated giving for special programs, projects, endowment contributions, capital, and new church funding. Approximately 25% is from Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ as part of the funding of our joint work together as Global Ministries. The balance of the revenue comes from Disciples Mission Fund (DMF), investments of DOM, United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS) endowment distributions, Christian Church Foundation (CCF) permanent fund distributions, operating fund gifts and miscellaneous income.

The DOM Endowment assets are invested with the CCF in the Beasley Growth Fund and the Campbell Multi-Strategy Fund. Annually DOM takes a draw, which is 4.5% of the average prior 20-quarter rolling market value of the total investment. This draw is used to support operations and designated spending based on the restriction of the endowment. In 2018, this draw was \$569,812 (*compared to \$656,020 in 2017*).

An independent audit is performed annually of the financial records and accounting systems of DOM. Upon completion of the audit, a complete audit will be provided for the Yearbook and report delivered to the audit committee of the board. The audit committee will address any material internal control weaknesses found during the audit and suggest improvements to internal controls in a management letter to the board.

Resource Development

Jane Sullivan-Davis, Executive
Kelsey Cameron, Program Associate
David Barickman, Program Associate

Global Ministries Special Giving and Ministry with Donors - Introduction

In 2018, the Global Ministries Resource Development Office continued to engage members, various expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Church of Christ, and other individuals and entities with like-minded commitments to

God's global mission, to provide direct and planned gifts for the work of Global Ministries. The priorities for all types of special gifts are the following:

- 1st Priority: Unrestricted Gifts, used where needed most in the work of Global Ministries
- 2nd Priority: Gifts for Mission Co-Worker Support, including intensive efforts on the current experiences in personalized fundraising for mission personnel support
- 3rd Priority: Restricted Gifts for donor-specified partner churches/programs or theme-based designations

Strategic Plan Update

The Global Ministries Resource Development Office participated in several of the Global Ministries Strategic Directions during 2018, including Nurturing Community and Sharing the Story. However, the main focus of the work is on Strategic Direction #4:

Developing Resources -- To recognize God's abundance, and growing opportunities for collaboration and generosity by strengthening existing and exploring new funding mechanisms and sources for God's mission.

In 2018, the Global Ministries Spring Appeal letter was signed by the two Co-Executives and mailed on April 11, 2018, to approximately 29,000 households with a connection to Global Ministries. The 2018 Indianapolis Year-End Appeal, signed by the President of the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries, was mailed October 8, 2018, to approximately 15,000 households of Disciple constituents, individual constituents from denominations other than the UCC, and constituents for whom no denominational affiliation is known.

The Global Ministries staff team worked on four personalized fundraising campaigns for Global Ministries mission co-workers. Larry and Deborah Colvin began their service with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana. Continuing cases included those of Monica and Thomas Liddle, serving with the Protestant Church of East Timor, and Paul Turner, serving with the Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo. Anne Gregory concluded her service as a fully-appointed Global Ministries mission co-worker in mid-2018 and has returned as a long-term volunteer serving with the Church of Christ in Thailand. All of the personalized fundraising cases are on track to meet their goal (Colvin) or have surpassed their fundraising goals (Liddles, Turner).

Special Giving promotion continued in 2018 for the Global Ministries Caribbean Initiative: Embrace the Spirit! The special giving component for the Caribbean Initiative consists of special gifts given for ministries in the seven countries involved in the initiative: Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. As a part of the Caribbean Initiative, special gifts for AMANESER 2025 in Puerto Rico and the House of Hope in Haiti were featured in the 2018 Global Ministries Alternative Christmas campaign. Special giving promotion for the Caribbean Initiative and Alternative Christmas concludes as of Epiphany/Three Kings Day in 2019. Preparations are underway for special giving opportunities related to the new Global Ministries Southern Asia Initiative.

Throughout 2018, the Resource Development team had a special emphasis on planned giving through specific promotions. Promotions included: a monthly emphasis on planned giving, electronic and social media communications about different ways to give planned gifts, one thank you mailing in February 2018 sent to approximately 200 individuals whom Global Ministries has record of being in their estate plans, and a second mailing in March 2018 to 1,400 donors inviting them to consider including Global Ministries in their estate plans. Responses arrived via a response card, phone inquiries, and through the normal donor visit system carried out by staff. The three mechanisms of planned giving were: bequests/estate plans, establishment of endowment/permanent funds, and charitable gift annuities.

Resource Development coordinated with the Mission Personnel, Child and Elder Sponsorship, and area offices in planning and facilitating visits from Global Ministries partner entities in which fundraising for the partner ministry is a component. In April 2018, Resource Development staff helped with the itineration of Ms. Anita Paul of the Family Village Farm in India as she visited individual donors and UCC churches with existing strong connections with the Family Village Farm; and continued with the support of two representatives of the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico at the regional assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia. Additional international partner visits with a fundraising component are planned for 2019.

Africa

Marco Cable, Area Executive

Introduction

On July 18, 2018, Nelson Mandela would have turned 100. Africans across the continent organized celebrations to remember this Ambassador of Peace and African Nationalist. These tributes, events, and memorials commemorating the Centenary of Nelson Mandela have been a call for reflecting, accessing and recommitting to the causes in which Mr. Mandela committed his life. Partner churches and organizations are engaging in the political future of their countries. Responding to the changing political and religious landscape, they are planning for a stronger and more united Africa. It is out of the church's clear call from the Gospel to engage leaders in all spheres of life that has motivated this involvement in shaping their democracies. In fact, the African Church offers a more honest way for churches to engage political leadership without becoming partisan in their engagement. Christianity is rapidly growing on the African continent and this growth is attributed to the church's holistic approach to ministry. The church is providing spiritual and social engagement guidance to its membership and surrounding communities. The continent is filled with optimism with changing national governments, more inclusive churches, and young people, born after colonial rule, moving into leadership roles.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

On May 8, 2018, the Democratic Republic of Congo reported an outbreak of the Ebola virus in the Equator Province in the district of Bikoro. Bikoro sits on the shores of Lake Tumba, about 74 miles from Mbandaka, a city of over one million people and headquarters of the Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo (CDCC). The first two

confirmed cases of Ebola were from Bikoro. The CDCC has 25 churches, 20 schools and 11 health care facilities in the Bikoro District. The CDCC Health Department engaged communities in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) workshops, provided handwashing kits to each church in Mbandaka, along with new protocols for baptism and communion. It is estimated that more than 500,000 were reached through CDCC media campaign. One week after being declared Ebola-free on July 24, 2018, four new cases of the Ebola virus emerged in northeastern Congo. This is the first time that the northeastern area of the country, which is already suffering from unprecedented violence, has been impacted by Ebola. The unrest in the area has made it very difficult for international health workers to contain the virus. According to the World Health Organization, the Ebola outbreak in Congo is the second deadliest in history following the West Africa outbreak that claimed thousands of lives in 2014.

On January 16th, Dr. Francisco Ekofo, a Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo pastor and Dean of Theology at the Protestant University gave a sermon at the Protestant Cathedral for the commemoration of the assassination of Laurent Kabila, father of the current president, Joseph Kabila. In that sermon, he gave what some have described as a mild critique of the current government along with a prophetic message. In his homily, Dr. Ekofo dreamt with the congregation about a nation he would like to leave for his children – a Congo with economic justice, sovereign over its natural resources, where no person was above the law and with a strong infrastructure. After the service, he and his family received threats from the government including a visit to their home by soldiers. The UN assisted the Dr. Ekofo and his family to evacuate the Congo.

Zimbabwe

General Elections in Zimbabwe to determine Mr. Robert Mugabe's successor were held on July 30, 2018. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission declared incumbent Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) candidate, Emmerson Mnangagwe, the president with 50.8% of votes over the Movement for Democratic Change Alliance (MDC) candidate, Nelson Chamisa, 44.3%. ZANU-PF also received the majority in the House of Assembly. Within days of the announcement, there were demonstrations across the country organized by the MDC. The army attacked and open fire on protesters and bystanders, killing six people.

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, on behalf of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, wrote a Pastoral Letter to Zimbabwe and the international community. The letter had a number of requests to the ZANU-PF and MDC leadership. Dr. Mtata requested that ZANU PF, "create avenues for inclusive dialogue and engagement as well as to heed to the complaints raised by the MDC Alliance. The nation needs you to commit to a nation-building dialogue process aimed at uniting the nation and creating an inclusive way forward.... To consider and prioritize a formal constitutional recognition for the leader of the main opposition consistent with practices in other developed democracies." And to the MDC, Dr. Mtata wrote, "we also plead with the MDC Alliance leadership to bear in mind the pressing need to maintain peace and not take actions that may easily deteriorate to chaos. Volatile situations tend to deteriorate and attain a life of their own beyond anyone's control. National peace is a mutually responsible endeavor that requires you to play your part towards its full attainment." The Council continues to engage with the newly elected administration in areas of justice, equality and stability for Zimbabwe.

South Africa

On February 27, South Africa’s Parliament voted to change Section 25 of the constitution, which deals with property, to allow for land expropriation without compensation. The issues related to land are some of the key unresolved issues since apartheid was defeated. It has been a campaign platform for South Africa’s ruling party, African National Congress (ANC), yet little has been done to ensure a peaceful transfer of land to the black majority who are among the poorest in the country. Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, announced in his inaugural State of the Nations Address that the government would accelerate land redistribution. In August, United States President, Donald Trump, tweeted that he was directing Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to investigate South Africa land reform, farm seizures and the killing of white farmers. South Africa’s government immediately responded to Trump’s misguided tweet and accused Trump of inflaming an already high-octane debate over land in South Africa. President Ramaphosa in response and in subsequent interviews, speeches, and statements, has ensured South Africans and the world that land reform will be conducted without an impact on economic growth or food security. The South Africa Council of Churches has been pushing for such land reform since the end of apartheid. In response to the question of the role of the church when it comes to the issue of land reform, Professor Mandi Kukuni and Mr. Kojo Parris answered: “either as an institution with a prophetic mandate, major landowner or fulcrum of the lives of many in our communities, the church cannot escape involvement in the ongoing debates around land reform. Further, since the imposition of apartheid, formal institutions of governance in South Africa has been undergoing a deepening crisis of confidence. Unabated even after 1994, the Church is perhaps the largest and most widely spread structure that retains sufficient authority to provide guidance to the broad masses. Thus, the Church not only has an obligation to address this deeply emotional issue, but it has the access and means - it cannot escape without comment.” The South Africa Council of Churches has pledged to continue to put pressure on the South African government until a just resolution is found.

Mission Personnel

In 2018, Global Ministries had 11 mission co-workers serving in 7 African nations (Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Ghana). They accompany partners in areas of girls’ empowerment, agricultural and community development, education, social justice, theological formation, and hunger programs.

East Asia and the Pacific

Derek Duncan, Executive

2018 was a period of new leadership of the East Asia and Pacific office, with extensive partner visits throughout the region, and numerous opportunities to extend solidarity and accompaniment on behalf of Disciples. The following are highlights in the areas of nurturing partnership and working for peace with justice in the region.

South Korea

One of the most notable developments in the region is the progress toward peace on the Korean Peninsula. The year began with the U.S. and Democratic Peoples’ Republic

of Korea (DPRK) escalating threats to the point of potential nuclear war. Global Ministries joined ecumenical efforts to urge the two countries to engage in a process of dialogue instead of brinksmanship.

In March 2018, Korean Churches produced the statement, “Cultivating Peace, Proclaiming Hope,” which reaffirmed the five principles proclaimed in the ‘88 Declaration, still necessary for resolution of division today: Independence, Peace, Grand National Unity, Humanitarianism and People’s Participation. It called on the international ecumenical community to work with “renewed urgency to prevent another war in the Korean Peninsula, to reduce tensions and promote dialogue, and that establishment of a peace treaty for the Korean Peninsula is a critical and immediate necessity for denuclearization and peaceful coexistence on the Peninsula.”

A breakthrough occurred in early 2018 during the South Korean Olympics, followed up by a summit in April between North and South Korea focused on improving “inter-Korean relations” by increasing high-level dialogues, humanitarian exchanges, and cooperative ventures between the two Koreas, gradually transforming the military/security environment between them into a “peace zone,” and to work with international partners to establish a “permanent and solid peace regime” to replace the Korean War armistice agreement.

US President Donald Trump and DPRK leader Kim Jong-un held a follow-up summit in June 2018 in Singapore, pledging mutual steps toward peace, normalization of relations, and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. While analysts remain wary of the details between the US and North Korea, the commitment to dialogue between North and South Korea seems genuine. Leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ issued a statement following the Singapore Summit called “Peace is a Process”:

The statement says peace “must be pursued” by taking “steps...in good faith toward normalization of relations and, most importantly, steps that can lead to forgiveness, reconciliation, and trust which are necessary for peace to be achieved and sustained.” The denominational leaders continue, “we declare our shared hope that the Singapore Summit may one day achieve its aspirational goal of reconciliation and a just peace in Korea, and affirm together our commitment to making such aspirations for peace a reality.

In the fall, the 103rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), was held on the island of Jeju, south of the Republic of Korea. The gathering was an important opportunity to reflect through narrative testimonies and story-telling the issues that many small nations in the Asia-Pacific area face in order to process the pain and grievances of the past, with an aim to collaborate better in advocacy and efforts toward peace and reunification in the Korean Peninsula.

Pacific

In May 2018, the biennial meeting of the Micronesian Council of the United Church of Christ (MCUCC) brought together the churches of Kosrae, Chuuk, and Pohnpei of the FSM and the JRD (Jarín Rarik Dron) in the Marshall Islands. Following the meeting, the Area Executive visited the church in Pohnpei to deliver baccalaureate and commencement addresses to the Ohwa Theological College undergraduate class.

Rev. Tafue Lusama, former General Secretary of the Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (EKT), or the Congregational Christian Church of Tuvalu, was an international guest at the 2017 Disciples General Assembly. Reciprocating that invitation, in August 2018, Global Ministries leadership attended the General Assembly of the EKT in Funafuti, Tuvalu hosted by Global Service Worker Nikotemo Sopepa. Rev. Lusama, also a Global Ministries International Board member, traveled to Washington, DC after the April board meeting to speak and present on the subject of Climate Migration at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days annual conference.

The Pacific Theological College (PTC) and the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), are running programs addressing the impacts of climate change in the region. The East Asia and Pacific office will continue to look for ways to support the Pacific Conference of Churches and its member churches, especially in their environmental programs throughout the region.

Japan

This year was the 20th anniversary celebration of the Bazaar Café in Kyoto. The Bazaar Café is a café ministry that operates in the Clapboard Inn, a historic property that is being transferred to the Kyoto Conference of the United Church of Christ in Japan. The occasion was also an opportunity to honor the founder of the Bazaar Café, the Rev. Teruko Enomoto, who passed away April 25, 2018. Under the vision and leadership of Rev. Enomoto, the Bazaar Café has developed several ministries of counseling, bible study, and practices of inclusive hospitality to refugees, the LGBT community, and others marginalized or suffering from trauma and in need of community and healing. In addition to her mission appointment teaching at Doshisha University, Global Ministries co-worker Martha Mensendiek supports and volunteers at the Bazaar Café and was close to Rev. Enomoto.

The Fukushima disaster response continues seven years later and emergency relief was provided this year for natural disasters this summer, including record heat waves, intense flooding, and significant storm damage from multiple typhoons. Much of this impact was felt in the southern side of Shikoku and Honshu Islands, from Hiroshima to Kobe and the Kyoto/Osaka areas. The United Church of Christ in Japan has been responding to emergency needs throughout these disasters, with support from One Great Hour of Sharing and Week of Compassion.

Philippines

Bishop Melzar Labuntog was elected new General Secretary of the UCCP at the Assembly, which was held in Cagayan de Oro on the southern Philippines island of Mindanao. The Assembly was held on the first anniversary of the May 2017 attack and burning of Dansalan College in Marawi City, a school of the UCCP that traces its beginning to the early literacy work of Dr. Frank Laubach (1884-1970), a Congregational missionary who developed an interest working with the Moro people of Mindanao and on relations between Muslims and Christians.

The new campus of the Dansalan College Foundation in Iligan City, approximately an hour north of Marawi and west of Cagayan de Oro still employs many of the faculty of the original campus, some of whom were kidnapped during the Marawi attack. It teaches many of the children whose families fled the attack on Marawi and remains

committed to teaching its “peace” curriculum which is based on interfaith understanding and community relations. The school, its Principal Fedelinda Tawagan, and its new facility are all impressive and have ambitious goals to serve the UCCP and the region in the area of interfaith community-building. Global Ministries will continue to support Dansalan College and the UCCP as it discerns the future of this vital institution.

The Philippines was severely impacted in mid-September by Typhoon Ompong, which was the strongest storm to hit the northeast Asia-Pacific region in twenty-five years. Strong winds, followed by flooding and mudslides killed more than 100 and injured and displaced thousands, particularly in the North Luzon Jurisdiction – Cagayan Valley, Ilocos and Cordillera regions. The UCCP has been responding to the numerous emergency needs, with support from One Great Hour of Sharing and Week of Compassion.

Hong Kong

In August Global Ministries staff traveled to Hong Kong to visit partners, including the Hong Kong Christian Council, the Hong Kong Council of the Christian Church in China, the Chung Chi College Divinity School, Hong Kong Christian Service, and the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY). The visit also included the opportunity to worship with and learn about the Kowloon Union Church and the cooperative outreach efforts of the Asia Pacific Migrant Ministry with the numerous refugees and migrant and domestic workers in Hong Kong.

Of special note, long-term mission co-worker Bruce Van Voorhis retired in 2018 after 27 years of service to Global Ministries. Bruce’s last appointment was organizing and conducting human rights workshops for Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF), a joint program of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY) in Hong Kong and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and editing ICF’s monthly e-newsletter faith and peace. Previously he worked with the Asian Human Rights Commission and the Christian Conference of Asia. Global Ministries celebrates and gives thanks for the gifts and service Bruce has dedicated in ministry with our partners to the work of God’s mission in the world.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Angel L. Rivera-Agosto, Area Executive

Introduction: With Faith and Living Hope

At the last Assembly of the Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela (UEPV), this Global Ministries’ partner affirmed its identity within “original Pentecostalism.” “Original Pentecostalism” is the deep expression of a spirituality which anchors its roots in the national ecclesial expressions of Latin American and Caribbean countries and its connection to the processes of affirmation of human rights, social justice, and spirituality of solidarity. In songs and liturgies, and the sharing of daily reflections, the UEPV affirmed its connection with the Venezuelan culture, as well as its particular Pentecostal identity.

As we end this year of witnessing God’s presence in Latin America and the Caribbean, we cannot avoid feeling in our spirit, mind, and will the spiritual strength of solidarity. Our partners continued embracing the Spirit through receiving pilgrimages, sponsoring workshops and projects, sharing resources, and confronting the powers that deny the

fullness of life. The Caribbean Initiative came to a close with resources and experiences that will endure not only in the work of the region, but also globally. The accompaniment of our partners through civil unrest, migration, and emergencies awakened a divine presence, offering an opportunity to hear and share the Good News.

Puerto Rico

Both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S.A. and Canada and the United Church of Christ have accompanied Global Ministries' partners through the humanitarian crisis lived on the island after the passing of Hurricane María in 2017. On November 25, 2017, a delegation of the DOC General Ministries, led by the Reverend Teresa "Terri" Hord-Owens, DOC's General Minister and President, was invited by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico to participate in their Administrative Board Meeting held that month. In that meeting, the Administrative Board expressed gratitude for the solidarity and the accompaniment of its sister churches in the U.S. and Canada. Reverend Julia Brown Karimu, President of the Division of Overseas Ministries and Global Ministries' Co-Executive and the Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean were part of that delegation. In the afternoon of the 25th, both Reverends Brown Karimu and Rivera-Agosto participated in the Joint Commission Meeting of both U.S. and Canada and Puerto Rico churches. There, both leaders presented reports about the work of Global Ministries throughout the world, specifically in Latin America and the Caribbean. Later in that week, a delegation composed by representatives of the Latin America and the Caribbean Office of Global Ministries, Week of Compassion and UCC Disaster Ministries visited projects and partners on the island. They had the opportunity to visit the Ryder Hospital in Humacao, the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico as well as two communities in Bayamón and Naranjito related to the work of Amanecer 2025.

Jamaica

The Reverend Julia Brown Karimu, President of the Overseas Ministries Division and Co-Executive of the Global Ministries with the Global Ministries Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean, visited partners in Jamaica from February 7-12, 2018. During their visit, both leaders of Global Ministries had the opportunity to dialogue with the United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the United Theological College for the Western Isles and the International University of the Caribbean. The context of unemployment, violence and crime has placed the church in the call to strengthen the ministries of local, economic development with emphasis on education and capacity building, as well as attention to the protection and shelter of children and strengthening the family. Reverends Brown Karimu and Rivera Agosto participated in a celebration worship for the 25 years of ministry of the United Church in Hellshire, a congregation located in the capital, and witnessed the appreciation for the ministry of William and Veronica Kyle, former mission co-workers of Global Ministries, who served and contributed to the construction of their house of worship.

Dominican Republic

As part of the Caribbean Initiative, ten members of the Common Global Ministries Board traveled to the Dominican Republic the first week of April 2018. There, they met and visited projects of partners to celebrate relationships and to receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The group had the opportunity to visit Social Services of the

Dominican Churches (SSID), Proyecto Educativo Caminante, the Christian Center of Family Counseling (CECAF), ALFALIT Dominicano and the Evangelical Dominican Church. Particularly with the EDC, the delegation lived the experience of worshipping God in a Caribbean context and knowing what does it mean to be a church in the Dominican Republic. Issues like the rights of stateless people, human trafficking, the right to water and sustainable development were deep in the agenda of the pilgrimage. They had the chance to visit a Dominican-Haitian marginalized community in the outskirts of Santo Domingo, talked and shared with the families in that community. As one of the participants shared in a written report “I felt honored and privileged to have been able to be in the Dominican Republic and take these gifts back home with me. It will be my job as a Global Ministries board member to explain critical presence and mutuality to my congregation and friends. This amazing trip has given me a renewed purpose of taking the strategic direction of Global Ministries to heart and spread this message within my community.”

El Salvador:

Both Emmanuel Baptist Church (EBC) and the Salvadorian Lutheran Synod (SLS) are engaged in exciting work toward a culture of peace. Their projects address the root causes of violence, injustice, and migration. SLS focuses on trauma healing, ecumenical and inter-religious networking, communications, health and wellness, elementary and middle school projects, and the work with “*maras*” or youth gangs. EBC prioritizes youth cultural projects, Christian Education, local grants for students, youth efforts in peace mediation and sustainable development. There are also prophetic issues that our friends are working on in El Salvador. The right to clean water is addressed by the Salvadorian Ecumenical Movement (composed by mainline Protestant churches along with the Roman Catholic Church and religious institutions such as the Central American University), to address the Salvadorian Legislative Assembly’s proposed bill that would privatize access to clean water.

Nicaragua

Nicaragua is living difficult times. The Nicaraguan Evangelical Council (CEPAD, acronym in Spanish) and the Interchurch Center for Theological and Social Studies (CIEETS, acronym in Spanish), reported incidents of violence caused by protests against several structural reforms and policies that the government of Nicaragua has tried to put into effect in recent times - the most remarkable being the one regarding the Social Security Law. This generated a great number of protests across the country, especially from the university students. These protests led to people being killed—students, one policeman, one journalist, innocent bystanders, and other protesters. Global Ministries approved support to our partners through One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC) and Week of Compassion (Disciples) providing funds for medical needs, food, and other supplies to people affected by the present situation in Nicaragua. Global Ministries has provided accompaniment with the presence of mission co-worker, Jeanette Salley, and global service worker, Ignacio Salinas.

Guatemala

On Sunday, June 3, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. local time in Guatemala, *Volcán del Fuego* erupted, the most violent eruption of the last 40 years. It impacted the central

and southern regions of the country: Sacatepéquez, Escuintla, Chimaltenango, and Guatemala City. The volcano exploded and launched pyroclastic flows (a mixture of sand, rocks, and gases of high temperatures +600 degrees) that directly hit the communities surrounding the volcano. In the most remote areas, the effects included rain, sand, and ash, which interrupted air traffic in the afternoon and evening of Sunday, damaging roofs as well as crops. The Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala (ECCG), one of Global Ministries' partners in Guatemala along with CONAVIGUA, have been actively assisting communities near the volcano, particularly in the province of Esquintla where the Catholic Diocese of that town is also working. ECCG is working through the post-emergence stage of the crisis by collaborating in the rehabilitation of communities, ensuring food, security and psychosocial assistance to the victims, specifically the ones that still live in shelters provided by the Diocese. Global Ministries has provided an effective accompaniment through the presence of our partners, our mission co-worker Ricardo Mayol, and funds for projects provided by UCC's Disaster Ministries and Disciples' Week of Compassion.

U.S. Mexico Border

The recent Central America Caravan posed a challenge to the people on both sides of the border and raised the issues of the rights of immigrants and the root causes of migration, not only in Central America but also in other parts of the world. People are fleeing from countries like Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala because of internal violence, poverty, and climate change. Faith communities continue to show the religious significance of unity and love in the face of increased barriers for asylum seekers and unaccompanied children, which impede our moral and legal obligations to offer protection to vulnerable populations. Both DOC and UCC churches have been active, participating in the accompaniment of the caravan, leading workshops and visits to the border and signing advocacy documents affirming the rights and the humanity of migrants. Global Ministries visited the Brownsville/Matamoros Border from October 9-11, 2018. Reverend David Vargas, Global Ministries' President Emeritus and the Latin America and Caribbean Area Executive led a delegation of DOC General Ministries staff, including the Reverend Teresa "Terri" Hord-Owens, General Minister and President, to express solidarity with Global Ministries partner Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries (SWGSM). Feliberto Pereira, SWGSM's Executive Director and Founder, gave us a full report of the conditions and challenges of refugees and asylum seekers on that part of the border. He also took us to the places where the migrants arrived, seeking asylum as well as to shelters where they receive food and medical assistance.

Colombia

Reverends John C. Dorhauer and Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens, General Ministers and Presidents of the United Church of Christ in the U.S. and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada, and the two Global Ministries' Co-Executives, Reverends Julia Brown Karimu and James Moos, signed a letter sent to the Peace Discussion Table, composed by the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army-ELN, to resume peace talks as they have been taking place in Quito, Ecuador. They expressed their grave concern for the challenges facing the peace talks at events such as the attack on the police station in Barranquilla (Soledad – Atlántico), the bombing of an indigenous reservation in Chocó province and the recent wave of

assassinations of social leaders could erode trust in the possibility of a sustainable and lasting peace accord among both parties and the people of Colombia. In light of President Juan Manuel Santos' decision to suspend the fifth round of negotiations at that moment, the church leaders encouraged both sides to return to the negotiations and continue with the agreed upon agenda, to declare a bilateral ceasefire agreement, that could be verified and bring peace to the Colombian people and to show political will from each side to facilitate the continuation of the negotiations. Similarly, they invited the guarantor and accompanier nations to maintain their support for the peace talks as a means to achieving peace in Colombia.

Global Ministries participated in a sign-on campaign for churches and faith-based organizations in response to a death threat against the Christian Centre for Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Action (JUSTAPAZ). JUSTAPAZ learned of a communiqué in which an illegal armed group, self-identified as “*Águilas Negras*” (Black Eagles), threatened to kill a group of social leaders, human rights defenders, organizers, and journalists. JUSTAPAZ was included in the list. Responding to these threats and as part of the international community, the two Global Ministries' Co-Executives and the Area Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean expressed their solidarity, support, and accompaniment of JUSTAPAZ in the face of this threat. They and the rest of the signatories of the document rejected all forms of violence that could affect the staff of JUSTAPAZ and the communities that they accompany in different regions of Colombia. They also demanded that the government of Colombia act with celerity and efficacy in investigating and judging those responsible for the death threats against JUSTAPAZ. Additionally, they demanded the provision of appropriate protective measures for the staff of JUSTAPAZ and the communities they accompany, with the goal of guaranteeing the continuity of the human rights and peacebuilding efforts they accompany, as a faith-based organization in Colombia.

Cuba

On March 9, 2018, Reverends John C. Dorhauer and Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens, General Ministers and Presidents of the United Church of Christ in the U.S. and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada, accompanied other heads of communion signing a letter addressed to the U.S. Congress regarding the reestablishment of the U.S. Embassy in Cuba and to continue strengthening relations between both countries. The heads of communion expressed their great concern about recent U.S. decisions regarding our Embassy in Havana, the suspension of visas and the State Department travel advisory. As a consequence of mysterious and unexplained health issues reported by some U.S. personnel serving at the U.S. Embassy in Cuba, the U.S. Department of State ordered the departure of all nonessential U.S. diplomats from the embassy in Havana, Cuba. This has resulted in a suspension of virtually all consular services at the embassy. Cuban citizens wanting to visit family in the United States for emergencies, connect with church partners, or to attend faith-based meetings or assemblies are unable to do so. As a matter of fact, the suspension of visa processing within Cuba requires any Cuban citizen wishing to apply for a visa to do so at a U.S. Embassy outside of Cuba. The increasing costs and complications of the application process—which requires rescheduling interviews, obtaining visas for third countries, international travel, and paying to stay there for at least two weeks—have

caused much anguish among our Cuban partners on the island and their families abroad. That decision has affected new economic possibilities in Cuba, where Cubans have opened privately owned bed-and-breakfasts and restaurants, as well as other small businesses. With the downturn in U.S. travel, these private businesses have suffered a severe loss of customers and income. Many of them have been forced to close. The leaders urged the U.S. Congress to press the administration for the re-staffing of the embassy in Havana, the reinstatement of consular services at the embassy, and the removal of the travel advisory for U.S. citizens to travel to the island.

