

Title: Report of the Christian Church (DOC) Michigan Region

Origin: Regional Minister, Dr. Jon A. Lacey

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

Regional Staff: Dr. Jon A. Lacey, Regional Minister for the Interim, Male, Caucasian; Beverly Peeler, Office Manager, Female, African American; Brenda Murphy, Camp Manager, Female, Caucasian; Pat Cast, Women's Ministry consultant, Female, Caucasian; Ken Hoye, Men's Ministry Consultant, Male, African American; Anne McCauslin, Dean, Systematic Training for Effective Ministry program, Female, Caucasian; Judy Hysten, Director, The Resource Connection, Female, Caucasian; Diana Payton, Outdoor Ministries Consultant, female, Caucasian

Number of Congregations: 44 (one closed, one new church start)

Total Members: 6150

States included in Region: Michigan

Long range planning goals:

1. The Christian Church Michigan Region (CCMR) began in 2006 a guided, long-range visioning process termed the "Joel Process" with regional leadership and the consultant services of Dick Hamm. Jon Lacey served in 2007 "Regional Minister for the Interim" to facilitate a regional renewal process which has included a heavy emphasis upon a return to fiscal responsibility and accountability to the Region's congregations and mission. The Joel Committee completed a "future story" and a timeline for transformation over the period from the present through 2014. The future story was presented to an assemblage of regional and congregational leaders in the Fall of 2007 and the basic benchmarks for 2008-2009 were accepted and endorsed.
2. CCMR has reaffirmed the goals of the region are to:
 - Revitalize existing congregations through
 - Strategic planning
 - Leadership training
 - Camping and outdoor education
 - Information distribution and networking
 - Evangelism training
 - Other emerging revitalization planning and processes
 - Establish new congregations
 - Conflict management
 - Become an Anti-Racist/Pro-Reconciliation Region/Ministry
3. CCMR has a long-term, established relationship with the United Church of Christ, Michigan Conference in that every two years we hold JAMRA (Joint Annual Meeting/Regional Assembly) jointly, as well as educational events like the Love of Leadership. Several program areas have jointly appointed staff. Anti-Racism training, Boundary training and history and polity are either jointly offered or offered by one partner inclusive of both traditions. The Regional Minister and the Conference Minister meet on a regular basis and the organizations share two consultant staff.
4. The Love of Leadership event is a major annual joint effort with the UCC designed to provide skill training for congregations around a number of issues designed to assist in

congregational renewal and revitalization. STEM (Systemic Training for Effective Ministries) is also geared toward leadership development utilizing two tracks (lay ministry and licensed ministry) to provide empowered and educated Disciple leadership for our congregations.

5. Michigan continues in a serious and deepening recession and business realignment; the Region's congregations, Disciples Mission Fund and Region are vexed by issues of financial volatility and viability. CCMR has been challenged by patterns and fiscal practices which underestimated or neglected federal and state tax liabilities for employee payrolls for a number of years. 2007 has consumed enormous amounts of energy of staff and volunteers working with a professional auditor to reconcile and meet legal obligations. Nonetheless, the spiritual health of our congregations is strong and many are growing despite the hardships. A number of our congregations are in precarious financial situations, but persevere. One of our challenges remains growing together in unity as a church family.
6. Special concerns: CCMR is struggling to move beyond financial crisis and disillusionment to restored trust and continuous accountability. Instituting technical and institutional change is critical, but is not the "end all." CCMR is struggling against some ponderous odds to enter a new era of mission-centered church life as congregations together, not merely together for convenience and rescue in crisis times.
7. Regional Financial Report (following):
8. Financial Information, Concerns, and Reports of the Region:
 - What type of accounting method is used? Accrual
 - Is a professional audit done annually? In 2007 complete audits for 2000-2006 were completed by an outside professional auditor; copies were supplied to the OGMP. 2007 audit is awaiting resolution of the penalty/interest phase of negotiations/assessment with the IRS and State of Michigan over payroll tax delinquency. Actual taxes were paid in 2007 totaling nearly \$125,000. Estimates of IRS penalties and interest range up to an additional \$160,000 and are pending in 2008.
 - Because of ongoing financial/bookkeeping issues we are able to supply a rough estimate of 2007 income/expenses:

Total Income	\$725,430
Total Expenses	\$716,418
Surplus	\$ 9012.

Figures are not complete as of this date.

- Permanent Funds the Region has from which an "Annual Draw" is used to support our operations and programming.
\$1.4 million
5% draw
- The Region has postponed physical improvements – or fund-raised for specific improvements at Crystal. Staff is at a reduced level and salaries have been frozen for two years.
- Key stewardship issue: Encouraging ALL congregations to move towards full participation, including financial contributions, in the life of the Region.