



**Minister of Compassion  
Week of Compassion  
Office of the General Minister and President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Indianapolis, Indiana**



### **Position Overview**

The Office of the General Minister and President (OGMP) seeks a dynamic and innovative leader to serve as the Minister of Compassion / Executive Director for Week of Compassion. The new Minister of Compassion will serve as a member of the OGMP staff with primary responsibility to oversee the relief, refugee and development fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As the main avenue for Disciples disaster response giving, Week of Compassion also supports sustainable development and humanitarian projects through denominational and ecumenical partnerships around the world.

Reporting to the General Minister and President, the Minister of Compassion works directly with the Week of Compassion Committee and has primary oversight for the strategic implementation of the priorities and decisions of the Week of Compassion Committee. The Minister of Compassion serves as the public face of Disciples' disaster funding efforts and is responsible for executing an annual fundraising plan, mission articulation, partnership planning and the prayerful stewardship of Week of Compassion funds designated for disaster relief, refugee development and related ministries. The new Minister of Compassion will be a spiritually led, ordained minister with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with significant experience in church related ministries, fundraising or disaster relief. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for a creative and seasoned leader in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

### **About the Week of Compassion Ministry**

Week of Compassion's ministry stretches across the United States and Canada and around the globe offering assistance in the darkest hour of need. Through Week of Compassion, North American Disciples reach out in the name of Christ to provide disaster assistance. Week of Compassion accomplishes its mission by providing emergency and long-term financial assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, droughts, civil war and other natural and human catastrophes. With a belief in the spiritual gift of compassion, WOC responds with help, hope and hospitality to people who have been uprooted and displaced from their homelands by war, environmental catastrophe, famine and natural disaster. WOC also supports self-help programs of development and rehabilitation that empower people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, poverty, disease, illiteracy and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy human dignity. Finally, WOC believes that giving goes beyond the wallet and encourages and supports volunteer groups in hands-on mission and service opportunities.

The ministry of Week of Compassion is year round. WOC supports projects in more than 80 nations on every inhabitable continent of the earth. In a typical year, WOC responds to a disaster about once every 1.2 days. Annually, WOC partners with more than 50 Disciples work groups in mission projects in North America and abroad. In partnership with Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Interchurch Medical Assistance, Foods Resource Bank, , Division of Overseas Ministries / Global Ministries, Office of Disciples Volunteering, Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Bread for the World, Habitat for Humanity, the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ELCOF) and hundreds of local church partners

around the world, Week of Compassion shares in a remarkable network of service and caring that is efficient, effective and faithful. WOC emphasizes maximizing direct relief and minimizing administrative costs and therefore primarily functions as a granting organization with minimal centralized staff.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Week of Compassion also participates with Christians in eight other Protestant denominations in One Great Hour of Sharing, thus multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over. Week of Compassion only works through the partnership it shares with and generosity of more than 3,200 Disciples of Christ congregations across North America. Disciples annually channel more than 2.5 million dollars through Week of Compassion for humanitarian needs around the world.

### **Opportunities and Challenges for the Minister of Compassion**

As the channel for Disciples' resources in providing ready and compassionate response to an array of humanitarian needs in the world, the new Minister of Compassion will lead a nimble, responsive and partnership based ministry of the church, answering the call in times of need, strife and disaster around the globe. The Minister of Compassion will build upon a well recognized and successful ministry in the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In the first 12-18 months the new Minister of Compassion will face the following opportunities and challenges:

#### ***Building relationships with key partners, donors and congregations and developing the annual giving campaign ensuring continued faithful support of the ministry of Week of Compassion***

The new Minister of Compassion will work closely with Rev. Johnny Wray, outgoing Minister of Compassion and the Week of Compassion Committee and staff to establish deep and meaningful relationships with key supporters of Week of Compassion. In consultation with our partners for One Great Hour of Sharing, s/he will design the annual Week of Compassion offering campaign and other disaster response giving vehicles to ensure the broadest reach of Disciples' compassionate response. The new Minister of Compassion will also work to establish key relationships domestically and globally, as well as denominationally and ecumenically with key ministry partners.