The Caribbean Initiative (CI)

During this past year and a half, Global Ministries has been engaged in the promotion and execution of the Caribbean Initiative (CI). Through the initiative, we invited the whole church to witness together with the Caribbean region through education, advocacy, and support of our partner churches and organizations in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Colombia. Church leaders, congregations, regions, and conferences experienced the incredible gifts and the strong *testimonios* (testimonies) from our partners as they receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. A variety of resources have been shared including Bible studies, music, liturgical materials, unique giving opportunities, People-to-People Pilgrimages, videos, children’s resources, and more. In addition, discussions related to the universal challenges contained in this initiative, like the quest for peace and sustainable development in the face of climate change has been addressed through the materials and the pilgrimages across the Caribbean.

More than 30 different written, audio, and video materials as well as recorded webinars were published on our website and are still there for future reference, study, and use. That includes Bibles studies, background documents for witness and advocacy, thematic presentations by partners, liturgical materials for special occasions and worship. You can access the materials through our website. One of the most important materials in the initiative has to do with the children. By inviting children to “Embrace the Fruits of the Spirit,” the initiative developed a Vacation Bible School curriculum designed to help children discover the fruits of the spirit and how to apply them in their daily lives while exploring the Caribbean.

To grasp the experience of the Caribbean Initiative, it has been crucial to fully recognize the inspiring work of our partners in the region. One of the examples we can quote regarding the witness of a partner is through the challenges of the ongoing peace process in Colombia. Through meeting our partners, leaders from our churches have reflected upon the contrasts between what they read in the news and the *testimonies* from the people who put their own commitment and bodies on the line for the cause of peace and justice. The same can be reported from the church delegations that traveled to countries like the Dominican Republic and Cuba to be present in the lives of the brothers and sisters with whom we collaborate in a spirit of international solidarity. However, a most profound journey that we can describe from the experiences of those pilgrimages during this past year is that of inner transformation to embrace mission from a different perspective.

Another way in which the Caribbean Initiative connected people in mission was through giving opportunities. By this key element in mission, churches, conferences, and congregations connected with our partners in the Caribbean. Partners like House of Hope in Haiti and AMANESER 2025 in Puerto Rico could develop their ministries regarding the defense of children’s human rights and solar-powered communities, respectively, thanks to donations from DOC and UCC congregations. Leaders from the Evangelical Dominican Church and JUSTAPAZ in Colombia could participate in mission-in-residence experiences in the U.S., sharing their experiences with local congregations and networks.

When we embrace peace, when we embrace justice, when we embrace hope, we do what our partners in the Caribbean have been doing throughout the history of all of their ministries: putting their own bodies, their own circumstances and realities into their commitment for the Gospel and the sharing of the Good News. How can we put our own bodies at stake, if we are about to talk about commitment, ministry, mission, the sake of justice, peace, hope and the fullness of life? May this initiative, as the ones that came before this one: the Congo and the Middle East Initiatives and the upcoming Southern Asia Initiative, continue inviting the church to go deeper into our vision that all people and creation share in God’s abundant life.

Middle East and Europe Peter Makari, Area Executive

The theme for the 2019 General Assembly, “Abide in Me,” comes from Jesus’ reminder that, as Christians, we cannot live full lives without faith. Jesus said, “Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:4-5). The relationship Jesus describes is one of ultimate mutuality: each depends on the other to bear fruit. In mission, and specifically in the Middle East and Europe, the many relationships we nurture are based on a similar mutuality, which Global Ministries describes as “walking in hope with others in God’s mission.” In 2018, throughout the Middle East and Europe, Global Ministries walks with, our partners to nurture a deeper community, to pursue peace with justice, and to further God’s mission in the world.

In 2018 in the Middle East and Europe, Global Ministries sought to nurture community—to accompany partners in witnessing to God’s abundant grace through the proclamation of the Gospel, and exchanges of people, gifts and talents—in a variety of ways. With an intensification of unhelpful US policies toward the Middle East, it was perhaps especially necessary to ensure that we engage our partners in ways that were mutually edifying.

Through regular communication and engagement with partners throughout the Middle East and Europe during the year, and in visits to the region to visit particular partners in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine, Greece, and Morocco, the realities of the continuing displacement of people on a massive scale, the impact of US policy decisions related to Israel/Palestine, and socio-political and economic realities in each context inform and affect the abilities and priorities of our partners, and our participation with them in their ministries and witness—yet our long-term accompaniment which remains steady and steadfast.

Syria

In many countries, the eight-year Syria war continues to impact daily life—for those who have been displaced and those to whom they have fled. Several partners in Syria, the Middle East, and Europe are actively engaged in addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of the half of the Syrian population who have been forcibly uprooted. Global Ministries, with the generous contributions of Disciples and UCC members, contributes to that response, which is personal, humane, and continuous. Even as the fighting has ebbed and the world’s attention seems to have moved on, the fact that so many millions remain as refugees and internally displaced requires the persistent care and response from the global community.

Egypt

Eight years after the beginning of the so-called “Arab Spring” and the Egyptian revolution that captured the imagination of people everywhere, the country has passed through significant political change, and the economy is struggling. The population has reached 100 million, all living on a narrow strip of land along the Nile River. Our partners there, the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) and the Coptic Orthodox Bishopric for Public, Ecumenical, and Social Services (BLESS) are deeply engaged in local community development to address the needs of the poorest of the poor. Additionally, CEOSS has initiated interreligious and intercultural dialogue to improve relations in the country and between the people of Egypt and others. From June 24-29, 2018, CEOSS brought a seven-person delegation from Egypt to encounter interested institutions and partners in the United States as part of an Egyptian-US Dialogue Initiative, with the support of Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ. In an intense week of meetings, public fora, and advocacy in Chicago and Washington, DC, the delegation strove to provide a more complete and human perspective on the realities of life in Egypt today, and to explore ways that the relationships between Egypt and the US could be strengthened—governmentally as well as through public diplomacy, civil society, and religious institutions. The dialogue initiative is part of an ongoing emphasis that began in October 2014, and will be followed by a reciprocal visit in Egypt in February 2019, and a further encounter in 2020.

Israel-Palestine

In 2018, US policy directions toward Israel/Palestine resulted in an exaggeration of support for Israel at the expense of rights and justice for Palestinians, including the less than 2% of the population that is Christian. These shifts included the fallout of the decision to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, defunding the UN Relief and Works Agency which is responsible for large-scale programs for Palestinian refugees, and efforts to curtail speech that supports Palestinian rights. Global Ministries walked in solidarity with Palestinian partners through visits and through advocacy in 2018, participating in a conference of the YWCA of Palestine called “Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Freedom and Justice” in October, supporting United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 which urges “UN organizations and civil society to consider ways to increase meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in building a sustainable future that promotes justice, respect, and security. The prolonged military occupation of Palestine and the consistent violations of rights, targeted mostly against young women and men, have created a desperate and hopeless state for

youth.” We also participated in the annual olive harvest, a program of solidarity organized by the Joint Advocacy Initiative of the YWCA and YMCAs in Palestine. Further, Global Ministries was represented at the 9th annual conference of Kairos Palestine, a seminal document-turned-movement offering an authentic and important voice of Palestinian Christians. Further, Global Ministries signed two major ecumenical statements and letters, on the occasion of 70 years since the founding of the State of Israel and the Palestinian *Nakba* (“catastrophe”), and on the dangerous shifts in US policy toward Israel/Palestine named above, by supporting peace, justice, and equality. This, in addition to continuous advocacy efforts throughout the year to urge peace and resolution to conflict in the region, including Syria and Yemen, with a more just US policy.

Europe

Global Ministries continues to pay close attention to the ways that our partners provide bold and humane voices and responses to the refugee presence, often dubbed a crisis. In Italy with the Waldensian Church’s Mediterranean Hope, in Greece through the Evangelical Church’s Perichoresis, and with the Reformed Church in Hungary, our partners are offering a vision and actions that boldly reject the anti-immigrant sentiment—and even policies—of their societies and governments. By appointing mission co-workers to serve with these church partners, and by supporting their witness, Global Ministries and our partners live out God’s radical love by confronting powers that deny the fullness of life and the integrity of creation. In addition, Global Ministries affirmed a formal relationship with the Church of Scotland, a communion with which we have worked positively over the years. Such an affirmation reflects our core value to build interdependence and unity among all of God’s children.

Through partner relations, advocacy for peace with justice, the appointment of mission co-workers, financial support for programs, participation in interfaith relations, and by sharing the stories of our partners and the people they serve, Global Ministries’ engagement in the Middle East and Europe reflects a commitment to Christ’s love and God’s mission, and a belief that, in order to share with partners to work for God’s justice, peace and reconciliation. Neither we nor our partners can do it alone. We are intertwined with our partners as vines and branches, bearing a fruit that is not always easy to recognize, but fruit indeed—the fruit of shared participation in God’s mission.

Southern Asia

Deenabandhu Manchala, Area Executive

Populist politics fueled by religious supremacist versions of nationhood in India, a fragile democratic formation in an atmosphere of terrorism in Pakistan, subversion of constitutional norms and democratic institutions in Sri Lanka, unprecedented floods in Kerala, India and the earthquake in Palu in Indonesia that saw thousands dead, and the continued displacement and dehumanization of many marginalized sections for economic growth and unrestrained industrialization, are the backdrop of the context in which Global Ministries partners in southern Asia region find themselves as they strive for justice, peace and dignity for all.

East Timor

As a follow up to a survey and evaluation of IPTL-GM partnership in Lisadila, a vocational training school in horticulture has started from November 2018. It will become fully operational in about six months and will benefit many families, especially as it addresses the employment needs of those who have no access to higher education in this remote part of the country. Capacity building of IPTL Pastors continues as Rev. Tom Liddle, a GM mission co-worker facilitates training in partnership with the leadership of the IPTL.

Indonesia

Global Ministries provides agricultural training farm for farmers and pastors in organic farming and herbicides, and staff development of the Theological School in Lewa (STT, Lewa) in Sumba, Indonesia. Global Ministries also supports GMIT's (Protestant Church in West Timor) the House of Hope, Kupang, Indonesia which has recently been opened to be a shelter for women rescued from traffickers in the Nusa Tenggara region of Indonesia. Additionally, there is an active collaboration with other partner organizations agencies such as the UnitingWorld of the Uniting Church in Australia and civil society organizations working on issues of human trafficking and religious freedom.

Sri Lanka

The Church of American Ceylon Mission continues to receive special attention. It has had its biennial assembly at which a new constitution, covenanting themselves to be a congregational church, was adopted. Global Ministries continues to help resolve divisions within, and the consistent accompaniment seems to be resulting in positive developments. Global Ministries' facilitated events in 2017 and 2018 have resulted in some concrete planning for mission engagement in the Wannu region of Sri Lanka and for its life and ministries during the next four years (2018-2022).

Partnerships for God's Justice in solidarity with the victims of human trafficking:

Asia, especially Southern Asia, is perhaps the largest cluster of countries where the socially and economically disempowered people are constantly deprived of their livelihoods, displaced, forced to migrate and thus fall prey to traffickers. This reality has presented itself as an opportunity for Global Ministries in its ongoing exploration for new meanings and expressions of partnership. Through a call to be in solidarity with victims of human trafficking, Global Ministries in collaboration with the Protestant Church in West Timor, Indonesia (GMIT) convened a gathering of church workers, activists, and theologians to reflect on the meaning of partnership for God's justice. About 53 people from 11 countries met for five days in Kupang, Indonesia. The gathering provided an opportunity for those present to learn from one another's expertise and experience, develop new partnerships, and to resolve on mutual accompaniment. It affirmed the need for partnerships for justice in contexts where forces of evil and death seem to collaborate to abuse and dehumanize the vulnerable people. The conference participants attempted to reimagine partnership beyond resource sharing and bilateralism, particularly when faced with common challenges, such as human trafficking and forced migration beyond other things. They asserted that partnership in mission is inclusive of all who are committed to the values of justice, peace, and human dignity, and hence is and has to be multi-directional. The conference participants resolved to work together vigorously through the new partnerships that were facilitated during their time together in Kupang. A full-length report is available on the Global Ministries website.

Forum for Freedom of Religion or Belief:

Many religious minority communities in Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka are facing new and complex threats on account of the increasing nexus between political powers and religious fundamentalist forces. This forum will give visibility and strengthen advocacy efforts of the civil society organizations and faith communities in their respective countries as well as in the region. It was formally launched in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2018. Global Ministries has played a key role in the formation of this forum for rights and justice to the marginalized communities in South Asia.

Celebrating Diversity: Global Ministries' Southern Asia Area Focus, 2019-20

Global Ministries invites its constituencies to focus their efforts on learning and solidarity with communities and churches in a specific region for a two-year long process. In 2013-14, the Democratic Republic of Congo was the focus, 2015-16 the Middle East, and 2017-18 the Caribbean. 2019-20 will be an occasion for learning, being challenged and enriched by different expressions of Christian witness in certain distinct and diverse contexts of Southern Asia. It will be an opportunity for learning and interaction in order to be challenged and enriched by different expressions of Christian witness in select contexts of Southern Asia. It will explore and attempt new expressions of partnerships, with an emphasis on facilitating and nurturing partnerships for justice to the marginalized people. The four foci will be: 1. Struggles for an affirmation of human dignity in response to human trafficking, slavery, and forced migration. 2. Freedom of religion as a human right in the emerging context of aggressive assertions of majoritarian religio-political ideologies. 3. Churches as open, just and inclusive communities amidst cultures of discrimination and exclusion. 4. Agriculture as counter-culture to industrial and consumer cultures that destroy earth's resources and commodify people and relationships.

Mission Personnel

Catherine Nichols, Executive

Lorna Hernandez, Coordinator, People-to-People Program

Mission Personnel

As a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries participates in ministries which attempt to break the divide among God's people by partnering with churches and church-related organizations in the sending and receiving of missionaries. The exchange of people and their gifts unites people across geographical, racial, gender, and economic barriers. A critical component of this ministry includes the presence of missionaries in congregations, allowing congregations to share the vital ministries of the partner churches and our people to people pilgrimages, which offer individuals and congregations opportunities to cross boundaries and share the love of God as they receive the love of God from those they encounter.

Through the Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, mission co-workers are participating in ministries of critical presence around the world. They are engaged in a variety of ministries including theological education, leadership development, community and development work, human rights, health ministries, children's ministries, and pastoral ministries.

A total of 105 mission co-workers served in 43 countries in 2018, serving in the following categories: 27 fully-supported mission co-workers; 30 global service workers (long-term volunteers); 10 global mission interns; and 38 global associates. The distribution of fully-supported mission co-workers by area: Africa, 7; East Asia and the Pacific, 4; Middle East and Europe, 5; Latin America and the Caribbean, 6; and Southern Asia, 5. In addition, 20 individuals served as short-term volunteers.

Seventeen persons were appointed to church and/or church-related institutions around the world, including ten re-appointees. Terms varied from fully-supported to Global Service Workers. This distribution by area of total appointments was Africa 6; East Asia and the Pacific 1; Europe 2; Latin America and the Caribbean 3; Middle East 3; Southern Asia 1.

Eight new fully-supported Mission Co-workers were appointed or re-appointed in 2018: Kahala Cannon, Swaziland; Larry and Debbie Colvin, Ghana; Fritz-Gerald Joseph and Emmanuela Loccident, Morocco; Fiona Kendall, Italy; Jeffrey Mensendiek, Japan; Michelle McKay, Haiti; and, Mark Knowles and Danielle Murry-Knowles, Lesotho.

One new global mission intern was appointed through Week of Compassion funds in 2018: Danielle Lee, Korea. Six new Global Service Workers (one year or longer) were appointed during 2018: Maria Breckenridge, Zambia; Ros Gnat, Germany; Benjamin Drolet, Lebanon; Anne Gregory, Thailand; A. Violeta Rocha, El Salvador; and, Ignacio Salinas, Nicaragua.

There were 20 short-term volunteers (two weeks to eleven months) appointed in 2018 who served in or will serve in 2019. List of names and term dates are available upon request.

The overseas associate category is a recognition normally given to members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ who are serving outside of the United States and Canada with a church, ecumenical institution or project that involves a ministry that is in accordance with the mission principles of the Common Global Ministries Board. There was one new associate appointment in 2018: Ainsley Anderson, Japan.

Seven individuals completed their service with Global Ministries in the category of fully-supported appointees: Mark Behle, Lesotho, retiring after 34 years of service; Amelia Casillas, Paraguay; Anil and Teresa Henry, India; Loren McGrail, Israel-Palestine; Susan Valiquette, South Africa, after 20 years of service; and, Bruce Van Voorhis, Hong Kong, retiring after 28 years of service.

Five Global Mission Interns completed their service in 2018: Joanines Adorno-Diaz, India; Mary Kathryn Ball, Ecuador; Stewart Barker, Swaziland; Joshua Busick, Dominican Republican; and, Toni Reynolds, Dominican Republic.

Twelve individuals completed their service as Global Service Worker in 2018: Pedro Carlo-Muñiz, Paraguay; Scott Couper, South Africa, after 20 years of service; Eleazar Fernandez, Philippines; Jerri Handy, Mexico; Nancy Lott-Henry, India; Linda James, Democratic Republic of Congo; Susan “Andy” Jepson and Lindley Kinerk, Sri Lanka; Lauren Robinson, Philippines; Magyolene Rodriguez, Nicaragua; Bethany Waggoner, Lebanon; and, Allison Trezona, United Kingdom.

Missionary Relationships

From January 1 – December 31, 2018, 24 missionaries were involved in a ministry of critical presence through missionary visits and relationship building:

Amelia Casillas (1 month) Paraguay; Anne Gregory (3 months) Thailand; Bruce Van Voorhis, (4 months) Hong Kong; Jeffrey Mensendiek (1 Month) Japan; Scott Couper (1 month) South Africa; Susan Valiquette-Couper (4 Months) South Africa; Kearstin Bailey (1 months) Hungary/ Greece; Lindley Kinerk and Susan Jepson (2 months); Jerri Handy, Mexico (2 months), Mark Behle (4 months) Lesotho; Loren McGrail, Israel/Palestine (4 months); Mary Kathryn Ball (1 month) Ecuador; Joshua Busick (1 month) Dominican Republic; Stewart Barker (1 month) Swaziland; Lauren Robinson (1 month) Philippines; Allison Trezona (1 month) United Kingdom; Magdolyne Rodriguez (1 month) Nicaragua; Joye and Bob Ray (2 days); Toni Reynolds (1 month) Dominican Republic; Mary and Gary Olney-Lord (2 days); Joani Adorno, India (2 months); Tom Liddle, Timor, (2 months), Monica Liddle, Timor, (2 months); Larry and Debbie Colvin, Ghana, (2 months).

People-to-People Pilgrimages

The People-to-People Pilgrimage Program continues to assist Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ congregations, regions, conferences, and other related organizations with mission pilgrimages to meet our international partners face-to-face. In 2018, the People-to-People office assisted with inquiries, provided educational materials and supported delegations, resulting in 67 mission pilgrimages. The numbers of pilgrimages per area were 3 to Africa, 4 to the Middle East and Europe, 3 to Southern Asia, 2 to East Asia and the Pacific, and 55 to Latin America and the Caribbean. The countries visited were Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Israel/Palestine, Jamaica, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Philippines, South Africa, and South Korea. The Guides for Leaders, Participants, and Advocacy are still available to delegations in an effort to prepare them before, during, and after their international pilgrimage. The Caribbean Initiative offered and experienced an increase of pilgrimages to this region, which was a focus this year on the webpage, designed to offer information on costs, itineraries, and partner information.

Global Advocacy and Education Rebekah Choate, Program Associate

The Global Advocacy and Education program provides leadership in implementing the Global Ministries strategic direction "Working for Peace with Justice." The advocacy program coordinates with the area offices in relation to regional justice issues that are of concern to our global partners and the communities they serve, and responses are guided by the actions and position of our partners. Opportunities to take action in response to regional or global advocacy concerns include awareness-raising in Global Ministries updates, on the website, and using social media; through supportive letters, statements and solidarity actions by denominational leaders; engaging Disciples members in ecumenical advocacy campaigns and initiatives; and by resourcing board and General Assembly actions.

A cornerstone advocacy event Global Ministries sponsors is the annual conference Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice. The 2018 Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference, held April 20-23, was titled "A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees, and Displaced People". The 2019 Ecumenical Advocacy Days, entitled "Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the World," will be held April 5-8, 2019. As the Main Representative accredited to the United Nations, the associate participated

in a WCC symposium on the role of religion and faith-based organizations in international affairs with a theme of, “Perspectives on Migration: Displacement and Marginalization, Inclusion and Justice. Global Ministries was also represented in the first Disciples Public Presence meeting of grassroots activists in September 2018 in order to network and resource local church leaders and activists with global advocacy tools.

With the Africa office, Global Ministries works with partners to support peaceful and democratic elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Elections were supposed to be held in November 2016, they then were postponed to December 2017, and have now been scheduled for December 2018. US Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, has been calling for elections to take place and for a peaceful transfer of power, which is a good thing. Global Ministries will continue to work with partners to support democracy, peace, and human rights in the Congo and in the surrounding region.

With the East Asia and the Pacific office, Global Ministries provides support for implementing the 2015 Disciples resolution “A Call for Peace, Justice, and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula.” In 2018, attention focused on the steps towards calming tensions, particularly the summit between President Trump and Kim Jong-un. The associate was also a delegate to the NCKK’s 2018 Peace Treaty Campaign in Japan and South Korea. Peace and human rights in the Philippines is a priority for Global Ministries’ advocacy and has been focused on indigenous peoples’ rights and the extra-judicial killings under the Duterte government’s war on drugs.

With the Latin America and the Caribbean office, the focus of advocacy for the Caribbean initiative is on relations with Cuba, the peace accords in Colombia, the status of Puerto Rico, the economic situation in Venezuela, climate change and the hurricanes that ravaged the Caribbean in 2017, and the situation of migrants and refugees. In particular, advocacy backgrounders were produced on issues talked about during the webinars.

With the Middle East and Europe office, advocacy focuses on peace, human rights, and demilitarization throughout the region. Many of the action alerts come as part of the implementation of the resolution passed at the 2017 General Assembly, “A Call for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to Advocate for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation.”

With the Southern Asia office, human trafficking continues to be a large focus of partners in the region along with advocating for the rights of marginalized groups and more resources will be produced for the Southern Asia Initiative launching in 2019.

Mission Engagement

Marcy Gansler, Executive

Beth Guy, Director of Communications

Brandi Midgett-Crosby, Communications Associate

Caribbean Initiative

The Caribbean Initiative continued in 2018 after being launched at the 2017 General Assembly in Indianapolis, IN. In 2018, five webinars were held with Caribbean partners on subjects such as migration/ human-trafficking, peace, economic justice, and sustainable development. There were approximately 150 live views of webinars and several more who later watched the webinar recordings. Videos sharing Caribbean

partners' perspectives on mission were also created as a way to hear and learn directly from Caribbean partners. A new children's curriculum, Embrace the Fruits of the Spirit, was promoted as a free VBS and/or Sunday School curriculum. The curriculum was downloaded approximately 270 times and reviews from churches who used the curriculum have been overwhelmingly positive. A seven-day devotional/Bible study written by the Reverend Dr. Oral Thomas, Acting President of the United Theological College of the West Indies, was added as a resource as well.

World Communion Sunday

Global Ministries was pleased to add six new communion stories to the list of World Communion Sunday resources this year. These resources come from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Indonesia, Mexico, and Cuba. In 2018 alone, the World Communion Sunday page on the Global Ministries website received over 9,000 unique page views. Resources for World Communion Sunday continue to be in high demand and developing new materials is a priority for Global Ministries.

Social Media

The Office of Mission Engagement has started the process of strengthening the social media presence of Global Ministries, beginning with the launch of the Global Ministries Instagram page. Through Instagram, Global Ministries is sharing information about programs and projects. There are also "humans of Global Ministries" posts sharing personal stories from leaders of partner organizations, and "where in the world" posts highlighting beautiful images from locations around the world. While still in the early stages of gaining an Instagram audience, Global Ministries already has approximately 170 followers and has about 11 interactions per post on average.

Also, in strengthening the social media strategy, the Mission Engagement Office has started utilizing the social media scheduling software, Hootsuite. This has helped to streamline social media posting and has provided statistical data to ensure that Global Ministries can communicate with the constituency via social media most effectively.

Global Mission Church

The Office of Mission Engagement worked on streamlining the process to become a Global Mission Church. This new process asks congregations to meet five criteria each year to keep or gain the Global Mission Church designation. Through the new process, churches are asked to Pray, Receive, Give, Learn, and Advocate – with specific activities listed for each action. Global Ministries will begin heavily promoting this new, simplified version of the Global Mission Church process in 2019. It is the hope that more churches will begin the Global Mission Church process as it will be easier to implement.

Child and Elder Sponsorship Program

Linda Lawrence, Program Manager

The Global Ministries Child and Elder Sponsorship program works collaboratively with fifteen of Global Ministries' partners. Individuals, local Disciples and UCC churches and organizations commit to providing financial aid to children and elders from Global Ministries partners participating in the program. Partner sites vary in the number of children and elders they serve and the services that are provided.

In 2019 the program will include its third elder care program. In many countries, individuals do not have social security or retirement benefits. The program will be partnering with the Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture's Ajjal "Generations" Senior Care Program in Bethlehem, Palestine. A site visit was made in 2018 by the Middle East area executive and the sponsorship program manager. The word "Ajjal" means generations and is the first program in Bethlehem to provide support to residents over age 60. The program includes spiritual and cultural programs, basic health services, computer classes, a book club, drama group, and choir. Currently, the Ajjal program is providing services to approximately 100 seniors.

In 2018, we invited the sponsorship coordinator of the Family Village Farm to visit the United States. Mrs. Anita Grace Paul spent a month visiting congregations that have supported children at the Family Village Farm as well as students attending King's Matriculation School. Currently, all eligible residents for the sponsorship program are sponsored and more than 100 students of King's Matriculation School have been able to pay tuition and receive daily hot meals during the school year through sponsorship.

Mrs. Paul's visit proved to be very helpful. She was positively received by all the local churches she visited. In 2019, Ms. Betty Murillo, Director of Dumaguete Kalauman Center for Development (Kalauman) in the Philippines will also participate in the Mission Co-worker in Residence Program. She will visit and share stories with local Disciples and UCC churches that support Kalauman children. Depending on the schedule of her visit she may be present at the General Assembly and General Synod.

Kalauman provides holistic services and programs for children, adults, and the Dumaguete community. The program was operated on the campus of Silliman University for more than 30 years but was displaced by a university expansion plan. Beginning in 2017 to the present, Global Ministries sponsorship donors and others have contributed to a new building costing approximately \$130,000.00.

The Child and Elder Sponsorship Program continues to have a Critical Presence in many areas of the world because of ongoing needs and the support of sponsors. Through this program, children are allowed to be children and elders are provided assistance to live out their lives in dignity and love in their own tradition, faith, and community.

Rambo Committee

Landa Simmons, President
 Rambo Committee, Inc,
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The Rambo Committee's main priority is assisting in building the capacity of the Christian Hospital in Mungeli to respond to the critical medical needs of the community. During the last 15 years, the hospital has achieved tremendous expansion and growth in terms of infrastructures, equipment and resources. The hospital has experienced challenges in the recent past in terms of leadership, but is now under the capable leadership of Dr. Raj Singh.

Disciples Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc.

John Park Winkler, Jr, President
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The Disciples Amateur Radio Fellowship (DARF) has provided Radio and communications equipment for overseas mission work since Jim Sugioka convened the organizational meeting at the International Convention in St. Louis in 1958.

In 2015, the installation of a fourth generation of HF communications equipment was completed in The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), consisting of 26 solar powered HF Stations. The DARF is reviewing a request from the Disciples community for an additional ten stations.

Over the years, DARF has provided equipment for mission work in Paraguay, the Philippines, Lesotho, DRC, and Guatemala.

DARF continues regular daily and weekly communications among its membership using networks on the 20 and 75-meter amateur radio bands and using Skype. It also occasionally publishes "The Mission-Aire," reporting on its work and activities.

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Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1911

HIGHER EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Submitted by
Bernard “Chris” Dorsey, President
January 2, 2019

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries works with wider church and higher education partners to develop and nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society and world.

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries continues to promote Disciples higher education institutions and provide cutting edge leadership development programming throughout the church. This is accomplished most effectively by working closely with Disciples colleges, universities, theological institutions, congregations, regions, and general ministries of the church.

Colleges and Universities

HELM has continued to work closely with the leadership of Disciples Colleges and Universities to strengthen the relationship between Disciples schools and the church. Here are a few highlights:

- Over the past two years, nearly all of the Disciples colleges and universities have experienced dramatic increases in undergraduate applications. Several schools have also seen significant increases in enrollment.
- HELM has held info sessions at churches, regional assemblies, and racial ethnic constituency gatherings, to share information with high school students and with their parents.
- HELM staff has promoted other Disciples ministry programs for young adults by working with Disciples chaplains and campus ministers. This has led to Disciples college students participating in the NBA XPLOR program, DOM Global Mission Intern Program, and DHM Disciples Peach Fellows.
- During 2018, HELM worked closely with Tougaloo College to bring the school into full covenantal affiliation with the church. The final step in the process will be a vote by the Administrative Committee at the February 2019 meeting.

Theological Education

- HELM hosted the Council of Theological education in April and featured presentations on student enrollment data across ATS north American schools and Disciples schools in particular. The leaders of the schools committed to

engaging in intentional conversations around increasing enrollment of Disciples students at Disciples theological education institutions.

