



**Title: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin founded in 1850
Report to the 2008 General Board for the period of June 1, 2007 to April, 2008**

Regional Property Locations

Regional Office 1011 N Main St, Bloomington, IL 61701-1753
Phone 309-828-6293 Web www.cciwdisciples.org Fax 309-829-4612

Camp Walter Scott 15290 E 300th Ave, Dietrich, IL 61414-9325
Phone 217-739-23332 Email campcciw@yahoo.com Fax 217-739-2298

Regional Staff

<u>Full-Time Clergy Staff</u>	<u>Gender/Race</u>	<u>Tenure</u>
Beth Dobyns, Acting Regional Minister and President Regional Board, Finance, Personnel, Transition and Innovation, Women's Ministries, Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team, West Area minister	F/C	11/03
Christal Williams, Associate Regional Minister Urban/Metro/East Area Minister, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Camps and Campus Ministries, Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team	F/AA	06/99
Scott Woolridge, Associate Regional Minister South/East Area Minister, New Church Establishment, Mission Committee, Annual Fund, Transformation Team, Technology, Healthy Congregations Trainer	M/C	03/92

Part-Time Clergy Staff

Kathy Frus, Contract Associate staff for Congregational Redevelopment Initiative with East Area congregations.	F/C	02/04
Jerry McCoy, Minister of Formation and Standing Staff for Ministry Committee, Ministerial Credentials, Clergy Ethics Committee	M/C	10/07

Administrative Support Staff

Fay Bailiff Regional Administrator, Assembly/Meeting Planner, Ministry Committee	F/C	06/04
Mary Bible Receptionist, Youth Ministries, Yearbook, Registrar	F/C	10/07
Beth Zumwalt Search and Call, Newsletter editor, CCIW News, Women's Ministries	F/C	10/97
Becky Lewis, Camp Manager	F/C	03/97
Barry Parnell, Resident Camp Caretaker	M/C	05/06

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Mission Partnerships

General Ministries: High Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM)
Dennis Landon, President
Global Ministries: Bruce and Linda Hanson, DOM Overseas Staff in Honduras
Christian Church Foundation: Deborrah Wray, Zone Vice President

Number of Full-standing Congregations: 159

Congregations In Formation: 6

Reported Membership:

Total 39,018
Participating 21,893

Average worship Attendance 11,173
Total Membership Additions 908 (424 by baptism, 484 by transfer)
(figures reported in the 2007 Christian Church Yearbook and Directory)

States included in the Region: Illinois (except 6 St. Louis metro-area congregations) and Wisconsin

Total Disciples-Related Outreach Offerings to CC Finance council in 2007:

Disciples Mission Fund \$727,590
Special Day Disciples Mission Priority Offerings \$208,050
Week of Compassion \$103,933
Reconciliation \$34,429

Responses to question in the General Board Report Guidelines

1. *What are CCIW's long-range planning goals and how are they integrated into the mission and vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?*

Our mission statement is "Growing Disciples congregations for healthy, vital ministry." Our vision states that we seek to become "A region composed of healthy Disciples congregations filled with fully devoted followers of Christ, engaged in vital ministries and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth."

In bring this vision to reality, our efforts are concentrated in being of service to congregations as they discover the nature of the Gospel message, and its direction for our lives together. We continue to work on building the capacity for health and vitality through honest conversation about how we speak and act with one another. We are seeing the development of lively networks among churches who are doing mission work in our region and around the world. Although our staff has seen a great deal of transition this last year, we continue to follow our staff mission of E3—Equip, Empower, and Encourage.

2. *What is the role of CCIW's ministry in fulfilling the current priorities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in starting new congregations, transforming existing congregations for mission, nurturing leadership for these new and renewed congregations, and becoming a pro-reconciliation/anti-racist church?*

New Church establishment work is being done every day, with the exploration of new church starts in several areas of our region. Our efforts are directed at the strong start of new churches where all persons are welcome. Many languages are spoken, and many lively faith traditions and practices are embraced in the development of new congregations. The work of ongoing coaching and encouragement is central to the ministry of establishing new congregations and faith communities. The radical welcome of Jesus Christ to all persons is at the heart of our work together.

