

**Title: Report of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Northeastern Region****Origin:** Lonnie F. Oates, Co-Regional Minister

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**Number of Congregations:** 116**Total Number of Members:** 14,500**States included in Region:** CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, VT**How the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has fulfilled the region's primary purpose as stated in paragraph 20 of the Design.**

The Christian Church in the Northeastern Region continues to be a witness to the saving acts and grace of God. We extend the mission, teaching, witness, and service to others by the vibrant health of our congregation. We enable our congregations by being a unifying presence to our member's Churches and our members. We strive to speak "the truth in love" and by doing so we are focusing on growing "up in every way into him who is head, into Christ." We are "striving to join and knit together" every aspect of our regional life.

We are receiving congregations on a regular basis. We are in the process of nurturing our Churches to become more like the body of Christ. We provide help to those who need it counsel to those who will receive it and pastoral care to members and ministers alike. We emphasize that we can do much more together than we can do on our own separately. We emphasize the worldwide mission and witness of our whole Church.

**Particular highlights or challenges of ministry in our region since the last report.**

Secularism is one of the great challenges of our region. We are a very diverse region. The people in our region come from many countries. As a result, there is an attempt, at times to revert back to the tradition that they bring with them. Some are good, and others are not so good. It is hard for us to allow the Spirit of Christ to show us what we have in common. To allow the Spirit to make us one. It is hard for us to move out of our comfort zone and allow God to show us a better higher way of existence. To be a community of faith where all are welcomed at the table.

**Current goals related to mission and vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).**

We are well aware of the vision and mission of our Church. With the help of, and contribution, hard work of Church Extension we have added a large number of Congregations to our region. We are confronting racism and classism at the local level. We are engaged against the disparity that the evil of these systems perpetuate. It is our goal to overcome those barriers and become the people that will make us a genuine Community. In a region as diverse as ours confrontation with those things are inevitable. Without giving quick answers to questions that have not been asked, we forge ahead. We hope to ask the right question on how to fulfill the great command of Christ, found in Matthew 28, to take the gospel from our doorsteps to the ends of the world.

In spite of the hardships that we face (financially) we live in hope believing that God, in God's wisdom and time, will help us. God has helped us in the past, so we are aware that God will help us now, and in the future.