- A number of our Disciples theological institutions is experiencing a transition of leadership. Gary Peluso Verdend stepped down from his role as president of Phillips Theological Seminary to return to teaching and to lead up other initiatives at the seminary, Matt Bolton ended his tenure as president of Christian Theological Seminary, and Mark Miller McLemore retired from his position as Dean of the Disciples Divinity House of Vanderbilt Divinity School.
- Lexington Theological Seminary received a \$1,000,000 thriving in ministry grant from the Lilly Fund and will continue the cutting edge work they are doing in helping build mentoring relationships between experienced clergy and emerging clergy.

Leadership Programs

- HELM's Leadership Fellows program welcomed 8 new students into the program and held the annual Leadership Fellows program for 28 new and returning fellows in New York City. Union Theological Seminary hosted the retreat and President Serene Jones was a featured plenary speaker.
- The third year Leadership Fellows who are focusing on the theme of global awareness, were able to participate in a delegation to Morocco, thanks to support from Global Ministries
- Four fellows became the first group of students to graduate having been through all four years of the new format of the program.
- Next year's leadership fellows retreat will take place in California and the global awareness international trip will be to Colombia, where students will learn about how our partners have been involved with the peace process there.
- Along with the Office of the General Minister and President, HELM convened a group of leaders to discuss the role of the seminarians conference in the life of the church. Plans are underway to develop and new strategy for how to nurture and form emerging clergy leaders.

Grants and Scholarships

- HELM distributed over \$100,000 in scholarships and grants to over 45 undergraduate and graduate students.

With respect to its stated priorities of financial equilibrium, program and staff efficiency, engagement with higher education, and board development and participation; HELM reports the following highlights:

Financial Equilibrium

In the past four years, HELM has continued to plan for and experience balanced budgets. These surpluses are enabling HELM to pay down loan debts that were

incurred during the financial crises of 2008/2009. HELM’s financial equilibrium continues to enable a shifting of more funding to program activities and increasing support for participants in HELM’s programs. This Disciples Education and Leadership Fund, which has been started with the investment of a \$126,000 bequest into a fund with the Christian Church Foundation, continues to grow. HELM is also on target to reduce its effective draw from investments by one half of a percentage point in the coming year.

Board Development and Participation

HELM’s board of directors has been strong throughout the years. In 2017, the board voted to reduce the size of the board from 16 to 12 at large members. The board also voted to change the ex officio campus ministry position to a board elected position. At the end of 2018, three longtime board members ended their terms of service, having completed the maximum allowed number of terms. HELM is thankful for the faithful service of Bill Bailey, Yvonne Gilmore, and Beau Underwood. HELM elected three new board members, along with new officers. The new board members are Joan-Bell Haynes, Colton Lott, and Michelle Scott-Huffman. The new officers are Lonora Graves – Chair; Santiago Pinon – Vice Chair; and Pamela Sparks – Secretary. The Spring 2019 board meeting will be held in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas area.

The board continues to be deeply engaged and involved in supporting and leading HELM.

Conclusion

HELM continues to discern how best to meet the needs of the church, with respect to the established mission of its ministry.

With gratefulness to God and enthusiasm for continued commitment to ministry, HELM hereby submits this report to the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Yours in Christ,
Bernard “Chris” Dorsey

Recommended Action

The General Board receives the report from Higher Education and Leadership Ministries and forwards it to the General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1912

NATIONAL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (NBA) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

www.nbaca.org

Mark D. Anderson, President and CEO

January 2019

Our Mission

Following God's call, the National Benevolent Association exists to inspire and connect the people and ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to accompany one another in the creation of communities of compassion and care, and to advocate for the well-being of humanity.

Our Core Values

Serving as the Disciples health and social service general ministry for more than 130 years, NBA's mission has been, and continues to be, responsive to the needs of the church and society. Over this long history, we have had the joy—and the challenge—of supporting the church across a rich array of issues. As the NBA, we are grounded in core values that focus our work:

- **Rooted in Compassionate Care:** We celebrate those who have served before us in creating a just world. The NBA's mission and work emerged from the faithful witness of six Disciples women seeking to address the needs of children and families in need. We value this legacy of serving the "least of these" and endeavor to root all our initiatives in the value and dignity of human life and in serving a world that God so loves.
- **Accountability:** We claim our duty to be effective stewards of the resources entrusted to us. We are fiscally responsible and acknowledge our accountability to our partners and the communities we serve. We treat others with respect and strive to conduct our work in the spirit of transparency and openness. Where there is brokenness, we strive for reconciliation.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** We believe that meaningful results to build compassionate and caring communities happen only when we can work in partnership with God and a wide diversity of others – individuals, communities, churches and organizations. We affirm that by working with partners, as well as those we serve, and by practicing humble leadership, we have what we need to make a difference.
- **Accompaniment:** We value the creative voice and mind of all people as we seek to heed God's call, especially in developing solutions through creative and innovative efforts designed to address personal challenges and systemic oppression. As we assume a posture of openness, we find in each other's company the "bread" that will sustain us all. As we share life's joys and struggles, at times picking up one another's load and going the hard way together, we create communities of compassion and care.
- **Forward Learning:** We commit to learning and adapting as we move into the future. We understand that during times of change and new directions, the path forward often involves uncertainty and challenges. Through our shared efforts of advocacy, education, pastoral response, and professional care and services, we move towards the health and well-being of all.

NBA Mission and Ministry Grant Program

2018 was the second year of NBA's Mission and Ministry Grant Program, supporting Disciples congregations and health and social service ministries working with older adults and at-risk

children and youth across the life of the church. Utilizing approved, purpose-restricted funds in these two areas, grants are available for Disciples congregations and health and social service ministries across three categories/amounts:

- Catalyst Grants: \$1,000 - \$5,000: *These are startup funds to get projects up and running and/or to expand an existing project to a new area/initiative.*
- Innovation Grants: \$6,000 - \$15,000: *These funds should help move an established project to a new level of effectiveness and impact.*
- Impact Grants: \$20,000+: *These funds should be used for major leaps in project areas with a proven plan for how these will move the organization to a new level of sustainability and impact.*

The Grant Committee accepted applications during the summer/fall 2018, and grantees were announced in December 2018. For this second cohort, the NBA granted a total of \$157,900 to 20 Disciples projects located across 13 Disciples regions. Of these 20 selected projects, nine are focused on at-risk children and youth; six are focused on older adults; and five are intergenerational, serving both communities. Eight of these grantees also received Mission and Ministry Grant funds from NBA last year. Stories and impact reports from these grantees will be shared throughout the year.

Our Ministries and Partners

Serving as the church's health and social services general ministry, the NBA partners with congregations, regions, general ministries, and a variety of Disciples-related health and social service providers. Our shared work advances care for and with others in our communities and raises awareness of needs that are often overlooked and forgotten—needs such as affordable housing; spiritual care for the incarcerated and returning citizens; children and family services; programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities; care and advocacy for older adults; hunger and food security; mental health and wellness; and other needs as they emerge.

Today's ministries of the NBA are grounded in our historic mission of "caring for the least of these." Our missional vision is to inspire and invite people of faith into this shared work and ministry responding to God's call to be compassionate listeners, organizers, and advocates. Together, we create communities of compassion and care.

NBA Incubate Initiative

The NBA Incubate Initiative strives to encourage and support the development of new and innovative health and social service ministries and organizations by Disciples. These ministries, in turn, inform and inspire fellow Disciples throughout our communities and across the life of the church. Together, we expand the church's understanding of and capacity for health and social service ministry as part of Christ's work in the world. The goal of this initiative is to support and empower new Disciple-related health and social service organizations, projects, and ministries—what we're also calling social enterprises—to focus on their growth, strengthen their impact, and work toward sustainability.

As of January 2019, nine ministries are formally affiliated with the NBA as part of the NBA Incubate Initiative. We help these entities strategically strengthen areas such as board development, capacity building, administrative mentoring, marketing and communications, fundraising and development, bookkeeping services, sustainability, Disciples relationships, and more. Two of NBA's first Incubate Partners, Reach Beyond Mission and Tulsa's Table, have concluded their formal Incubate affiliation with NBA, while two new Incubate Partners are

beginning: Garden of Eden Health Center, operating in Jayuya, PR, and New Communion, in Winston-Salem, NC.

In March 2018, the NBA hosted its fourth Incubate Retreat for emerging Disciples-related health and social service ministry leaders to create intentional space for rest, renewal, and equipping for the ministry of social entrepreneurship. In September 2018, the NBA again hosted the SENT Seminar: Equipping Social Entrepreneurs for Leadership and Change. This training brought together 21 Disciples-related health and social service ministry start-ups to learn and share in a variety of topics, including leadership coaching, legal principles for faith-based entities, marketing, and fundraising.

The NBA Incubate Initiative also continued our Social Enterprise Resource Bank, an online clearinghouse featuring blogs, webinars, and other resources to help support Disciples social entrepreneurs and ministries across the life of the church. Virtual learning opportunities include an expanded webinar series, with topics in 2018 including fundraising, community transformation, mission/vision/values, board development, and succession planning.

NBA XPLOR

In 2018-19, we are now in our fifth year of NBA XPLOR, a 10-month, faith-based residency for young adults who are exploring the intersections of the life of faith and the work of justice. The Residency provides 10-months of leadership development and vocational discernment for 21- to 30-year-olds to live simply in community and engage in direct service and justice work. In 2018-19, NBA XPLOR placed 19 Residents at six host sites—St. Louis, MO; Hiram-Mantua, OH; Tucson-Marana, AZ; Spokane, WA; Dallas, TX; and Charlotte, NC—the latter serving as a new, second-year Residency experience called XPLORmore.

The cohort begins with an intensive week of orientation and anti-oppression training, called XPLOR Laboratory, held in St. Louis in late August before the XPLOR Residents travel to their host communities. There, NBA XPLOR Residents serve six hours a week with their host congregations and about 30 hours a week through community engagement site internships spanning a variety of health, social services, and social justice ministries and organizations.

NBA XPLOR Residents are currently working with low-income families, unhoused individuals, people with disabilities, older adults, vulnerable children, and undocumented persons, among others. They are learning grant writing, event planning, community advocacy, and much, much more. These professional and leadership skills make a huge impact. Through their dedicated work, spiritual practices, and exploration this year, these young adults are now discerning calls to social work, education, community organizing, medicine, military, ministry, and more.

In February 2018, we hosted an NBA XPLOR Reunion, gathering with 25 Alumni Residents and three Spiritual Companions who had completed XPLOR in the past three program years. The weekend reunion included worship; free time for fellowship and renewal; conversation and resources around personal and professional development and leadership opportunities across the life of the church; and a visual story-building exercise allowing XPLOR Alumni to continue processing the impact of the XPLOR experience on their lives. We are grateful to the Theodore and Beulah Beasley Foundation for the grant funding that made this event possible, and we look forward to reuniting with future cohorts of XPLOR Alumni in the coming years.

Advocacy and Activism

We also continue to deepen our engagement in Advocacy and Activism to transform the root causes of social injustice. In NBA’s strategic planning for 2018-2021, we named Advocacy and Activism as a strategic priority, flowing from NBA’s mission to “advocate for the well-being of humanity.” Following the trajectory of the work begun with the Ferguson Justice Initiative, these efforts utilize relationships, wisdom, and processes built and tested through that work.

Through a 0.5 FTE Program Coordinator for Advocacy and Activism, the NBA nurtures engagement strategies to equip and train partners to address the critical social justice issues most relevant to their work, and collaborates with NBA staff to cultivate partnerships across the life of the church to coordinate efforts related to social justice theology, action, and advocacy. In 2018, this position focused on three initiatives:

AR/PR Mid-America Project:

The pilot project explores what a new decentralized model for Disciples justice infrastructure could look like in a region. The work grows out of NBA’s early investment in local clergy in St. Louis during the Ferguson movement. The merger of the St. Louis Racial Justice Group and AR/PR Justice Ministry of Mid-America has happened, adding a 2.0 Community Organizing Training to the traditional 1.0 Basic Anti-Racism Training. In 2015, the NBA hosted the first Racial Justice Summit in Mid-America. In 2018, Mid-America hired a conference organizer and assumed the continuation and ownership of that conference in the region. Approximately 60 people, including all three Regional ministers, were in attendance as the group mapped initial justice action plans and work in the region.

Advocacy and Activism Peer Group:

This new peer group aims to bring together a new generation of activists and advocates to share, learn, and grow in their ministries and relationships. The group launched in August 2018 and will end in August 2020, meeting virtually and in-person with a particular focus on social justice issues; language and the theological foundations of social justice; and direct action and advocacy efforts.

Disciples Public Presence Working Group:

The Standing Rock Protests and other social justice crises led to the creation of Disciples Public Presence, a Facebook group and advocacy platform to give Disciples a common place to share their life in current justice movements. In October 2018, the first Disciples Public Presence Conference and Working Group were formed, gathering more than 60 Disciples and 25 working group members committed to strengthening the justice infrastructure by implementing priorities in worship/theology, communications, mass mobilization and sustained organizing. The NBA, along with several other justice-related ministries, provided staff time and programmatic support to ensure the forward momentum of the movement.

Prison and Jail Ministries

The NBA connects collaborative communities of Disciples working together on particular health and social service justice issues. Through Prison and Jail Ministries, the NBA supports Disciples engaged in spiritual care and advocacy ministries with those who are or have been incarcerated and their families. This area of work centers around education, inspiration, and advocacy. The Prison and Jail Ministries webinar series continued in 2018, with topics including immigration detention, how to start a prison congregation, restorative justice, and moving beyond the labels to the humanization of God’s children. Webinar topics planned for 2019 include bail reform,

voting rights, immigration detention of children and families, and a spotlight on The Marshall Project.

Prison and Jail Ministries Peer Group:

The first cohort of this peer group concluded its time together in April 2018, after meeting and serving together for two years. They focused on public narrative—how to share their stories and clearly convey the significant impact of ministries through the context of prisons and jails. NBA Prison and Jail Ministries helped participants workshop and prepare their narratives, and then recorded and produced videos with each ministry.

In August 2018, NBA launched the second cohort of the Prison and Jail Ministries Peer Group, welcoming 10 members to this two-year peer group experience, which focuses on: 1) education through peer-to-peer learning and sharing experiences, expertise, and resources on prison- and jail-related issues; 2) inspiration through spiritual renewal practices and self-care; and 3) advocacy by engaging in a collaborative service or advocacy project. This cohort will give some particular attention to the issues of immigration and detention.

Mental Health Initiative

The NBA takes seriously its call to create communities of compassion and care through dialogue and action centered on issues related to mental health. With hopes to support the prioritization of mental health and wellness in the life of the church, the Mental Health Initiative aims to establish the necessary awareness and understanding required to counter stigma and change the landscape of conversation regarding mental illness and disorders within the church. The Mental Health Initiative's five main vision areas are to cultivate welcome by countering stigma; provide resources and educational support; collaborate and connect with Disciples congregations, health and social services ministries, and other mental health and wellness providers; encourage the sustainability and innovation of mental health ministries in congregations, regions, and the general church; and support clergy mental health and wellness.

This shared work supporting mental health extended to regional ministry through the Regional Mental Health Initiative with the Christian Church in Georgia (GAMHI), providing education, support, and infrastructure development to Disciples leaders and congregations in the Georgia Region. This pilot partnership concluded in 2018, with the Georgia Region and NBA reporting on the impact of this shared work in January 2019. The GAMHI will continue beyond this pilot partnership, with a full slate of regional programming in 2019 and beyond.

The NBA Mental Health Initiative continued to be present at a variety of church-wide gatherings, learning opportunities, and self-care retreats in 2018, including with Week of Compassion, Pension Fund, Obra Hispana Asamblea, National Convocation Biennial Session, NAPAD Convocation, Hope Partnership's Leadership Academy, the Rocky Mountain and Capital Area Regional Assemblies, the Women in Ministry Conference, Hispanic Ministries Young Adult Leadership and Development Conference, and more.

The Mental Health Initiative webinar series also continued in 2018, with topics including immigration trauma, how to start a mental health ministry with your congregation, and clergy mental health and wellness. Webinar topics planned for 2019 include grief and loss, suicide post-vention, and children and trauma. In 2018, the Mental Health Initiative also focused its efforts to support ministries in becoming adept at identifying and addressing issues related to mental health and congregational life, through a Liturgical/Theological Resources Task Team and a Mental Health Justice Task Team. The Resources Task Team produced a video for Mental

Health Awareness Sunday in May 2018 and released a series of Advent reflections and worship resources in December 2018.

Chaplains Peer Group:

The Mental Health Initiative is making the final preparations for a new Chaplains Peer Group to launch in early 2019. The vision of this peer group is to provide an opportunity for likeminded individuals living out their call through chaplaincy to focus on: 1) education through peer-to-peer learning and sharing experiences, expertise, and resources on chaplaincy related issues; 2) inspiration through spiritual renewal practices and self-care; and 3) advocacy by engaging in a collaborative service or advocacy project. Influenced by the needs of the cohort, this peer group will also give particular attention to the issues of mental health, personal spiritual devotion practices, and healthy work/life balance formation.

Disciples-Related Health and Social Service Ministries

The NBA continues to support and partner with a network of care providers and justice-minded individuals who serve as the “hands and feet of God” in their communities. Our goals are to connect, resource, and amplify these ministries, providing access to a constellation of support and services, such as marketing and development consulting, executive coaching, back-office accounting, and executive searches, as well as networking with other partners through webinars, educational trainings, and peer learning and wellness group opportunities.

The Connect Conference for Disciples-related Health and Social Service Ministries was held in October 2018. This conference offered educational, connectional, inspirational, and advocacy opportunities to support direct service providers in “Making connections in the 21st Century.” We welcomed 20 attendees from 14 partner ministries and organizations. Highlights included a session on “Common Sense Technology Solutions for Non-Profits,” and a dinner gathering at the home of the NBA President and CEO Mark Anderson. Ideas for ongoing connection with this group include regional and issue-based affinity groups and quarterly online Wisdom Garden conversations.

Executive Leaders / Marketing and Development Peer Groups:

The first cohorts for the Executive Leaders Peer Group and Marketing and Development Peer Group cohorts concluded their time together in summer 2018. The vision of these peer groups is to provide an opportunity to cultivate support and encouragement, mutual dialogue, spiritual renewal, and peer-to-peer learning. There has been time for rest, joyful shared conversation, and group learning with others who truly understand the challenges and gifts of health and social service ministry and faith-based nonprofits in the current environment. The second cohort of the Executive Leaders Peer Group will launch in early 2019.

A directory of Disciples-related health and social service ministries connected with NBA follows this report. For more information about all NBA ministries, and for stories, upcoming events, and worship and study resources, please visit www.nbacares.org.

DISCIPLES-RELATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE MINISTRIES

A Small Hand

Ann McBroom, Executive Director
Edinburg Christian Church
210 Center Street, PO Box 117, Edinburg, Virginia 22824-0117
(540) 933-6313

www.helpingshenandoahcountyinfantsinneed.blogspot.com

A Small Hand provides age-appropriate food, diapers, and hygiene essentials to infants in need from newborns to 36 months in the Shenandoah County of Virginia. The focus of our ministry is to serve as a specialist pantry providing care to the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community. All of our clients are enrolled in government supplemental feeding programs (SNAP/Food Stamps or WIC). As these programs were never designed to provide a full month of nutrition, families and infants often do not have enough for non-food essentials such as diapers, feeding bottles, pacifiers, and hygiene essentials. These are the gaps that A Small Hand fills. As an all-volunteer agency, the vision and goals of A Small Hand are that children can reach their full developmental potential.

Chain Reaction Ministries

David Finklea, Executive Director
Memorial Drive Christian Church: 11750 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024
First Christian Church: 3700 N. Walker Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118
(713) 789-0060

www.chainreactionbikes.org

Chain Reaction Ministries provides freedom of transportation to those in need through a ministry of bicycle recycling. Started at Memorial Drive Christian Church in Houston, Texas, CRM recycles bicycles by linking donors with identified needs in the community. CRM had humble beginnings in 2009 by answering a call by Westside Homeless Partnership for used bikes for kids in their program. People have an emotional attachment to their bicycles. It was their first bike, or their kid's first bike – and they don't simply want to set it on the curb, or donate it to a large, faceless charity. They want to know that their bike can provide the same freedom and hope to a person in need that they experienced.

Child Saving Institute

Peg Harriott, President and CEO
4545 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68132
(402) 553-6000

www.childsaving.org

Child Saving Institute provides a safe haven and healing for thousands of innocent young victims of family crisis, neglect and abuse. We offer the vital services necessary to make at-risk children safe and fractured families whole through programs such as early childhood education, foster care, adoption, an emergency shelter, parenting classes and therapy. Our mission is "responding to the cry of a child," but it is our vision that guides us as we work to give the children we serve safe, happy childhoods. Our vision is that all children have homes where hope is kindled and dreams can be achieved. This is our work, and they are ALL our children.

Christian Care Communities

Mary Lynn Spaulding, President/CEO
12710 Townepark Way, Suite 1000, Louisville, Kentucky 40243
(800) 662-1738

www.christiancarecommunities.org

Christian Care Communities is the oldest provider of older adult care related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We are Kentucky's largest faith-based provider of housing, long-term care, adult day centers, and community based services for older adults. We serve approximately 3,000 individuals and their families throughout Kentucky. We actively work with churches helping them with older adult ministries.

Christian Church Homes (CCH)

Don Stump, President and CEO
 303 Hegenberger Road, Suite 201, Oakland, California 94621
 (510) 632-6712
www.cchnc.org

At Christian Church Homes (CCH) we build and manage affordable housing communities where seniors can live and thrive in the comfort of their own homes, because we believe doing so is better for communities as a whole and the seniors we serve. Having served more than 100,000 seniors over 50 years, CCH has now grown to 57 caring communities that are More Than a Home to residents in seven states.

Christian Services for Children in Alabama

Gerri Johnson, Board Chair
 1792 Highway 14 East, Selma, Alabama 36702
 (334) 875-0608

Christian Services for Children in Alabama strives to be an organization that has a positive, recognizable, long-term impact on ALL children and youth in our care by providing professional, cost-effective, and timely services. CSCA is a pioneer for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Alabama/Northwest Florida in promoting ministries that nurture, restore, and reclaim those children who have experienced various types of abuse and neglect. We provide opportunities for families and individuals (who wish) to share their love, time, and resources to nurture vulnerable children and youth toward independence and enriched lives.

Cleveland Christian Home

Charles Tuttle, CEO
 1400 West 25th Street, 2nd Floor, Cleveland, Ohio 44113
 (216) 671-0977
www.cchome.org

Cleveland Christian Home exists to be a haven of hope and healing for children, youth and families struggling with mental illness, abuse and neglect. Cleveland Christian Home will be a center of excellence providing the highest quality services to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, cultural and spiritual needs of children, youth and families.

Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry

Rev. Sally A. Robinson, Chaplain
 101 North Tenth Street, Columbia, Missouri 65201
 (573) 819-5043

The Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry (CAOAM) provides spiritual and emotional support to the growing elderly population in long-term care and retirement communities in the Columbia, MO, area. Though this is an ecumenical ministry, it is recognized as a ministry of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Columbia, MO. Currently CAOAM provides spiritual support in seven long-term care and retirement communities on a regular schedule.

Disciple Homes Management Group

Karen Wardlaw, Administrator/CEO

327 Eden Drive, Longview, Texas 75605
(903) 845-7638

www.disciplehomes.org

Disciple Homes has been providing quality affordable housing for senior adults (age 62 years or older) and their household since 1972 in Northeast Texas. In partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, rental assistance is available to all of our residents that qualify. Qualified residents pay 30% of their adjusted income for rent and utilities. Disciple Homes Management Group provides social services and housing to meet the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of person, in the loving and caring spirit of Christ.

Disciples Retirement Community of Oklahoma (DRCO)

Sallie Spillman, Board Member

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma

301 NW 36th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

580-821-6561

Disciples Retirement Community of Oklahoma (DRCO) provides funding to assist Disciples older adults living in Bradford Village senior living community in Edmond, OK.

Florida Christian Center

Rev. Kimberly Weir, Executive Director

1115 Edgewood Avenue S., Jacksonville, Florida 32205

(904) 981-3095

www.flchristiancenter.org

The Florida Christian Center provides ministry, pastoral care, worship services, classes on faith and aging and other programs and services focused on the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the senior and disabled residents in our community. Serving more than 300 residents in three buildings—Sundale Manor Apartments and Florida Christian Apartments provide subsidized housing for senior and disabled adults, along with Edgewood Condominiums, a senior community on-site—and with a full-time Activity Director and full-time Chaplain/Executive Director, FCC seeks to provide an array of services that honor the body, mind and spirit.

Garden of Eden Health Center

Alicia Rodriguez Davila, Founder/CEO

2833 Eagle Eye Court

Kissimmee, FL 34746

(407) 414-5511

www.gardenofedenhealthcenter.org

The Garden of Eden Health Center (GOEHC) is a vision of a future community health clinic; a faith-based health education program focused on women, infants, and children; and a senior and therapeutic health center, deep in the heart of the central mountain range (Cordillera Central) of Jayuya, Puerto Rico. As a not-for-profit healthcare organization, GOEHC aims to provide quality healthcare, preventive medicine, and holistic health education to higher risk communities (rural residences, women, children, and seniors), while also providing local work and volunteer opportunities for children, youth, and families.

HER Faith Ministries

Rev. Elaine Y. Sanford, Executive Director

3396 Park Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38111

(901) 324-3705

www.herfaithministries.org

HER Faith Ministries is a 501(c)(3) Christian charity that provides assistance to homeless and needy women and children. The ministry provides emergency food, clothing, transportation, dental assistance, and housing to impoverished women and children. HER Faith also provides family counseling and programs for ministry and reading to incarcerated individuals.

Hiram Farm

Leeanne Saro Jereb, Executive Director
 PO Box 157, Hiram, Ohio 44234
 (330) 569-3441
www.hiramfarm.org

Hiram Farm is a nonprofit organization, agricultural setting that serves developmentally disabled adults, with an emphasis on adults on the autism spectrum. The Farm provides opportunities for these adults to grow, learn, and work in a setting focused on respect and support for individuals and the environment. Here, farmers can develop both professional and social skills and accomplish meaningful work. The program began serving six adults with autism in June 2009. Today, the Farm has grown to provide meaningful work for 24 farmers.

Juliette Fowler Communities

Nicole Gann, President and CEO
 1234 Abrams Road, Dallas, Texas 75214
 (214) 827-0813
www.fowlercommunities.org

Juliette Fowler Communities is a neighborhood of choice and connection, of caring and service, of faith and fulfillment. Founded more than 120 years ago as an intergenerational community, Fowler serves children, youth and seniors, as well as their families, at our East Dallas location. As a continuing care retirement community, Fowler's residential services and care offerings for older adults include: Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Support, Health and Rehabilitation, and Affordable Senior Housing. As an intergenerational community, Fowler's residential offerings for children, youth and young women include: Foster-to-Adopt and The Ebby House.

Manistee Manor Apartment Homes

Debi Windahl, Administrator
 7987 N. 53rd Avenue, Glendale, Arizona 85301
 (623) 915-5039
www.manistee Manor.com

In the loving and caring spirit of Christ, Disciples House of Glendale Inc. and Manistee Manor are passionately committed to exceed the needs and expectations of our residents by providing quality senior housing and other services to enhance the lives of those we serve in a friendly family-style community environment. A place our residents are proud to call home. Manistee provides apartment home rentals for our low-income senior residents in a safe and caring environment where they can continue to age in place independently (with or without the help of out-side services) in an active senior community.

Mission Behind Bars and Beyond

Rev. Dean Bucalos, Executive Director
 PO Box 22-34, Louisville, Kentucky, 40252
 (502) 396-3543
www.missionbehindbarsandbeyond.org

Mission Behind Bars and Beyond is a nonprofit, faith-based organization providing community based mentoring programs for those released from prison and returning to communities in Kentucky. In conjunction with a Disciples of Christ congregation, New Life in Christ Christian Church, which is located in a women's halfway house, we minister to those incarcerated, train outside volunteers to form Nurture, Support and Accountability Groups (NSAG) and connect returning citizens with a NSAG which will then walk alongside each person for six months to a year to equip them for a successful re-entry into the community to which they are returning.

New Communion

Rev. David Harrison, Jr., Director
2320 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 722-2714

www.newcommunion.org

New Communion is a faith-based organization with the goal of enhancing community relationships and diminishing the impacts of hunger and food insecurity. We are committed to providing nourishing food and being in relationship with those experiencing food insecurity and hunger in the communities we serve. Through the model of Asset Based Community Development, New Communion emphasizes shared abundance in ways that transform individuals and systems of poverty. We function as an interfaith organization and utilize interdisciplinary practices in order to promote healthy food systems through shared abundance and redistribution of resources. Currently, New Communion is feeding over 150 local families a week, and would like to continue to grow, increasing the number of families being fed, using shared abundance and expanding our food and financial sponsorship to support securing healthy nutrition for all.

Oakland Peace Center

Rev. Sandhya Jha, Executive Director
111 Fairmount Avenue, Oakland, California 94611
www.oaklandpeacecenter.org

As an emerging social entrepreneurship nonprofit model of ministry, the Oakland Peace Center exists as a physical space (40,000 square feet gifted by First Christian Church of Oakland) and a network of people and organizations (over 40 Bay Area based nonprofits). It brings together more than 40 direct service, advocacy, youth empowerment, art and culture-shift nonprofits to connect and collaborate with each other in the struggle for peace and justice.

