

Title: Report of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky

Origin: J. Gregory Alexander, CCK General Minister

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

CCK Program Staff: J. Gregory Alexander (M), General Minister; Associate Ministers: Michael A. Davison (M), Linda J. Jones (F).

Bi-Vocational Staff: Steven Johns-Boehme (M); Lon Oliver (M), Kentucky Appalachian Ministries; West Area Minister

CCK Contract Staff: Ed Huckleberry (M), Consultant to Men's Ministries; William Kincaid (M), Consultant to the Committee on the Ministry; and Maria de Los Angeles Oliver (F), Dean, DiscipleU.

CCK Support Staff: Patricia Creighton (F); Barbara Gamboe (F); Terry Royster (F); and Glori Cope (F), West Area Office. LoAnn Blankenship (F), part-time.

Number of Congregations: 236

Total Members: 46,820 Participating Members: 30,108 Average Worship Attendance: 14,343

States included in the Region: Kentucky

1. What is your region doing to implement the 2020 vision of becoming a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice?

The work of the Christian Church In Kentucky in implementing the 2020 Vision is reflected in our vision: "...that every CCK congregation would reach full Kingdom potential.

In this first decade of the 21st century, the Disciples of Christ, along with many faith traditions, are seeking clarity for their mission in a time of rapid change. These changes impact every aspect of North American culture. The Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) notes that "The nature of the church, given by Christ, remains constant through the generations; yet, in faithfulness to its mission it continues to adapt its structures to the needs and pattern of a changing world." Those words are a clarion call to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky as we seek to live out our mission in this time of seismic change.

As stated above, the vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky is that "every CCK congregation would reach full Kingdom potential." "Full kingdom potential" is understood to include "true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice." In an attempt to give greater clarity to our vision we have added the following statement as a way of identifying some traits we believe define Disciples at their core:

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky:

Covenanted congregations of "Word and Table" journeying toward full Kingdom potential:

Grounded in prayer, Guided by scripture, Given to worship

Creating relevant communities of empowered people who practice:

Hospitality, Compassion, Peace with Justice, and Care for the Creation.

The Christian Church In Kentucky has organized its ministry by constituency groups. They are:

Women;

Children, Youth, and Young Adults;

Men;

Ministers; and,

Congregations.

Our ministry to the laity is experienced through regionally sponsored retreats, camps, conferences, and mission trips. Every event is structured with leadership development at its core. They include prayer, Bible study, and worship. These three foundational elements are designed to move the participants toward greater expressions of hospitality, compassion, justice, and, our newest addition, care of the creation.

Our ministry to ministers comes through intentional visits, phone calls, notes, emails (personal and group), district ministers luncheons, and through regionally sponsored events for ministers called Peer2Peer. In addition, our pastors in Eastern and Western Kentucky receive additional support through the West Area Ministry and Kentucky Appalachian Ministry.

Our work with congregations is organized around four movements:

- A Church Multiplication Movement
- A Faithful, Effective, and Innovative Congregational Movement
- A Congregational Redevelopment Movement
- A Congregational Support Movement

In addition to our excellent lay constituency ministries, care and oversight of pastors, and our outdoor ministries, here are some of the new ministries we are doing within the four movements.

Church Multiplication Movement

Since 2002 we have had seven new church projects. Over the last two years we have launched: a congregation for people in recovery; an emergent church; a second campus to an existing congregation; a fresh start with an existing congregation that is intentionally multi-cultural, a Latina/Latino congregation, and a congregation in the fastest growing part of Lexington. We are preparing to launch a church within a prison once a planter that can do this kind of specialized ministry can be found.

In 2008, the Church Multiplication Team will be intentional that all new congregational starts will be launched by congregations, individually or in partnership, as part of their evangelism strategy.

