

Title: Report of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tennessee

Origin: Glen J. Stewart, Regional Minister

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

Regional Staff: Glen J. Stewart (M/C), Regional Minister and President
Virginia Brooks (F/C), Secretary
Joan Hale(F/C) Bookkeeper
David Johnson (M/C), Bethany Hills Manager

Number of Congregations: 65

Total Members: 25,933 (17,585 participating)

States included in Region: Tennessee and DeSoto County, Mississippi

1. How the Tennessee Region has fulfilled the regions' primary purpose as stated in paragraph 20 of *The Design*.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tennessee is very focused on the purpose of regions as outlined in paragraph 20 of *The Design*. Glen Stewart, Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tennessee, serves the Disciples' congregations, their members and pastors in many ways to support and uplift the congregations in the Region. Our Regional Minister gives much time to congregations as they deal with conflict, as they seek new pastors, and as they seek to serve their communities. Further, he takes his call as pastor to congregations, members, and pastors very seriously calling on pastors around the State of Tennessee as he travels. One of the emphases of the ministry of the Christian Church in Tennessee is establishing new congregations. Always working in partnership with the New Church Team, Rick Morse, the outstanding leader of the New Church Team, the Christian Church in Tennessee has recently started a number of new congregations. The newest congregation to start is Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Vida, Memphis. The Christian Church in Tennessee is seeking to serve a growing Mexican population in Memphis and Tennessee. The ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tennessee extends to young and old, men and women, lay and clergy, English speaking and Spanish speaking, in congregations large and small.

2. Highlights and challenges of ministry in the Tennessee Region since the last report.

The greatest challenge of the ministry of the Christian Church in Tennessee is the downsizing of the organization and ability to continue an outstanding ministry despite a cutback in finances. The first addition to the ministry is the start of a Regional Elder Ministry. Regional Elders were recruited, both lay and clergy, to serve in their areas when called upon by the Regional Minister. To date, this ministry has been very positive and will be helpful in the future. The Regional Center for Ministry will soon move to a smaller, less expensive space. It seems that congregations, individuals, and clergy persons are seeking more assistance with their ministry while the Regional ministry is seeking to do more with fewer resource.

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

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tennessee has a number of goals for the future. The easiest one to point to is a capital campaign to start later this year. This campaign will include gifts for Bethany Hills, New Congregation Establishment in Tennessee, and Congregation Transformation in Tennessee. A number of General Units will also be included in this campaign. This campaign will allow the Christian Church in Tennessee to continue to start new congregations and to serve those established congregations seeking to be more vital as they do the ministry God is calling them to do.

4. Thanks to increased income by Disciples of Tennessee, downsizing of the Christian Church in Tennessee, and an attempt to save every dime possible, the Christian Church in Tennessee finished fiscal year 2007 in the black. In order to save more money, the Christian Church in Tennessee will move to its office at the end of March to much smaller quarters.
5. Hard copies of the most recent financial statement and the audit of the Region's financial books for fiscal 2007 are attached to the hard copy of this report.