Oklahoma Family Empowerment Center (OFEC)

Rev. Sharyn Cosby, Executive Director
1020 South Garnett Road, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128
(918) 551-6017

www.ofec.co

Oklahoma Family Empowerment Center, a related organization of In the Spirit Christian Church, is a not-for-profit agency that seeks to provide resources and assistance to individuals and their families that will empower them to live a successful and purposeful life. In an effort to reduce the disparity of minority contact with law enforcement, Oklahoma Family Empowerment Center has entered into an agreement with the City of Tulsa and partnered with various state, local, and community agencies to implement the Tulsa County Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Community and Strategic Planning Demonstration Project through a grant funded by the Office of Juvenile Affairs.

Patchwork Central / Sozo Health Ministry

Rev. John Rich and Amy Rich, Co-Executive Directors
100 Washington Avenue, Evansville, Indiana 47713

(812) 424-2735

www.patchwork.org

Patchwork Central has worked to serve its neighborhood through flexible and innovative programming that matches the talents and interests of those involved to the needs of our community. Today, Patchwork serves individuals and families with a food pantry (since 1982), neighborhood hospitality (a cup of coffee, telephone usage, someone to listen, etc.), a community garden (created in 1995), low-rent facilities for other community organizations, a bicycle program for the homeless, a Health Ministry, and unique art/education programs (Arts & Smarts) that have been available free of charge to at-risk children and youth since 1980. As part of the community fabric, Patchwork Central changes the lives of those it serves by giving them a sense of hope, a place of acceptance, and a bright outlook for the future.

QC Family Tree

Rev. Helms Jarrell and Rev. Greg Jarrell, Executive Directors

2910 Parkway Avenue, Charlotte, North Carolina 28208

(704) 654-7429

www.qcfamilytree.org

QC Family Tree's mission is to be kinfolk rooted in discipleship in West Charlotte, NC. They embody this mission through creativity, prayer, and welcome. The Family Tree offers hospitality in their homes to neighbors who are in transition. Participants enjoy family-style meals each evening with neighbors and guests and gather for prayer every weekday morning and midday. The ministry has grown to include: Freedom School summer literacy camp, Wednesday evening dinner and devotionals for youth and children, twice monthly community meals, arts activities, young adult leadership development through internship programs, edible gardens, community outreach activities, and microbusiness in order that provides employment to neighbors as well as sustainable income to their nonprofit.

Reach Beyond Mission

Rev. Mary Lu Johnston, Executive Director

15907 Braesgate Drive, Austin, Texas 78717

(512) 218-4335

www.reachbeyondmission.org

Reach Beyond Mission is a fully planned youth mission/poverty education experience. Youth join youth from other churches across the country to explore issues of culture, gender, and poverty in an urban setting. Participants volunteer at numerous metropolitan area nonprofits working with the homeless, low-income families, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly. Summer mission week focus on food justice, housing, or advocacy. RBM provides speakers, age-appropriate activities, and discussion starters to help young people explore the biblical, theological, economic, social, and political issues related to poverty. Our goal is to help youth begin to explore how to spend a lifetime changing the systems that sustain poverty through their votes, career choices, and how they spend their money.

Recovery Café San Jose

Ken Goldstein, Executive Director

80 South 5th Street, San Jose, CA 95112

(408) 294-2963

<http://recoverycafesj.org>

Recovery Cafe San Jose is a healing community for those traumatized by homelessness, addiction, and mental health challenges. We are founded on the belief that every human being is precious, worthy of love, and deserving of the opportunities to fulfill his or her potential. Located in the heart of downtown San Jose, Recovery Cafe San Jose members come for long-

term support in a safe, sober, and supportive environment. Program elements include Recovery Circles (small, peer-support groups), School for Recovery classes in job and life skills, group meals, guest speakers, creative activities, and connections to community resources. Through the Cafe, members gather the skills and strength needed to gain and maintain employment and housing, and achieve their goals in health, family, and sobriety.

Safe Haven Day Shelter

Joni Laurence and Donna Hawley, Co-Coordinator
6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22044
(703) 532-8220

www.fccfc.org/safe-haven/

Safe Haven in Falls Church, VA, is a drop-in program working together with Northern Virginia Family Services to provide a welcoming environment for those experiencing homelessness and poverty. This program began as an outreach program at First Christian Church to an average of 15-20 individuals and has grown to a drop-in program serving more than 100 clients weekly, now an interfaith coalition of faith-based communities contributing hot meals and volunteers to the program.

Serra Center

Lisa Senadenos, CEO
2610 Central Avenue, Suite 120, Union City, California 94587
(510) 477-1000

www.serracenter.org

Serra Center offers three types of support services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF-DDH) provides 24-hour care and supervision in six-bed homes in residential neighborhoods. Individuals in Supported Living Services live in the environment of their choice, with care and support based on their individual needs. Independent Living Services provide services focusing on specific identified living skills, working toward eliminating the need for services when the skills are mastered. All individuals served are active during the day either at jobs or in a day program.

SHARE (Sharing Hands: A Respite Experience)

Rev. Tom Jones, Executive Director
3500 N. A Street, Suite 2200, Midland, Texas 79705
(432) 818-1253

<http://sharewtx.org>

Upon the diagnosis of a child's disability, families find themselves on a lonely journey in which they are isolated from friends, other families who care for children with special needs, and the community. The constant care demands of the child's disability create stress and leave little time for relationships and personal care. SHARE provides respite care for these families, including parent support groups, counseling services, family events, and programming for siblings. SHARE cares for the whole family because strong families are needed to provide care for the person with special needs—now and well into the future.

Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc.

Jamie Himes, Executive Director
860 East River Place, Suite 104, Jackson, Mississippi 39202
(601) 354-0983

www.scscy.org

SCSCY provides services through 11 different statewide locations including therapeutic group homes for children and youth, a transitional living facility for older teens who are homeless, an array of adoption, therapeutic foster care, and post adoption services, and education services that include independent living preparation for teens in the foster care system, and abstinence education for at-risk youth.

SquareOne Villages (formerly Opportunity Village)

Rev. Dan Bryant, Executive Director
 458 Blair Boulevard, Eugene, Oregon 97402
 (541) 606-4455
www.squareonevillages.org

As we grow into an organization with multiple projects, Opportunity Village Eugene has recently evolved to SquareOne Villages. Our mission continues to be to create self-managed communities of low-cost tiny houses for people in need of housing. SquareOne Villages has two projects: Opportunity Village Eugene, which provides transitional shelter for approximately 35 people, and Emerald Village Eugene, an affordable housing project of 22 tiny homes being built in fall 2016. Both communities provide stable, safe and sustainable places for people in need of housing through alternative, cost-effective approaches.

StoneSoup Community Venture / Tulsa’s Table

Rev. Christy Moore, Founder and CEO
 2232 S. Nogales Ave. Tulsa, OK 74107
 (918) 984-8225
www.tulsastable.org

Tulsa’s Table is a project of StoneSoup Community Venture, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 2010. Our identity springs from the heart of the stone soup folktale, in which community members provide valuable contributions that turn a soup of stone into a nourishing, sustainable meal. The mission of Tulsa’s Table is to provide enriching, seed-to-table educational experiences as solutions to hunger and poverty for youth living in at-risk communities in Tulsa. Our objective is to nourish community for a purpose by providing opportunities for youth to obtain solid job and life skills through the learning laboratory operations of a food production garden and our pay-what-you-can community café. The long-range goal is for our garden and café to be fully operated by graduates of our programming who develop a sense of ownership in the operation through their learning experiences at Tulsa’s Table. The garden will supply fresh, locally-grown food to the café that will function five days per week, serving lunch or dinner to everyone on a pay-what-you-can basis.

The Summit

Gina Meadows, Executive Director
 1400 Enterprise Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502
 (434) 941-7606
www.summitlynchburg.com

The Summit is a senior living community providing an environment for each resident to be engaged in life. We provide services, amenities and facilities that support an active lifestyle in Independent Living for each individual. As residents’ needs change, The Summit’s campus has a continuum of care available through Assisted Living and The Summit Health and Rehab Center.

Tennyson Center for Children

Ned Breslin, CEO

2950 Tennyson Center, Denver, Colorado 80212

(303) 433-2541

www.tennysoncenter.org

Tennyson Center provides 24-hour intensive residential care, day treatment, special education and home/community based services for approximately 150 children and their families every day. Children with severe behavioral and mental health problems along with educational delays are the primary client population. The families of these children have experienced or are experiencing extreme trauma, physical and/or sexual abuse, mental illness, substance abuse, or extreme poverty and/or homelessness. Tennyson is a leader in advocating for the needs of all children and families in need in Colorado through legislative and policy development.

UrbanMission Community Partners

Rev. Al Lopez, President

810 S. White Avenue, Pomona, CA 91766

(909) 764-8054

<http://www.um-cp.org>

Located on the campus of UrbanMission (a UCC/DOC new church start), UMCP is a community-focused nonprofit organization that seeks community wholeness, resilience, and sustainability in the Pomona area of Los Angeles County, California, by working with families and individuals at risk from poverty, hunger, homelessness, incarceration, and/or inadequate education and healthcare. In cooperation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Church of Christ, as well as other denominations, faith communities, neighborhoods, community organizations, and public/ government entities, UMCP actively seeks out and develops opportunities to empower and walk with our community towards a brighter tomorrow. This includes but is not limited to: Social service provision to individuals, families, and neighborhoods at risk from poverty, hunger, homelessness, incarceration, and/or inadequate education and health care. Other opportunities for UMCP's intended work include involvement in nonviolent civic engagement; advocacy for social uplift in local, state, and national legislation; urban agriculture; supportive and transitional housing for vulnerable populations; and deeply inclusive neighborhoods.

Woodhaven

C. Mark Palmer, CEO

1405 Hathman Place, Columbia, Missouri 65201

(573) 881-9840

www.woodhaventeam.org

Woodhaven is a caring team advocating for those with disabilities. Its Community Living program supports more than 100 men and women in more than 50 apartments and homes, and its Community Connections program provides opportunities for individuals who do not work during the day. Our mission is not just about providing supports; it is about working toward a fundamental shift in how the community perceives people with disabilities. Every day, the men and women we support are living full, independent lives as active members of the community. With every shirt they buy, hour they work, and life they touch, they're changing the

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- Kasi Zieminski, Director of Marketing
- Gary Zimmerman, Vice President for Administration and CFO

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the National Benevolent Association and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1913

THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

1099 N. Meridian St., Suite 700

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Donald K. Gillett, President

Timothy M. James, Administrative Secretary

I offer this report with joy and gladness as I look back over the year of activity associated with the National convocation. God is truly to be praised for a blessed and Spirit-filled 25th Biennial Session of the National Convocation in Birmingham, AL. Much appreciation is extended to Edward Williams and the Local Arrangements Committee, John Mobley and the Alabama/Northwest Florida Region who worked so wonderfully with our Board of Trustees and Merger Staff. The presence and participation of our College of Regional Ministers, the presence of First Moderator, Beau Underwood and Moderator-Elect, Belva Brown Jordan, made a powerful statement to our faith community. We are the Disciples of Christ and our Biennial Session is open to everyone. We endeavor, "To be a faithful growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice." (Mission Imperative of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)).

We are grateful to report the registrations for this Biennial Session was at 526 and 85% - 90% of our registrations were on line. We may attribute our on-line access and presence to the work and diligence of our Ministry Associate, Brenda Rossy. SELAH is now published on our web page which is set up through Constant Contact, and our meetings and transportation are arranged through Concur. So, we are showing more progress technologically.

Our endeavors have produced a broader understanding of the 1969 Merger Agreement between the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of the Christian Churches. This has been accomplished with the reprint and distribution of *THE JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS*, sponsoring a historical summit for our Board of Trustees at the Centennial Christian Church in St. Louis, MO, workshops offered at the Black Ministers Retreat, The 25th Biennial Session and the Eastern District Assembly of the Christian Church in Michigan. In the 2017 General Assembly we recognized the 100th Anniversary of the National Christian Missionary convention. The 2019 General Assembly will have special recognition for the 50th Anniversary of the Design along with the 50th Anniversary of the Merger Agreement.

Concerning Leadership Development, the National Convocation continues to cooperate with the Black Disciples Endowment Fund, The Black Ministers Retreat, and the Biennial Session to offer education and learning opportunities to our constituents. It is hoped that at these points of engagement we could offer the Preston Taylor Institute regularly along with Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racism Workshops, Boundary Training, and

continuing education in the areas to meet competency requirements for commissioned ministers and ministers on the Alternative Track for ordination. Our relationship with the General Youth Council has improved. We were able to find a young woman to serve with GYC. She is Brittani Bullock, a member of Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis. We are pursuing our next goal, to get a youth member for the Board of Trustees. The Young Adult Council also needs a member from the National Convocation. We will seek a member for the YAC's next selection period. We look forward to working with our General Minister and President, Terri Hord Owens. She is most appreciative of data and information technology. Therefore, we need our pastors to send in the Year Book reports of the congregation in to the Regional Office. That would be a good start. Then show up and participate in district and regional meetings of Disciples of Christ taking place near you.

The 2019 General Assembly, July 20-24 in Des Moines, Iowa, has opportunities for the National Convocation to be directly involved. The Assembly theme is "ABIDE IN ME" based on John 15: 1-5. Our evening meal function will be Sunday, July 21, 2019. Please, mark your calendars and set your dates for the Combined Convocation of North American Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD), the Biennial Hispanic Fellowship Assembly (Obra Hispana) and the National Convocation taking place July 22-25, 2020. The location is under research and as soon as we have determined a site you will be the first to know. Please, pray with us as we seek the Lord's guidance to build a worshipful event on our foundation theme text, Revelation 7: 9-10. There is a blessing here for us all. Finally, we acknowledge the forward thinking of the Ministers Wives and Husbands Fellowship Executive Committee, for establishing an endowment fund with Christian Church Foundation in their name and for future resources.

Members of the Board of Trustees: Donald K. Gillett (President), Irie Session (Vice President), Pamela Dubose (Secretary), James Vertreese (Treasurer), Milton Bowens, Ken Brooker Langston, Delesslyn Kennebrew, Joanne Walker Flowers, William Smith, Cicely Staton-Holt, Juanita Greene, Beverly Goines, Antonio Redd, Walter Parker, Pernella Shortie, Sue Gray, Edward Williams; Merger Staff – R. Wayne Calhoun, Sheila Spencer, Chesla Nickelson; Ex-Officio members – Terri Hord Owens, GMP, Sotello Long, President of DHM, and Timothy James.

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the National Convocation and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1914

NORTH AMERICAN PACIFIC/ASIAN DISCIPLES MINISTRIES

Chung Seong Kim, Executive Pastor
 1099 N. Meridian, Ste 700, Indianapolis, IN 46204
 PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206
 (317) 713-2685
ckim@napad.disciples.org
www.napad.net

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 Chung Seong Kim (Executive Pastor).

NAPAD Ministry Team

National Ministry

Chung Seong Kim, Executive Pastor

Ethnic Ministry

Lian Jiang – Chinese Ministry
 Saitumua Tafaialii – Samoan Ministry
 Nerleb Likisap – Chuukese Ministry

Women Ministry

Soo Yun

Regional Ministry

Younglan Kim & YoungJun Yang – NAPAD Ministry Team, Pacific Southwest Region.
 Daniel Lee – NAPAD Ministry Team, N. California-Nevada Region.
 Hyoung Chel Yang – NAPAD Ministry Team, Illinois Wisconsin Region.

Mission of NAPAD

The North American Pacific/Asian Disciples of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) affirms the cultures and heritages of Pacific/Asian peoples within the historic and living Christian faith. As part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we join with other Disciples in the total mission of the church, to recognize and promote the gifts and presence of North American Pacific/Asian Disciples in the life and work of the Church.

Purpose of NAPAD

- To participate in God’s mission through the various expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
- To contribute to the wholeness and unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
- To advocate for Pacific/ Asian Disciples within and outside the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
- To share the gifts and traditions of Pacific/Asian Disciples with the wider church.

NAPAD ministry continued to thrive in accordance with the Disciples identity in becoming “a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world”. NAPAD is faithfully on the frontline of accomplishing the four mission priorities of the Church: Becoming a Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racist Church; New Church Establishment; Congregational Transformation; and Leadership Development.

I. Becoming a Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racist Church

There are about 120 churches (25 among them are new church or newly joined less than three years) in 2018 which consist mostly 18 different ethnic and linguistic groups: Burmese, Cambodian, Chin, Chinese, Chuukese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Karen, Korean, Laotian, Mongolian, Montagnard, Samoan, Tongan, Vietnamese, and Zo. We gather to form one community – the NAPAD community. NAPAD contributes to the Disciples being “a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.” Our 20/20 vision is to have 200 pro-reconciling and anti-racist congregations.

- We have offered culturally adapted anti-racist training (in Korean) in Pacific Southwest Region in consultation from the Reconciliation Ministry. Several ethnic group leaders are being trained to offer language and culture adapted training in several languages
- Beside existing trainer, we are continuously seeking to educate new leaders who can have anti-racism training in each ethnic language

- Together with the Council on Christian Unity, NAPAD sponsored Resolution GA 1522, “A Call for Peace, Justice, and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula” in GA 2015, we are continuously working with DOM and other ecumenical partners with ministry to promote permanent peace for Korean Peninsula.
- After the last presidential election, there is new fear of racism among immigrants’ community. We are working with DHM Refugee and immigration ministry to develop a specific educational resource to support NAPAD community affected by it. We will be continuously working with partners to advocate and support our community which has been greatly affected by immigration issue.
- We are working with Reconciliation Ministry to award grant to support program and education for anti-racism.
- Executive Pastor and Rev. Chan Hee Heo are serving as board members of Reconciliation ministry council.

II. New Church Establishment

NAPAD ministries has been in forefront of Disciples 2020 vision effort. In partnership with New Church Ministry of Church Extension and Regional Committees of New Church Development, we have initiated and/or established new NAPAD congregations.

- Training of new church planters is an ongoing process that requires the collaboration of congregational, regional, and general ministry. Rev. Nerleb Likisap participated in first annual Coaching Academy hosted by Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation. Which was held in Indianapolis in May 17-19.
- The Geunhee Yu Covenant Fund was established in 2012 to provided funding for new church ministry. And This year we add significant donation to reach \$100,000 for its endowment so that it can continuously provide support for this important ministry.
- NAPAD supported Chuukese leadership and ministry development through Chuukese Easter Rally held on March 31-April 1 in Portland, OR and Chuukese Youth Rally held on June 28-30, 2018 in St. Joseph, MO. Together with regional and general ministry partners, NAPAD continues to support and advocate for the Chuukese Disciples as they work on church growth and sustainability. NAPAD ministry is closely working with several regional churches to develop more robust relationship between Chuukese Community and Disciples. In June 2018 Chuukese Youth rally, NAPAD office with rev. Terrell McTyer (new church ministry) provided educational session for the Chuukese pastors and leaders
- NAPAD is in process of establishing new Disciples Congregations in Mesa AZ, Louisville, KY, Orlando, FL. Bismarck, SD

III. Congregational Transformation and Pastoral Care

In December 2014, in honor of the late Rev. Harold Johnson, who was pivotal to the establishment and development of the ministries of NAPAD, the Harold Johnson Legacy Fund was established.

- This fund serves to support NAPAD congregation as they develop and strengthen their children, youth, and women ministries.
- New application for the grant will be announced in September.
- NAPAD keep supporting several congregations in their efforts to revitalize their ministries through diverse outreach programs

IV. Leadership Development

NAPAD supported five seminarians through providing funds for their internships in congregational and general ministries. This was done with the hopes that they will apply themselves in developing their ministerial skills and leadership capabilities.

- There are four ordinations celebrated:
 - Jennie Hwang ordained in South West Region (February 11, 2018) in First Chinese Christian Church, Plano, TX.
 - Teresa Pecinovsky ordained in Tennessee Region (June 17, 2018) in Eastwood Christian Church, Nashville, TN
 - Hee Sook Yoo ordained in Northwest Region (July 14, 2018) in Lake Washington Christian Church, Kirkland, WA
 - Tevita Uesi ordained in Central Rocky Mountain Region (July 28, 2018) in First Tongan Christian Church (Granger Community Christian Church), West Valley City, UT
- The Korean Disciples Convocation had leadership training workshop in KDC convocation held in South Bay Christian Church in California on Jan. 22-25th, 2018.
- Kagiwada scholarship was awarded to Tipisone Junior Tuiolemoto (Graduate Theological Union) Safue Logo Ulufaleilupe (Pacific School of Religion) in 2018
- Soongook Choi scholarship was awarded to Kyeongjung Kim (Brite Divinity School) in 2018.

V. The 20th Biennial NAPAD Convocation.

We had the 20th Biennial NAPAD convocation in Portland, OR on August 8-11th 2018. Our theme was “One in Christ: Growing into Unity” Ephesian 4:13. Chinese mission started at First Christian Church of Portland by Christian Woman’s Mission Board in 1891. We have returned to this historical place to open new era for NAPAD ministry. We have worship, fellowship and learning opportunities including 4-day young adult pre-convocation event. We had total 270 participants including visitors. I want to express special thanks to Program and Life committee and young adult leadership to make the event another success.

VI. Ministry Team and Communication Coordinator

Our ministry teams have been working hard in regional and ethnic setting. Especially under minimal financial support, their dedication and effort help our ministry a lot.

Bedside existing ministry team, we need new ethnic leaders who can work with us for new emerging ethnic group such as Chuukese. Instead hiring permanent staff, I would like to work with those leaders as annual basis by support them with resources and education.

Pastor Baek Hee Kim officially started his work as part time communication coordinator in NAPAD office from January 2018. He has been great help for our ministry.

VII. New Website and quarterly e-newsletter are in development.

NAPAD office is working on developing and improving our communication by updating NAPAD website and begin new quarterly e-newsletter for new year. With Facebook page, these new ways of communication will help our community to share our ministry among ourselves and broader church. These will be done before the end of first quarter in 2019. New fundraising effort including online donation capability in our website is also under development.

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples Ministries and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1915

PENSION FUND OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Todd A. Adams, President
 1099 North Meridian Street, Ste. 720
 Indianapolis, IN 46204
 Toll-Free: 866-495-7322
 E-mail: pfcc1@pensionfund.org

Report to the 2019 General Assembly

On May 11, 1895, Brother A.M Atkinson, husband of Nancy E. Atkinson, a founding member of the Christian Women’s Board of Missions, received a telegram informing him of the passing of the beloved minister and former governor of Indiana, Rev. Ira J. Chase. Brother Chase left a nearly blind widow and four children with no means of support. *“Brother Atkinson could not forget the need of this preacher’s family and set out immediately to raise a fund to provide the widow and family a home and a living.”*¹ Enough money was raised to purchase a home in Wabash, Indiana, which Mrs. Chase graciously received, provided \$1,000 was returned to the fund from the sale of the home upon her death.

Brother Atkinson called for a Conference on Ministerial Relief, which met on October 21, 1895 in advance of the General Missionary Convention. The purpose of this conference was to raise additional resources for the Chase Fund and formalize the process by which other widows and children would receive support. The outcome of this meeting was recommended changes to the By-Laws of General Christian Missionary Convention, creating the Board of Ministerial Relief and raising an offering which totaled \$3,567.25.²

In 2020, the Board of Ministerial Relief will celebrate 125 years of working to provide resources *“For the Support of Ministry.”* From its humble beginnings with two offerings totaling \$5,732.56, Pension Fund of the Christian Church, as the successor organization, has embodied our mission and carefully managed the resources of our pastors and lay employees and our legacy funds of Ministerial Relief and Assistance. At the close of 2017, the fund’s value was \$3.25 billion³.

In 2020, Pension Fund will celebrate the expansion of Ministerial Relief and Assistance. The program will have three core functions: Retiree Support, Active Clergy Programs, and Congregational Partnership Grants.

Retiree Support will continue for those who have no Pension, a Pension below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, Healthcare Assistance with Medicare Supplemental plans,

¹ Smith, W.M; *For the Support of Ministry*; pg. 49.

² Ibid; pg. 54.

³ This reports was submitted on Dec. 27, 2018, therefore 2018 Finanacial Information was not available.

and 13th check. Our expanded support for retirees includes adding a Geographic Pay Differential for Supplemental Pensions for persons who retired in a high-cost area. To qualify, a person must meet the current supplemental guidelines and have retired in an area where the cost of living exceeds Indianapolis as a base market. Those persons then qualify for an increase based on the difference but capped at 250% of the Federal Poverty level for a single person.

Active Clergy Programs: Ministerial Relief and Assistance expansion includes Financial Literacy Education (the permanent role of Excellence in Ministry), Career Counseling Grants for Pastors Transitioning to bi-vocational ministry, and a biennial Pastor's Wellness Conference starting in the fall of 2020.

The career counseling grants are to combat the research which shows clergy who have a second source of income are most likely to serve in a high-crisis profession such as a funeral director or social worker. Continually dealing with crisis, leads to burnout. We want to help clergy work with a professional who can steer them toward a profession which compliments their ministry but also brings joy.

The biennial Pastor's Wellness Conference will rotate themes of emotional, physical, and financial wellness. The heavily subsidized conference will see to bring together clergy serving various size congregations. The first keynote speaker is Dr. Matt Bloom, a researcher at the University of Notre Dame, who specializes in clergy wellness. More information will be available at Pension Fund's booth in the exhibit hall. These are in addition to our historic clergy support programs for emergency aid and funeral assistance grants for clergy without pension plan death benefits.

We also desire to work in **Partnership with Congregations**. We will continue our historic programs, including Student Gift—expanded to include undergraduate internships and Global Mission Interns through Division of Overseas Ministries—and our Chaplaincy Dues program, which purchases pension credits for pastors called to active duty military service.

Our new **Congregational Partnership** programs include partnering with Week of Compassion to provide salary continuation grants to pastors if their home and/or the church is damaged during a natural disaster. We recognize if there is widespread damage in a community, offerings will decrease and the ability to pay the pastor will be threatened. If the pastor doesn't have to worry about their basic necessities, they can better lead the recovery in their community. In 2017, MRA provided over \$475,000 in salary continuation grants following natural disasters.

We are also responding to GA-1333 and adding salary continuation grants to support pastors at the birth or adoption of a child. The purpose of these programs is to extend the leave time previously granted for maternity and/or paternity leave and provide additional support for any extenuating circumstances related to the birth or health of the newborn. The program will be open for maternity and paternity leave grants, natural birth or adoption—including single parent adoption.

At Pension Fund, we understand our mission is standing *For the Support of Ministry*, ensuring that pastors and lay employees of Stone-Campbell related employers have a **Strong ... Smart ... Secure** retirement. In the coming biennium, we are prepared (as a willing and capable partner) to challenge our members and the church to journey **The Road to Financial Wellness**.

Our work on your behalf is guided by our:

Mission: *For the Support of Ministry*

Vision: *Stone-Campbell pastors and lay employees will enjoy a **Strong ... Smart ... Secure** retirement.*

Core Values: Integrity, Security and Compassion

Integrity: the quality of being honest, making membership-oriented decisions

Security: the state of stability, providing freedom from worry or fear

Compassion: the ability to help others in times of need or distress

Guiding Scripture: Matthew 25:20-21 *“The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’”*

Ends Statements:

In service to our members, Pension Fund will ...

- Partner with employers to offer financially secure retirement savings options and education for pastors and lay employees of the Stone-Campbell movement including financial support of surviving family members and provisions for those who become disabled;
- Invest and prudently manage the resources of our members — maximizing returns, minimizing costs and assuming the burden of market risk;
- Engage members with compassionate care and personalized attention;
- Steward the assets and programs of Ministerial Relief and Assistance; and
- Utilize current and compliant processes.

Contractual Programs for the United States and Puerto Rico:

As of September 30, 2018, our total assets under management were \$3,270,106,921. Of these \$1,962,837,400 were Pension Plan; \$280,532,877 were Tax-Deferred; \$22,814,466 were IRA (combined) and \$299,719,104 were Benefit Accumulation Accounts (BAA). Additionally, Pension Fund has a General Fund of \$133,023,443. In 2018 our base rate for Tax Deferred was 3.5%, IRA products 3.5% and BAA 2.5%. In 2018, based on 2017 returns, Pension Fund awarded a Special Apportionment of 5.5%

or \$96 million and a Good Experience Credits of 10.5% (TDRA), 9% BAA, and 5.5% IRAs or \$48 million.

Contractual Programs for Canada:

Pension Fund provides the Pension Plan for clergy and lay employees in Canada. Canada remains a separate corporation with a separate board consisting of two US based Pension Fund employees and two Canadian based board members who also participate in the programs. This structure allows us to comply with the laws and regulations of Revenue Canada.

Pension Fund provides access to membership in the Pension Plan by clergy and lay employees in the Stone-Campbell / Restoration Movement in Puerto Rico.

Investments:

Pension Fund maintains a fully-invested policy with long-term asset allocation of 50% equities, 35% fixed income and 15% alternatives. We are honored to co-sponsor a General Assembly resolution, reaffirming our commitment to socially responsible investing. We partner with Glass-Lewis for proxy vote servicing and research. Glass-Lewis follows the guidance of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR).

Ministerial Relief and Assistance:

In 2017 and 2018, Ministerial Relief and Assistance provided more than \$3.6 million for the support of the ministry. Supplemental Gift Pensions are gift distributions to those retirees who have extremely low pensions. Relief Pensions are gift distributions to those who have no pension.

The 13th Check is a gift to all persons receiving a Ministerial Relief pension. The offering received at General Assembly, endowment income, and annual fund contributions provide resources that bless our members. Many recipients offer thanks for the church's generosity, as the 13th Check provides resources for heating bills, medicine and other necessities that these saints would forgo without this support.

We provided over \$450,000 in salary continuation grants in 2017 following Hurricanes Harvey and Maria. Additionally, we extended the grace period on pension payments from 3 to 6 months to help these communities in their recovery and restoration efforts.

