

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
INCLUDING THE OFFICE OF THE
GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT**

Sharon E. Watkins, General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada
130 East Washington Street, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1986
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MISSION

The Office of the General Minister and President leads, serves, inspires, nurtures, and facilitates the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as one church in many expressions.

Since we last gathered as the General Board, the life of OGMP has been full of exciting changes, and the continual call from the church to reorganize itself for ministry around the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Since the last General Board, we have welcomed new staff, celebrated the ministry of those who have retired, completed the event known as General Assembly, received the responsibilities of Church Finance Council, and continued to the conversation that has led us to the document we share at this board meeting, Principles for Mission Alignment.

We have re-organized the Office of General Minister and President for greater efficiency, cost savings, and leadership in the life of the church. In January, we reorganized our physical space to assemble our staff in a manner that helps us better achieve our mission, work together collegially, and achieve cost savings by rightsizing our workspace. We have implemented the Roles and Goals approach to staff management and professional development of the staff. We have completed a new Human Resources manual. We have made significant progress in working toward continued financial stability and accountability. In response to our FY 2007 audit, we will implement COSO standards of Internal Controls for Small Businesses in FY 2008. Our Audit of FY 2007 shows that we completed all the action items from our FY 2006 audit and outside of the new COSO standards for Small Business there are no material weaknesses nor significant deficiencies in our management letter. Our Audited Financials will be presented to the Finance Committee on April 11, 2008 by CE Crouse and James Oberle of Capin Crouse.

We offer the following responses to the questions below.

WHAT ARE YOUR LONG RANGE PLANNING GOALS AND HOW ARE THEY INTEGRATED INTO THE MISSION AND VISION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)?

1. Continue work with 21st Century Vision Team to develop contemporary language for Disciples identity
2. Guide work of mission alignment including dialogue on the Principles for Mission Alignment and leading the church to act on implications for structural realignment
3. Plan for the 2007-2009 biennium and the Indianapolis 09 General Assembly that will celebrate our progress in meeting mission priorities and challenge us to go next steps together
4. Continue tracing implications of the 2005 changes to the Design and work to implement those changes. Focus on General Board capacity building, leading the General Board to achieve greater efficacy by claiming its fiduciary responsibility for the mission of the church and by implementing best practices of non-profit governance.
5. Continue the merger of Church Finance Council into the Office of the General Minister and President, particularly with regard to placement and role of stewardship in the life of the church and continuing to implement a development strategy for Disciples Mission Fund
6. Host the 2008 Pastor's Conference providing rest for pastors and a time to focus with the General Minister and President on our Disciples identity and call to mission
7. Seek new ways to utilize technology to connect all parts of the life of the church

The above goals are steps the Office of General Minister and President is taking to lead the church in faithfully pursuing its vision and mission.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF YOUR MINISTRY IN FULFILLING THE FOUR PRIORITIES OF 2020 VISION?

Much of the work of the Office of the General Minister and President over the last year (including the work outlined above) has been to help the ministry of the whole church be more aligned around these four priorities. The General Minister and President and staff have continued to highlight the four priorities in preaching and speaking and have participated in new church ministry events and in the search for the Reconciliation Minister as well as on-going conversations related to congregational transformation and leadership development. The General Commission on Ministry continues to work on Policies and Criteria for Ministry and an order of Ministry document. The entire OGMP staff will participate this spring in anti-racism training – a first time for several.

IN WHAT WAYS ARE YOU PARTNERING WITH THE OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF THE CHURCH AND WITH OTHER GENERAL MINISTRIES?

1. Through presence in congregations, regions, and general church events as keynoters, speakers, workshop leaders, worship leaders, and dialogue partners
2. Working with grassroots organizations such as the Disciples Youth Ministry Network
3. Dialogue with ministry partners including the Council of General Ministries and the College of Regional Ministers, Council of Colleges and Universities
4. Seeking innovative ways to build relationships across the life of the church
5. Presence and leadership at events such as CUIC, NCC, WCC, and other places of ecumenical and interfaith witness
6. Meeting and extending relationships with global partners in the Middle East and Kenya and on the Gulf Coast
7. Working with regions and general ministries to promote and interpret DMF and special day offerings, including coordinating the presence of General Ministry staff among our Top 100 giving congregations
8. Using technology to “green” the General Board and General Assembly with a reduction of paper and waste
9. Serving as accountability link by attending board meetings of general ministries and providing a ministry of presence, support, and counsel in cases of conflict

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN CONGREGATIONS TO FULFILL THEIR MISSION AND MINISTRY?

1. Integrating technology as a communication tool for additional information transferal across the life of the church
2. Calling the church to greater transparency and good stewardship through the financial accountability document
3. Seeking more effective and timely ways to transfer money from donor to recipient through DMF
4. Developing and implementing a promotional strategy for DMF for the benefit of the whole church

Christian Church Services, Inc.

R. Steven Belding, Executive Director
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Christian Church Services, Inc. (CCS) is a subsidiary corporation of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and exists to provide building and special services to the General Ministries who are tenants in the Disciple Center in Indianapolis. A Board of Directors, composed of eight General Ministry presidents, manages Christian Church Services, Inc.

The staff provides common services including telephone and voice mail oversight, central mail services, common property insurance, workers' compensation processing and conference room scheduling. They also serve as the liaison between the 200 employees of the Disciple Center and the building owner, Perennial Washington, LLC, to coordinate such services as building maintenance and cleaning. The staff of CCS is composed of the Executive Director and a part-time bookkeeper to carry out financial and administrative tasks, two central mailroom personnel and a receptionist in the main lobby of Disciples Center.

