Division of Homeland Ministries, dba Disciples Home Missions (DHM), traces its history and legacy back to the early days of the Stone Campbell movement when the first commitment was made for congregations to engage in coordinated mission work. A time when congregations recognized that pooling our resources to spread the gospel and change the world was an important part of being the church. That tradition is alive and well at DHM, even as we move through a season of transformation and renewal.

After a series of leadership changes over the past 5 years, the board of directors of DHM called Bernard Chris Dorsey to be President and CEO, and issued the charge to transform the ministry and continue boldly in mission and ministry. In a few short months, much progress toward our short-term and long-term goals. Not only have we changed to logo and branding to reflect the vibrancy and excitement of the ministries of DHM, but we have also begun to solidify our priorities and how we carry out our mission of equipping Disciples for Christ and connecting people to the life-changing love of God while facilitating faithful and effective ministry. We have identified three key priorities that have always been core to who we are, but we are now articulating them more clearly:

- **Mission** – Engaging in coordinated missions on behalf of the whole church.
- **Advocacy** – Acting and speaking to promote greater justice and mercy.
- **Programs** – Providing innovative programs and resources to congregations, regions, clergy, and laity.

These priorities are not new to DHM. They have been with us throughout the history of the ministry. They are part of the DNA and are woven throughout our various ministries and programs of Disciples Home Mission. In the coming months, the wider church will be re-introduced to DHM, not as a new ministry, but as a transformed, transforming, and
transformational ministry. We invite you to get to know DHM again, and join us in changing the world.

We are also changing the way do our reporting. Rather than a series of sub-reports from several different ministries, we are offering a summary report with a few highlights from across the various ministries of DHM and the associated ministries and mission sights.

**Office of Christian Vocations** – The OCV has responsibility for search and call, scholarships and grants, the minister’s directory, chaplains and specialized ministries, and other aspects of supporting the training, nurture, and professional development of clergy and lay leaders. A recent change in leadership of the office is prompting us to evaluate the full range of programs and services offered by the OCV. There was already an effort underway by the search and call committee of GCOM to evaluate the systems used to support search and call. That work will now be combined with a more comprehensive evaluation of the work of the Office of Christian Vocation. Some of the key areas of focus will include improving the process for awarding scholarship and grants to achieve greater diversity and inclusivity; strategically assessing the technology used in the search and call process to develop a system that better meets the needs of congregations, regions, and clergy; giving greater attention to the health and wellbeing of clergy.

**Christian Education / Faith Formation** – Under the leadership of Monique Crain Spells, the work of the office is receiving a creative and energetic boost. While ensuring that the established offering from the office continue to be distributed throughout the church, we have also begun developing a series of webinars to provide leading edge theological content to the wider church. These “Theological Mana” webinars have been well-received and well-attended. In the coming months we will be developing a long-term strategy to providing educational content that is relevant and impactful.

**Office of Evangelism** – The office continues to support education and action in the area of evangelism and congregational transformation. Under the leadership of R. Wayne Calhoun, we are embarking upon a process of developing a new and sustainable model for supporting practices of hospitality and witness, to better connect people to the life-changing love of God. This will be a months-long process of engaging an advisory group to help ensure that the work of the office is in line with contemporary practices and approaches to evangelism.

**Justice and Advocacy Ministries** – DHM is in the process of developing a strategic approach to coordinating DHM’s engagement around a variety of justice issues; promoting and supporting advocacy efforts by congregations, regions, and ministry partners; and providing ongoing informational and educational content regarding critical social justice issues. To lead this effort, we are looking to fill the position of Director for Justice and Advocacy Ministries. This is an exciting endeavor for us and the position will take its place alongside the many other justice related ministries throughout the wider
church, and will ensure that DHM remains committed to transforming society toward greater justice, equity, and mercy.

**Families and Children** – Using an intergenerational approach, DHM continues to lead the way in moving toward a more holistic and integrative approach to ministries with families and children. It is not relegated to a silo approach, but rather seeks to build a broader and strong table of ministry participants who span the generations. While Children Worship and Wonder remains a solid part of our offering, Olivia Updegrove has also been pushing us to engage in faithful and deliberation conversations around what it means to do ministry across generations. This has included unique educational opportunities for church leaders, parents, and others to learn how to meet the needs of not just families and children, but to attend to community in a way that brings all the voices to the table.

**Youth and Young Adults** – We are entering into a time of transition with our youth and young adult ministry work. We are currently looking to fill the parttime position of Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. While we have had such positions before, this will be a new approach that allows the person in the position to be a more active part of determining what the work will look like and how to best serve the wider church in this way.

**Green Chalice** – The ministry continues to make a different in the world by helping Disciples address the planet-threatening reality of climate change. This is done through congregations signing on to become Green Chalice congregations, committed to making changes in their practices to reduced CO2 emissions; and individuals can sign up to become Green Chalice Ambassadors.

**Black Ministers Retreat** – This year DHM continued its long-standing work of planning and hosting the Black Ministers Retreat. This was the first time the retreat was held in-person since 2020 and the start of the pandemic. The event took place in Birmingham, AL and we had over 100 registered and participating. The theme of the retreat was “Letters from the Heart” and we celebrated the 60th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Letter from Birmingham Jail.

**Conclusion**

There are just a few of the highlights from DHM over the last year. We look forward to connecting with the whole church at general assembly in Louisville, KY this summer. We will host an afterhours reception on Saturday, July 29, 2023, and we look forward to seeing you all there!

The General Board receives this report and forwards it to the 2023 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.