Commitment to Churchwide Priorities:

Pro-Reconciliation / Anti-Racism: In addition to utilizing the principles of the Executive Search Process, Pension Fund staff engaged Reconciliation Ministries for Cultural Awareness Training with Rev. Sandhya Jha. Our Senior Leadership Team participated in the Executive Leadership School, including Pro-Reconciliation / Anti-Racism Training, Prevention of Harrassment, and Financial Ethics.

Compliance with Board Diversity: For the first time in over a decade, Pension Fund’s Board of Directors meet the 30% racial-ethnic diversity requirements of the Assembly.

Young Adult Leadership Development: We have expanded Student Gift Pensions to include undergraduate students who are pre-ministerial studies, serving in paid internships and Global Mission Interns.

New Church: Pension Fund is exploring with our legal counsel the tax liability of partnering with regions to provide matching funds to new church planters, who are intentionally seeking to start a new worshipping community.

Board Membership

2019

Peggy Brittan*
 Kelly Bauer
 Randy Clayton*
 Kelly Nelson
 Rev. Esteban Doble-Gonzales
 Greg Smith*

2020

Rev. Thaddaeus Allen
 Brenda Cline
 Charlene Butz
 Rev. Bill Lee
 Rev. Janet Long
 Linda Hernandez-Williams*

2021

Josh Santana*
 Camilla Lindsey
 Rev. James Johnson
 Rev. Jabari Butler
 Chad Turner
 Rev. Sydney Avent

*2019 Board Officers

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the Pension Fund and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

GA-1916

CHRISTIAN CHURCH HEALTHCARE BENEFIT TRUST

c/o Pension Fund of the Christian Church, Trustee

Todd A. Adams, President

1099 North Meridian Street, Suite 720

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Toll-free: 866-495-7322

E-mail: pfcc1@pensionfund.org

Report to the 2019 General Assembly

The 1971 Louisville General Assembly called for the creation of a churchwide healthcare program with the Pension Fund of the Christian Church serving as Trustee. Upon its inception, the program was available to pastors in 17 regions that did not offer group healthcare. Additionally, the resolution was seeking a churchwide plan that would exclude pre-existing conditions for pastors moving across state lines, create equity in the cost of premiums, and provide for consistent coverage.

When the active program was deemed insolvent and closed in 2016, there were two questions to be answered.

First: were the retirees subsidizing the active clergy?

At the closure of the active plan, churchwide healthcare was almost \$2 million in debt. Pension Fund's Board of Directors voted to use unrestricted funds from Ministerial Relief and Assistance (MRA) to pay off the debt. The board and staff believed that resolving the burden of this debt was consistent with the intent of MRA and that it was unethical to pass the debt along to retirees in the form of higher premiums. The Trust was then able to function solely on its own merits of income vs. claims. The Medicare plans are solvent. The reserve is almost to the appropriate level for a plan of its size. The answer to the question is, yes, the retirees were subsidizing the active plan at over \$1.5MM per year.

Second: would people continue to enroll if they were not transferring from the active plan to the Medicare plan?

Without the active plan and members wanting to maintain their current network of doctors and benefits, plan enrollments are almost non-existent. Therefore, the answer is, no, given the number of local networks and plans available as supplemental plans to Medicare, there is not a market demand for the Medicare program. As such, the Trustees, on advice and counsel of our medical consulting firm and in conversation with the Administrative Committee of the General Board, voted in November 2018 to close the plan to new enrollments effective Jan. 1, 2019.

The current actuarial life expectancy of the plan is 2035, meaning that the final person remaining in the program is expected to be deceased at that time. The goal is to build the reserve to a level sufficient to cover the fixed costs of the plan and medical claims, providing coverage as long as we have members. The challenges of keeping the plan solvent continue to increase the longer the plan remains open. Our goal is to care for every member without asking them to switch plans, doctors, and networks late in life — while maintaining premiums at a reasonable level.

At the closure of the plan, Pension Fund will invest the remaining assets of the trust into improving the spiritual and physical health of clergy through Ministerial Relief and Assistance programming, and into repaying the program for all or part of the \$2 million from MRA.

In 2017, the Trust attempted to create a program in which clergy would encourage their colleagues to participate in regionally-based “healthcare zones” facilitated by the Trust. These zones had to be a fully insured product, as there are no church-owned assets to back up the claims beyond premiums. Unfortunately, underwriting revealed premiums would exceed the community rating premiums of the Exchange by 300%. A family of four would have faced an annual premium of \$45,000 or more.

Before we can provide another sustainable church-wide healthcare plan, the Church must expand its investment beyond just the spiritual health of our clergy; it must invest in their physical and mental health as well.

Recommended Action

The General Board receives this report from the Christian Church Healthcare Benefit Trust and forwards it to the 2019 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.

LIST OF RESOLUTION TITLES

Business Items

Please note:

***Operational, Policy and Organizational** items are those which establish policy, institute or revise structures, or procedures, authorize programs, approve directions or mandate actions. (Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly 2.2.1)

#Reports are summaries of ministries performed, plans for ministry, and audited financial statements of each general ministry, commission or other entity established or recognized by the General Assembly. (Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly 2.1.1)

^Sense-of-the-Assembly items are an expression of the General Assembly [participants] concerning a moral, ethical or religious matter confronting the church, the nation or the world. Adoption of a resolution must represent agreement by a majority of an assembly's voting representatives that the conviction or view expressed is based on Christian insights and is a part of their witness to Jesus Christ. Resolutions are developed for the guidance of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in its program operation, for the consideration of the congregations and members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and for a Christian witness to the world. The text of a proposed resolution should be so phrased as not to bring into question the Christian commitment of those who do not agree. (Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly 2.5.1) *These resolutions speak TO the members, congregations, regions and general ministries, but not FOR them.*

You can find out more about how business comes to the assembly at disciples.org/ga/business. A full copy of the Special Rules of Procedure is available online in English, Spanish and Korean linked from the page hosting the Design of the Christian Church (disciples.org/our-identity/the-design/).

GA-1917*: CREATION OF A NEW REGION IN MONTANA AND THE NORTHWEST (CHANGE IN REGIONAL BOUNDARIES)

GA-1918*: REPORT OF THE TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE (2021)

GA-1919*: REPORT OF THE TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE (2023)

GA-1920#: REPORT ON 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

GA-1921#: REPORT OF THE SOCIAL WITNESS TASK FORCE

GA-1922*: RESOLUTION ON FULL COMMUNION BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

GA-1923*: RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FOR PREVENTION OF HARASSMENT FOR GENERAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

GA-1924*: RESOLUTION TO CELEBRATE THE FORMATION OF NEW CONGREGATIONS AND CONTINUE THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO MAKE DISCIPLES

GA-1925^: ADDRESSING THE STATE OF GLOBAL FORCED MIGRATION

GA-1926^: SPIRIT OF ACTIVE LISTENING

GA-1927^: CONCERNING THE REOPENING OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CUBA, ENDING THE U.S. EMBARGO AGAINST THE ISLAND, AND PROMOTING A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATION BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES

GA-1928^: A CALL TO SEE AND RESPOND TO THE CRISIS OF DOMESTIC AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

GA-1929^: AN INVITATION TO EDUCATION FOR WELCOMING AND RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE

GA-1930^: ON WOMEN AND JUST PEACEMAKING

GA-1931*: GENERAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GA-1932^: ACKNOWLEDGING THE COVENANTAL AFFILIATION OF TOUGALOO COLLEGE AND REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO HIGHER EDUCATION

GA-1917

CREATION OF A NEW REGION IN MONTANA AND THE NORTHWEST (CHANGE IN REGIONAL BOUNDARIES)

(Operational, Policy and Organizational)

WHEREAS, after more than a year of discernment, study, prayer and preparation, the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Montana meeting on April 28, 2018 and the Regional Assembly of the Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting on May 19, 2018 voted unanimously to create a New Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to encompass Alaska, Washington State, North Idaho¹ and Montana; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the General Minister and President has received proper notification from each region expressing the desire for these new regional boundaries and the new region; and

WHEREAS, *The Design* states:

22. Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) perform within their established boundaries the function of the church related to their twofold purpose of mission and nurture:

27. Identifiable geographic, cultural, sociological, and political factors provide boundaries, which the church may use to establish its own regional structures

- (1) By which the church carries out regionally its ministry of mission and nurture;
- (2) In which congregations and ministers find their primary relationships of mutual support and encouragement;
- (3) Which provide opportunities for regional fellowship, worship, and assembly for the consideration of matters of mutual concern;
- (4) Which help to relate the three expressions of the church - congregational, regional, and general - to one another in the functioning of the whole church; and

¹ North Idaho includes Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nezperce and Shoshone counties in Idaho

WHEREAS, *The Design* also states:

29. In the development of any new regional boundaries, existing regional organizations shall remain intact, subject to modification by mutual consent of the regions involved, in the light of the corporate judgment of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as expressed through the General Assembly. The process of reshaping regional boundaries (even if only one congregation is affected) includes the participation and approval of the parties involved, the Administrative Committee, the General Board, and the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was presented to and affirmed by the Governance Committee and the General Board at their meetings Feb 9 – 12, 2019;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2019 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20-24, 2019, affirms the regional boundaries of the Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Montana be joined together to form a new region, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region, effective Jan. 1, 2020.

Governance Committee of the General Board
The Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Montana

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1917.
(Discussion Time: 12 minutes)**

GA-1918

REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE – TIME AND PLACE

(Operational, Policy and Organizational)

The 2021 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, July 31-August 4, 2021.

General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1918.
(Discussion time: 12 minutes)**

GA-1919

REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE – TIME AND PLACE (Operational, Policy and Organizational)

The 2023 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, July 8-12, 2023

General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1919.
(Discussion time: 12 minutes)**

REPORT ON 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

The General Assembly Committee of the General Board has a two-fold responsibility. First, it is the General Board committee responsible for recommending the location for future General Assemblies. Secondly, it follows up on approved or referred resolutions which contained actionable items from the previous General Assembly and report back to the current General Assembly

From the General Assembly which met in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 7-12, 2017, the General Assembly Committee of the General Board has the following updates.

GA-1720 Affirmation of Our Commitment to Responsible Investing

- The Christian Church Foundation formed the Bostick Select Fund as an option for ministries seeking to invest responsibly.
- The Pension Fund offered a workshop at the Christian Church Foundation's 2018 Development Conference and will be offering a workshop at the 2019 General Assembly.

GA-1721 A Renewed Commitment to Reconciliation Ministry

- In an effort to make pro-reconciliation/anti-racism training more easily available, a full training is being offered during the 2019 General Assembly workshop periods.
- The General Minister and President is working with the co-chairs of the Reconciliation Commission to charge a committee to conduct an assessment of Reconciliation Ministry and develop a proposal for the future of the ministry. The goal is to ensure that the ministry offers state-of-the-art training and consultation, maximizes financial resources available for grants, and moves beyond training to help the whole church continue to live into becoming a pro-reconciliation/anti-racism church.

GA-1722 Repudiation of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery: A Call to Education and Action and Support for Indigenous Voices in the Witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

- The Northwest and Montana regions are holding Winter Talks based on the model of the larger Winter Talks held at Phillips Theological Seminary and Brite Divinity School in recent years. The regional events are supported in part by Reconciliation Ministry funds as well as regional reconciliation funds.

GA-1723 On Becoming Immigrant Welcoming Congregations

- Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries and Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel of Disciples Home Missions, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, NAPAD, NBA Hispanic Outreach/Prison and Jail Ministries have worked in collaboration with local impacted immigrants and congregations to encourage congregations to fulfill the goals of the GA-1723 resolution.
- Obra Hispana works with front line immigrant congregations impacted by policies threatening expanded detention and deportation of our Disciples communities. RIM has provided additional sanctuary, asylee, Central American/African/Haitian TPS and DED, and DACA advocacy and protection resources to help congregations respond to immigrant communities at risk and has expanded immigrant background stories in its “Refugee & Immigrant Welcome Sunday” resources. Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel continues to provide trusted legal assistance and referrals. NBA and its Hispanic Outreach/Prison and Jail Ministries network continues to strengthen mental health outreach to individuals in detention and at risk of deportation. Thousands of local Disciples congregations and individuals responded in summer 2018 to sign the national Disciples “Family Separations: A Word to the Church” letter sharing desires for ending family separation and criminally prosecuting migrants seeking freedom and safety.
- Collaborative partners will host two workshops at the 2019 GA re: “Becoming Immigrant Welcoming Congregations, Part 1 and Part 2” to further the goals of the 2017 resolution. Congregations will hear models for how initial congregations have been engaging as “immigrant welcoming,” and will learn ways for congregations to further “qualify” as “Immigrant Welcoming Congregations.”
- Additionally: Saguro Christian in Tucson, AZ Facebook streams a daily prayer vigil for separated families; Southwest Good Samaritan supporting families at the border; Casa de Oración and partners in Tijuana supporting asylum seekers at the border; University Christian, San Diego and Harbor Christian of Newport Beach CA participating in border education; Matthew 25 Project led by Gabriel Lopez.

GA-1724 Resolution Concerning Carbon Neutrality

Green Chalice, Christmount National Camp and Conference Center, Week of Compassion, Disciples Volunteering, and Global Ministries Division of Overseas Ministries sponsored Resolution 1723 which calls Disciples to reduce our carbon output with our goal to become carbon neutral by the year 2030. This resolution seeks to create more economic, spiritual and ecological sustainable congregations and communities while offering leadership in health and wellness for people and planet.

- Toward these goals, Green Chalice has worked with its partner, Blessed Tomorrow, to create a Carbon Neutral Guide and a Climate Ambassador training program. In addition, Blessed Tomorrow has added a carbon offset program.

Green Chalice has offered workshops on going carbon neutral and will host a Clergy Pre-Assembly training retreat in Des Moines, Iowa July 18-20, 2019. Currently 156 congregations and ministries are Green Chalice Ministries, nine of them are certified. Mission Hills Christian Church, Mission Hills, CA and Midway Christian Church, Midway, KY are both officially working actively toward carbon neutrality and many other congregations are discussing it. Working toward carbon neutrality requires conserving energy by substituting clean, renewable energy for polluting fossil fuels and offsetting any energy source that cannot be reduced or replaced. It is also requiring us to conserve forests, urge our policy makers to provide clean energy choices; explore a plant rich diet, and guide and support communities everywhere to do the same.

GA-1725 Recognition of the Region of Canada as a Traditionally Underrepresented Cultural Community

- The Canadian Region extends its thanks to Council on Christian Unity, Week of Compassion, NBA, and Alliance Q who were the first groups to respond to the call to greater inclusion of Canada within their ministries and organizations. Alliance Q was the first group to make radical changes, most notably changing their constitution to guarantee a place for a Canadian representative. We are grateful for the occasional times when changes have been made across General Ministries to recognize and include French language, Canadian-specific nomenclature on forms, and requests for Canadian representatives for committees. We believe more can be done. We specifically call on Reconciliation Ministries to include Canadian content in ALL of their training as a standard and integral piece. We also call on the OGMP to be intentional about including the Canadian perspective when consultants are retained to assist the church in visioning and future plans (i.e., when consultants are hired to review who we are, our future, etc., it is unclear if any Canadians are included). We continue to call on the entire church to recognize that the Canadian Disciples' story IS the Disciples' story! We recognize that change is difficult, but we are a Church with a passion for justice...and greater inclusion of the Canadian church is a justice issue. Thank you to all who have taken the adoption of this resolution seriously and taken steps to live it out.

GA-1732 Stewardship as a Spiritual Discipline and Its Applications in the 21st Century

- Aware that there was a good chance the study document may not find its way from the protective covers of the 2017 docket into the church, Director of the Center for Faith and Giving, Bruce Barkhauer, assembled a team of curriculum writers to make the 22,000-word study more accessible for congregational use. That team created a six-week stewardship study entitled *Overflowing* which became available for use on March 1, 2018. The material is designed with both Adult and Grade 6-12 designation. Youth are an intentional priority for the

church and teaching young people about faithful stewardship is a priority of the Center for Faith and Giving.

GA-1739 Concerning Executive Order 13780 (Emergency Resolution)

- Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM) has continued to monitor and advocate against Executive Order 13780 through its subsequent revisions and court responses and has offered ongoing education and engagement opportunities for congregations to help protect the US' long-term history of refugee resettlement. RIM promoted resources for congregational participation in the June 2018 and June 2019 celebration of "Refugee and Immigrant Welcome Sunday" near to World Refugee Day. In partnership with Week of Compassion and Disciples Marketing and Communications in the Office of the General Minister and President, RIM worked collaboratively to gather, and utilize for advocacy, video testimonies by Disciples leaders of the positive impacts of refugee resettlement in communities and their desire to restore US resettlement levels of at least 85,000 refugees annually.
- RIM led an interfaith Press Conference at the White House in response to the September 2018 "Presidential Determination" announcement of a refugee resettlement goal of only 30,000 during FY2019; less than half of historic US resettlement numbers. RIM, Global Ministries, and the Council on Christian Unity have worked with Church World Service partnership communions to revise and update our "Ecumenical Declaration: Protecting Welcome, Restoring Hope," as of November 2018.

GA-1740 Concerning Support for the "New Poor People's Campaign: National Call for a Moral Revival" (Emergency Resolution)

- General Minister and President Teresa Hord Owens made it a priority to attend both the beginning and ending events for the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival in Washington D.C. In addition, Communication Ministries shared information leading up to events as well as photos and reflections from individuals who participated in PPC activities throughout the 40-day period. A grassroots group from the Upper Midwest Region, Disciples Public Presence, also shared organizing information and news from state campaigns in which Disciples participated. The connections fostered among those interested in these issues resulted in a fall 2018 conference that continues to build a network of those interested in social justice.

The General Board has reviewed GA-1920 Report of the General Assembly Committee. The report is submitted to the General Assembly for presentation and discussion. No action is required. (Discussion time: 12 minutes)

GA-1921

REPORT FROM THE SOCIAL WITNESS TASK FORCE

At the 2015 General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, GA 1524 called for a task force to be formed by the Office of General Minister and President, Disciples Home Missions and the Division of Overseas Ministries for the purpose of:

“...bringing to the 2017 General Assembly, meeting in Indianapolis, IN, a jointly sponsored process for discussion of and education about important religious, ethical and social issues.”

The resolution stated *“the task force shall include representatives of, but not limited to”*:

- Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries
- Council on Christian Unity
- Disciples Home Missions
- Diverse congregations throughout the United States and Canada
- Division of Overseas Ministries
- General Board
- Historic justice and peace advocacy groups in the church
- National Convocation
- North American Pacific/Asian Disciples
- Office of General Minister and President

The Social Witness Task Force made a progress report at the 2017 General Assembly in Indianapolis, IN, (GA-1731) with the intent to present a finished proposal to the General Assembly in July 2019. The Task Force met via video and conference call on multiple occasions over the past 2 years.

A small working group worked to ensure that various issues and concerns with regard to the previously developed and reported working document were noted and addressed. However, there are still elements of the working document upon which the Task Force has yet to achieve consensus.

The Task Force has continued to discuss the working document, and work through issues upon which there is not agreement. The Task Force will continue its work with the intent to bring a finished proposal by the 2021 General Assembly.

The Social Witness Task Force

Task Force Members

Robert Cayton	Julia Brown Karim	Vangie Perez
Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder	Fiyori Kidan	Dean Phelps
Shannon Dycus	Scott Kinnair	Katherine Raley
Jeff Goodier	Ken Brooker Langsto	Paul Tche
Sekinah Hamlin	Rebecca Littlejoh	Tawanda Wilson
Richelle Himaya	Sotello Lon	
Mark Johnston	Terri Hord Owen	

The General Board has reviewed GA-1921 Report from the Social Witness Task Force. The report is submitted to the General Assembly for presentation and discussion. No action is required. (Discussion time: 12 minutes)

GA-1922

RESOLUTION ON FULL COMMUNION BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

(Operational, Policy and Organizational)

WHEREAS, Jesus prayed in his last prayer with the disciples, “that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:21, NRSV); and

WHEREAS, the desire for the visible unity of God’s one church is at the heart and commitment of the ecumenical movement, and the essence of the ecumenical movement is to seek to find unity in diversity, creating the space to engage divergences and convergences through ongoing dialogue and engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and The United Church of Canada affirm this biblical understanding of unity that continues to guide ecumenical commitment and engagement with other churches; and

WHEREAS, the two communions in North America envision full communion as a mutual commitment to grow together toward a vision of the church that enriches our theological traditions, enhances service and mission and deepens worship, and the two churches pledge to find diverse expressions of what it means to live in full communion in Christ as we experience life together; and

WHEREAS, the two churches understand that unity and mission are inseparable, which is understood that Christ calls us to unite in one mission in and to a suffering and divided world, and the two communions acknowledge that we are partners together in God’s mission to and for the whole world;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, meeting in Des Moines, Iowa (July 20-24, 2019) makes the following mutual declaration with the 43rd General Council of The United Church of Canada, meeting in Oshawa, Ontario (July 21-27, 2018):

- The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada acknowledges and celebrates before God that The United Church of Canada is an authentic, faithful part of the one, universal body of Christ.
- The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada commits itself to work, with God’s help and together with its partner churches, to effect greater unity in the whole church of Jesus Christ.

- The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada declares and celebrates that a relationship of full communion now exists between The United Church of Canada and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, by which is meant that both churches will pursue with intention ways of expressing the unity of the Church. This includes commitment to mutually recognizing ordained ministers of each partner church as truly ministers of word and sacrament, and ways of manifesting the common mission of witness and service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, together with The United Church of Canada, encourages study of the biblical, theological, and practical implications of the full communion agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada authorizes the Ecumenical Partnership Committee to give guidance to this process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada agrees to commence the full communion agreement with the signing of the common agreement by the two Heads of Communion at a joint service of celebration that will include opportunities for people across the two churches to celebrate in meaningful ways; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2019 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada receives the final report of the planning group, including the possibilities presented for common life and witness together, which is attached to this resolution.

Council on Christian Unity
(A Disciples Ministry for Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations)

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1922.
(Discussion Time: 12 minutes)**

Full Communion:

Ecumenical Partnership between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and The United Church of Canada

Introduction

In 2016, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and The United Church of Canada identified an interest in exploring greater fellowship and potentially a closer relationship between our two denominational bodies. Preliminary conversations suggested there were distinct benefits in greater partnership, not only on the Canadian side of the border, but in our two nations.

In December 2016, a formal meeting of leaders in both denominations took place in Toronto, Canada. Over the course of two days, both sides decided that working towards a full communion relationship is desired. There are, of course, many local, regional, and international implications of such an arrangement, but the leaders determined that this provided an ideal opportunity to bear witness to the importance and power of Christian unity in North America and to strengthen the ministry of both of our denominations. Each denomination named six representatives to explore further the issues involved and prepare a proposal for a full communion agreement. The group met twice in person and in video conferences. This report offers their reflections on issues and implications relating to full communion, as background to the proposal that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and The United Church of Canada undertake a full communion agreement.

Although many Disciples in the United States may not know The United Church of Canada well, the Canadian Region and the United Church have a long-standing history together. Our relationship spans from local congregational partnerships where United and Disciples have presence together in various towns and cities, to educational (a cooperative agreement with Emmanuel College in Toronto from 1930s-60s), to ecumenical (both founding members of the Canadian Council of Churches), to an unsuccessful union talk which took place between 1969-1985. A lasting and blessed product of those conversations and cooperation are two joint United-Disciples congregations—one in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and one in Calgary, Alberta. In addition, many Canadian Disciples clergy are still educated at United Church seminaries, and some Disciples clergy now serve in United Church congregations and in general church leadership. Theologically, we both have a passion for justice and mission and hold similar “statements of faith.” There are significant differences in governance and the administration of the sacraments, but the Planning Group has discerned that these are not barriers to a full communion relationship.

The United Church of Canada reached a full communion agreement with the United Church of Christ (USA) in October 2015. The relationship between these churches is encouraging a closer relationship between Global Ministries, including the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and the Church in Mission unit of The United Church of Canada. An agreement between the United Church and the Disciples of Christ would “close the triangle” and mark a new era of ecumenical partnership in North America.

The two denominations have understood a full communion partnership as a living and growing relationship. This partnership doesn’t simply mean that we accept one another. Rather, we embrace each other fully in the witness of Christians, the ministries of the Church, and the mission of God. In this covenantal relationship, we commit to being one Church, not in merger but in God’s gift of unity, that serves the world that God so loves. The two churches will learn how to live in this covenantal relationship through rich theological conversations, enhanced witness and mission, and diverse spiritual life and worship.

The gospel of Jesus Christ calls on the followers of Christ to live life in unity for the sake of the world, so “that the world may believe....” (John 17:21) The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and The United Church of Canada have been committed to the visible unity of the church and one ecumenical movement for decades. As the two denominations enter this closer relationship to participate fully in God’s mission for this world, may God lead this journey with divine wisdom and in grace.

Brief History of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada traces its beginnings to the early national period in the United States of America. Disciples point to the work of four founders to describe their origins. All four men had ties to the Presbyterian Church. Barton Stone (1772-1844), the only one born in America, served as the sponsoring pastor for the Cane Ridge revival, drawing 10-30,000 attendees during the Second Great Awakening. The camp meeting revivals brought controversy. Stone withdrew from Presbyterianism and, with others, formed a loose association of congregations resolving “to sink into union with the body of Christ at large.” These congregations took the name *Christian* and gained strength in North Carolina, Southern Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio.

Thomas Campbell (1763-1854) and his son, Alexander (1788-1866), were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who arrived in the United States in 1807 and 1809 respectively. In 1808, Thomas withdrew from the Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania when he was rebuked for serving the Lord’s Supper to Christians not associated with his brand of Presbyterianism. A year later, he formed the Christian Association of Washington, Pennsylvania. Shortly after this event, his family arrived. Alexander, 21

years old, quickly became a leading figure. Members of the Christian Association adopted the name *Disciples*. By 1830, with the help of evangelist Walter Scott (1796-1861), who had arrived from Scotland in 1818, the movement grew rapidly and formed congregations in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

The earliest Disciples congregations included African Americans as members, though Disciples also included members who participated in the enslavement of others. Disciples were able to hold the church together during the Civil War. Yet, when the Churches of Christ (Non-Instrumental) separated from Disciples in 1906 by arguing that Disciples had become a denomination through the creation of national missionary organizations, the majority of those associated with the schism were located in the South. Black Disciples formed a separate, but cooperating, organizational life in 1917 known as the National Christian Missionary Convention. During 1969, as part of the formal restructuring of the Disciples life, a merger was enacted that brought the National Christian Missionary Convention into the newly established Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The resulting National Convocation continues to meet to discuss special concerns affecting African-American Disciples.

In 1812, Alexander Campbell affirmed believers' baptism by immersion as the proper Christian baptism. This led to a brief (1815-1830) affiliation with Baptists. Disciples disrupted Baptist life by seeking reform and urged Baptists to eschew denominational names in order to unite around the simplicity of the apostolic faith, illustrated by the Disciples commitment to 'no creed but Christ.'

The first signs of these Disciples-like commitments in Canada appeared in the Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island) by 1810 in the form of mostly Scotch Baptist connections. Most of these early leaders (John R. Stewart, Alexander Crawford, James Murray, and John Stevenson) had some connection to Scotland. By the 1820s, an American, William W. Ashley, married a Canadian and carried Alexander Campbell's writings to Halifax. During the 1830s, a number of the Scotch Baptist congregations established connections to the Disciples congregation in Halifax. By the 1850s, a more formal association of Disciples congregations emerged in the Maritimes. The first Disciples congregation in Ontario appeared at Cobourg in 1836. By 1943, some twenty-four congregations in Ontario were associated with Disciples. It took a number of decades before Disciples life appeared further west in Canada, in the area of the Prairies.

During the 1820s, Campbell's Disciples and Stone's Christians discovered one another. By 1832, they had worked out a formal union that combined about 22,000 members. This union left a legacy of two names. Present-day congregations are known as 'Christian' churches, while their members are called 'Disciples.' In 1968, the denomination adopted its current name, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

In the United States and Canada, Disciples membership stands at around 455,000 (around 274,000 participating members) divided into some 3300 congregations.

Around 10% of Disciples members are African-Americans, with much smaller percentages of Hispanics and various Pacific Asian Disciples. The states of Texas, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Ohio contain about one-third of all North American Disciples. In addition, the church's Common Global Ministries Board (with the United Church of Christ) oversees work among some 2.7 million indigenous Christians across the world who call themselves Disciples.

Early Disciples hoped to unify the church by restoring the faith and practices of the earliest congregations described in the Bible. For this reason, their worship included the weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper, open to all who professed Christ. Contemporary Disciples continue this practice. Their early commitment to believers' baptism also continues, though contemporary congregations welcome infant-baptized persons into church membership without rebaptism. Essentially, early Disciples members expressed their commitment to four principles:

- (1) the *Interpretation Principle* represented their commitment to the Bible, primarily for its testimony about Christ, who, as revelation of God, has always represented the ultimate authority for Christian life. Disciples affirmed the role of interpretation in reading the Bible, as public process, informed by the ideas and understanding of the whole of Christianity;
- (2) the *Restoration Principle* emphasized the purity and simplicity of earliest Christianity as guide. Today, Disciples recognize apostolic Christianity possessed far more diversity than earlier Disciples understood, and this principle currently underlines the task of the ecumenical church to understand together the voice of God in the midst of the human voices that surround them;
- (3) the *Ecumenical Principle* stressed their longstanding commitment to church unity; and
- (4) the *Eschatological Principle* pointed to their confidence that God is at work in human history and their belief the church appropriately responds by working toward the realization of the kind of justice that is promised when the reign of God is realized.