It is the goal of the staff of Christian Church Services, Inc. to provide a work environment for the General Units conducive to affirming and sustaining the mission, imperative and vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

COMMUNICATION MINISTRIES

Wanda Bryant Wills, Executive Director
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1. Knowing that the current priorities of the church are to start new congregations, transform existing congregations for mission, nurture leadership for these new and renewed congregations, and becoming an anti-racism/pro-reconciling church, what is the role of your ministry in fulfilling any of these priorities?

Communication Ministries (CM) continues to help the Church use communications as a means of disseminating news and information about church priorities. As a division of the Office of General Minister and President, Communication Ministries works closely with the General Minister and President to articulate the Church's vision and mission to all expressions of the Church. In addition, Communication Ministries identifies examples of renewal, transformation, leadership development and reconciliation that are being lived out by Disciples and uses various forms of media to highlight work that is taking place in these areas.

Communication Ministries focused much of its work in 2007 on General Assembly promotion. CM staff wrote numerous press releases and news briefs for the Assembly, produced brochures and worked with the local host area to highlight the event. As part of General Assembly promotions, CM strengthened the media capabilities of the Assembly website, allowing for more streaming media, news feeds and a discussion board.

At the end of 2007, Communication Ministries' three-person staff formally merged with the Office of General Minister and President. The change also included physically moving the CM office from the first to the 10th floor, a move that allows CM to work even closer with the Office of General and President to assist the larger church in meeting its current priorities.

2. In what ways are you partnering with other expressions of the Church and with other general ministries?

Communication Ministries accepts news and information from all expressions of the Church. Disciples News Service (DNS) is our primary means of disseminating news about the congregations, regions and general ministries. In 2007, DNS was distributed via e-mail to approximately 4500 people each week, and experienced an increase in overall subscribers to this e-mail service.

DNS will be offered as a blog-based distribution service later in 2008, which means it will contain a feature allowing readers to comment or discuss items they read in the news as well as RSS news feeds.

Communication Ministries also assisted several general ministries in redesigning and updating their web sites, and provided some website consultation to congregations. The CM staff also continued to host an on-line web discussion forum for a community of 250 Disciples, who utilize the forum to exchange ideas, create sites, or find more innovative ways to maintain their current one.

3. How have you been involved in congregations to fulfill their mission and ministry?

Communication Ministries welcomes information that congregations, regions, general ministries or colleges and universities send that showcases ways each group is addressing the four priorities of the Church. Communication Ministries uses this information in its e-mail news distribution service, Disciples News Service, and on the Disciples website.

CM also is examining ways to utilize social networking technologies, such as MySpace, Facebook and YouTube in Church communications, in an attempt to better connect Disciples and our partners around the globe.

In addition, CM continues to distribute a basic brochure, "Discover the Disciples," in both English and Spanish, to all congregations that request this information for use in their ministry.

4. What barriers do you experience in carrying out your ministry?

Communication Ministries consists of three people who are part of the Office of General Minister and President. Given staff resources, there has been an attempt to streamline the work of the staff to better focus its offerings. For 2008, the Executive Director's work is working more closely with the General Minister and President to assist in spreading her vision for the Church, as well as providing news and information to regions, congregations and general ministries that help connect everyone to the Church's vision and mission. The webmaster continues to design and manage various websites for the Church, most specifically the Disciples.org site. The Executive Assistant/project coordinator assists both CM and the Office of General Minister and President in providing resources and information.

DISCIPLES CARE NETWORK, INC.

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Web site: www.disciplescarenetwork.org

YOU HAVE COUSINS YOU DON'T KNOW!

Cousins in ministry throughout the country are serving persons with various social and health needs on your behalf and in the name of Jesus and the Christian Church. Most are not known outside their immediate geographical area. The purpose of Disciples Care Network (DCN) is to create and maintain a network of human services agencies in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As a loose-knit association of care providers, DCN seeks to (1) inform the whole church of the "...good works and acts of charity." being provided to more than 37,000 persons annually, and (2) provide support, training and consultation for care providers to accomplish and maintain excellence in care and services.

DCN started with a group of eighteen care providers meeting at the 2005 General Assembly in Portland. Since then, 82 agencies have agreed to be listed in the DCN brochure/resource directory. The 2007 General Assembly in Fort Worth approved the resolution accepting Disciples Care Network as a "Recognized Organization" of the church.

DCN hosted a breakfast at the General Assembly in Fort Worth, where 52 persons did strategic planning for the Network. Implementing priorities from that planning led to:
a website: www.disciplescarenetwork.org, a membership sliding fee scale, incorporation and bylaws and a training session at the DCN annual meeting.

At the DCN annual meeting, January 20-21, 2008, a half-day workshop on building relationships with boards was provided. In addition to DCN agency representatives the workshop was open to others. One UCC staff member took advantage of that learning opportunity.

Disciples Care Network is grateful to the National Benevolent Association board for a generous start-up grant for the organizational phase of the Network. In doing so, NBA declined having any NBA staff on the DCN steering committee, so that the Network could organize without influence by NBA.

DCN looks forward to participation in a Task Force to organize for mission as proposed by Section I and approved by the General Board in April 2007 (General Board Business Item GB-07-0547). Most of the 82 agencies involved with DCN have never had seats at the table discussing the organization and recognition of social and health service delivery within the Christian Church and are ready to have representatives participate in the process.

As requested by members of General Board Section I, DCN is in the process of gathering information to be prepared to publish a list of agencies by the programs offered in addition to listing by state.

DCN is in consultation with DHM regarding services to congregations providing social services as a part of their ministries.

In calls to care providers, one HUD manager was grateful for DCN. She and her board have felt distanced from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She said, "I didn't think the church knew we were still here."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the DCN Annual Meeting in Tampa, January 20-21, 2008 the following persons were elected to the Board of Directors.

