

**Title: REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD-April 2008
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA**

Origin: Submitted by Ben Bohren, Regional Minister-President

If our staff gets any better we won't know what to do! Each person is passionate about the ministry they lead and we work in strong support and partnership for the strengthening of our total ministry:

Ben Bohren, Regional Minister-President, M, C, full time, ordained
Paula Pochiecha, Minister of Congregational Care & Women's Ministries F, C, 25 hours a week, ordained
Cliff Cole, Regional Minister for Placement, Training and Care, M, C part-time, ordained
Sandhya Jha, Minister of Transformation & Reconciliation, F, A, 25 hours a week, ordained
Quan Walker, Admin. Assistant, F, AA, full time, laywoman
Molly Carlson, Minister of New Church Movement, F, C, part time, ordained
Erin Moore, Director for Youth and Outdoor Ministries, F, C, part time, seminarian
Sue Tarleton, Annual Meeting Planning, F, C, part time, laywoman
Matthew Harris-Gloyer, Co-Director of Young Adult Ministries, M, C, part time, seminary graduate
Michelle Harris-Gloyer, Co-Director of Young Adult Ministries, F, H, part-time, seminarian
Diana Silva, Bookkeeper, F, C, part time, laywoman
Marilyn Born, Staff Support, F, C, part time, laywoman

We are a region of 56 congregations, 3 of which are house churches, with 12 congregations in formation. First Christian Church, Sparks, is our only congregation in Northern Nevada. Our House of Representatives voted that our region be named "open and inclusive" in the early 1990's. We are nearly 4300 participating members. 2007 was the first year of increased baptisms and transfers for the region in 15 years! Hallelujah!

1& 2). Living out our ministry despite challenges and always with great celebration!!

Our challenges included:

- Re-writing our Bylaws for a 21st century ministry
- A long range visioning task force for Community of the Great Commission, to enable us to be faithful stewards of our incredible regional campgrounds
- Assisting local congregations in translating their ministries into a local context
- Anti-racism training with persons who believe that racism no longer exists in N. California
- Education concerning the remarkable ministry under girded by Disciples Mission Fund
- Significant re-structuring of women's ministries
- Declining number of youth in our local congregations
- Building greater enthusiasm for men's ministries

Our celebrations include:

- Our first regional NAPAD event with all 6 NAPAD congregations participating and 85 persons attending
- Our second Miracle Day raised over \$60,000 with 425 volunteers giving new life and spirit to four local church buildings and the members who worship and serve there.
- Our First Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, with Dr. William Lee preaching, was very well attended and over \$1000 scholarship funds will be given next year.
- For the third year, our region has sent at least 2 mission teams to the Gulf Coast
- Our new church movement is "on fire!" We welcomed three new churches in 2006, three in 2007 and will welcome at least 4 in 2008.
- Our three year Transformation program is coming to an end with one third of our churches fully engaged in this process. We are seeing churches experiencing life- changing transformation. Seventeen of our churches also have been involved in the New Beginnings program. We are discerning the next phase of our regional effort.
- Our Reconciliation Committee has been able to increase the number of Reconciliation grants to local churches who are involved in many exciting new ministries.
- Our nine Regional Elders are vital links of pastoral care all across the region and their presence and support is deeply appreciated by local pastors and congregations.

- Our Annual Fund effort which began four years ago and raised \$6,923 has seen general and overflowing support as we received \$63,890 in 2007. Thanks be to God!
- A financial challenge at our regional campgrounds resulted in special unsolicited donations of over \$15,000 which met the challenge.
- Women's ministries, men's ministries, and youth ministries continued to be strongly supported and are highlights of our entire regional programming.
- Our young adult ministries program is up and running with great vision and leadership.
- For the third year the region provided a Daily Lenten Devotional written by key leaders, both clergy and lay from across the region as well as the general church.
- Our partnership with Disciples Seminary Foundation, Pacific School of Religion and San Francisco Theological Seminary, allows us the joy of working with about 20 Disciples seminarians who are highly involved in the life of our region.

3). We ARE a church with a vision...we ARE a church with a mission!

Over an 18 month period a Regional Five Year Vision has been developed in response to the basic question, "What is God calling us to be and do in our regional ministry?" With ongoing input from regional staff, regional executive committee, regional board, regional committees, and regional elders, a rough draft was "cussed and discussed" by nearly 200 local church pastors and lay leaders over five nights across the region. This final vision will now define our ministry and mission for the next five years.

CCNC-N Five Year Vision (2008-2012)

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

- Supporting the birth of 40 new congregations by 2020 that share God's ancient love in brand-new ways
- Facilitating existing congregations' radical openness to God's guidance and their communities' needs (transformation)
- Living into our God-given reconciling, open and inclusive identity which challenges the sins of racism, exclusion and oppression.

AND

To educate and empower every congregation to become a healthy, vital and living witness to the love, justice and grace of God through Jesus Christ (Acts 2:43-47).

- Claiming a belief in a God of Abundance through practicing intentional giving
- Cultivating Disciples of Christ to be dynamic "evangels," sharing the good news of God's transforming love
- Developing authentic Disciples leadership for the 21st century church while engaging an ecumenical and inter-faith context
- Calling on local congregations to become "Missional Churches" where servanthood is integral to all ministry
- Creating soul-stirring, life-changing, prayer-full worship and spiritual development

Financial Information:

CCNCN uses a cash accounting method. We conducted an audit in 2006. Our permanent funds total is \$198,756 and we draw interest only. A three year operations budget looks like this:

	2007	2006	2005
Total Income	373,434	375,362	400,575
Total Expenses	407,683	330,731	415,391
Deficit	(34,251)	+44,631	(14,816)

Our biggest financial challenge is diminishing DMF giving which we are addressing. We celebrate that our Regional Board once again made a 100% commitment to our Annual Fund and individuals around the region responded to the Annual Fund with a 51% increase. We are truly partners in our mission!