Disciples ordained women to ministry as early as the late 1880s. During the late 19th century, leaders among Disciples embraced the scientific spirit that swept American Protestantism after 1870. They fashioned a critical approach to the Bible open to the newest developments in scientific understanding and human knowledge. As Disciples shared this budding "liberal" vision, they began to doubt that any group of Christians, even the ancient Christians, could truly capture the divine message in its entirety. This realization strengthened their historic commitment to ecumenism.

Disciples are perhaps best known for their deep yearning for Christian unity. Disciples often quoted John 17:21, "that they may all be one . . . so that the world may believe that you have sent me." Both the United States and Canadian Churches are founding members of the World Council of Churches (1948). Canadians were founding members in the Canadian Council of Churches (1944), and the Disciples in

the United States were founding members of both the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ (1910) and the National Council of Churches (1950). Disciples have served key leadership roles in all these organizations. In the late 1980s, Disciples and the United Church of Christ formed an ecumenical partnership. Together, they have helped to shape Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC), the partnership of nine denominations that grew out of the Consultation of Church Union (COCU).

Today, Disciples sponsor seventeen colleges and universities and four theological seminaries. Each of these schools is diverse, with the vast numbers of students coming from religious affiliations other than Disciples. They also maintain support for three 'foundation' houses located at the University of Chicago, Vanderbilt University, and in Claremont, California. These houses support Disciples masters and doctoral students in non-Disciples institutions.

Brief History of The United Church of Canada

The United Church of Canada came into existence as a denomination in 1925, through a union of the Methodist Church, Canada, the Congregationalist Churches, and about two-thirds of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. These three denominations were joined by a number of local union churches or congregations that had formed, particularly in Saskatchewan, in expectation of such a union.

The driving forces for church union were largely practical, not theological. Chief among them was the challenge of finding the resources, both of finances and personnel, to serve a Canadian population growing rapidly in the early twentieth century, especially on the Prairies, as a result of heavy immigration.

Another key motivation was the conviction that a united Christian Church could help produce a "Christian Canada." The primary supporters of church union in all three denominations would have described themselves as liberal evangelicals; they held a strong attachment to both evangelism and social service. It is not accidental that these three denominations were key players in the Moral and Social Reform Council, founded in 1908, and its successor body, the Social Service Council of Canada (1912). Advocates of church union saw a "united church" as a stronger force to tackle social ills in early twentieth century Canada. These advocates were heavily represented among moderate Social Gospellers, but church union had significant support in both the radical and the conservative wings of that movement.

Practical motivations notwithstanding, these uniting denominations also shared a conviction that the lack of unity in Christianity was a scandal needing to be overcome.

They saw church union as a step in that direction. John 17:21, "that they may all be one," served as a guiding scriptural text and underlying theological rationale for this enterprise.

While most Methodists and Congregationalists entered the new United Church, church union proved sharply divisive among Canada's Presbyterians. Noticeable opposition in the Presbyterian Church was present from shortly after church union talks began in 1904. It grew in strength and intensity after the completion of a draft Basis of Union in 1908. In 1925 about two-thirds of the Presbyterian membership and about seventy percent of its clergy came into the United Church, those not entering remaining as a continuing Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Two things marked the period from 1925 to 1939. The initial years saw a consolidation of the church union process as the denomination put together new pastoral charges, worked out governance details, and produced both a hymnal and a service book. The Great Depression also dominated these years. The United Church had many congregations in the southern Prairies, an area buffeted doubly by low commodity prices and severe drought.

The two decades after World War II saw immense growth for the United Church by almost every statistical measurement, e.g., candidates for ministry, the formation of new congregations, church membership, Sunday School enrolment. The mid-1960s to the present has seen a gradual but steady moving away from participation in organized religion in Canada; indeed, Canada could now be rightly described as an increasingly secularized society. The United Church has, along with many other mainline denominations, seen a steady decline since the late 1960s in all those statistical measuring points where it had seen growth in the immediate post-World War II era.

The 1970s saw the first wave of what would be a dramatic increase in the number of women being ordained. While the United Church approved the ordination of women in 1936, relatively few women were ordained prior to the early 1970s. In 1988, the United Church declared, after bitter debate across the denomination, that no impediment existed to the ordination or commissioning of self-declared gays and lesbians.

Similar to other Canadian denominations that operated residential schools for Canada's Indigenous population, the United Church has apologized to that Indigenous population for its role in the residential schools and also for its participation in efforts to destroy Indigenous cultures, a goal of both the missionary efforts among Canada's Indigenous population and the residential schools. As part of its commitment to reconciliation, including with its own Indigenous membership, in 2012 the United Church added the words "All My Relations" (in Mohawk) to the United Church crest. This action, and the apologies by the United Church, stand within a broader effort by Canadian governments and Canadian society to engage in a reconciliation process with Canada's Indigenous peoples.

From its beginning, the United Church has committed itself to ecumenism, declaring in the 1930s that it saw itself as a united and a uniting church. The 1960s probably represent the high point of the United Church's lived commitment to ecumenism. In 1968, a significant portion of the Evangelical United Brethren denomination in

Canada joined with the United Church at the same time as its American counterpart joined the Methodist Church in the United States. Discussions toward church union with the Anglican Church of Canada began in 1943. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) joined those talks in 1969. The Anglicans withdrew from the conversation in 1975. Conversations between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and The United Church of Canada continued until 1985 but ended without reaching the hoped-for goal. In recent years the United Church entered into a full communion agreement with the United Church of Christ and mutual recognition of ministry agreements with several other denominations.

The report of a “Commission on World Mission” to the twenty second General Council (1966) signaled a significant re-thinking of the United Church’s approach to world mission and to its understanding of Christianity’s relationship to other world religions. Among other things, the Commission recommended that “[t]he church should recognize that God is creatively and redemptively at work in the religious life of all [hu]mankind.” That re- thinking led to a new emphasis on interfaith relations and subsequent reports, beginning in 1997, on United Church relationships with Judaism, Islam, Indigenous Spiritualities, and Hinduism.

Context: Why Now?

The context to which we bring this conversation of full communion is one of an increasingly diverse society, rural depopulation, expanding secularism, and in the case of The United Church of Canada, an incredible amount of denominational change. As with a full communion agreement, this is not a backdoor to the union; it is an attempt to find common ground in which to plant seeds for God’s mission and ministry.

Because the Disciples of Christ has an existing presence in Canada, it is important that both denominations are clear that this is a partnership not an amalgamation. We must show that together we are stronger and able to continue the work of Christ’s church in our varied communities while maintaining our own unique identities.

Specifically, in the Canadian context, our two denominations share a common land and social context. We may even think that we are the only progressive voice in our communities. A full communion agreement can benefit both denominations in supporting one another, possibly sharing resources at all levels of the church, giving congregations permission to reach out to one another on common issues or projects when in the past our differences might have kept us apart.

Although both denominations are distinct entities within the one body of Christ, we recognize a number of commonalities that encourage us to pursue greater collaboration and partnership:

- Our ministries are rooted in the gospel imperative to work for justice, personally but more importantly systemically;

- Mission is at the heart of who we are as Christ’s church. We are aware of the centrality of mission to our identity both globally and locally. We are likewise critically cognizant of the damaging impact of colonialism on our shared involvement in the world, and therefore a renewed emphasis and intentionality to live and interact differently with our global partners. We also repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery;
- We are both engaging diverse heritages and changing overall contexts and are challenged by the question “how do we speak and move with integrity in this new landscape?”;
- Mission and partnership are part of the important, reconciling interfaith work in which we are both actively engaged. We recognize that we live within a landscape of religious pluralism and that as Christians, we are not the center of the universe. We share a common cause in the desire to live into the equity of all faiths and find ways to partner across the spectrum for the greater good;
- God is working in ways that have humbled both denominations and have called us to seek greater collaboration across the body of Christ, living into the call to be one body, and to seek unity not uniformity;
- In the local context we are already working together: we share two joint United Church-Disciples of Christ pastorates (Campbell-Stone United, Calgary, and Broadway Disciples United, Winnipeg); in many rural and urban settings where the Disciples of Christ and the United Church exist within close proximity our congregations have been working together in public witness and service for decades;
- We face similar challenges and strategies which include but are not limited to: the challenge of generational splits; the challenge/opportunity of new technology and communication patterns; the opportunity of engaging immigrant and marginalized communities, recognizing the diversity of the gifts they bring into the body of Christ;
- We are both in full communion relationships with the United Church of Christ in the USA;
- We share global partners through Global Ministries and Church in Mission;
- We have gifts to share with respect to the justice work we have done independently of one another: the Disciples of Christ with respect to anti-racism/pro-reconciliation in the life of the church, and the United Church with respect to full inclusion and celebration of LGBTQ+ in the life of the church; and
- We recognize that being Christian today is counter-cultural, and that there are abundant blessings and challenges as we engage the rich diversity of belief, worship, theology, and Christology exhibited in different generations and cultures. We are committed to being open to the movement of the Spirit as we work to greater inclusivity, acceptance, and collaboration.

Many of our congregations are in a rural context where they are the only Protestant denomination in the community. Those of other denominations may or may not feel

welcome or comfortable. The more we can identify our commonalities, the greater the chance that those who feel isolated in their faith may cross the threshold and find a supportive Disciples or United Church community.

The Bigger Picture: Why “Now” is Exactly the Right Time for These Talks

The immediate context out of which we have emerged, namely, the “modern” period, worked under a different set of principles and realities than those we are embedded in today. A time of building and reinforcing institutions and ideologies within a technological framework vastly different from today, the recent past celebrated the triumphalism of Christianity in identity silos which provided little opportunity to truly engage in the partnership models we explore today. We mistakenly believed that we were all successful doing our own things in our own denominations and whatever unions we dreamt of and pursued were perceived to be about compromise and competition rather than collaboration, assimilation rather than mutuality and celebration of difference. We, perhaps, were unable to conceive of this kind of partnership in our recent past.

The future for the church in North America is uncertain at best and bleak at worst, as our nations appear to continue on the journey of public secularization. At its bleakest, many denominations will merge with great compromise, hurt, loss, and some measure of humiliation until there are only a handful with the resources to continue to function. At its best, the continued persistence of denominations is called into question as more and more post-modern thinking Christians question their validity in light of the call to Christian unity. The continued erosion of denominations leads to a weakened universal church in North America with few able to muster the energy and resources to effect significant transformation in the public sphere, focusing instead, on survival or at least how to have dignity in death. To wait until some undecided point in the future to have these courageous conversations, may indeed, be too late.

The context we must embrace at this point in our shared life together is that the church is not ours but belongs to the Divine who uses as much of it as has heart and openness to be so used. As such, we are stewards of the resources—human, infrastructure, wealth, creativity, compassion—that have been entrusted to our care. In this age of lightning-fast technological change, communications that we could not have dreamed of 20 years ago, and seemingly limitless information at our fingertips 24/7, we have an unprecedented opportunity to be leaders in the restoration of Christian unity to the heart of the church and in the minds and hearts of the children of God under our care. We do so not for our own survival, but so that the gospel of Jesus Christ might be lived out anew, impacting and transforming communities and lives in ways we could not have accomplished in the past. We have always been called to be one body; now is the time to believe it and live it.

To answer the question, “why now?” we ask, “if not now, when?” Our young adults and mature adults are already exploring options to be church differently in this post-modern age. Many of the systems that served us well in the past are in the process of becoming obsolete and something new must take their place. The demands of ministry and mission in the world are infinitely more complex while financial and other resources are reduced.

Why would we wait any longer to embrace the call to be partners, joined together more intentionally to accomplish the task of being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world?

Full Communion

What does an ecumenical partnership or “full communion” mean? These terms do not define a merger between different denominations. An ecumenical partnership emphasizes more a style of pragmatic unity in terms of witness, service, fellowship, worship, and the proclamation of a common faith. Both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the UNITED STATES and Canada and The United Church of Canada each currently have a full communion agreement with the United Church of Christ. These ecumenical partnerships or “full communion agreements” generally rest on five pillars of acceptance and cooperation. Each of these pillars is rooted in scripture and based upon theological understandings reached and explored by both *COCU Consensus: In Quest of a Church of Christ Uniting* (1984) and the *Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry* document (1982).

The Five Pillars of Full Communion

- (1) “Common Confession of Christ.” This pillar is built upon the common faith shared by both churches, that God is in Christ, reconciling the world to God’s self, and is the One in whom “we live and move and have our being.” (2 Cor. 5:19; Acts 17:28) In an ecumenical partnership, both churches covenant to be mutually accountable in their witness to Christ in the world today.
- (2) “Mutual Recognition of Members.” Both churches believe that we have much to learn from the expressions of faith found in other Christian communities. In this second affirmation of full communion, both the United Church and the Disciples of Christ recognize and affirm one another’s baptisms, and also affirm the members of one another’s churches. In full communion, both churches would agree to the “transfer of membership” between their local congregations “by letter.” Neither church would give up its own approaches to the practice of baptism or church membership. Instead, their commitment to one another represents a desire to express their commitment to the fact that any differences in practices in this area should not divide them as churches.
- (3) “Common Celebration of the Lord’s Supper/Holy Communion.” Since these churches confess Christ in common, and since they recognize one another’s baptism and accept one another’s members in each other’s congregations, it naturally follows that they should encourage congregations to cross borders where they might be geographically close to one another and to share worship and communion together. Both churches celebrate an open table, open to all who are connected to Christ, and both recognize the table calls us into community and toward a commitment to justice for all God’s children.
- (4) “Mutual Recognition and Reconciliation of Ordered Ministers.” In full communion, the two churches would affirm one another’s ordered ministries as belonging to the one ministry of Jesus Christ. Such ministers in one church will be recognized as ministers in the other church. Each may serve, when invited, as minister to the other. Though ministerial credentials are immediately recognized, each minister

will need to go through the standard processes established by each denomination to gain official “standing” within the denomination.

- (5) “Common Commitment to Mission.” This fifth pillar of full communion between our two churches recognizes that mission is not an option for the church; rather it, like unity, is part of its very essence. When churches are not engaged in mission, they cease to exist as a church. As our two denominations enter into full communion, we will explore ways of supporting each other in God’s mission in our own countries and around the world.

The Local Congregation as the Incarnation of Full Communion

One of the great gifts of the Christian faith is the knowledge that God became one of us. The incarnation is a demonstration that God cares for us enough to be one of us. Another insight given to the Christian faith is that the church is the Body of Christ, and as such is another manifestation of the incarnation.

Within The United Church of Canada and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, full communion is an important aspect of our witness to the world about God’s desire for us to “be one, so that the world might believe.” (John 17) However, there is a tendency within the ethos of the church to think of full communion as something “out there” or “up there,” rather than being an action with local currency. In other words, one might say that full communion needs an incarnation of sorts to bring what might seem to be an ethereal concept into a living, breathing reality.

This concept will become real when congregations actually embody full communion. Both communions have within their local worship a faith-filled recitation of the elements of their faith in the proclamation of shared truth. *A New Creed* of The United Church of Canada begins with the words “We are not alone, we live in God’s world.” These words tend to bring the transcendent quality of God’s existence into the physical everyday world in which our people live. However, these same words might also have a reference to our sisters and brothers the planet over, and a particular reference to those denominations with whom we share a close walk of faith through ecumenical bonds. As the Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) puts it “we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God.”

In order to help incarnate the oneness of the church, we recommend that congregations be invited to consider the practice of reciting the statement of faith from their own denomination alongside the statement of faith of those other communions with whom they share a formal ecumenical relationship. The worshipping life of Broadway Disciples United Church (a shared ministry in Winnipeg) was enriched by rotating our statements of faith along with the historic Nicene-Chalcedonian Creed and the Apostles’ Creed. This would not be limited to The United Church of Canada and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, but would include statements of faith from other communions with whom they share this ministry, such as the United Church of Christ (USA), the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and the Presbyterian Church

in the Republic of Korea. It might also be possible to develop membership/confirmation materials based upon these shared affirmations of faith to learn more about what we share and to value how God has made us unique. Neighbouring congregations could develop studies for Lent or Advent exploring our respective and historic creeds. This would be a major and noticeable move within the life of local congregations to show that something new is happening within the life of the church. As Isaiah 43:19 reports God's intention, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

It is important to note that both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and The United Church of Canada extend an open invitation to the Lord's Supper. "All are welcome" is a common ground in which the Disciples of Christ and the United Church endeavor to mirror God's invitation to a ministry of healing and wholeness to the world. Both denominations affirm an open table where we come together in unity with our Christian brothers and sisters to remember Jesus' life, death and resurrection and that he will come again. For Disciples, a weekly tradition of sharing the Table is part of their Christian nurture, and it might be commended to sisters and brothers within the United Church. United Church congregations are invited to remember the affirmation made by The United Church of Canada following the adoption of *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry* (Faith and Order Paper no. 111, World Council of Churches, 1982) in the wider church, in which the United Church urged an exploration of the move towards a weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper. Whether a weekly part of Christian nurture or "[a] taste [of the] mystery of God's great love for us" to be enjoyed on special occasions, in the words of *A Song of Faith*, "the open table speaks of the shining promise of barriers broken and creation healed."

Our two denominations also differ in their usual practice of baptism. To bring these varying perspectives within the life of the local congregations, one might teach the gifts of "infant" baptism and "believer's" baptism again, as part of membership/confirmation classes—to place these perspectives within the setting of the ecumenical Church and help us come to a deeper understanding of God's grace and love.

While we share much in common, our differences can offer one another new perspectives. One of the gifts of The United Church of Canada has been its placement within one country with a localized and incarnational sense of mission and ministry. One of the gifts of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada is that because it is not rooted in only one country, it has some sense of its allegiance to the whole world.

Our existing shared ministries, Campbell-Stone United Church (Calgary) and Broadway Disciples United Church (Winnipeg), are invited to tell their stories, including the gifts and challenges of worshiping and serving together, to help others imagine ways for our partnership to become a living, breathing reality.

Where congregations of our two denominations are close geographically, we encourage shared worship or pulpit exchanges and shared mission projects such as refugee

sponsorship or shared studies. Including one another in correspondence about special events and regular programs and activities will help relationships develop and open possibilities to imagine new ways to be the church together. Where congregations are at a distance geographically or in different countries, a relationship could develop through social media, exchanges between groups from congregations and longer exchanges between clergy. As the United Church moves to clusters and networks, neighboring Disciples congregations could be invited to be a part of clusters and Disciples and the United Church of Christ (USA) congregations could be included in networks where there are shared passions for mission and ministry.

It is our belief that without some local incarnation of full communion with methods such as those outlined above, and others, as discovered within the life of our shared faith, that our ecumenical partnership will be wanting in the crucial life-lived of our local congregations.

During Vatican II there was the talk of *aggiornamento* – a new, refreshing wind of the spirit blowing through the life of the church. This putting a word to the name for renewal helped the church grasp what was being attempted. Perhaps for The United Church of Canada and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, we might adopt the Western Canadian notion of the Chinook wind as blowing warmth within our lives as people of faith.

National, Bi-national, and International Possibilities for Partnership

Our two churches have long understood engagement in God’s mission in the world to be a primary responsibility of our ministries. In its framework document *Mending the World*, the United Church affirms that “the churches are called to make common cause with individuals and institutions of good will who are committed to compassion, peace, and justice in the world.... God, who loves this world, works for its mending, and calls the church to make this work its first priority.” Thus, the church has committed itself to a vision of ecumenism that is world-centered, understood as “whole world ecumenism,” calling us to work in partnership with all who seek the health and well-being of the whole creation.

Similarly, the Disciples of Christ have stated in *The Church for Disciples of Christ: Seeking to be Truly Church Today* that “[t]he church exists for the sake of praising God and participating in God’s mission in and for all the world.” The Disciples of Christ also affirm that it is the world that God so loves and in which the church finds its purpose and mission to exist as a faith community. The Disciples clearly understand that God has given unity as God’s gift to all followers of Christ, and in unity, Christians must work together to bring just peace to the world.

Both denominations have strong national and international program work and relationships that may be enhanced through full communion. This includes some global partnership work in which both churches are already involved, such as membership in the World Council of Churches (WCC), the World Communion of the Reformed Churches

(WCRC), and the Global Christian Forum (GFC), and global partners who relate to both the Global Ministries, which belongs to the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ (USA), and the Church in Mission unit of The United Church of Canada. In this area many possibilities exist for further cooperation, and where some joint work is already underway. Staff members of Global Ministries and Church in Mission have met to share their work and review avenues for increased collaboration. These avenues also include particular global issues where we may support each other in our education and advocacy, such as peace and justice in the Middle East, North and South Korea, and Colombia.

Another area where collaboration with both national and international dimensions may be possible is a response to the challenges of migration, immigration, and refugee issues. The Migrant Church Task Group of the United Church is addressing the ways that migration is re-shaping the church. It is endeavoring to develop structures and processes that will enable the church to be more welcoming and supportive of people migrating to Canada. The Church in Mission unit includes staff working in the area of refugee sponsorship, settlement, and support, as well as advocacy on immigration and refugee issues. The Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM) addresses similar concerns, including the particular challenges of immigration in the present United States context. Refugee and Immigration Ministries equips the church to respond to Jesus' call to welcome the stranger through refugee resettlement, ministering to immigrants and advocacy. RIM provides resources for local congregations, legal consultations, and connections to hands-on mission work. In the rapidly changing political current, this office has promptly responded to certain U.S. policy changes. The Disciples have also provided legal services to the church and community members with Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel, which helps congregations protect their rights, understand their options, and work through the U.S. immigration system.

Significant aspects of refugee and immigration issues in our two countries are impacting each other at this point, and the potential for joint work on this issue is great. In addition to the work that members of both churches in Canada might do in our own context, there may be opportunities for joint advocacy and action that would include the concerns of both countries, as well as for learning from each other about best practices in our work.

A range of program work offers opportunities for cooperation, for learning from each other, and for action together. The youth and young adult networks and ministries of both churches might meet together or attend each other's regional or national gatherings (e.g., the United Church's Rendezvous event and the joint National Youth Event of the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ). Opportunities for learning and collaboration may arise from meetings or other connections of those working in the areas of stewardship, human resources, and communications. These might include ideas for sharing or joint production of some resources or shared planning of educational events. Collaborations in communication could include partnering on social media, a joint website, or an agreement to include newsfeeds from ecumenical partners on each denomination's website.

Possibilities for resource-sharing may be numerous. Many of the justice issues in which both churches are engaged may involve the development of resources (and in some cases campaigns) that could invite collaboration. As well, those developing liturgy and producing worship resources might work together on some projects or share with each other resources created by members of their particular denomination.

One of the most important (and complex) outcomes of a full communion agreement will be the development of a process for implementing mutual recognition of ministries. This will involve national and regional offices in both denominations, as well as local congregations open to the possibilities of being served by a minister from the partner denomination. The bi-national nature of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and the already existing flow of people across our borders suggests that as these processes are put into place new and creative opportunities for ministry together may be opened.

As well, ministry personnel may find ways to meet with and learn from each other, such as through joint continuing education events. Theological colleges related to each denomination could also be encouraged to participate in the development of relationships arising from full communion. A meeting of Deans and Principals could identify possibilities for partnership or exchange that would enhance students' education.

As we journey together in the spirit of full communion, other ways of accompanying each other in the challenges and joys we face could be explored. The appointment of representatives to each other's regional or national governing bodies, meetings, assemblies, and other significant gatherings, would recognize that a full communion relationship implies a new dimension of accountability to one another as we make decisions about the life and work of each of our churches. Supporting connections among local faith communities and ministries with similar contexts and commitments (e.g., Indigenous ministries, outreach ministries, migrant or ethnic ministries, African-American and Afro-Canadian communities, etc.) would be one way to bring the resources of partnership and accompaniment to local communities.

One of the marks of full communion is mutual recognition of members. What are the practical implications of this commitment? A national implementation team could consider situations where such recognition would have an impact and processes for giving it meaning. Examples include individuals participating in the other denomination for a period of time, or Disciples members in Canada attending the United Church in a community with no Disciples congregation, or United Church members who live part of the year in the United States and choose to participate actively in a Disciples congregation.

Finally, it will be important to be aware of the implications of our partnership for our involvement in wider ecumenical and interfaith networks. Might we encourage the networks of ecumenical officers in both countries to meet together on occasion? How does our involvement in the ecumenical and interfaith councils of Canada and the United States (as well as globally) inform our relationship, and what do we bring to those bodies

as full communion partners? How will we share with each other the gifts, resources, and challenges of our ecumenical and interfaith engagement?

The energizing and creative possibilities in our relationship are many, and others will be discovered only as we live into a deeper understanding and vision of our mission and ministry together.

Challenges to Full Communion

Any Full Communion agreement between denominations presents challenges as well as opportunities. That these challenges are shared by the partner churches indicates that both have much to gain through increased collaboration.

Institutional Capacity

Both denominations face a future of declining resources and a decreased ability to carry out the full range of mission and ministry activities, including ecumenical work. Both denominational offices are likely to become smaller, with fewer staff and less funding. In the United Church much institutional time and energy has been and will be devoted to major changes in the church's governance, structure and funding. This may affect not just commitment to full communion at the national level, but enthusiasm in local communities of faith to work alongside their full communion partners in Canada and across the border.

Knowing Each Other

The Disciples of Christ congregations in the United States may know very little about The United Church of Canada. In Canada, United Church and Disciples communities of faith may know each other if they are in proximity. Otherwise, it is doubtful if the more numerous United Church congregations have much familiarity with the Disciples. As well, some Canadian Disciples may still think of the United Church in terms of the end of talks in the 1980s. An increased knowledge of each denomination's full communion partner, at local and regional as well as national levels, is essential to a rich relationship and affirmation of both churches' ecumenical visions. Presenting the full communion agreement to both partners must include upholding that such an agreement is not a "backdoor" to union. The local contexts of each partner church are not seen as incidental, but rather as central, to their identities, and each denomination has been called to God's mission and ministry in its own distinct location and context.

Immigration

In recent years Canada has tightened visa requirements for foreign clergy being admitted to Canadian churches. In the United States, restrictions on immigration are increasingly common. A full communion agreement, with its mutual recognition of ministries and embrace of mobility between the two partner denominations, may encounter obstacles to the movement of ministry personnel across borders.

Diversity

Both the United Church and the Disciples of Christ are, as North American denominations, predominantly white in their makeup, although both are committed to an intercultural vision. Yet the worldwide church is shifting its center of gravity to the global South; by 2050 white, non-Hispanic Christians will be only one-fifth to one-sixth of the world's Christian believers, while both the United States and Canada will see increases in the non-white proportion of their populations. Although the dynamics of race, ethnicity, language and culture are different in Canada and the United States, both denominations must grapple with how to move from their current base into becoming more intercultural, during a period that will likely see resistance to these shifts in racial, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural makeup.

Justice

Justice is an essential part of our respective identities. Both the United Church and the Disciples of Christ are known to have a deep passion for justice. Both churches heed the biblical mandate, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8) The two denominations may explore means of collaboration and cooperation across borders when called on to denounce injustice and oppression. As both denominations consider justice in society and the world, it is vital not to forget justice in the Church. There are concerns of a "take over" when it comes to numbers, reputation and the size of the respective churches in Canada. It is important to be cognizant of the concern that "mission" has different connotations in both countries, especially for Indigenous persons. The term "mission" for some brings irredeemable memories. Opportunities to make full communion a reality in global missions and ecumenical relations and activities need to be explored.

Conclusion

Movements of faith always involve openness to the Spirit. The Planning Group offers the hope that this full communion agreement might be led by the Spirit. The two denominations should put in place structures to allow the experience of full communion to grow into deeper relationships. This will mean intentional efforts to develop opportunities to learn, to worship and to engage together at denominational, regional, and local levels. While structures seem contrary to the experience of movements, in fact all movements require organizational attention. Most importantly, structures enable this full communion agreement to keep before the churches the vision of the prayer of Jesus "that all may be one" and through them the world might be blessed.

The Planning Group believes this journey of full communion may be an opening to something truly transformative for us and for others.

Members of the Planning Group

The United Church of Canada

Nora Sanders, General Secretary, General Council
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Gail Allan, Coordinator, Ecumenical, Interchurch and Interfaith Relations
Shannon McCarthy, Executive Secretary, Alberta Northwest and Manitoba
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Heather Leffler, Minister
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The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens, General Minister and President
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Jennifer Garbin, Regional Minister of Canada
Mark G. Toulouse, Historian and Theologian
Raymond A. Cuthbert, Minister

GA-1923

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FOR PREVENTION OF HARASSMENT FOR GENERAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

(Operational, Policy and Organizational)

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada (the Church) employs many persons, both clergy and lay, through its affiliated and recognized General Ministries; and

WHEREAS, the Church seeks to be a safe and just employer, ensuring that all employees may work in an environment free from harassment of any kind, and where all persons are seen as part of the creation of God; and

WHEREAS, the Church seeks to continually live into its commitment to Pro- Reconciliation/Anti-Racism; and

WHEREAS, the Cabinet of General Ministries convened a Human Resources Task Force to provide recommended language and minimum standards for policies on harassment, including sexual harassment, verbal harassment, anti-racism, and discrimination of any form; and

WHEREAS, the Cabinet of General Ministries has approved the recommended draft language and minimum standards presented with this resolution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly charge all General Ministries to revise and implement their Human Resources policies to meet the minimum standards drafted in the attached “Recommended Language” document; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Ministries of the Church communicate their policies to all employees of their ministries upon revision of their respective Human Resources policies to be in compliance with this resolution.

Administrative Committee

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1923.
(Discussion Time: 12 minutes)**

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE for General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Prevention of Harassment

ABC strives to create and maintain a work environment in which people are treated with dignity, decency, and respect. The environment of the church should be characterized by mutual trust and the absence of intimidation, oppression and exploitation. ABC will not tolerate unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind, through enforcement of this policy. By providing education for staff & ministry affiliates of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), ABC will seek to prevent, correct and discipline behavior that violates this policy.

