



**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in Illinois and Wisconsin**

founded in 1850

**Report to the 2009 General Board
for the period of May 1, 2008 to March, 2009**

Regional Property Locations

Regional Office 1011 N Main St, Bloomington, IL 61701-1753
Phone 309-828-6293 Web www.cciwdisciples.org Fax 309-829-4612

Camp Walter Scott 15290 E 300th Ave, Dietrich, IL 61414-9325
Phone 217-739-23332 Email campcciw@yahoo.com Fax 217-739-2298

Regional Staff

<u>Full-Time Clergy Staff</u>	<u>Gender/Race</u>	<u>Tenure</u>
Beth Dobyns, Acting Regional Minister and President Regional Board, Finance, Personnel, Transition and Innovation, Women's Ministries, Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team, West Area minister	F/C	11/03
Christal Williams, Associate Regional Minister Urban/Metro/East Area Minister, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Camps and Campus Ministries, Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team	F/AA	06/99
Scott Woolridge, Associate Regional Minister South/East Area Minister, New Church Establishment, Mission Committee, Annual Fund, Transformation Team, Technology	M/C	03/92
<u>Part-Time Clergy Staff</u>		
Kathy Frus, Contract Associate Congregational Redevelopment Initiative staff person for East Area congregations.	F/C	02/04
Jerry McCoy, Minister of Formation and Standing	M/C	10/07

Staff for Ministry Committee, Ministerial Credentials, Clergy Ethics Committee

Administrative Support Staff

Mary Bible	F/C	10/07
Receptionist, Youth Ministries, Yearbook, Registrar		
Beth Zumwalt	F/C	10/97
Search and Call, Ministry Committee Newsletter editor, Women's Ministries		
Pat Meyer	F/C	09/08
Meeting Planning, Finance, Reconciliation		

Becky Lewis, Camp Manager
Barry Parnell, Resident Camp Caretaker

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Mission Partnerships

General Ministries: High Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM)
Dennis Landon, President

Global Ministries: Bruce and Linda Hanson, DOM Overseas Staff in Honduras
Christian Church Foundation: Darwin Collins, Zone Vice President

Number of Full-standing Congregations: 159

Congregations In Formation: 6

Reported Membership:

Total 38,912

Participating 21,549

Average worship Attendance 10,527

Total Membership Additions 928 (404 by baptism, 524 by transfer)

(figures reported in the 2008 Christian Church Yearbook and Directory)

States included in the Region: Illinois (except 6 St. Louis metro-area congregations) and Wisconsin

Total Disciples-Related Outreach Offerings to CC Finance council in 2008:

Disciples Mission Fund \$729,798

Special Day Disciples Mission Priority Offerings \$191,137

Week of Compassion \$95,465

Reconciliation \$29,016

Responses to question in the General Board Report Guidelines

1. *What are CCIW's long-range planning goals and how are they integrated into the mission and vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?*

Our mission statement is “Growing Disciples congregations for healthy, vital ministry.” Our vision states that we seek to become “A region composed of healthy Disciples congregations filled with fully devoted followers of Christ, engaged in vital ministries and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.”

In bringing this vision to reality, our efforts are concentrated in being of service to congregations as they discover the nature of the Gospel message, and its direction for our lives together. We continue to work on building the capacity for health and vitality through honest conversation about how we speak and act with one another. We are seeing the development of lively networks among churches who are doing mission work in our region and around the world. Although our staff has seen a great deal of transition this last year, we continue to follow our staff mission of E3—Equip, Empower, and Encourage.

2. *What is the role of CCIW's ministry in fulfilling the current priorities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in starting new congregations, transforming existing congregations for mission, nurturing leadership for these new and renewed congregations, and becoming a pro-reconciliation/anti-racist church?*

New Church establishment work is being done every day, with the exploration of

start of new churches where all persons are welcome. Many languages are spoken, and many lively faith traditions and practices are embraced in the development of new congregations.

