

Title: **Report of the Christian Church (DOC) of Greater Kansas City**

Origin: Paul J. Diehl, Jr., Regional Minister/President

The following is provided for information to the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Regional Staff

Paul J. Diehl, Jr., Regional Minister/President (WM) - Full time
Mike Graves, Regional Minister for Preaching (WM) – Part time
Katheryn Graham, Regional Minister for Spiritual Health (WF) – Part time
Suzanne Rebecchi, Administrative Assistant (WF) - Part time
Charles Shoemaker, Finance Manager (WM) – Part time
Karen Pack, Receptionist/Secretary (WF) - Part time
Marilyn Kovach Gardner, Regional Minister for New Church Ministry (WF) – Part time
Karen Yount, Regional Minister for Women’s Ministry (WF) - Part time

Number of Congregations

Enough for a diversified and vibrant region

Total Members

All the faithful saints loving with Christ

States included in Region

Metropolitan Kansas City, composed of Johnson, Wyandotte and Miami Counties on the Kansas side; and Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties and the townships of Belton and Raymore in Cass County on the Missouri side.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City

Who are we? We are a community of Disciples and Disciples’ congregations living and serving in this place. In covenant together, we are Adored by God, Believing in Jesus, Caring for Others.

What is our ministry? Our ministry is Loving With Christ.

What is our vision? We long, work, and pray to experience Disciples, ministers, and congregations connected, encouraged, equipped, and transformed by God.

What scripture in particular guides you on your journey? Scripture is rich and complex, but we find ourselves led to pay attention to particular passages at this stage in our journey. All cited are from the *New Revised Standard Version*.

---The Great Commandment. “One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’” (Mark 12: 28-31)

---The Great Commission. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28: 19)

---The Great Commission in John. “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’” (John 20: 21) “Feed my lambs.” “Tend my sheep.” “Feed my sheep.” (John 21)

---The Gospel in Miniature. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3: 16-17)

---The Fruits of the Spirit. “By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5: 22)

---“And (Jesus) answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.’” (Luke 7: 22-23)

---“For 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 to me.” (Matthew 25: 35-36, 40)

---“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4: 18-19)

---“From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’” (Matthew 4: 17)

---“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (I John 4: 7-8)

---“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12: 2)

---“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.” (Ephesians 3: 20)

---“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.” (I Thessalonians 5: 11)

---“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (I Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

How are you structured for ministry and mission? Overall, the region is guided by the decisions of the board of directors. The board consists of one licensed or ordained minister, and two members from each of our congregations. This makes for a large board. However, since we take congregations and their guidance very seriously, we do not want to exclude anyone from the regional process. This board meets four times per year.

The regional executive committee is a much smaller body and serves primarily as a leadership team or group. This group is able to represent the region, prayerfully discern God’s leading and calling, take seriously the general and ecumenical church covenant, and make thoughtful proposals for the consideration of the board.

The region is divided into nine official and one unofficial but active ministries. These ministries provide accountability and guidance for the carrying out of each of the respective ministries of the region. These are coordinated with the general church mission, executive committee suggestions, congregational and ministerial input, and board decisions. The names of these commissions describe them fairly accurately.

---Ministry of Clergy Oversight. This ministry is responsible for the support, encouraging, and equipping for ministry. Its commissions include the Commission of Ordination and Standing, the Commission of Licensed Ministry, the Disciples Ministers’ Association, and the Christian Ministry Scholarship Fund.

---Ministry of Leader Development. This ministry provides leadership training for the region. It also includes the work of Women’s and Men’s Ministry.

---Ministry With Young Disciples. This includes ministry through the Camp and Conference Task Force, the Youth Ministry Task Force, the Children’s Ministry Task Force, and the Young Adult Ministry Task Force.

---New Church Ministry. This ministry provides leadership and support in working to start and encourage new congregations. Several each year are born and nourished thanks to their labors and prayers.

---Ministry of Community Transformation. This ministry addresses justice and reconciliation needs in our community and around the world.

---Congregational Transformation. This effort has many fronts that involve small group training, transformational leadership work, events and workshops with the aim of being faithful to congregations’ callings. Areas of emphases include worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, and mission or service.

---Ministry of Tall Oaks. Tall Oaks Conference Center is the place and the force behind much of the region’s work with persons of all ages.

---Ministry of Budget and Finance. The group helps guide the use of resources and helps make sure that finances are handled in an appropriate manner.

---Ministry of Personnel. This ministry works to support and encourage the staff of the region and to help see that their efforts are invested in an appropriate manner.

---Ministry of Structural Oversight. This ministry oversees the places of ministry including office and property. It also monitors and suggests appropriate changes to boundaries, designs, and by-laws.

These ministries strongly and heavily reflect the priorities of the general church of starting new congregations, transforming existing congregations for mission, nurturing leadership for the church, and striving to be an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church.

As mentioned above, our overall ministry and standard for ministry is Loving With Christ.

---Loving. By this we strive to be faithful to the great commandment.

---With. By this we acknowledge that we desire to serve with Christ and be his faithful disciples. Also, by this we show that all of our abilities to do this come from the Spirit of the living God.

---Christ. By this we proclaim the one who is our Savior and Lord, the one we endeavor to follow, the one who is our clearest picture of God, and the one who is the most vivid sign of God's love for us.