Objective

All staff, regardless of their position are covered by and expected to comply with this policy and take appropriate measures to ensure that prohibited conduct does not occur. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee who violates this policy. Based on the seriousness of the offense, disciplinary action may include verbal or written reprimand, suspension or termination of employment. The employer may report charges regarding inappropriate conduct by clergy to the appropriate commission of ministry that governs the individual standing, who will determine if an additional investigation is required.

This policy applies to all employment practices. This policy is applicable, but not limited to, the areas of: recruitment, selection, compensations and benefits, professional development & training, reasonable accommodation for disabilities, promotion, transfer, termination, or other terms and conditions of employment.

This policy may apply to discrimination (including harassment) that occurs between staff, or between staff and ministry affiliates of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that takes place outside the workplace (including, but not limited to, online conduct or conduct utilizing the internet or other electronic media).

Definitions

- **Confidentiality** means all complaints and investigations are treated confidentially to the extent possible and information disclosed strictly on a need- to-know basis. The identity of the complainant is usually revealed to the parties involved during the investigation, and the _____ will take adequate steps to ensure that the complainant is protected from retaliation during and after the investigation. All information pertaining to a complaint or investigation under this policy will be maintained in secure files within the organization.
- **Cyber Bullying** – the use of electronic communication to bully another individual, typically by sending communication of an intimidating or threatening nature.

- **Discrimination** – it is a violation of ABC’s policy to discriminate in the provision of employment opportunities, benefits or privileges; to create discriminatory work conditions; or to use discriminatory evaluative standards in employment if the basis of that discriminatory treatment is, in whole or in part, the person’s race, color, national origin, age, religion, disability status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, marital status or political beliefs.
- **False Reporting** – the complainant makes a report knowing that what is alleged did not occur and, therefore, could not constitute any form of harassment. Malice may or may not exist.
- **Harassment** – ABC prohibits harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment, and will take appropriate and immediate action in response to complaints or knowledge of violations or this policy. For purposes of this policy, harassment is any verbal or physical conduct designed to threaten, intimidate or coerce an employee, colleague, or any person working for or on behalf of ABC.
- **Hostile Work Environment** is a form of sexual harassment, where frequent pervasive and sexually hostile working conditions unreasonably interfere with an employee’s ability to do his or her job.
- **Non-verbal harassment** includes distribution, display or discussion of any written or graphic material that ridicules, denigrates, insults, belittles or shows hostility, aversion or disrespect toward an individual or group because of race, color, national origin, age, religion, disability status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information or marital status.
 - Examples: pinching, patting, rubbing, purposefully brushing up against another person, sharing demeaning pictures, cartoons, jokes; demeaning gestures, unwanted hugs, hitting, pushing, groping and other touching.
- **Retaliation** means no hardship, loss, benefit or penalty may be imposed on a member of the staff in response to: filing or responding to a bona fide complaint of discrimination or harassment; appearing as a witness in the investigation of a complaint; or serving as an investigator of a complaint. Lodging a bona fide complaint will in no way be used against the staff member or have an adverse impact on the individual’s employment status. However, filings that are groundless or malicious is an abuse of this policy and will be treated as a violation. Any person found to have violated this aspect of the policy will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.
- **Sexual Harassment** is a form of unlawful employment discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and is prohibited under ABC’s anti-harassment policy. According to the Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission (EEOC), sexual harassment is defined as “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature...when...submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions, or such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

- Examples: inappropriate sexual comments, remarks about someone’s body, explicit emails and phone calls, sexually inappropriate images or videos, suggestive letters or notes, or inappropriate gestures.
- **Verbal harassment** includes comments that are offensive or unwelcome regarding a person’s race, color, national origin, age, religion, disability status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, marital status or political beliefs.
 - Examples: whistling, slurs, derogatory or threatening comments, racist slang or phrases, wearing clothing that could be offensive to an ethnic group, jokes, innuendos, name- calling and insults.

Reporting an Incident of Harassment, Discrimination or Retaliation

ABC encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment or retaliation, regardless of the offender’s identity or position. Individuals who believe that they have been the victim of such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate supervisor or _____. See the complaint procedure described below.

In addition, ABC encourages individuals who believe they are being subjected to such conduct to promptly advise the offender that his or her behavior is unwelcome and to request that it be discontinued. Often this action alone will resolve the problem. ABC recognizes, however, that an individual may prefer to pursue the matter through complaint procedures.

If the complaint is against the Chief Executive, the complaint shall be reported to the Chair of the Board of Directors or equivalent governing body.

Complaint Procedure

Individuals who believe they have been the victims of conduct prohibited by this policy or believe they have witnessed such conduct should discuss their concerns with _____.

ABC encourages the prompt reporting of complaints or concerns so that rapid and constructive action can be taken before relationships become irreparably strained. Therefore, while no fixed reporting period has been established, early reporting and intervention have proven to be the most effective method of resolving actual or perceived incidents of harassment.

Any reported allegations of harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be investigated promptly. The investigation may include individual interviews with the parties involved and, where necessary, with individuals who may have observed the alleged conduct or may have other relevant knowledge.

ABC will maintain confidentiality throughout the investigatory process to the extent consistent with adequate investigation and appropriate corrective action.

Retaliation against an individual for reporting harassment or discrimination or for participating in an investigation of a claim of harassment or discrimination is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination itself, will be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of retaliation should be reported immediately and will be promptly investigated and addressed.

Misconduct constituting harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be dealt with appropriately. Responsive action may include, for example, training, referral to counseling or disciplinary action such as a warning, reprimand, withholding of a promotion or pay increase, reassignment, temporary suspension without pay, or termination, as ABC believes appropriate under the circumstances.

If a party to a complaint does not agree with its resolution, that party may appeal to [Company Name]'s executive director or the chief executive officer.

False and malicious complaints of harassment, discrimination or retaliation (as opposed to complaints that, even if erroneous, are made in good faith) may be the subject of appropriate disciplinary action.

Punishment for harassment depends on the severity of the offence and may include counseling, reprimands, suspensions or terminations. Employees who violate this policy are subject to appropriate progressive corrective discipline as outlined in the employee handbook. If an investigation results in a finding that this policy has been violated, the mandatory minimum discipline is a written reprimand. The discipline for very serious or repeat violations is termination of employment. Persons who violate this policy may also be subject to civil damages or criminal penalties.

Recommended Corrective Action Steps are listed below:

Step 1: Counseling and verbal warning

Step 2: Written warning

Step 3: Suspension and final written warning

Step 4: Recommendation for termination of employment or removal of standing

GA-1924

RESOLUTION TO CELEBRATE THE FORMATION OF NEW CONGREGATIONS AND CONTINUE THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO MAKE DISCIPLES

(Operational, Policy and Organizational)

WHEREAS, throughout our history, the Stone-Campbell movement has been marked by courageous leaders called to create communities rooted in God's mission; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) embraced the challenge to form 1,000 congregations in 1,000 different ways pursuant to the 2020 Vision; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, bold Disciples leaders have answered this call by establishing new churches through organic and affiliating growth in the United States and Canada, and celebrate that according to New Church Ministries and Year Book and Directory data, more than 60 percent are still bearing Christ's witness to the world five years after their inception; and

WHEREAS, the New Church Movement is a major contributor to the racial/ethnic diversity of the Church, as exemplified by at least 28 languages in which our congregations worship, demonstrating our commitment to affirm and advocate for our current and emerging racial/ethnic communities; and

WHEREAS, New Church Ministry partners with all the expressions of the Church to train, equip, assist and multiply New Church leaders as they guide new congregations in God's mission; and

WHEREAS, it is through these partnerships, ongoing Pentecost Offering, financial stewardship, missional transformation and the faithful call and development of new leaders that Disciples continue to change the world; and

WHEREAS, it is through this cooperative spirit of support and prayer, and through the mighty courage and commitment of New Church leaders and their families, that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) lives into the mandate of the Great Commission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting July 20-24, 2019, in Des Moines, Iowa, celebrates the courageous New Church work accomplished; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the formation of new congregations and faith communities continue to be a priority of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada beyond the year 2020 as we answer God's call to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

New Church Ministry

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1924.
(Discussion Time: 12 minutes)**

New Congregations and Faith Communities – 2017-2018

Abolition CC DOC, Los Angeles, CA

Agape Center, Las Vegas, NV

Anew Church, Chicago, IL

Beloved of San Diego, San Diego, CA

Berth-A Safe Harbor for Healing, Long Beach, CA

Cabin Worship Center, Springfield, ME

Casa de Adoracion y Alabanza, Phoenix, AZ

Chalice Community Christian Church, Petersburg, VA

Christ Fellowship Community Church, Dallas, TX

Christian Restoration Outreach Centre Ministry, Plantation, FL

Church of the Possible, St Augustine, FL

Chuukese Christian Church, Humble, TX

Community Worship Center, Gardena, CA

Congregational Christian Church of Americankane, Spokane, WA

Eglise Parole de Vie/Word of Life Church, Joliette, QC Canada

First Pacific Islander Christian Church, Bismarck, ND

FISH 153, Corder, MO

Fred - A Community Get-Together, Aledo, TX

Free Spririt Christian Church, Ypsilanti, MI

Grace Community, Danville, VA

Green Life Church, Raytown, MO

Happy Christian Church, Northbrook, IL

Heavenly Gate Christian Church, Skokie, IL

Iglesia Cristiana-Nuevo Comienzo, Aniston, AL

Iglesia Nueva Vida, Riverside, CA

Journey Christian Church, Seattle, WA
 Journey Church of Dallas, Richardson, TX
 Jubilee Farms DOC/UCC, Decatur, IL
 Kentucky Islander Christian Church, Independence, KY
 La Nueva de Sion, Tyler, TX
 Life Ministries, Los Angeles, CA
 Maranatha Church, West Palm Beach, FL
 Micronesian Gospel Church, Corsicana, TX
 Ministerios Cosecha Final, Ontario, CA
 Missio Dei Community, Santa Cruz, CA
 MissionGathering, Issaquah, WA
 MissionGathering, Pasadena, CA
 MissionGathering, Thornton, CO
 New Alliance Church, Port St Lucie, FL
 New Evangelical Missionary Church of God, Miami, FL
 Northwest Regional Christian Church, Arlington, WA
 Nueva Comunidad Cristiana, Ocoee, FL
 Pacific Islander Agape Church, Pensacola, FL
 Pacific Outreach Christian Church, Boise, ID
 Primera Iglesia Cristiana, Huntsville, AL
 Q3 Faith Community, El Segundo, CA
 Rome Disciples of Christ, Rome, GA
 Schekinah Church, Miramar, FL
 Somos Uno CC, Montreal, QC Canada
 South Asian Ministries, Vernon Hills, IL
 Tabernacle of Jesus Christ Middleburg, Orange Park, FL
 Table of Grace, Chicago, IL
 The Gathering, Dallas, TX
 The Table Ministries, Oklahoma City, OK
 The Turning Table, Crescent City, FL
 To Be Love Community, Fort Wayne, IN
 UCC/DOC of St. Augustine, St Augustine, FL
 Victory Church, Wheeling, IL
 Walking on Water Christian Church, Pasadena, CA
 Wichita Christian Church, Wichita, KS

GA-1925

ADDRESSING THE STATE OF GLOBAL FORCED MIGRATION

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

WHEREAS, currently more than 68.5 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes globally for reasons of war, violence, persecution, climate change, economic injustice, impoverishment, colonialism and its legacy, and exploitation, among others, so that the global state of forced migration and displacement has reached a crisis, a trend that continues to increase with no sign of a reversal; and

WHEREAS, more than 85% of those who are displaced are currently in countries that have little economic or structural capacity to provide care or services for them, while those nations who are far better able to do so, including the United States, have oftentimes placed restrictions on refugee admissions, asylum applications and other forms of immigration, even while benefitting economically from the impoverished and unstable countries from which many of these displaced persons flee; and

WHEREAS, policy debates and general discourse on migration in the United States, Europe, and, to a lesser extent, in Canada, have centered on justifications of restrictions that are racist, xenophobic, bigoted, and slanderous, and have specifically named people who are brown and black, from specific countries, and of certain faiths, particularly Islam, as excluded; and

WHEREAS, those countries that do host refugees and migrants often receive compensation from the US and Europe to keep the migrants from attempting to enter the US or Europe; and

WHEREAS, thus far, the global community has failed to address comprehensively and collaboratively the massive movement of people, most often for reasons of fear, self-interest, preservation of privilege, power, and wealth, enabling wealthy economies to benefit from the labor of migrants with little acknowledgement of obligations for the security and welfare of the migrants themselves; and

WHEREAS, due to restrictions and strict regulations, people take tremendous risks to reach safety and a new home, crossing deserts, seas, and other difficult terrain, for days, weeks, and months, only to meet reinforced and militarized borders, detention, and incarceration, likely rejection and forced return; not to mention the thousands who do not survive the journey at all; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a long history of providing welcome and creating robust structures of welcome for the resettlement of refugees; and

WHEREAS, global partners of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are advocating for and responding to the needs of the displaced and refugees among them, often with support through Global Ministries, Week of Compassion, and the United Church of Christ's One Great Hour of Sharing offering, including:

- People fleeing from high levels of structural, social and economic violence in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and seeking asylum elsewhere to escape horrific conditions;
- African migrants and refugees who have become bottle-necked in North Africa, including in Morocco, in their attempt to make their way to Europe;
- Refugees from conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, now living in camps in Tanzania;
- Syrian and Iraqi displaced persons and refugees who have escaped war and conflict, now located throughout the Middle East and in Europe;
- Generations of Palestinian refugees displaced and dispossessed of their homes and property following the wars of 1948 and 1967, in the Middle East and beyond;
- People from throughout Southern Asia where millions are forced to migrate, and are trafficked and pushed into various forms of slavery;
- People at risk from climate change in the Pacific Islands, including Tuvalu, where rising sea levels threaten to flood and eventually eliminate whole island countries;

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is called to become an immigrant welcoming church (GA 2017); and, with the guidance of our global partners through Global Ministries, advocates for the rights and dignity of displaced persons and migrants the world over;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2019 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20-24, 2019, affirm a vision of God’s family that is all-inclusive, accepting, and welcoming, recognizing the dignity of every human being; and rejects the divisive discourse of fear, xenophobia, bigotry, and racism that pervades the discourse on global forced migration, including as it relates to policy debates on immigration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2019 General Assembly call upon the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to engage the matter of global forced migration, to pray and learn about the current state of global forced migration using, among other resources, those made available through the church, specifically Global Ministries and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Refugee and Immigration Ministries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2019 General Assembly urge members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to participate in practicable ways to address the state of global forced migration through

- support of denominational partners around the world who are responding to the needs of displaced people, whether they are refugees, migrants, internally displaced, asylum-seekers, or others, through Global Ministries and Week of Compassion;
- engagement in refugee resettlement programs in the US including the Disciples Home Missions’ Refugee and Immigration Ministries;
- advocacy for the rights of refugees everywhere based on the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951); and for Palestinian refugees

- specifically as stipulated in UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948), and for continued US funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency;
- advocacy and action on issues of economic justice, climate justice, and immigration justice; and
- efforts to dismantle racism, to learn about different cultures and religions, including Islam, and to counter any form of discrimination, bigotry, and xenophobia when encountered; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2019 General Assembly call upon the governments of the United States and Canada to take the issue of global forced migration seriously, leaving behind partisan discourse and promoting actively the principles of the United Nations’ Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, which seeks, among other things, to:

- address all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects;
- make an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration;
- present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility; and
- set out a range of actionable commitments, means of implementation and a framework for follow-up and review among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions,

and for Disciples members and settings to advocate for the US and Canada to work with the global community toward these goals.

Board of Directors of the Division of Overseas Ministries

BACKGROUND:

Migration, displacement, and exile have been present throughout human history, including in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Some biblical examples include God’s call of Abram to leave Ur; Joseph’s brothers’ venture to Egypt to buy grain because of famine in Canaan; Exodus as a story of escape across borders; Noah and the threat of climate change; the Babylonian exile; and the Holy Family’s escape to safety soon after the birth of Jesus because of King Herod’s edict that all first-born male children under two born in the Bethlehem area be killed.

Jesus teaches us that the two greatest commandments are to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength” and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31). When Jesus spoke of the judgment, he taught the reality of the realm of God by saying, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’... ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it unto me” (Matthew 25:35-36, 40). The author of the letter to the Hebrews goes on to remind the faithful, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2). James warns against the sin of partiality that gives preference to those with resources over those without access. (James 2:9).

In our day, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), in a 2017 report, estimates that more than 68.5 million people are forcibly displaced from their homes, including more than 5 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). This massive displacement is the largest in recorded history, and there is no sign of a reversal of the trend. While almost two-thirds of those displaced remain within their own countries, most cannot return home. The UNHCR report cites war, violence, and persecution as significant causes. Additional factors for global forced migration include climate change, drought and famine, and impoverishment, among others.

The overwhelming majority of those who have been forcibly displaced outside their home countries currently reside in poorer, developing countries, barely able to provide services for their own populations, let alone influxes of new arrivals. Countries and systems increasingly restrict the movement of people, denying them respite and dignity. The global community needs to be engaged in creating and strengthening international systems to better accommodate this phenomenon so that the responsibilities, and the opportunities, of caring for humanity are shared.

Among economically developed countries, contemporary policy debates around immigration policies in the United States and Europe in particular, with few exceptions, have centered on stereotypes and fear, suggesting that newcomers would be “criminals and rapists,” violent terrorists, usurpers of public wealth and job opportunities. Efforts, including presidential executive orders, have been made to disallow people from coming to the US based on their countries of origin and their religion. Children have been separated from their families, with long-term impact on their mental health a result. This is a not-so-subtle message that brown and black people, and Muslims, in particular, are not welcome, and a clear effort to preserve the privilege of some at the expense of many.

With this resolution, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recognizes the global scale of the issue, the human impact, the variety of causes, the responses of many of our global partners, and the abhorrence of racism, xenophobia, and bigotry that underlie barriers to addressing the matter with a sense of justice.

References:

- * “Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017,” published by UNHCR, <http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2017/>
- * Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951), <https://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html>
- * UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948), <https://www.unrwa.org/content/resolution-194>
- * The UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, <https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration>

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1925.
 (Discussion Time: 24 minutes)**

GA-1926

SPIRIT OF ACTIVE LISTENING

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

WHEREAS, we all share a common humanity; and

WHEREAS, Romans 14 tells us “If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgement seat.”; and

WHEREAS, when discussing difficult issues, all voices need to be heard; and

WHEREAS, diverse opinions challenge and broaden our own perspectives on issues that matter to us; and

WHEREAS, current disagreements over issues such as gun control, immigration, health care, and civil rights, are particularly divisive, with people not listening to one another; and

WHEREAS, even difficult discussions within the church are often one-sided and divisive; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is “a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world” and “part of the one body of Christ” and “we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God welcomed us” as we understand that “all” means all; and

WHEREAS, we realize the vision of this church is to be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community as proclaimed in Micah 6:8; and

WHEREAS, we confess a mission of “service to all people”, rejoice in “God’s covenant of love, which binds us to God and to one another”, and recognize that “through baptism into Christ we are made one with the whole people of God” and “In the communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined together in discipleship”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20-24, 2019, call upon the many expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to be a safe place to have difficult conversations; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the church be called to Hear and Listen to all voices present as we respect our brothers and sisters in faith, free of judgement and preconceived notions, recognizing and accepting our common humanity.

General Youth Council

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1926.
(Discussion Time: 12 minutes)**

GA-1927

CONCERNING THE REOPENING OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CUBA, ENDING THE U.S. EMBARGO AGAINST THE ISLAND, AND PROMOTING A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATION BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and the United Church of Christ in the United States, are in partnership with the Christian Pentecostal Church of Cuba, Cuban Council of Churches, Evangelical Seminary of Theology, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center through our shared Global Ministries; and

WHEREAS, this resolution from an experience of deep and honest dialogue between Christian women in Cuba and Disciples women from the U.S. during the 2018 Woman-to-Woman Worldwide pilgrimage to Cuba who share a faith in the God of Peace and embrace a Spirit of mutual accompaniment and solidarity; and

WHEREAS, Christian women from the U.S. embrace and uphold the testimonies of our Cuban sisters as they share with us their stories from their daily lives, the pains and sorrows resulting from outdated U.S. policies, their desire for just relations between our countries, and their dreams and hopes that, as women of faith and as citizens of the U.S., we may convey their pains, sorrows, to our elected officials; and

WHEREAS, as women of faith, we jointly raise our voices, prophetic and pastoral, in pain and hope, with the expectation that our shared voices may become one single voice advocating for justice, reconciliation, and peace; and

WHEREAS, as women of faith, we share our voices with the gathered assembly and ask everyone to join our voices, becoming one voice of peace and justice with us; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government has rigidly maintained an economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba since 1960, which prohibits the sale of merchandise, industrial materials, medicines, food, and other necessary goods; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. embargo has historically caused and continues to cause serious difficulties to Cuba's continued industrial and commercial development, and has resulted in suffering for Cuban citizens, especially children and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, on many occasions in an ecumenical expression of anguished outcry from the Cuban churches, in December 1991, and most recently in October 2018 during the Disciples Woman-to-Woman Worldwide pilgrimage to Cuba, our church partners in Cuba, as well as church leaders, and lay persons, have asked that we convey to the U.S. government the pain and suffering that the U.S. policies have caused in their lives during the last five decades; and

WHEREAS, the UN General Assembly has passed a resolution every year since 1992, condemning the ongoing impact of the embargo (\$130 billion over six decades) and declaring it in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law and the U.S. government has repeatedly and steadfastly voted against the resolution¹; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) adopted a Sense-of-the-Assembly resolution concerning the embargo during the General Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri, July 15-20, 1993; and called for the easing of economic restrictions against Cuba through a joint letter in 1998 with the United Church of Christ to the U.S. Senate; and through the decades religious leaders, such as Pope John Paul II (1979) and Patriarch Bartholomew (2004), have called for an end to the embargo;² and

WHEREAS, recent polls conducted by U.S. media found that a majority of people in the U.S. support both the reestablishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries and want to see the U.S. end the decades-long economic blockade³; and

WHEREAS, a humanitarian crisis has resulted from the current U.S. administration's decision to downgrade the U.S. Embassy in Havana, resulting in extreme hardship to Cuban citizens who currently: 1) must travel outside of Cuba to another Latin American country to secure a visa to visit family in the U.S.; 2) incur travel expenses beyond the means of the average Cuban citizen in order to apply for a visa; 3) travel through another country without the guarantee of receiving a visa from the U.S. government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada, meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20-24, 2019, urge its U.S. members to contact members of the U.S. Congress to express support for the lifting of travel restrictions to Cuba, to allow business and trade with Cuba, to allow for direct trading of medicine and food, to ease travel restrictions, and take other steps to end the embargo against Cuba; and

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/11/1024672>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_embargo_against_Cuba

³ <http://time.com/4265990/americans-support-cuba-poll/>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada and other General Ministries leaders, such as the Global Ministries Co-Executives and the Area Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Executives of Disciples Women’s Ministries, urge President Trump and members of the U.S. Congress to end the embargo and normalize trade and full diplomatic relations with Cuba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations and individuals of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) be urged to learn about the embargo and U.S./Cuba relations, and engage in people-to-people pilgrimages and other educational and advocacy efforts in their local communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a “movement for wholeness in a fragmented world,” members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada enter into dialogue, with mutual respect, within our churches and our communities, affirming and recognizing the humanity of our brothers and sisters in Cuba, regardless of our government’s stance, calling our elected officials to a position that reflects civilized solutions for Cuba/U.S. relations; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Minister and President convey to all the ecumenical partners in Cuba the desire of this Assembly to end the embargo, and the spirit of love and solidarity expressed through this resolution.

Disciples Women

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1927.
(Discussion Time: 12 minutes)**

GA-1928

A CALL TO SEE AND RESPOND TO THE CRISIS OF DOMESTIC AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

WHEREAS, John 10:10 states that Jesus came so that we “may have life and have it more abundantly,” something that victims of domestic and intimate partner violence (DV/IPV) are robbed of due to the abuse experience causing exponentially high rates of depression, despair, fear and trauma: and

WHEREAS, in 1985 the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, meeting in Des Moines, IA, adopted GA-8520 “Resolution Concerning Domestic Violence” calling the church to recognize “its responsibility to help prevent domestic violence.” While some steps have been taken to address DV/IPV over the last 34 years, we recognize that our work in this area has been insufficient; and

WHEREAS, DV/IPV are pandemic public health problems, which are multigenerational, cyclical, threatening the fabric of family life in society (GA-8520); and

WHEREAS, the myriad forms of violence are not exclusively physical, but include emotional, sexual, spiritual, and financial abuse, as well as manipulation, isolation, unequal power and control dynamics, threats and blame shifting among other forms, occurring across age, ethnic, gender and economic lines, among persons with disabilities, and among both heterosexual and same-sex couples¹; and

WHEREAS, the victims of DV/IPV may be found throughout our society, including our own church families; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, identifies itself as a “movement for wholeness in a fragmented world,” and is called to hear the inaudible cry of the abused, fragmented soul suffering in silence and in plain sight; and

WHEREAS, the response of the general, regional, and local churches to this epidemic crisis of faith and personal safety, is critical and directly impacts the ability to aid in the eradication around and inoculation against cyclical abuse for a new generation of Christians and current survivors; and

WHEREAS, all persons who suffer trauma and abuse may not be able to find sanctuary in places of worship, and may even encounter those who seem to condone such violence;²

¹ “Intimate Partner Violence,” <https://www.apa.org/topics/violence/partner?item=1> ;
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/stop-family-violence/problem-canada.html>

² Ramsey, E. (2015, October 1). “Troubling Texts: Domestic Violence in the Bible” *Sojourners*. Retrieved from <https://sojo.net/articles/series/troubling-texts-domestic-violence-bible>

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20-24, 2019, encourages the Church across all its expressions to recognize its responsibility to help prevent domestic violence as it concerns the elderly, spouses, intimate partners, children, and others in the household and the church (GA-8520); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a collective effort be made to create an ethos of safety, dignity, compassion, and empowerment across all its expressions to educate clergy and lay on the prevalence of DV/IPV, understanding that victims/survivors are in our churches and places of work, often hidden and unreported; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all expressions of the Church are encouraged to identify, utilize, and support local community agencies seeking to eliminate the causes and effects related to DV/IPV and to provide multi-lingual information regarding local DV/IPV resources online, in common areas, and restrooms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General and Regional Commissions on Ministry and the College of Regional Ministers consider policies and procedures in regards to DV/IPV and explore opportunities for domestic violence prevention and trauma care training as part of continuing education for ordained and commissioned clergy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all expressions of the Church encourage children and youth ministries and youth camps to incorporate healthy relationship workshops in an effort to raise the consciousness of children and youth, to include the importance of healthy boundaries, self-worth, and knowledge of age appropriate dating/relationship red flags, with parental permission³ and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all expressions of the Church encourage the inclusion of a budget line item or special offering for providing support/scholarships for survivors of DV/IPV within the local congregation to attend educational opportunities (seminars, workshops, retreats, etc.); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all expressions of the Church are encouraged to develop and implement: a process and procedure for addressing and supporting victims of DV/IPV within the church context; policies to ensure compliance with local, state and provincial mandatory reporting laws; and distinct healing practices for the abused and the abuser, ensuring anonymity when possible; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada encourage all expressions of the Church to continue to:

- 1) increase their spiritual support and efforts to shatter shame, stigma, and silence by preaching and teaching responsibly on the topic of domestic and intimate partner violence;

³ Format for youth workshop frameworks can be found at <http://www.breakthecycle.org/sites/default/files/pdf/lina-curriculum-college.pdf>

- 2) create safe and sanctuary spaces for abuse-specific pastoral care, compassionate conversation, and healing for vulnerable victims and survivors;
- 3) work together to dismantle a cultural landscape where domestic violence can thrive and hide.

These educational tools and process will offer hope and aid to those both inside and outside the church who suffer.

First Christian Church, Pomona, CA
 University Church of Chicago, Chicago, IL
 Carrollton Christian Church, Carrollton, KY
 Third Central United Christian Church, Louisville, KY
 UrbanMission (UCC/DOC), Pomona, CA

RESOURCES

“5 Facts About Sexual and Domestic Violence in LGBTQ Communities | Joyful Heart Foundation.” Accessed January 1, 2019. <http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/blog/5-facts-sexual-domestic-violence-lgbtq-communities>

“30 Shocking Domestic Violence Statistics That Remind Us It’s An Epidemic | HuffPost.” Accessed December 31, 2018. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/23/domestic-violence-statistics_n_5959776.html

“Child Abuse Statistics (& the Best Resources) | INVISIBLE CHILDREN.” Accessed January 1, 2019. <https://www.invisiblechildren.org/2017/12/29/child-abuse-statistics-the-best-resources/>

Elder Abuse.” Accessed January 1, 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/elder-abuse>

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2003. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipvbook-a.pdf>

“The Alarming Stats on Domestic Violence in Canada.” <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/stop-family-violence/problem-canada.html>

“Police Reported Family Violence Against Seniors.” <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/14698/05-eng.htm>

“Gender Based-Violence (Violence Against Women and Children).” <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialdevelopment/brief/violence-against-women-and-girls>

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1928.
 (Discussion Time: 24 minutes)**

GA-1929

AN INVITATION TO EDUCATION FOR WELCOMING AND RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

WHEREAS, a hallmark of the identity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is that we “welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us”¹, a commitment that has called us repeatedly to new understandings and practices of welcome; and

WHEREAS, many of our congregations are becoming aware of gender diversity among our neighbors, our membership, and our members’ families; but lack experience in congregational best practices for creating safe, just, and welcoming spaces for transgender and gender-diverse people and their families; and

WHEREAS, many of our clergy have not had the opportunity to participate in intentional, biblical-theological reflection on transgender and gender-diverse identities, nor have received training in pastoral care for transgender and gender-diverse people and their families, such that transgender and gender-diverse people in their care can receive the full benefit of holistic church membership, and such that the gifts that transgender and gender-diverse people bring into the church can be fully appreciated and employed; and

WHEREAS, transgender and gender-diverse people, including children and adolescents as well as adults, experience the dangers of bullying, abuse, assault, murder, and self-harm at rates many times those of cisgender² people;³

WHEREAS, our federal government as well as many of our state, municipal, and school district governments have increased their efforts to devalue, punish, and erase transgender and gender-diverse identities in the recent past;⁴ and

WHEREAS, the body of science regarding the biological and psychological understanding of gender is growing⁵ and is persuasive that gender identity and

¹ Disciples identity statement.

