

**REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD-April 2009
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA
Submitted by Ben Bohren, Regional Minister-President**

It is impossible to speak highly enough about this staff and its commitment to being a passionate, dedicated, Spirit-filled team. They are amazing in their leadership and servanthood!

Ben Bohren, Regional Minister-President, M, C, full time, ordained
Paula Pochiecha, Minister of Congregational Care & Women's Ministries F, C, 25 hours a week, ordained
Cliff Cole, Regional Minister for Placement, Training and Care, M, C part-time, ordained
Sandhya Jha, Minister of Transformation & Reconciliation, F, A, 25 hours a week, ordained
Kyung Min Daniel Lee, NAPAD Ministries, M, A, part-time, ordained
Molly Carlson, Minister of New Church Movement, F, C, part time, ordained
Quan Walker, Admin. Assistant, F, AA, full time, laywoman
Erin Moore, Director for Youth and Outdoor Ministries, F, C, part time, seminarian
Sue Tarleton, Annual Meeting Planning, F, C, part time, laywoman
Matthew Harris-Gloyer, Co-Director of Young Adult Ministries, M, C, part time, seminary graduate
Michelle Harris-Gloyer, Co-Director of Young Adult Ministries, F, H, part-time, seminarian
Diana Silva, Bookkeeper, F, C, part time, laywoman
Marilyn Born, Staff Support, F, C, part time, laywoman

We are a region of 66 congregations, 3 of which are house churches, with 12 congregations in formation. First Christian Church, Sparks, is our only congregation in Northern Nevada. Our House of Representatives voted that our region be named "open and inclusive" in 1993. We are nearly 4300 participating members which include Hispanic, Chinese, Korean, African American and many multi-ethnic, multi-racial congregations as well as the first thriving Mongolian Disciples community of faith.

We believe the best way to view our Regional Ministry and Mission in the last year is to overview our commitment of time, energy, prayer and financial resources to our Regional Five Year Vision. We are truly "living into" this Five Year Vision. Please note that the General Church's four mission priorities are contained in this larger Vision.

We ARE a church with a vision...we ARE a church with a mission!

Over an 18 month period we kept asking Disciples this basic question, "What is God calling us to be and do in our regional ministry?" With ongoing input from regional staff, regional executive committee, regional board, regional committees, and regional elders, a rough draft was "cussed and discussed" by nearly 200 local church pastors and lay leaders over five nights across the region. This final vision will now define our ministry and mission for the next five years.

CCNC-N Five Year Vision (2008-2012)

To cultivate a faithful, growing regional church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice (Micah 6:8)

- **Supporting the birth of 40 new congregations by 2020 that share God's ancient love in brand-new ways**

>>>Our new church movement is "on fire!" We welcomed three new churches in 2006, three in 2007; three in 2008 and just welcomed three more at our Annual Meeting this past week-end. We have at least 10 more new churches envisioned and we have received over \$300,000 in support of this movement. We have called a new staff person to coordinate our NAPAD ministries. Our New Church Ministry Committee has about 15 members and held a special one day event for all new church pastors and families. We continue to send more and more people to New Church Training by General Staff.

- **Facilitating existing congregations' radical openness to God's guidance and their communities' needs (transformation)**

>>>Our very focused three year Transformation program resulted in some very exciting transformation in many local congregations. We are seeing the fruits of that effort in at least a dozen congregations, with transformation taking place in many different expressions. Seventeen of our congregations experienced a New Beginnings consultation. Over last summer, about 75% of our pastors were involved in one day gatherings in their Geographical Areas to dialogue and support one another in transformation.

- **Living into our God-given reconciling, open and inclusive identity which challenges the sins of racism, exclusion and oppression.**

>>> Our Reconciliation Committee has been able to increase the number of Reconciliation grants to local churches who are involved in many exciting new ministries. Our entire regional staff will experience a two day Anti-Racism training in May and we are now arranging a joint one day Anti-Racism training for our Reconciliation Committee and our New Church Committee. Our second Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration was well attended and our MLK youth scholarship program is growing. We have also created a Regional Justice Commission which is establishing a process whereby the Region can openly address issues of racism, equality and justice. Our Regional GLAD chapter has been re-invigorated with an Annual Retreat.