Faithful, Effective, and Innovative Congregational Movement

In 2006 we started a new ministry for pastors called **Peer2Peer** where ministers come together in a prescribed format to resource each other by sharing their FEI ministries with one another. In the fall of 2006 we launched a distance learning ministry called "DiscipleU." It is an online educational resource using congregational pastors to teach the basics of the Christian faith (www.ccinky.net/discipleu.htm). In 2008, pastors of faithful, effective and innovative congregations will gather regularly to pool their resources, develop strategies, to assist pastors of congregations who are attempting to move their congregations towards becoming faithful, effective, and innovative.

Congregational Redevelopment Movement

Since 2001 CCK staff members have helped over 100 CCK congregations begin the journey of redevelopment/transformation. CCK staff members have received extensive training in congregational redevelopment and transformation customizing such ministries as Natural Church Development, Healthy Congregations, Spiritual Strategic Journeys, Asset Mapping, the World Café's "Café Conversations," and Appreciative Inquiry along with resources developed by the staff (Listening to God, Table Evangelism), in assisting congregations to reach their full Kingdom potential.

In addition, our Interim Ministry Network in Kentucky is partnering with the CCK staff to be trained as Healthy Congregations Facilitators so that they can lead congregations through this process during their time serving as interim ministers of a congregation in ministerial transition.

Congregational Support Movement

CCK staff continues to provide excellent pastoral care and consultation to pastors and congregations in a wide range of areas. Currently, new ways of serving congregations requiring these kinds of ministries are

being explored to increase our ability to meet these needs.

2. Where relevant to your ministry, how are you working to address the following priorities:

Becoming anti-racist/pro-reconciling – until February 1, 2007, CCK had a contract staff person who led our Anti-racist/pro-reconciliation initiative. In 2006 the members of our AR/PR team went through the 3 day training led by Jessica Vasquez. This included the regional minister. Our consultant and other staff member attended the leaders training from both Crossroads and the Peoples Institute.

In May, 2007, CCK transitioned from doing its ministry with a part-time Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation staff person to appointing a standing committee of the Board. This standing committee will be empowered to undo racism within the structures of the Region and to design and implement ministries of reconciliation throughout the Region.

In September of 2006, the regions of the Southeast Regional Fellowship (SERF) began a conversation about calling a fulltime staff person to work as a teacher/organizer to resource and organize our regions to work to dismantle racism. In 2008, SERF, will call a staff person to help organize the Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation work of our various committees within each region. There is great excitement and energy in how all eight regions, working together under one shared staff person, will contribute to a kind of “learning laboratory” in the best methods of achieving our goal of becoming anti-racist/pro-reconciling regions. Moreover, our time lime for calling our SERF Anti-Racism teacher/organizer was slowed so that the General Church could support the SERF regions cooperative effort to work towards dismantling racism.

Establishing 1000 new congregations – See #1

Transforming 1000 existing congregations – See #1

Forming and re-forming leadership for these ministries – See #1

3. What other information would you like to report as a matter of record and accountability?

4. Special concerns of the region

5. Other items of interest

We celebrate our historic ties with the Cane Ridge Preservation Project, the Kentucky Council of Churches, Christian Care Communities, Inc., Lexington Theological Seminary, Transylvania University, and Midway College.

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

- A. *What type of accounting method do you use: **Cash***
- B. *Is a professional audit done annually on your books? **Yes***
- 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	\$654,470	\$610,133	\$603,779
Total expenses	\$725,657	\$701,383	\$659,103
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$71,187)	(\$91,250)	(\$55,325)

- D.** *Currently, what is the total amount of Permanent Funds the Region has from which an "Annual Draw" of endowment earnings income is used to support your operations and programming? What is that percentage of draw and how is it calculated?* □

\$559,076

Our policy allows us to draw 5% per year from the appropriate named funds over a 5 year trailing average.

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

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

In 2005 we reduced staff by one full-time person. In 2006 we received two grants (totaling \$55,000). We were given special permission to take a one-time draw from our permanent funds over and above our normal allocation for 2006/2007. At the end of 2007 we reduced one full-time staff person to a bi-vocational staff person. This will be a savings to CCK of approximately \$60,000.