CCIW has been at work on congregational transformation for several years now. There are many avenues for churches and pastors in this work. We have coaching/supportive groups for pastors involved in revitalizing churches who have felt no progress for a while; we also have groups who do some coaching around innovation and new ideas for ministry.

One very significant program begun recently, is a study/research project with Martha Grace Reece, centered on the practice in Unbinding the Gospel. Through the extensive efforts of one congregation, its pastor and evangelism leaders, fourteen congregations are involved in two coaching groups which will lead to a strong, effective network of lay leaders who are seeing prayer at work in their own lives as well as the lives of their congregations. This national project, part of a Lily Foundation grant, also involves research into the ministry of congregations going through this process, with reflection papers, extensive discussions, coaching groups, and lay leader networking being developed.

New efforts in the work of transformation are in the development stages at this time. We look forward to continuing the work begun through the generous gift of donors who see the joy and hope in supporting the work of ministry in our region.

Leader Development continues to be one of the strongest qualities of our region. We continue to enlarge the circle of trained pastors in the area of Healthy Congregations, a program which helps train and sustain the work of transformative conversation and action. In other words, we train for change. We train pastors and then church leaders are trained and they “practice what they preach” in the work of their congregation. We also provide regular reunions for the trainers so that their skill base will continue to grow.

CCIW provides four Women’s Gatherings each year. These events provide lively ideas for growth and strength in personal and community life for women leaders who attend. A long-standing, well-regarded Southern Illinois Women’s Retreat is also held each year at our campground. A Women’s writing retreat is offered every summer at Eureka College.

We also continue with our three-part series of clergy ethics seminars built around the following topics: (1) Healthy Boundaries in Ministry Relationships, (2) Legal Issues Clergy Face, and (3) Clergy wellness and Self-Care. This year saw the initial presentation of the Wellness seminar developed as a pilot program between CCIW and the Pension Fund. A Disciples History and Polity Class will be offered this summer for Licensed Ministers and those in seminary who need to fulfill this requirement of study.

Our Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team continues to provide effective opportunities for training, discussion, and change. All of the regional committees have received training in the work of dismantling racism in our institution. We continue to build on the discussions, the honest encounters with racist practices, and the suggestions for concrete change that come through awareness and support for that change. New challenges for action come to our regional board meetings as well as other times when Disciples gather in Illinois and Wisconsin.

3. *In what ways is CCIW in partnership with the other expressions of the Church and with other general ministries?*

We are in partnership with HELM and young adult ministries. We also have a lively dialogue with Bruce and Linda Hanson, our mission partners in Honduras. Currently, they are on itineration tour throughout our region, with more than 100 requests for a visit/program. Our recent clergy wellness seminars were developed in partnership with the Pension Fund. Church Extension has ongoing relationships with many congregations in CCIW and we continue to have investments and ongoing partnership with CE in the work of establishing new congregations. Persons from our region are on the planning team for Quadrennial in 2010. We continue to promote Campus Ministries Sunday on the last Sunday in August in support of the variety of campus ministries in our region. Christian Church Foundation has provided excellent training and helpful advice in this transition time in our region.

4. *How has CCIW been involved in helping congregations to fulfill their mission and ministry?*

Clergy staff spends 50-65% of their time working with congregations in a variety of ways. While we focus on building the capacity for health and energy for ministry, we do have times when we deal with conflict. Even in the midst of this uneasy kind of work, we go with a new sense of what we can and will do there. The fact is, we go expecting a change and a new way of behaving and working with one another. We are offering many proactive times of engagement with congregations which include board visits, clergy health check-ups, leader-equipping training events, and custom-designed approaches to continuing challenges to congregations. It is critical to look for and expect a change. While it is sometimes a surprising encounter, churches need to hear the call to a new way of behaving and talking. The old way of accommodating the conflict is no longer viable. It is a new day.

5. *What barriers does CCIW experience in carrying out its ministry?*

While we see our work as adaptive and proactive, the reality is that we deal with churches and pastors and leaders who have issues and concerns. We have had to find new, more direct ways to dismantle continuing conflicts so churches can get back to what they know they are being called to do, in Jesus’ name.

Our region has had inadequate funding over the last several years, due to changes in giving and funding options. This has finally resulted in the loss of two clergy staff and the call for a re-design of how regional ministry is carried out in CCIW. We realize that we cannot keep doing the same things the same way.