Kirk Alliman, President, Christian Care Communities, Louisville, KY ('10)

Erin Boehner, Interim Development Director, Kansas Christian Home, Newton, KS ('11)

Ken Burger, Executive Director, The Summit, Lynchburg, VA ('10)

Sue Cherney, Executive Director, Southern Christian Services for Children & Youth, Jackson, MS ('09)

Bob Cooper, President, Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home, Denver, CO ('10)

Kay Ellis, President, Juliette Fowler Homes, Dallas, TX ('10)

Wanda Gottschalk, Chief Development Officer, Child Saving Institute, Omaha, NE ('11)

David Lundeen, CEO, Cleveland Christian Home, Cleveland, OH ('09)

C. Mark Palmer, CEO, Woodhaven, Columbia, MO ('11)

Don Stump, President, Christian Church Homes of Northern California, Oakland, CA ('09)

Karen Wardlaw, Administrator, Disciple Homes, Gladewater, TX ('11)

2008 CORPORATE OFFICERS

Kay Ellis, President

Bob Cooper, Vice President

Ken Burger, Secretary/Treasurer

2009 annual meeting will be in San Antonio January 25 and 26, 2009, immediately following the Disciples Development Conference. YOU are invited to join us.

There is much yet to do to reach the potential of the Network. Many in the pews say they never heard of most of the DCN ministries. Most of the providers feel their work is unnoticed and unappreciated by the whole church. It is our privilege to serve the whole Church in trying to fill these gaps in understanding. Visit the DCN website www.disciplescarenetwork.org! *Get to know some of your cousins in ministry!*

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SAMUEL W. HUXFORD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
2008 GENERAL BOARD REPORT**

The European Evangelistic Society continues to seek to be an important ministry within the Stone-Campbell fellowship of churches. We are grateful for the relationships that we have within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and are pleased to report to the Office of the General Minister and President on the progress we have made and the plans we have for the future.

How will your unit/office contribute to the transformation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), called for by the Vision?

The European Evangelistic Society will continue to bear witness, both within and without the church, to the value of community as given to us by God in the church. Such a sense of community, in particular the idea that the church should seek to be one, has been and continues to be at the heart of the ministry of EES. In both our American Agenda and in our work in **Tübingen**, Germany, we continue to demonstrate our commitment to the idea of a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. A part of the uniqueness of the ministry of EES continues to be our work among all three streams of the Stone-Campbell movement, which allows us to share this focus with a broad audience. The executive director of the European Evangelistic Society is an active participant in the Stone-Campbell Dialog group and the Great Communion group – both of which are efforts among all three streams of the movement to promote the oneness of the body of Christ.

Becoming an anti-racist/pro-reconciliation church

The European Evangelistic Society, while not working specifically in any one congregation, seeks to bear witness that in Christ there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, slave or free. While that ideal could simply become a phrase Christians say, once it is taken to heart, it speaks loudly and forcefully to the sin of racism and the need for reconciliation among all people. All the members of our Board of Directors are actively involved in congregations that work to speak to this need in our American culture. Our work in Germany at the University of **Tübingen** may be one of the most multi-cultural congregations to be found anywhere. The Sunday Vespers Service led by the Institute for the Study of Christian Origins is typically attended by people from all over the world. At the very least, EES is actively demonstrating that, in Christ, we can overcome the temptation to treat others in ways that dishonor Christ and the use of His name.

Establishing 1000 new congregations

EES is in the initial planning stages of planting a new church in **Tübingen**, Germany. Our ministry is actively searching for a team to move to **Tübingen** in order to begin the process of planting a self-replicating congregation of believers. We want to develop a plan that will include the potential for planting new congregations elsewhere in Germany as the new plant progresses. One of our chief goals in this process is to include believers from all three streams of the Stone-Campbell movement.

Transforming 1000 existing congregations

EES continues to work within the fellowship of the Stone-Campbell movement as a resource for leadership and congregational development. Through the Walker Lecture at the General Assembly each year (and at other venues as well, such as the World Convention), we are accumulating an impressive collection of

relevant and challenging booklets about the nature of the church and its leadership. Fred Craddock gave the 2007 General Assembly Walker Lecture in Fort Worth and Doug Foster from Abilene Christian University spoke at the Lecture at the 2007 North American Christian convention in Kansas City. The European Evangelistic Society is a sponsor of the 2008 World Convention in Nashville where Barry Blackburn from Atlanta Christian College will be the speaker at the Walker Lecture function. The booklets are available from the EES office. This lecture series is a visual demonstration of the potential for Christian unity among Stone-Campbell churches.

Our executive director also participates in the Stone-Campbell Dialog and has served with the Great Communion Celebration committee.

What is God calling your unit/office to do differently?

The European Evangelistic Society continues to undergo significant transformation. We have completely revamped our promotional pieces, including the quarterly newsletter, brochures, displays, etc. We have also developed a web site that is regularly updated. Each Monday, the EES office in Atlanta sends a weekly devotional and ministry update to those who have requested it.

In terms of ministry activities, EES has made two very important decisions that will have long-term implications for the effectiveness of our ministry. The work of the Institute for the Study of Christian Origins will continue to be an important witness at the University of **Tübingen**. EES has signed a legal agreement with the university which recognizes our presence in the university community. This agreement will insure our work in the future and gives official recognition to our New Testament Colloquium which is offered on Monday evenings as a regular part of the university's graduate program in New Testament.

The university, however, has a large population of undergraduate students and we are planning to initiate a campus ministry which will focus on ministry to undergraduates. The European Evangelistic Society has entered into a partnership with Globalscope Campus Ministries, a ministry arm of Christian Missionary Fellowship International. In addition to the potential of this campus ministry, this partnership represents further efforts at encouraging Stone-Campbell ministries to partner with one another. Along side of this campus ministry will be the planting of a new congregation in the **Tübingen** area. We believe that these two ministry areas will serve to make us more effective stewards of resources directed our way and will also help us in contributing to the 2020 Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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

The European Evangelistic Society is committed to being a faithful ministry of service to Christ and His church. Our long history of working with all three streams of the Stone-Campbell movement places us in an important position of service to the church in an age where we seem to be taking more seriously the call of God for oneness among His people. One of the plans we are currently working on is to provide opportunities for leadership development among mission leaders in Europe at the Institute building in **Tübingen**. We have had a regular presence at important meetings like the General Assembly, the World Convention, the National Missionary Convention, and the North American Christian Convention. We are currently working on a more effective presence among churches of Christ. As Newell Williams described this ministry at the Walker Lecture for the 1999 General Assembly, we see ourselves as "an invisible fellowship of prayer." The content and hope of that prayer is that our ministry may continue to be a source of oneness among believers.

THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Ben Bohren, Chairperson

Howard E. Bowers, Administrative Staff

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Howard Bowers: Telephone: 317-635-3100; Fax: 317-635-370; E-mail: hbowers@cm.disciples.org ;

The General Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is composed of up to sixteen members appointed by the General Minister and President in consultation with various constituencies groups. In odd numbered years, the General Minister and President may present a slate of members to the General Board for confirmation.

In 2007-08 the following persons served on the General Commission at both the August 2007 meeting and the February 2008 meeting: Susanne Blix, laywoman, Zionsville, Indiana; Ben Bohren, Regional Minister, Northern California-Nevada; Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister, Capital Area; Timothy James, Associate General Minister and Administrator of the National Convocation; Joyce Knauff, licensed minister, Loudon, Tennessee; Sandra Michael-Bowers, Pension Fund representative; Howard Ratcliff, retired regional minister, North Ridgeville, Ohio; Donggook Roh, Congregational Pastor/CE Consultant; and Richard Sparrow, United Church of Christ representative.

Those ending their terms with the August 2007 meeting: Job Cobos, Associate Regional Minister, Arizona; Thomas Jewell, Regional Pastor, Oklahoma and GCOM chair; William Morrison, Jr., Regional Minister, Florida; Arnold Nelson, Jr., President, DHM representative; Richard Spleth, Regional Minister, Indiana; and Newell Williams, seminary representative, Ft. Worth, Texas.

New members welcomed at the February 2008 meeting: Dani Loving Cartwright, Regional Minister, Southwest; Elsie Ferrer, laywoman, Fishers, Indiana; Carolyn Higgonbotham, seminary representative, Indianapolis, Indiana; Sotello Long, Regional Minister, South Carolina; and Don Shelton, DHM representative.

Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President, serves as an ex-officio member. During 2007-08, Howard Bowers has been the Commission's administrative staff person.

The General Commission met in Indianapolis in both August, 2007 and February 2008. The Commission addressed a variety of issues surrounding ordained and licensed ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Working in three committee settings, 1) Search and Call, 2) Standards, 3) Support, members dealt with particular areas of ministry that impact the daily life of the church.

A major focus of GCOM over the last year has been continued work on a draft document, *The Order of Ministry*. Despite hours of work and immense input from across the denomination, GCOM continues to work on this document. We recognize its vital importance to the ministry of our church and appreciate your prayers for our careful and timely distribution for your consideration. At the request of Sharon Watkins and in cooperation with GCOM, a special task force has been appointed to move this document forward. Persons serving on this task force are Robert Welsh, chair; Richard Spleth, John Imbler, LaTaunya Bynum; Joyce Knauff, Janice Legg, and Carmelo Alvarez. A full report is expected at the August 2008 GCOM meeting.

Other major work of GCOM in the last year has focused on: boundary training for clergy in general ministries (*including a General Board motion*); a review of the general church policy on clergy sexual misconduct; the completion of "Beginning a Pastoral Ministry" document; clarifying issues relating to the search and call system including attention to the criminal background check and how it is working; adjustments to the general ministry standing form; the process for transfer of military chaplains into the Disciples of Christ; consultation with racial-ethnic constituencies; a guide for search committees in "Reading the Disclosure Form and Criminal Background Check;" plus at least two dozen other issues; this is a very hard working commission!

One of the ongoing responsibilities of the General Commission is the annual certification of Disciple ministers serving in the general expression of the church. For 2008, the Commission certified the ministerial standing of 130 Disciples clergy. For clarification GCOM certifies standing for: full-time military chaplains, full-time VA hospital chaplains, full-time federal correction institution chaplains; general ministry clergy; ecumenical ministries whose responsibilities extend beyond one region; and all ministries outside the US and Canada including missionaries and ecumenical ministries. GCOM is grateful for the presence and partnership with Steve Doan, DHM military chaplaincy endorsement officer who attended this portion of our meeting.

The challenges before GCOM in the next year are daunting, but the skills and commitment of the membership are strong and the cohesive work of this team and our spiritual foundation provide us all great joy and appreciation for this opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Ben Bohren, Chair

NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

D. Duane Cummins, Chair
Stephen W. Gentle, President
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Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: (202) 232-0323; Fax (202) 797-0111

BACKGROUND

National City Christian Church Foundation is proud of its position as one of the Recognized Organizations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Since 1930 it has been our charge to fulfill Alexander Campbell's dream of proclaiming the gospel in the presence of the leaders of the nation and the world. We continue to share this historic house of worship with our community and with Disciples everywhere.

On behalf of the whole denomination we consider ourselves fortunate to be in a position to provide excellent ministries in the diverse, urban setting that is Washington, DC. Yet we also take seriously the responsibility that is ours to maintain the physical facilities, which provide a second church home for all Disciples.

As the Disciple's National Church, we seek to lead by example as we live and work to celebrate the faith in Jesus Christ, which unites our hearts while honoring those differences which make us unique. We are able to see how the Spirit is transforming us and broadening our vision of the future.

We are grateful for the leadership of those who volunteer their time and talents to our ministry. We deeply appreciate D. Duane Cummins, our Board Chair, the members of the Board of Trustees, as well as the Foundation's many members and friends.