#### ***Interpreting theologically, biblically and practically the work, mission and vision of Week of Compassion***

The new Minister of Compassion will be a passionate advocate of the spiritual discipline of faithful giving. S/he will interpret theologically and biblically the work of WOC to provide compassionate responses to disasters and turmoil throughout the world to clergy, laity and across the church. S/he will develop resources and networks to prayerfully lift up the ministry of Week of Compassion. The Minister of Compassion will work in partnership with regional and general ministries for stewardship, education and promotion of mission funding across the life of the church.

#### ***Developing a ministry plan in partnership with the Week of Compassion Committee and the Office of General Minister and President***

The new Minister of Compassion will lead the Week of Compassion Committee in a ministry planning process, examining current its work and future direction. The plan will establish goals and priorities in line with the vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) equipping and enabling the long term success of Week of Compassion. The new Minister of Compassion will be responsible for implementing and managing all ministry plans and actions of the Week of Compassion Committee.

#### ***Deepening Disciples' understanding of disaster response to include the deeper systemic knowledge of how disaster impacts groups differently***

The Minister of Compassion will develop resources in collaboration with partners that examine how disasters disproportionately affect people in the developing world, economic disadvantaged communities and communities of color. This work will deepen the impact and analysis of Week of Compassion's work beyond simple charitable giving to understanding the root causes of differences in access to resources and response. This analysis will deepen WOC's efforts supporting development and rehabilitation that empower people and communities to combat hunger, poverty, disease, illiteracy and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy human dignity.

***Giving leadership to the emerging partnership between Week of Compassion, the Council on Christian Unity, Reconciliation Mission, and the Office of General Minister and President.***

As the church engages prayerfully in mission realignment and structural transformation, the Minister of Compassion will foster dialog and engagement between Week of Compassion and other expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in order to more faithfully serve the vision and mission of the whole church. Specifically, s/he will place particular emphasis on cultivating the emerging dialog between the Council on Christian Unity, Reconciliation Ministry, OGMP and WOC for possible ministry alignment and partnership.

**Qualifications of the Minister of Compassion**

The new Minister of Compassion will be a thoughtful and charismatic leader who possesses the passion, and determination to lead a successful ministry to its next stage. S/he will bring ten years experience in church leadership, fundraising, relief work or nonprofit management. While no one person will embody all the traits listed below, the successful candidate will have many of the following characteristics, experiences or personal attributes.

- An ordained minister with standing of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Ten years leadership experience in mission driven organizations
- A demonstrated passion for outreach and mission; Commitment to ecumenical expressions of service and humanitarian work; Eloquence and ardent drive to articulate the vision and mission of Week of Compassion within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and beyond
- Flexibility needed for extensive travel (minimum of 50%); comfort with virtual office settings and emerging technologies to enable effective workflow from multiple locations
- Dynamic team builder internally and externally; Strategic networker with the ability to leverage networks for the success of the ministry;
- Keen belief that effective ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is done in partnership with others; Understands collaboration, cooperation and covenant as fundamental keys to success
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills; Personal presence to serve as the ambassador and spokesperson on behalf of Week of Compassion and those it serves. Persuasive writer who can develop cutting edge written and web resource materials
- Strategic organizational thinker who can formulate and carry out short-term and long-range planning
- Ability to prioritize a busy workload; Attentive to the larger vision while managing a myriad of smaller and competing details
- Significant international travel experience; Flexibility and cultural awareness to move gracefully cross culturally, both domestically and internationally. Working knowledge of a second or third language preferred
- Lives the value of compassion and hospitality in his or her daily life and faith journey.
- Comfort with a high profile position in the life of the church and the humility to manage that role with grace. Personal maturity and poise in the spotlight while empowering others to do the same

**To Apply:**

Persons interested in this exempt position within the Office of the General Minister and President should forward their resume or request their relocation forms be sent by the Office of Search and Call to:

**The Office of the General Minister and President**

**Attn: Beth Sullivan**

**PO Box 1986**

**Indianapolis, IN 46206**

More information about Week of Compassion is found at: <http://weekofcompassion.org/>

Applications will be accepted through August 31, 2008. Questions regarding the Week of Compassion Search may be directed to Dr. Todd Adams, Associate General Minister and Vice President.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and candidates of color are encouraged to apply. The Office of the General Minister and President will utilize the Executive Search Model as outlined and adopted by the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).