A lively visioning team has been at work for several months now. They have been exploring new designs and the incorporation of new tools and methods of delivering effective regional ministry to congregations, and the hope is that they will have a new design ready for the Regional Assembly to be held in November, 2008. Meanwhile, the staff is increasingly utilizing networking, conference call meetings, region-wide email groups, exploration of pod casts, and website-based information sharing as more contemporary ways of getting our work accomplished.

6. Special Concerns of the CCIW Region

We are in the midst of significant change and exploration this year. We have been saying to one another, “This is the year to try anything and everything.” This is in response to our visioning work, which hopefully will be bold and innovative in its re-design of regional ministry in CCIW. So, while we have ongoing programs and responsibilities, we also know that we have a call to look for the new way. After some meetings with our colleagues in Indiana and Michigan, a determination was made that a merger was not desired nor possible. However, we did discover that we have many ways in which we can and will share ministry among our regions. This may include camp programs, new church coaching, women’s events, etc. Partnership has been redefined, and we look for the places where that can happen. We are grateful for their conversations prayers all along the way.

While we may not know what staffing, ministry, or design may look like this time next year, we are convinced that things are moving forward and we are seeing health break out in many locations.

7. Other items of interest

We continue to have several congregations passing the 175 year mark. Many celebrations, special occasions and projects are taking place over this next year. Even in the midst of this deep tradition, some of these historical occasions have brought congregations to the exciting conversation about “What are we doing next?”

We have seen this as a great tie-in with the current discussions around the region of that very question...what are we doing next? There is excitement in that question rather than dread. These congregations represent the very spirit of innovation and strength that pioneers brought with them to the brink of the Mississippi River.

8. Financial Information, Concerns, and Reports of the Region

A. What type of accounting method do you use? Cash ___ Accrual

B. Is a professional audit done annually on your books? Yes ___ No

C. For the last three years, with regard to your OPERATIONS BUDGET ONLY, please provide the following information:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Total Income	\$871,759	\$886,163	\$819,497
Total Expenses	<u>\$910,063</u>	<u>\$1,028,889</u>	<u>\$974,542</u>
Surplus Deficit)	(\$38,304)	(\$142,726)	(\$174,740)

D. Currently, what is the total amount of Permanent Funds the region has from which an “Annual Draw” of endowment earning income is used to support your operations and programming? What is that percentage of draw and how is it calculated?

At the end of 2007, the market value of our Permanent Funds is \$1,389,943.48. An annual draw of 5% has been taken for supporting the Operations and Program Budget. According to prior records, this is calculated on the basis of a rolling twelve-quarter balance average. Other Permanent Funds exist for specified purposes and cannot be used for operations.

- E. If your region has had insufficient income or deficits in Part 6C above, how has your Regional Board and Finance Committee been trying to balance your budget (e.g., staff reductions, program cuts, larger draws from permanent funds, initiative postponements, new streams of income, etc.?)

We have had several years of deficits, and all of the attempts listed above have come into play. We have now cut two clergy staff positions, leaving only three full-time clergy staff. We have cut some programs and eliminated funding from some significant ministries in our region, and have indeed taken larger draws from permanent funds.

At the March 1 board meeting, a unanimous vote was cast to adopt the recommendations from our Finance Committee to eliminate our cumulative deficit of over \$500,000 by using a large excess in our vehicle purchase fund, transfer of funds from the camp reserve funds, which had been an automatic transfer but had not been done for some time, and finally, taking approximately \$382,000 from appreciated funds in the permanent fund.

All of these things together will produce a slight excess at the end of 2008, so that a gift may be made back to our General Ministries and to begin to restore some of the permanent fund. Our Annual Fund, in its first year of sustained promotion, saw a solid increase. The Christmas offering will also see continued promotion. We are grateful for all the gifts and offerings for regional ministry, and we seek to use them wisely.

- F. What are the key financial issue and concerns currently facing your region's life and vitality?

With our visioning process in full operation, we are considering all issues related to regional ministry, most certainly including funding. We know that resources are out there, and we have to continue to do creative work with congregations in an extension of their ministries. We are called to be creative, faithful stewards in using the funding we do have. This is the work at hand in our financial life—how we will grow our vision and our gifts for the work of the gospel in our time.