CCIW has been at work on congregational transformation for several years now. There are many avenues for churches and pastors in this work. We have coaching/supportive groups for pastors involved in revitalizing churches who have felt no progress for a while; we also have groups who do some coaching around innovation and new ideas for ministry.

The research project around Unbinding the Gospel has led to several strengthened congregations. Through practice and preparedness, several churches report a sense of renewed vigor and aliveness. One congregation produced materials for children and youth in conjunction with the Unbinding work. This material is being used nationally.

New efforts in the work of transformation are continuing. We look forward to continuing the work begun through the generous gift of donors who see the joy and hope in supporting the work of ministry in our region. Churches are making use of networking, coaching, and collaboration as they look for a renewed life together.

Leader Development continues to be one of the strongest qualities of our region. We continue to enlarge the circle of trained pastors in the area of Healthy Congregations, a program which helps train and sustain the work of transformative conversation and action. In other words, we train for change. We train pastors and then church leaders are trained and they “practice what they preach” in the work of their congregation. We also provide regular reunions for the trainers so that their skill base will continue to grow.

CCIW provided four Women’s Gatherings last year. These events provide lively ideas for growth and strength in personal and community life for women leaders who attend. A long-standing, well-regarded Southern Illinois Women’s Retreat is also held each year at our campground. A Women’s writing retreat is offered every summer at Eureka College.

We also continue with our three-part series of clergy ethics seminars built around the following topics: (1) Healthy Boundaries in Ministry Relationships, (2) Legal Issues Clergy Face, and (3) Clergy Wellness and Self-Care. Dr. Cynthia Lindner, University of Chicago Divinity School provided training in the Healthy Boundaries seminars. This year we will focus on legal issues for clergy with Don Clark, an attorney from Chicago. A Disciples History and Polity Class will be offered again next summer for Licensed Ministers and those in seminary who need to fulfill this requirement of study.

Our Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team continues to provide strong opportunities for training, discussion, and change. All of the regional committees have received training in the work of dismantling racism in our institution. With new leaders coming on regional committees, the training will continue. We work to build on the discussions, the honest encounters with racist practices, and the suggestions for concrete change that come through awareness and support for that change. A statement of re-affirmation of the work of Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racism in our region was approved at our Regional Board meeting in February. We have also approved a statement of Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist identity which will be placed on all regional publications. The statement is:

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois-Wisconsin seeks to be a region that responds to God’s call to be fully transformed, anti-racist, and multi-cultural in all its expressions.

Acknowledging that racism is a sin and is deeply embedded in the systems and power of our institution, it is necessary that we claim as members of the Body of Christ, an anti-racist identity that empowers, heals, and makes whole.

We will demonstrate our commitment to this identity through prayer, allocation of resources, and organized efforts to challenge racism wherever it exists within the Christian Church in Illinois-Wisconsin.

3. In what ways in CCIW partnership with the other expressions of the Church and with other general ministries?

We are in partnership with HELM and young adult ministries. Christal Williams, our associate regional minister has worked on a task force this year with Disciples colleges and universities. We also have interesting dialogues with Bruce and Linda Hanson, Church Extension has ongoing relationships with many congregations

in CCIW and we continue to have investments and ongoing partnership with CE in the work of establishing new congregations.

Persons from our region are on the planning team for Quadrennial in 2010. We continue to promote Campus Ministries Sunday on the last Sunday in August in support of the variety of campus ministry in our region. Christian Church Foundation has provided training and helpful advice in the transition time in our region, as well as ongoing advice for congregations.

4. *How has CCIW been involved in helping congregations to fulfill their mission and ministry?*

The three clergy staff spend 50-65% of their time working with congregations in a variety of ways. We are clear that we expect, hope, and pray for change that is appropriate in all congregations. We do work toward building capacity for health and vitality among our churches and their pastors, and we do realize that we spend some time dealing with conflict. One change we have made is that we will not continue to work on conflict over and over with a congregation. Once again, we expect change for the better! If congregations and/or pastors have no intention of getting well and past whatever the conflict may be, then it becomes wasted time and energy. We cannot and will not cater to that, but will always look for ways to engage those congregations in a path to wholeness and effective ministry.