² <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cisgender>

³ <https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/Harsh%20Realities.pdf>,
<https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Executive-Summary-Dec17.pdf>

⁴ <https://transequality.org/action-center>,
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/21/us/politics/transgender-trump-administration-sex-definition.html>, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/education/wp/2018/02/12/education-department-will-no-longer-investigate-transgender-bathroom-complaints/>,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bathroom_bill,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender_rights_in_the_United_States

⁵ <https://www.wpath.org/media/cms/Documents/Web%20Transfer/Policies/WPATH-Position-on-Medical-Necessity-12-21-2016.pdf>

gender expression are far more complex and rich than we previously understood and appreciated;⁶ and

WHEREAS, scripture opens possibilities for new understandings that become recognizable in the evolving life of the church, such as:

- God’s own gender-full Self is revealed to us in Scripture as a kind Father⁷, a fierce Mother⁸, and a wide variety of other metaphors across the range of gender identities and expressions; and
- God is further known to us as the male-bodied Jesus⁹ embodying God’s feminine Wisdom¹⁰; and as the non-gendered Spirit¹¹ that inhabits human beings irrespective of gender¹²; and
- Baptism into Christ clothes all people in Christ uniformly, negating ethnic, economic, and gender distinctions among believers such that “there is no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free, no longer male and female” such that we are all “one in Christ Jesus”¹³; and
- Transgender and gender-diverse people contribute rich understanding of God’s transformative power for followers of Christ, all of whom are understood to have undergone transformation of our core identity¹⁴, a concept that is enriched by relationships with transgender and gender-diverse people who have experienced transformation in their core identity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20-24, invites every expression of the church, in collaboration with Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, to seek, share, and produce resources for biblical-theological study, pastoral care best practices, and best practices for institutional inclusion concerning transgender and gender-diverse people and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly encourages the clergy of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to prepare their minds and hearts to offer fulsome welcome to transgender and gender-diverse persons in their congregations

⁶ <https://www.hrc.org/resources/understanding-the-transgender-community>

⁷ Psalm 68:5; Psalm 103:13; Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 31:9; Matthew 5:45; Matthew 6:9; Romans 8:15; 1 Corinthians 8:6

⁸ Deuteronomy 32:11-12, 18; Job 38:28-30; Psalm 131:2; Isaiah 49:15-16; Isaiah 42:14; Isaiah 66:13; Hosea 13:8

⁹ Luke 2:7

¹⁰ Proverbs 8:1-3, 22-31

¹¹ In Hebrew *ruach* is a feminine noun, grammatically speaking; while *pneuma* in Koine Greek is neuter.

¹² Joel 2:28-29; Luke 1:41, 67; Acts 2:17-18; Acts 4:31; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-7

¹³ Galatians 3:27-28

¹⁴ Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 2:20

and among their neighbors, by means of engagement with materials produced in accordance with this resolution; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to grow in the embodiment of God’s generous welcome for transgender and gender-diverse people and their families through education, shifts in institutional language and practice, and the cultivation of trusting relationships with transgender and gender-diverse people and their families.

- Galileo Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX
- Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, Indianapolis, IN
- SouthPark Christian Church, Charlotte, NC
- Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, NY
- Missiongathering Christian Church, San Diego, CA
- Missiongathering Christian Church, Charlotte, NC
- Missiongathering Christian Church, Issaquah, WA
- Missiongathering Christian Church, Thornton, CO
- Milagro Christian Church, Pueblo, CO
- Brentwood Christian Church, Springfield, MO
- Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX
- Shawnee Community Christian Church, Shawnee, KS
- First Christian Church, Santa Fe, NM
- Santa Fe Faith Network for Immigrant Justice, Santa Fe, NM
- United Christian Church, Levittown, PA
- Pine Valley Christian Church, Wichita, KS
- Carthage Christian Church, Cincinnati, OH
- Community Christian Church, Manchester, MO
- Open Table Christian Church, Murfreesboro, TN
- Compton Heights Christian Church, St. Louis, MO
- Forest Hill Christian Church, San Francisco, CA
- Saguaro Christian Church, Tucson, AZ
- Riverside Avenue Christian Church, Jacksonville, FL
- Douglass Boulevard Christian Church, Louisville, KY
- First Christian Church, Olympia, WA
- East Side Christian Church, Tulsa, OK
- Glendale Mission and Ministry Center, Glendale, AZ
- United Christian Church, Levittown, PA
- Lake Washington Christian Church, Kirkland, WA
- Welcome Table Christian Church, Arlington, TX
- Disciples Public Presence
- New Song Christian Church, Kansas City, MO
- First Christian Church (DOC), Vallejo, CA
- Foothills Christian Church, Glendale, AZ
- Edmond Trinity Christian Church, Edmond, OK
- First Christian Church, Fullerton, CA

First Christian Church, Lansing, MI
 Disciples Peace Fellowship
 Bixby Knolls Christian Church, Long Beach, CA
 Church of the Foothills, Christian Church & United Church of Christ, Santa Anna, CA
 Heights Christian Church, Shaker Heights, OH
 Little White Chapel Christian Church, Burbank, CA
 First Christian Church, St. Joseph, MO
 First Christian Church, Bellingham, WA
 Downtown Disciples, Des Moines, IA
 Just Love, Houston, TX
 Rock Bridge Christian Church, Columbia, MO
 Sugarbush Christian Church, Guelph, ON, Canada
 Chalice Christian Church, Gilbert, AZ
 National Avenue Christian Church, Springfield, MO
 St. Andrew Christian Church, Olathe, KS
 First Christian Church, Katy, TX
 First Christian Church, Lynchburg, VA
 Board of First Christian Church, Minneapolis, MN
 Union Avenue Christian Church, St. Louis, MO
 First Christian Church, Las Cruces, NM
 All Pilgrims Christian Church, Seattle, WA
 Midway Hills Christian Church, Dallas, TX
 Central Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN
 First Christian Church, Portland, OR
 First Christian Church, Eugene, OR

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1929.
 (Discussion Time: 24 minutes)**

GA-1930

ON WOMEN AND JUST PEACEMAKING

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

WHEREAS, all people are beloved children, created in God’s image (Gen. 1:27), and in Christ, all divisions are removed, including those of gender (Gal. 3:28); and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has repeatedly proclaimed the equality of all people – emphasizing women’s rights to freedom from violence, full participation in church and society including decision-making, economic justice, access to health care, and reproductive freedom; and noting the connection of these issues to just peacemaking – and called for action to promote this equality, within the church and in our society and world¹; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1 in 3 women (35 percent) worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lives²; and

WHEREAS, situations involving conflict and displacement may exacerbate existing violence against women, such as by intimate partners, as well as non-partner sexual violence (for example, when rape is used as a tool of war), and may also lead to new forms of violence against women³; and

WHEREAS, data suggests that transgender and gender-fluid individuals experience similar patterns of violence to cisgender⁴ women; some estimates indicate that one in two transgender individuals are sexually abused or assaulted at some point in their lives, and some reports estimate that 66% of transgender individuals experience sexual assault, often coupled with physical assaults and abuse⁵; reports also suggest that murder rates for transgender women have been increasing in the United States and internationally, particularly impacting transgender women of color (85% of reported transgender murders are of transgender women of color) and migrants⁶; and

¹ On reproductive freedom & access to health care, Resolutions 8954, 9314 & 0730. On economic justice & full participation, Resolutions 7342, 8525, 8956, 8931 & 9140. On freedom from violence, Resolutions 8936 & 0313.

² <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

⁴ Cisgender is a term used by some to describe people who are not transgender. “Cis” is a Latin prefix meaning “on the same side as,” and is therefore an antonym of “trans-.”

⁵ https://www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/sexual_numbers.html

⁶ <https://www.hrc.org/resources/a-national-epidemic-fatal-anti-transgender-violence-in-america-in-2018>
<https://transrespect.org/en/tmm-update-trans-day-of-remembrance-2018/>

WHEREAS, higher levels of gender equality are associated with a lower propensity for conflict, both between and within states⁷; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict; and

WHEREAS, women's participation in peace negotiations increases the durability and the quality of peace, as evidenced by the recent study investigating 82 peace agreements in 42 armed conflicts between 1989 and 2011, which found that peace agreements with female signatories are associated with durable peace.⁸ Specifically, when women participate in peace processes, the resulting agreement is 35% more likely to last at least 15 years⁹; and

WHEREAS, gender-sensitive language in peace agreements is critical to setting a foundation for gender-inclusion during the peacebuilding phase¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, the World Council of Churches has promoted women's rights since its 1948 inception in close collaboration with religious and civil-society partners around the world, and in 1953 the program of Women in Church and Society began with the proclamation that the renewal of dignified life after World War II was only possible if women were an active part of every initiative of justice and peace by the churches in society¹¹;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20-24, 2019, reaffirm our historic, scripturally-based support for the equality of women, in church and in society, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly recognizes that all barriers to full equality contribute to a global culture that tolerates violence against women and gender minorities and diminishes their participation in shaping a more just world, and call on all leaders, within the church and within society, to help eliminate those barriers, including violence, pay gaps and other economic inequities, and lack of access to health care and education; and

⁷ <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/womens-participation-in-peace-processes>

⁸ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>

⁹ <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/womens-participation-in-peace-processes>

¹⁰ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>

¹¹ <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/women-and-men/history/women-in-wcc-history>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly encourages all congregations, individuals, and other ministries within the Church to examine our beliefs, assumptions, and practices for any ways in which they may create barriers to the full participation of women in membership and leadership within the church, including especially compensation and hiring policies, and the use of gendered language for God and God’s people, and work to eliminate those barriers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly calls upon all manifestations of the church to educate ourselves about the roles of women in just peacemaking and lift up advocates such as Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad, and to listen to women’s stories, wisdom, and policy proposals, as a way of opening ourselves to the movement of the Spirit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly commends to the church the work of Disciples Women’s Ministries, the Women’s Empowerment Fund of Week of Compassion and other similar initiatives, as instruments for engaging in women-focused just peacemaking; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly joins in celebration of the accomplishments and work of women acting as peacemakers around the world.

Disciples Peace Fellowship

**The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT GA-1930.
(Discussion Time: 12 minutes)**

GA-1931

GENERAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MODERATOR-ELECT



Clyde E. Hunt, Jr. is a native of Covington, Tennessee. Clyde graduated from the University of Memphis in December of 1981, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He also holds a Master's in Engineering Management from Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee and is a certified Project Manager Professional (PMP).

Clyde's professional career began in 1982 with a brief stint as a structural engineer with the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad in Chicago, Illinois. He went on to work as a project manager for the Illinois Department of Transportation in Schaumburg, Illinois. He then returned to Memphis in 1989 to begin work with the Memphis District U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. One of the highlights of his career was serving in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2005 as the Program Manager for Schools and Clinic Refurbishment for Afghan children. After 37 years, Clyde has recently retired, and enjoys long distance cycling, fitness training and dining with family and friends.

Clyde accepted Christ as Lord at the age of 10. He is a 30-year Disciple and is a member of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, Tennessee. He has served in various leadership capacities including Chair of the Diaconate Ministry, Elder Board Chair, and has contributed his gifts in several committees and Boards of the church, community, and Christian Church (DOC) Tennessee Region. Moreover, Clyde served two three-year terms as Moderator under two senior pastors, Rev. Dr. Frank A. Thomas and Rev. Dr. J. Lawrence Turner. He currently serves on the Elder Board and co-teaches with his wife in the Christian Education Department.

Clyde is married to the former Norma Lynnette Simpson, Family Nurse Practitioner in Memphis and they are the proud parents of Clyde E. Hunt III, Electrical Engineer and Christina L. Hunt, Supply Chain Manager. Both Clyde III and his wife, Kenya Goggans Hunt will complete their graduate programs from the School of Management from Yale University and Harvard University, respectively in May of 2019.

FIRST VICE MODERATOR



The Rev. Stephanie Kendell is the Executive Minister at Park Avenue Christian Church (The Park) in New York City. She received her Master of Divinity from Brite Divinity School with an added certificate in History, Theology, and Ethics. Stephanie is passionate about justice seeking ministries that aid in the value of intersectional perspectives. She works closely with the New Sanctuary Coalition-New York bringing attention to the need for immigration reform and immigrant rights. Ministries that she contributes to have been written up in the Wall Street Journal, New York

Daily News, and Disciples.org.

Before her call to Ordained ministry, Stephanie was a Producer and Head of Operations for an interna-

tional theatrical marketing agency based in Los Angeles. This skillset drives her relational ministry that seeks to grow and sustain the faith development of her congregants as they lead the congregation. She is also responsible for helping start the current version of the online worship ministry and social media presence at The Park, which has expanded and shared the incredible bilingual worship ministries with Disciples around the world.

A current Bethany Fellow, Stephanie also serves on the Regional Committee on Ministry for the North-eastern Region and is a current Writer in Residence for Young Clergy Women International.

Stephanie is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area where she continues to be an avid supporter the SF Giants. In 2005, she graduated with a degree in Musical Theater and Theater Arts from the University of Redlands.

SECOND VICE MODERATOR



A native from Medellín, Colombia, **Néstor Gómez** has served as the pastor for both English and Spanish-speaking congregations for over 15 years. He is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Baptist Theological Seminary, and Bachelor degrees from Xaverian Pontifical University (in Religion Sciences) and Baptist Theological Seminary (in Theology), and is on track to defend his doctoral dissertation, “*En el Poder del Espíritu: (In the Power of the Spirit) A Qualitative Research Study on Social*

Ethics/Theology among U.S. Latina/o Pentecostals in April 2019.

Néstor has taught at Claremont School of Theology, Columbia College, Baptist Seminary and Regis University. As a PhD candidate, teacher and pastor surrounded by people from cultures and religions other than his own, he has learned to value, respect, and honor both the differences and commonalities of all human beings. He practices inclusive excellence in teaching, research, and service for the benefit of all in the academic community. His participation in various programs and services at the University of Denver Center for Multicultural Excellence, such as the Latino Center for Community Engagement and Scholarship (DULCCES), and the Latinx Graduate Association (LGA) has fostered and developed such practices of inclusion. He has also received several awards and honors such as a Dissertation Fellowship from the Louisville Institute and an Outstanding Leadership and Community Service from the Graduate Student Association/Iliff School of Theology.

Néstor’s passion for ecumenicism, social justice and marginalized communities has driven him in both his ministries and his studies. While serving as a pastor in Salida, CO, he partnered in an atmosphere of ecumenical spirit with pastors and churches from mainline Protestant denominations to advocate for social justice. He also developed an immigration film project in the church. The film created a space for learning and discussion about immigration and how policies impacted the lives of Latinx immigrants and their families. Néstor also loves many types of art and seeks to incorporate storytelling, visual arts, poetry and technology in his teaching and preaching. He enjoys social dancing –particularly, salsa, swing, bachata and merengue. Other than dancing, he spends his free time sharing with people from other cultures, reading and going out on his bike. Néstor loves Jesus and Mexican bread!

**For membership on the General Board
(Nominated by the General Nominating Committee)**

General Board Class of 2023

Sage Appleby	(L, F, W, 30-39, SW)
Valeria Bejar	(L, F, H, 23-29, AZ)
Toni Colbert	(C, F, B, 60+, IN)
Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder	(C, F, B, 50-59, IL/WI)
Steven Gower	(C, M, W, 30-39, OH)
Chanhee Her	(C, F, API, 30-39, OK)
Hubert Reece	(L, M, B, 60+, CAN)
Miriam Rodriguez	(L, F, H, 50-59, CCCA)
Beau Underwood	(C, M, W, 30-39, MID-AM)

6 females, 3 males; 5 clergy, 4 lay leaders

3 African-American, 1 Asian/Pacific Islander, 3 Caucasian, 2 Hispanic

Ages: 23-29 (1), 30-39 (4), 50-59 (2), 60+ (2)

Continuing GNC General Board Class of 2021

Kristin Alstott	(L, F, W, 23-29, UMW)
Shanell Bowden	(L, F, B, 23-29, IL/WI)
Jackie Compton Bunch*	(L, F, B, 60+, OH)
Katie Hayes	(C, F, W, 40-49, SW)
Angela Kaufman*	(C, F, W, 40-49, SW)
Eula Pagdilao	(L, F, API, 23-29, PSW)
Allison Ruari *	(C, F, API, 30-39, TN)
Candis Wilson	(L, F, B, 30-39, OH)

8 females, 0 males, 3 clergy, 5 lay leaders

3 African-American, 2 Asian/Pacific-Islanders, 3 Caucasian

Ages: 23-29 (3), 30-39 (2), 40-49 (2), 60+ (1)

*Re-electing to fill vacancy

New Members for the General Nominating Committee

For election through the 2023 General Assembly

Jim Barton	(L, M, W, 40-49, AZ)
Shanell Bowden	(L, F, B, 23-29, IL/WI)
Irma Elizarraras	(L, F, H, 50-59, SW)
Eula Pagdilao	(L, F, API, 23-29, PSW)
Tevita Uesi	(C, M, API, 30-39, CRM)

3 females, 2 males, 1 clergy, 4 lay leaders

1 African-American, 2 Asian/Asian Pacific-Islander, 1 Hispanic, 1 Caucasian

Ages: 23-29 (2), 30-39 (1), 40-49 (1), 50-59 (1)

Continuing members of the General Nominating Committee

through the 2021 General Assembly

Arnold Hayes	(L, M, B, 60+, TN)
Jong Kook Hong	(C, M, API, 60+, NW)
Dean Phelps	(C, M, W, 50-59, KY)
Bere Gil Soto	(C, F, H, 30-39, IN)
Diane Watkins	(L, F, W, 50-59, KS)

2 females, 3, males, 3 clergy, 2 lay leaders

1 African-American, 1 Asian, 1 Hispanic, 2 Caucasian

Ages: 30-39 (1), 50-59 (2), 60+ (2)

In keeping with The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the members of the Corporation of the Division of Disciples Home Missions and the Corporation of the Division of Overseas Ministries were elected by the General Board at its February 2019 meeting. They are reported here to comply with the Bylaws of the two ministries:

Disciples Home Missions

The General Board **elected** the following persons

Xochitl Alvizo	(L, F, H, 30-39, NoE)
Beverly Bell	(L, F, B, 60-69, TN)
Candyce Black-Wells	(L, F, B, 30-39, NoE)
Tim Campbell	(L, M, W, 30-39, CAN)
Rhonda Cole-Green	(L, F, B, 40-49, SC)
Tom Cooley	(L, M, W, 40-49, SW)
Chimiste Doriscar	(C, M, B, 50-59, OH)
Jennifer Larson	(L, F, W, 50-59, VA)
Sandy Messick	(C, F, W, 50-59, NW)
Derrick Perkins	(C, M, B, 30-39, MID-AM)
Katherine Raley	(C, F, W, 25-29, CRM)
Juan Rodriguez	(C, M, H, 60-69, FL)
Reuben Sancken-Marx	(C, M, W, 25-29, IN)
Jeremy Skaggs	(C, M, W, 40-49, SW)
Charles Chuck Tooley	(L, M, W, 60-69, MT)

Division of Overseas Ministries

The General Board **elected** the following persons

Dale Braxton, Sr	(C, M, B, 50-59, AL/NW FL)
Deborah Swift-DeWitt	(L, F, B, 60-69, TN)
Rick Spleth	(C, M, W, 60-69, IN)
Ryan Cullumber	(L, M, W, 40-49, PSW)
Nancy Lear	(L, F, W, 60-69, GKC)
Selena Reyes Martinez	(C, F, H, 50-59, FL)
Antonio Rodriguez	(L, M, H, 50-59, FL)
CyndyTwedell	(C, F, W, 60-69, SW)
Diana Brown	(L, F, W, 70+, OK)
Baek Hee, Kim	(C, M, A, 40-49, IN)
Nestor Gomez Morales	(C, M, H, 40-49, CRM)
Jeremy Gillett	(L, M, B, 30-39, PSW)
Dara Cobb Lewis	(C, F, B, 40-49, NC)
Tyler Reeve	(L, M, W, 25-29, OH)
LaVerne Thorpe	(L, F, B, 60-69, AZ)



GA-1932

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

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

A Covenant Between The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Colleges and Universities

An Introduction to the Revised Covenant

This revised covenant is offered to all fourteen colleges and universities in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and to each Disciples of Christ congregation, region, and general unit as an opportunity to strengthen the on-going relationship between our undergraduate institutions of higher education and the Church.

This document is a revision of the 1977 covenant adopted by the colleges and universities and the Church. At the request of the Council of College and University Presidents and the board of Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, the General Minister and President appointed in 2008 a task force to review and revise our thirty-year covenant. The Council of College and University Presidents approved the revised covenant at their meeting at Lynchburg College, November 3-4, 2009. The board of Higher Education and Leadership Ministries approved the revised covenant on December 2, 2010. The General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting February 26-March 1, 2011 approved this revised covenant.

The Covenant

From its frontier beginnings, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has valued education, treasured learning, respected scholarship, and regarded colleges and universities as essential to its mission of transforming individual lives and the larger society. The founders of our movement were teachers and administrators of Disciples colleges who intentionally integrated faith and reason into their lives and into the lives of their institutions of higher education.

Within the universal Body of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is known for its ecumenical and inclusive vision, as well as its commitment to intellectual curiosity and collaboration. Across national boundaries this church expresses itself in covenantal relationships in congregations, regions, general ministries, and in partnerships with institutions of higher education. Each Disciples college and university is characterized by its own integrity, self-governance, authority, rights and responsibilities. From this covenantal relationship the Christian Church reaffirms its commitment to the role of higher education in the fulfillment of its total mission.

Consistent with the Disciples' identity as a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, our colleges and universities model the welcoming table through their non-sectarian approach to learning and teaching. The core values of a liberal arts education are shared by the church: valuing the dignity of all people, acting with integrity and responsibility, viewing self as part of community, living life within a global context, providing service to others, and pursuing life-long learning. These shared core values are the basis for the covenantal partnership between the church and its colleges and universities.

Colleges and Universities in Covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):

- Barton College
- Bethany College
- Chapman University
- Columbia College
- Culver-Stockton College
- Drury University
- Eureka College
- Hiram College
- Jarvis Christian College
- Lynchburg College
- Midway College
- Texas Christian University
- Transylvania University
- William Woods University

The Partnership

The church benefits from this partnership with its colleges and universities in developing servant leaders, fostering global awareness, and encouraging a passion for peace and justice. Likewise, colleges and universities benefit from this partnership with the church's ethical insights and essential values. We share a commitment to an anti-racist/pro-reconciliation vision of the church and world and to ecological sustainability. We work together to discern truth, encourage critical thinking, and participate in moral formation of persons.

In partnership with the church, Disciples colleges and universities participate in the deliberative processes of the church and maintain appropriate relationships as provided for in the *Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*. Disciples colleges and universities participate in the funding system of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for allocation of resources as do regions and general ministries and in accordance with existing and developing agreements.

This partnership between colleges and universities and the church in all its expressions is critical to the vitality, vision, and heritage of each. To nurture and sustain this partnership, clear and intentional communication is essential.

The colleges and universities are most supportive of the covenant partnership when they

- offer their resources to congregations, regions, and general ministries and explore joint endeavors;
- emphasize in communications their partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);
- engage in ongoing dialogue on the meaning of their partnership with the church;
- actively recruit Disciples students;
- generously provide scholarship assistance to Disciples (and in most cases United Church of Christ) students;
- participate in congregational events, regional and general assemblies;
- collaborate with other Disciples colleges and universities;
- create a campus ethos that encourages students to discern their vocational goals;
- identify and nurture future educated leaders for church and society;
- pursue excellence in fulfilling their mission.

The church is most supportive of the covenant partnership when it

- recommends Disciples colleges and universities to prospective students and their families;
- expresses persistently and persuasively its commitment to our colleges and universities and vigorously supports our colleges and universities in their mission;
- advises potential benefactors of the vital role higher education plays in Disciples tradition;
- sponsors events jointly with nearby Disciples colleges and universities;
- educates colleges and universities about the value of their partnership with the church;
- encourages Disciples to apply for faculty, staff, and administrative positions within Disciples colleges and universities;
- recognizes that Disciples colleges and universities are part of our movement to bring about wholeness in a fragmented world.

GA-1933

COUNCIL OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND COUNCIL ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

JOINT REPORT

**Submitted by
Kelly Thompson and Jon Berquist,
Chairs of Councils**

Council of Colleges and Universities

Disciples related colleges and universities represent a broad range of opportunities for students to experience the richness of a liberal arts education steeped in the Disciples tradition of faith, reason, and wholeness. There are fifteen colleges and universities that are in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) across the United States. While they are diverse in their settings and academic offerings, all have a commitment to academic excellence, a passion for social justice, and provide an inclusive community that respects all people and cultures.

The covenantally affiliated schools are:

Barton College
Bethany College
Chapman University
Columbia College
Culver-Stockton College
Drury University
Eureka College
Hiram College
Jarvis Christian College
University of Lynchburg
Midway University
Texas Christian University
Tougaloo College
Transylvania University
William Woods University

Disciples schools focus on character, service, and leadership; providing ample opportunities for student to get involved in the community, explore faith and values, and connect to new ideas and perspectives. All institutions offer Disciples scholarships and financial aid to help make higher education affordable. Each offers a wide range of

undergraduate and graduate degree opportunities with a unique scope of majors and programs of study.

Established in connection with the church, through Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, the primary purpose of the Council of Colleges and Universities is to provide an avenue for discussion of common concerns and issues, generally institutional in character, and for the sharing of its members' expertise. The Council also exists as a forum at which the institutions may discuss strategies for denominational understanding and for the development of denominational fiscal support. The Council also provides advice and recommendations to HELM and is a means by which institutions can explore appropriate ways of working with HELM and the wider church. In addition to providing a forum, the Council is a means for fellowship of the chief executive officers of the institutions holding membership in the Council.

Highlights of work of the council include:

Over the past two years, nearly all of the Disciples colleges and universities have experienced increases in undergraduate admissions applications. Several schools have also seen significant increases in enrollment. The council continues to work with HELM to recruit Disciples students to attend Disciples colleges and universities

HELM has held info sessions at churches, regional assemblies, and racial ethnic constituency gatherings, to share information with high school students and with their parents. These info sessions have generated excitement and interest in Disciples colleges and universities and have contributed to increased number of students seeking enrollment at Disciples schools.

HELM staff and representatives from other Disciples general ministry have promoted ministry programs for young adults by working with Disciples chaplains and campus ministers. This continues to encourage Disciples college students participating in the NBA XPLOR program, DOM Global Mission Intern Program, DHM Disciples Peach Fellows, and many others

During 2018, HELM worked closely with Tougaloo College to achieve the school's goal of moving toward full covenantal affiliation with the church. The proposal was well received and approved by all relevant councils and boards of the church. It became official during the 2019 General Board meeting.

Council on Theological Education

All of us are called to serve God with our lives. Some, however, feel called to serve in specific vocational ministries. For those who are discerning this calling, considering the possibility of theological education and where that might take place is crucial. Throughout the history the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and throughout the entirety of the Stone-Campbell movement, Disciples have been committed to the

education and training of those serving in ministry. And while the context in which ministry takes place today is very different than in previous generations, the commitment to excellence in education continues.

Today there are seven seminaries and divinity houses that are in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) across the United States. Each of them offers various degrees, certificates, and programs, as well as varying approaches in journeying with students. Some offer a traditional, residence-based experience, others have on-line classes with short on-campus intensives throughout the year, and still others offer a blending of on-site and distance learning. However, while they may differ in the format of classes as well as specific degrees and programs offered, all have a commitment to journeying with students in discerning their calling, equipping them with the knowledge and experience to serve God in the wider church and world.

Established in connection with the church, through Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, the Council on Theological Education is an organized means of communication and cooperation both among its member institutions and between its membership and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Council includes up to two voting representatives selected by each theological education institution affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) [Current Members: Brite Divinity School; Christian Theological Seminary; Lexington Theological Seminary; Phillips Theological Seminary; Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago; Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, and Disciples Seminary Foundation

The last two annual meetings of the Council of Theological education took place in Indianapolis and were hosted by Higher Education and Leadership Ministries at Disciples Center. Highlights of the meetings include:

- Presentation from and conversation with General Minister and President Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens. The conversation focused on the goals and priority of the Office of the General Minister and President, as well as the church’s commitment to strong theological education institutions.
- Presentations from and engagement with leaders of the Association of Theological Schools where data was presented on enrollment trends at schools across North America, with a focus on Disciples schools and the numbers of Disciples students enrolled in ATS schools. The members of CTE committed to engaging in continued intentional conversations around increasing enrollment of Disciples students at Disciples theological education institutions.
- The Council also met with leadership from the Pension Fund and the National Benevolent Association as part of their ongoing effort to strengthen connections with Disciples of Christ general ministry partners.