SERVING ONE ANOTHER

Living and witnessing in Washington, DC affords both the Foundation and the congregation the daily opportunity to be faithful to the challenge to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our members, of our neighbors, and of our nation's leaders.

During 2007, the congregation adopted a new Model for Ministry inviting all people to: Connect with Christ; Grow as Disciples; Serve with Joy; and Share God's Love.

We continued to serve our neighborhood by offering a Summer Enrichment Program for 40 children. In its forty-one year history, it has been recognized as an excellent model for summer student enrichment and partially supported financially by the National City Christian Church Foundation.

We also serve the neighborhood through a weekly food pantry for homeless persons as well as serving breakfast at a women's shelter and serving meals to the homeless through an organization called Martha's Table.

A Street Team was formed as a gesture of hospitality on Sunday mornings offering passersby a cup of coffee, water and a handshake with an invitation to join in worship.

SERVING DISCIPLES

We assist our fellow Disciples through long-standing programs of sabbatical hosting, and bunkhouse ministries. We hosted several excellent pulpit speakers: Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson, President, Disciples of

Christ Historical Society, Jimmy Mohler, former Trustee and chairperson for Week of Compassion, Rev. Arnold Nelson, President, Disciples Home Missions, and Trustee Dr. Peter Morgan.

Hilda's Gift Shop was offered at General Assembly and is open weekly to the community raising awareness of building sustainable communities throughout the world.

National City welcomed Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, General Minister and President, as lecturer of the Fifth Annual Harold Watkins Lecture.

Through our music program we hosted College choirs from the Stone-Campbell movement, traveling church choirs from other Disciples congregations as well as community musical performances.

Housed within National City is an office for Disciples Center for Public Witness a coordinating center for many church, society, human rights and global issues.

SERVING THE WORLD

National City was host to the International Ecumenical Conference on Human Rights in the Philippines; Disciples Peace Fellowship; Sojourners Call for Renewal National Conference; and Lutheran Volunteer Corps.

LIVING THE VISION

The growing family that is the congregation of National City Christian Church invites all to become Disciples witnesses in Washington. We truly are becoming a house of prayer for all people. We are growing as a church that celebrates our unity in Christ while honoring our diversity. In giving expression to our vision for ministry in the Nation's Capital, National City Christian Church is: a place of a growing spiritually; a place of dedicated service; a place of genuine hospitality; a place of true diversity; and a place of outstanding music and the arts.

These great pillars of our ministry are calling us to build an even greater work on the foundation they provide. We celebrate the ministry that already has begun, and we anxiously await the work that lies ahead. As members and friends of National City Christian Church, whether we live and work near Washington or elsewhere, it is our common task to lead the faithful to new understanding, new hope and new community. We ask for your ongoing prayers, support and assistance.

Through a myriad of opportunities for study, for prayer, and for service, we are working out our response to God's call in this day and time. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are attempting to discern the path we should follow as we move the theory to practice in our desire to be open and affirming and welcoming of all persons. With the assistance of regional and general staff and volunteers, we are working to understand the racism that is part of the every day life of persons and of institutions. Likewise, we are committed to discovering the means by which that racism can be dismantled.

A VISION THAT IS OPEN TO THE SPIRIT

We are keenly aware of the increasing number of homeless and are continuing conversations with experienced agencies, planners, and community developers which may result in an exciting new ministry for children and their families who need supportive housing.

As your National Church, we feel called to encourage a national dialogue on the issues that confront our future. Through a new lecture series, major gatherings of denominational leaders, and constant prayer, we intend to open the way for the leading of the Holy Spirit in the meeting of these challenges.

The future of National City, like that of all gatherings of Christians, is both exciting and challenging. We are grateful to be sharing the journey with you and thank you for your continued support.

NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2006

ASSETS	
Investments	\$ 11,118,119
Contributions receivable	75,000
Loan receivable	370,000
Net property and equipment	<u>7,494,068</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 19,057,187</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Cash overdraft	\$ 239,866
Accounts payable	90,229
Due to local trustees	642,901
Line of credit	86,824
Notes payable	2,541,960
Deferred revenue	5,727,273
Security deposits	<u>16,077</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>9,345,130</u>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	6,202,354
Temporarily restricted	817,322
Permanently restricted	<u>2,692,381</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>9,712,057</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 19,057,187</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part
of these financial statements.

NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2006

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUE AND SUPPORT				
Investment income	\$ 891,652	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 891,652
Rental income	356,709	-	-	356,709
Contributions and bequests	23,538	250,961	100	274,599
Program fees	9,333	-	-	9,333
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	<u>568,213</u>	<u>(568,213)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	<u>1,849,445</u>	<u>(317,252)</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>1,532,293</u>
EXPENSES				
Depreciation	719,975	-	-	719,975
Salaries and benefits	496,471	-	-	496,471
Repairs and maintenance	458,157	-	-	458,157
Grants to Church	416,313	-	-	416,313
Utilities	216,388	-	-	216,388
Professional fees	119,347	-	-	119,347
Insurance	86,225	-	-	86,225
Condo and housing expenses	77,618	-	-	77,618
Office expenses	76,825	-	-	76,825
Building security	60,246	-	-	60,246
Interest	50,322	-	-	50,322
Travel	37,495	-	-	37,495
Equipment rental	29,233	-	-	29,233
Parking costs	24,670	-	-	24,670
Printing	22,934	-	-	22,934
Telephone	6,632	-	-	6,632
Receptions	4,500	-	-	4,500
Postage	3,161	-	-	3,161
Computer expenses	<u>1,582</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,582</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>2,908,094</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,908,094</u>
Change in Net Assets	(1,058,649)	(317,252)	100	(1,375,801)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>7,261,003</u>	<u>1,134,574</u>	<u>2,692,281</u>	<u>11,087,858</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 6,202,354</u>	<u>\$ 817,322</u>	<u>\$ 2,692,381</u>	<u>\$ 9,712,057</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part
of these financial statements.