AND

To educate and empower every congregation to become a healthy, vital and living witness to the love, justice and grace of God through Jesus Christ (Acts 2:43-47).

- **Claiming a belief in a God of Abundance through practicing intentional giving**

>>>Early this year, our Regional Staff created "Mission Faire Extraordinaire," a one hour fun, educational, inspirational, and motivational presentation about Disciples Mission Fund giving. Basically, where does your mission \$\$\$ go?? These were presented at our Annual Geographical Area Gatherings around the region which drew about 450 persons, double a year ago. Our Regional Staff plus one also wrote a "six week congregational Bible study on using what God has given us toward God's glory"- *Transforming Gifts*. Our Annual Fund continues to grow each year. We also have been given two major gifts from local congregations to support regional ministry and we tithe each of those gifts to a mission beyond ourselves hoping to model this Biblical standard.

- **Cultivating Disciples of Christ to be dynamic "evangels," sharing the good news of God's transforming love**

We have held numerous workshops around our Region on evangelism. Every new member of every congregation is reported to the regional office and receives a welcome letter from the Region. We realize that this priority is very hard work in the culture of Northern CA-NV where less than 20% of the population attends church. We believe that our energy and hard work on other priorities is vital and must be a strongly integrated part of this priority. We have more work to do here!

- **Developing authentic Disciples leadership for the 21st century church while engaging an ecumenical and inter-faith context**

>>>Our nine Regional Elders are a rich blessing to all our efforts for developing this priority. They are growing in skills and experience in both our two retreats a year as well as the “hands-on” work they do with local pastors and congregations. Our Regional Youth Council gives excellent leadership to all our youth programming. Our Young Adult Ministry is growing with a very successful Winter Retreat. Women’s and Men’s Ministries both provide training and inspiration to their leadership councils. Our Annual Meeting held this past week-end had over 400 in attendance and included 6 workshops on “Growing as D(d)isciples.” Six of our pastors wrote *“Discipling,”* a six week study guide on walking in the way of Jesus for beginners and life long Christians. We continue to work with about 15 Disciples seminarians and we are excited about the new Ecumenical Center of Berkeley, the former University CC, now owned by Disciples Seminary Foundation and Pacific School of Religion. Coming this fall is A.C.T.S (Academy of Christian Training and Study) which will be a series of foundational church leadership courses across the Region. The first course will be “Disciples of Christ” history.

- **Calling on local congregations to become “Missional Churches” where servanthood is integral to all ministry**

For the fourth year, we will have sent at least two Regional Mission Trips to the Gulf Coast (this year we added Iowa); about 100 persons total. This October we will hold our Third Miracle Day with the site being our Regional Campground, the Community of the Great Commission; it’s 50 year anniversary. We are expecting about 400 volunteers and we hope to raise \$80,000 for major attention to deferred maintenance as well as some great re-furbishing of cabins. We have formed ONE Regional Mission Task Force which is focusing on four specific regional mission efforts: in addition to Gulf Coast, Yakama Christian Mission, All People’s Christian Center, and Global Ministries. We have become a Global Mission Partner Region and two Global Mission Interpreters are trained and working. We also have re-established a close relationship with Serra Center (now part of DBS), a ministry for persons with developmental disabilities.

- **Creating soul-stirring, life-changing, prayer-full worship and spiritual development**

Two special events have been a joy to offer. A “Technology in Worship Workshop” has been offered twice with about 25 people learning important skills; not just how to use PowerPoint but how it can become an important worship element. Coming in May is “Engaging Worship,” a two day event with seven radically different style worship services to assist persons in experiencing new possibilities for their own worship services.

Financial Information:

CCNCN uses a cash accounting method. We conducted an audit in 2006. Our permanent funds total is \$105,391 (a loss of nearly 50% since last year); we draw interest only. A three year operations budget:

	2008	2007	2006
Total Income	414,543	373,434	375,362
Total Expenses	421,701	407,683	330,731
Deficit	(7,158)	(34,251)	+44,631

We are thankful to report that our 2008 DMF giving was up 1.62%. Given the economy, we find that outstanding commitment. We celebrate that our Regional Board once again made a 100% commitment to

our Annual Fund and individuals around the region responded with a record Annual Fund support. We are truly partners in our mission!

Recommended Action:

The General Board receives the report from the Northern California-Nevada region.