5. *Special concerns for the CCIW region*

We continue to work in the midst of significant change. A search committee is in place to call the permanent regional minister and president this year. We are pleased that leaders throughout the region continue to step up to some effective, exciting work in many areas of regional life.

6. *What is your region currently doing to work toward the goal of transforming 1,000 congregations by the year 2020?*

Our region is approaching the work of transformation as “sewing.”

We have been thinking about the imagery around the different types of sewing, with the Gospel being the “thread.” There are different types of training and assistance needed by congregations, and they are defined in the following ways:

Hand stitching—this kind of work includes coaching, listening, and diagnosis of issues that may benefit from new directions and/or training in certain tasks.

Machine sewing—specific training and technical information that may provide new insights into problems that plague congregations.

Mending and darning—this is the work of undoing knots (conflict issues) and getting things back in useful, usable condition. Often, this is mending rips and tears in the fabric of church life, and finding ways to bind up the wounds for healing and wholeness.

Embroidery—celebration and praise; this is the chance to see health breaking out, the chance

to enjoy God together, and to have fun!

We have utilized many resources in terms of books and training as well as coaching and ongoing support for pastors engaged in energizing congregations. We realize that we cannot deal with every church in the same way. What we work toward is restoring function, and dealing with churches one by one. Networking among pastors and congregations is also becoming a great tool in our region for the work of transformation. We could use more staff time to partner with pastors in support of their work.

7. Financial Information, Concerns, and Reports of the Region

A. What type of accounting method do you use? Cash Accrual

B. Is a professional audit done annually on your books? Yes No
It will be done in late April or May.

C. For the last three years, with regard to your Operations Budget only, please provide the following information:

	2008	2007	2006
Total Income	\$820,664	\$871,759	\$886,163
Total Expenses	\$894,516	\$910,063	\$1,028,889
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$73,852)	(\$142,726)	(\$174,740)

D. Currently, what is the total amount of Permanent Funds the region has from which an “Annual draw” of endowment earning income is used to support your operations and programming? What is that percentage of draw and how is it calculated?

At the end of 2008, the market value of our Permanent Funds is \$596,716.19. As with most other organizations, we have realized a huge loss in value over the last year. We have elected not to take the usual 5% draw at this time. This amount is calculated on the basis of a rolling twelve-quarter balance average. Other Permanent Funds exist for specified purposes and cannot be used for operations.

E. If your region has had insufficient income or deficits in Part 7C above, how has your Regional Board and Finance Committee been trying to balance your budget (e.g., staff reductions, program cuts, larger draws from permanent funds, initiative postponements, new streams of income, etc.?)

We are working this year on new software that will help us keep closer

track of our financial information. Since we have experienced such large losses in value, as many other organizations have, we have decided to postpone the annual draw from Permanent Funds. We have also been working on expenses, so our deficit was cut in half from last year. Although we had projected a little surplus, the markets effectively took care of that.

We are seeing good development in our relatively new Annual Fund, and we hope this will continue to grow as an effective funding stream for the region. We are seeing strong support for the Christmas offering, and we anticipate that support continuing.

F. What are the key financial issues and concerns currently facing your Region's life and vitality?

Our visioning process has been ratified by the region, and there have been major staffing changes over the last year or so. We hope to make effective use of electronic media in terms of keeping connected to one another throughout the Region, and this would include opportunities for information about gifts to Disciples Mission Fund as well as the special offerings through the year. We continue to look for ways to strengthen our financial life so that we may be as effective as we can be in light of our call to spread the Gospel.

Recommended Action:

The General Board receives the report from the Illinois-Wisconsin Region



Interesting times at camp!



Logo for our Regional Assembly
The many faces and places of Illinois and Wisconsin

Dwight Bailey, chair of the Pro Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team,
leading Assembly workshop