WEEK OF COMPASSION COMMITTEE

John Richardson, Chair

Johnny Wray, Minister/Administrative Director

Amy Gopp, Minister/Associate

Elaine Cleveland, Administrative Assistant

P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

317-713-2442

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OVERVIEW:

In 2007, the British-based non-governmental organization, Oxfam, issued a report that confirmed what many in the disaster response community were already suspecting – the number of weather-related natural disasters occurring in the world is dramatically on the rise. Indeed, the Oxfam study found that the number has more than quadrupled over the past two decades. In the early 1980s the world experienced about 120 weather-related disasters per year, compared to more recent figures of around 500 per year. The number of people affected has swelled by almost 70% - from some 174 million a year between 1985 and 1994 to some 254 million a year between 1995 and 2004. As one might regrettably surmise, it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable people who are the most severely impacted. While the Oxfam study covered the twenty year period 1985-2004, the trend has continued, and a recent report from the German reinsurer, Munich Re, noted that 950 natural disasters were recorded worldwide in 2007, the most since 1974 when the company began keeping records. There were 850 natural disasters in 2006 according to Munich Re.

This was the context in which Week of Compassion was called to carry out its disaster response ministry in 2007. While there were no “super” disasters like the 2005 hurricane season that produced Katrina, Rita, Wilma and more than twenty other tropical storms or the southern Asia tsunami in December 2004, 2007 was a very busy year for WOC. A number of southern Asian countries experienced some of the worst flooding in decades, as did southern Mexico. While the U.S. hurricane season was noticeably mild, several tropical storms ravaged the Caribbean and Central American countries, and major cyclones struck Bangladesh, Madagascar and the western Pacific. Indonesia, still recovering from the 2004 tsunami, again had to deal with earthquakes and floods. Earthquakes also caused significant destruction in Peru, Mozambique and China. Here in the U.S. the Southwest, Pacific Northwest and Midwest states experienced a number of severe storm systems that, in turn, produced some of the worst flooding in years. While several midwestern states and northern California had to deal with winter storm emergencies, southern California again battled several devastating wildfires.

2007 saw no signs of an end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, nor any quelling of the atrocities in Darfur, Sudan and the eastern Congo. In 2007, Action by Churches Together again issued a major appeal to its partners to support its Darfur Emergency Relief Operation and a new appeal on behalf of the growing Iraqi refugee crisis in Iraq, Syria and Jordan; both appeals became major priorities for WOC during the year. Here at home, the country was shocked by another school shooting, this time at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA.

Of course, the large humanitarian issues of poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy and other injustices remained as pervasive as ever in 2007, and Week of Compassion's support of long-term sustainable development projects remained an important part of WOC's witness and work in the world. Grants totaling nearly \$500,000 were made to projects in more than 45 countries and to eight U.S. states. These included food production/security projects in 28 countries through our partnership with the Foods Resource Bank and Church World Service, with WOC/Disciples serving as lead funder for projects in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Bosnia/Herzegovina. Through Seeds Program, Inc. WOC/Disciples provided seeds to thousands of families and hundreds of communities throughout Africa, with a major investment in Zimbabwe and Liberia. In conjunction with Global Ministries' Area Offices, WOC funded sustainable development projects in India, Chile, Lebanon, China and Angola, to name a few. WOC's sustainable

development work encompasses food security, income generation, health care, water, sanitation, education, peace-building and psycho-social care. WOC continues to make long-term rehabilitation work a priority, and the strong support WOC received in the aftermath of the southern Asia tsunami and the 2005 hurricane season is enabling us to continue such critical work in Indonesia, India and other Asian countries and along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast.

In 2007, undesignated giving to Week of Compassion remained strong (\$2,422,218) and actually increased slightly (.50%). Designated giving reached \$685,928, an increase of 21.18% over 2006 designated giving. Income from WOC's endowment program and other funds in the Christian Church Foundation also continued to grow and reached an all time distribution high of \$151,041. Week of Compassion continues to give joyous and humble thanks to Disciples congregations, members and friends for their steadfast support, without which none of this ministry could be done.

1. Knowing that the current priorities are to start new congregations, transform existing congregations for mission, nurture leadership for these new and renewed congregations, and become a reconciling church, what is the role of your ministry in fulfilling these priorities?

Because of the significant resources given to Week of Compassion in response to the 2005 hurricane season, WOC has been able to continue its support of revitalization efforts to two congregations in the Great River Region: First Christian Church, Slidell, LA, and Westside Christian Church, New Orleans, LA - congregations whose ministries and facilities were seriously impacted by Katrina but to whom new opportunities of service and growth have been given. In 2007 WOC continued to provide major support of the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative. That support included assistance to Disciples Mission Stations at First CC, Gulfport, MS; Grace Disciples Church, Covington, LA; First CC, Slidell, LA; Westside CC, New Orleans, LA; First CC, Metairie, LA; First CC, Lake Charles, LA; First CC, Port Arthur, TX; Northwood CC, Beaumont, TX; and Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, Los Fresnos, TX – support that is providing numerous opportunities for ministry and witness within those communities and also the congregations sending work teams to them. More than 600 work groups (with more than 7000 volunteers) have participated or are scheduled to participate in the Recovery Initiative's goal of 750 work groups between September 1, 2006 and August 31, 2008. Also in 2007, WOC and ODV established a mission station with First CC, Pratt, KS, and FCC, Kinsley, KS, to support long-term recovery efforts in tornado-ravaged Greensburg, KS. Transformative stories abound of new energy and new life for individuals and congregations participating.

