

YEAR BOOK AND DIRECTORY

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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because they were duplications, 2 congregations were formation congregations that had their regional recognition withdrawn, 4 congregations merged (to form 2 of the new congregations), and 1 congregation's ethnic ministry was wrongly listed as an independent congregation.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.