Just as work groups are a great tool for leadership building, Week of Compassion also supports other programs that nurture leadership for the church. In partnership with the Office of Disciples Volunteering/Disciples Home Missions, WOC supports the Summer Mission Intern program, and with Global Ministries/Division of Overseas Ministries, WOC funds the Global Mission Intern program - both programs that give Disciples young people individual opportunities for service. Again in 2007, WOC sponsored a mission/study trip for Disciples seminary students to the Balkans as it had the three previous years, with the purpose of giving emerging Disciples leaders the opportunity to see WOC dollars at work on the ground in Bosnia. In 2007, two seminary students also served as special interns with the Week of Compassion and thus, had unique leader development opportunities along with hands-on training in the ministries of relief and development. One of the priorities of WOC Associate, Amy Gopp, is to focus intentionally on building relationships with Disciples youth, young adults and seminary students, and as part of that priority, Amy participated in and/or led numerous young leader conferences, retreats and related events.

Week of Compassion continues to support several ecumenical efforts in the Gulf South working to address issues of race, class and poverty that have been further exposed in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. On occasion, WOC provides grants to partners, including congregations, as they seek to address similar issues in their community.

2. In what ways are you partnering with other expressions of the Church and with other general ministries?

Partnerships are the core of Week of Compassion. Everything WOC does is done in and through a remarkable network of partnerships. Much of that work is done through our ecumenical partners, and WOC is repeatedly recognized as enabling Disciples to be important participants in partner organizations like Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Foods Resource Bank, IMA-World Health, Bread for the World, Habitat for Humanity, One Great Hour of Sharing and other church partners. Within the Disciples, WOC undergirds Refugee and Immigration Ministries and the Office of Disciples Volunteering in Disciples Home Missions and now, the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative mentioned above. Also mentioned earlier, WOC supports the Global Mission Intern program and the Critical Presence Initiative in Global Ministries/Division of Overseas Ministries, as well as providing significant disaster and development grants through GM's Area Offices and overseas church partners. The Council on Christian Unity is a very valuable partner with whom we converse regularly around issues of ecumenicity, cooperative humanitarian ministries and the like, as well as working with CCU to support such programs as Bossey Scholarships for emerging church leaders from the developing world at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland. The Christian Church Foundation has been a great partner in managing, promoting and building the WOC endowment program, as has Church Extension in providing stewardship of WOC dollars between the time they are received and the time they go out into the world to bring help and hope to hurting people. Certainly our partnerships with regions are important as we work with numerous regional and area offices each year to respond to Disciples affected by disasters, support regional work trips and participate in regional and area events.

3. How have you been involved in congregations to fulfill their mission and ministry?

There is no partnership more important for Week of Compassion than the partnership we share with the more than 2000 congregations that make the work and witness of WOC possible. That partnership involves, of course, far more than a financial relationship. In 2007, WOC supported more than 150 congregations in work/mission trips; relied upon 75 congregations to deliver disaster resources to needs within their memberships and communities; partnered with more than 25 congregations to combat hunger in the world with Foods Resource Bank local growing projects; and encouraged more than 450 Disciples youth groups in their participation with the Souper Bowl of Caring. In partnership with the Christian Church Foundation, WOC is also helping nearly a dozen congregations whose visible presence has closed, but whose ministry continues through permanent funds that support in perpetuity WOC and another dozen existing congregations that have chosen to undergird their commitment to Disciples' humanitarian work in the world by establishing similar funds in the Foundation – all part of the WOC endowment program that distributed a record \$151,041 to WOC in 2007. These are just a few expressions of the ways in which WOC helps congregations fulfill the mission Christ has given to them to respond to those Christ called “the least of these, my brothers and sisters.”

When Christ spoke of finding one's life through giving it away, he surely was speaking to communities of faith as well as people of faith. WOC becomes one of the ways, not the only way certainly, but a very crucial and important way, for Disciples congregations to engage in self-emptying, life-giving, transforming ministry around the world, around the year.

**WORLD CONVENTION
(CHRISTIAN - CHURCHES OF CHRIST - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

Jeff Weston, General Secretary/Executive Director
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World Convention provides both the opportunity and means of sharing between churches and individuals within the Stone-Campbell family of churches around the world.

It seeks to build up fellowship, understanding and common purpose within this global church family on an everyday basis, and through quadrennial conventions. Our ministry in the last year has consisted of:

- a) Publishing the global magazine "*World Christian*".
- b) Publishing the monthly email newsletter, "*ChristiaNet*".
- c) Maintaining the World Convention web site which includes a growing number of national descriptions of your church family's witness.
- d) Emphasizing your church family's unique story and witness through the writing of articles and by speaking in Churches and assemblies.
- e) Lifting up daily global prayer through our prayer network, "11: 11 - Get Connected".
- f) Strengthening networking through global correspondence, visiting and networking with leaders from various countries and 'streams' within the movement.
- g) Maintaining links with other Christian World Communions.
- h) Organizing the quadrennial World Convention global gathering.

Plans for the 2008 World Convention to be conducted in Nashville, Tennessee, July 30 - August 3 have been the key focus of our ministry this past year. The theme will be '*Together in Christ*' emphasizing the foundational principals of the World Convention. A steering committee comprising representatives from the three streams has been formed to plan the convention. Many exciting options will be on offer and a strong "missional" emphasis will be present in all aspects of the program. New initiatives include participation in both local and international mission projects, more than 40 workshop sessions, a comprehensive children's program and a convention for youth. The opening night speaker will be Cynthia Hale from Ray of Hope Christian Church. The closing communion service will include a celebration of the bicentennial of Thomas Campbell's writing of the "*Declaration and Address*". Six major sponsors have formed partnerships with us to facilitate the World Convention, these include the Division of Overseas Ministries / Global Ministries and the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. We are most grateful for their partnership in making this a successful event.

This past year we published two books written by our General Secretary/Executive Director Jeff Weston. The first was released at General Assembly titled "*Power for Pressurized People*" it is a 10 lesson study on the Pauline letter to the Church at Colossi. The second was an e-book titled "*Traditions of Christmas*". Both books have been well received. We continue to develop profiles on the 180 countries where the Stone-Campbell movement has witness. Historian Clinton Holloway has researched and now written profiles on over 115 countries. These have all been posted on our web site. Our goal is to have at least 150 profiles completed prior to the 17th World Convention.

A new aspect of our ministry has been the development of mentoring relationships with a number of Church leaders and Pastors of two-third world Churches. Many of these folk are in isolated locations and lack pastoral support. Executive Director Jeff Weston maintains the relationship via email, personal mail and visits. At present pastors from six countries are in the program. Jeff Weston has undertaken teaching ministry in India, South Korea, Kenya and Zimbabwe this past year. We receive many invitations for Jeff to visit and teach overseas.

As of July 2007 we revised our magazine "*World Christian*". It is now produced in full color on gloss paper in a handy magazine format. There has not been an increase in production cost due to the reduced size. The new size has facilitated a discount in postage costs. We have also made provision for people to receive the *World Christian* via our web site, thus further saving on postage costs.

The existence of World Convention is a constant reminder to all within our movement that the church is universal and that all those with roots in the 19th Century Restoration Movement are bound together through a common heritage and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Unity (in order that we might effectively represent the gospel) is our polar star. Everything we do as individual Christians and as the Church, we must do with the understanding that we are a part of the one Body of Jesus Christ.

WORLD CONVENTION OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST
Operating Fund

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ending December 31,

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Disciples Mission Fund	\$ 20,372	\$ 22,171
Endowment Fund Income	24,711	24,547
U S & Canadian Churches-Disciples	10,151	3,874
U S & Canadian Churches-NACC	14,260	2,360
U S & Canadian Churches-Church of Christ	2,000	100
World Convention Friends and Gifts	34,103	34,100
Salary Support from Assembly Fund	40,000	35,000
Other Income	<u>8,631</u>	<u>1,870</u>
	\$ 154,228	\$ 124,022
EXPENSES		
Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$ 99,288	\$ 82,025
Travel and Committee Meetings	18,359	12,091
Office Expenses	17,352	13,047
Promotion and Publicity	32,832	17,132
Other	<u>358</u>	<u>507</u>
	<u>\$ 168,189</u>	<u>\$ 158,628</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	<u>\$ (13,961)</u>	<u>\$ (780)</u>

BALANCE SHEETS AT DECEMBER 31,

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 19,858	\$ 9,957
Accounts Receivable	-	2,381
Sundry Other Assets	<u>176</u>	<u>289</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 20,034</u>	<u>\$ 12,627</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Notes Payable	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000
Payable to Assembly Fund	72,635	50,993
Payable to Endowment Fund	17,837	17,582
Sundry Other Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 529</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 122,472	\$ 101,104
 Fund Balance	 <u>\$ (102,438)</u>	 <u>\$ (88,477)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 20,034</u>	<u>\$ 12,627</u>

OTHER FUNDS

	<u>Bader</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Assembly</u>
Balance December 31, 2006	\$ 39,689	\$ 724,454	\$ 56,261
Receipts	2,213	19,716	90,467
Net Loan Proceeds/(Repayments)	-	-	3,250
Disbursements	<u>-</u>	<u>24,711</u>	<u>70,755</u>
Balance December 31, 2007	<u>\$ 41,902</u>	<u>\$ 719,459</u>	<u>\$ 79,223</u>

YEAR BOOK AND DIRECTORY

Howard E. Bowers, Editor

The *Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* is the organ for maintaining the official list of the denomination's congregations. This is accomplished by seeking to report new congregations once they are recognized by a region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In 2007, 87 congregations were listed in the Year Book for the first time. Of this 87, 21 were previously unknown congregations acknowledged for the Year Book by the Goldsboro-Raleigh District Assembly of the Church of Christ Disciples of Christ, the regions acknowledged 64 congregations in formation, and 2 new congregations were the result of congregations merging.

The Year Book also works with regions to remove congregation in order to maintain a correct listing of Disciples congregations. Regions announce the closing of congregations, but it is necessary to maintain the formalities of the *Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* before a congregation can withdraw or be removed for lack of interest. During 2007 there were 60 congregations removed from the Year Book. Of this number 33 congregations closed, 9 congregations withdrew, 9 congregations were removed through the procedure outlined by General Assembly Resolution 9516, 2 congregations were removed because they were duplications, 2 congregations were formation congregations that had their regional recognition withdrawn, 4 congregations merged (to form 2 of the new congregations), and 1 congregation's ethnic ministry was wrongly listed as an independent congregation.

Year Book orders were up in 2007. To date there have been 1,965 orders for the 2007 Year Book and Directory as compared to 1,447 for the 2006 issue. The paper cover edition is by far the most popular. Two thousand four hundred (2,400) copies were ordered and we purchased the overrun (about 200 copies) as well. Current inventory for the paper cover 2007 Year Book is less than 50 copies. The CD has not sold as well (about 250 copies a year) mostly in tandem with a hard copy purchase. The loose-leaf issue sold all 100 copies and many persons who ordered a loose-leaf edition did not receive the edition they initially requested. A larger number will be printed in 2008. Of the one hundred hard cover copies ordered there are still six in stock.

The Year Book office stopped receiving payments from for the Year Book and asked, on the invoice, that payment be sent directly to a bank lock box in Chicago. This increases security and complies with standards set forth by the auditors. Accounting for Year Book sales is now done by other OGMP staff.

The Year Book has contracted with DDI to develop a web based Year Book. We plan to test the online Year Book with the 2008 edition then make it possible to purchase this with the other editions beginning with the 2009 Year Book. Some issues remain for resolution including the purchase price, an estimate as to how online service will affect paper copy sales, and how to insure that those who use the online service pay for the service.