

General Board

Business Item # GB-09-0609

Title: Report of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky
Origin: J. Gregory Alexander, CCK General Minister

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

CCK Program Staff: J. Gregory Alexander (M), General Minister; Associate Ministers: Michael A. Davison (M), Linda J. Jones (F).

Bi-Vocational Staff: Steven Johns-Boehme (M); Lon Oliver (M), Kentucky Appalachian Ministries; West Area Minister (vacant)

CCK Contract Staff: Ed Huckleberry (M), Consultant to Men's Ministries.

CCK Support Staff: Patricia Creighton (F); Barbara Gamboe (F); Terry Royster (F); and Glori Cope (F), West Area Office. LoAnn Blankenship (F), part-time.

Number of Congregations: 240

Total Members: 45,753 Participating Members: 30,029 Average Worship Attendance: 15.054

States included in the Region: Kentucky

1. What is your region doing to implement the 2020 vision of becoming a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice?

The work of the Christian Church In Kentucky in implementing the 2020 Vision is reflected in our vision: "...that every CCK congregation would reach full Kingdom potential.

In this first decade of the 21st century, the Disciples of Christ, along with many faith traditions, are seeking clarity for their mission in a time of rapid change. These changes impact every aspect of North American culture. The Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) notes that "The nature of the church, given by Christ, remains constant through the generations; yet, in faithfulness to its mission it continues to adapt its structures to the needs and pattern of a changing world." Those words are a clarion call to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky as we seek to live out our mission in this time of seismic change.

As stated above, the vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky is that "every CCK congregation would reach full Kingdom potential." "Full kingdom potential" is understood to include "true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice." In an attempt to give greater clarity to our vision we have added the following statement as a way of identifying some traits we believe define Disciples at their core:

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky:

Covenanted congregations of "Word and Table" journeying toward full Kingdom potential:

Grounded in prayer, Guided by scripture, Given to worship

Creating relevant communities of empowered people who practice:

Hospitality, Compassion, Peace with Justice, and Care for the Creation.

The Christian Church In Kentucky has organized its ministry by constituency groups. They are: Women; Children, Youth, and Young Adults; Men; Ministers; and, Congregations.

Our ministry to the laity is experienced through regionally sponsored retreats, camps, conferences, and mission trips. Every event is structured with leadership development at its core. They include prayer, Bible study, and worship. These three foundational elements are designed to move the participants toward greater expressions of hospitality, compassion, justice, and, our newest addition, care of the creation.

Our ministry to ministers comes through intentional visits, phone calls, notes, emails (personal and group), district ministers luncheons, and through regionally sponsored events for ministers called Peer2Peer. In addition, our pastors in Eastern and Western Kentucky receive additional support through the West Area Ministry and Kentucky Appalachian Ministry.

Our work with congregations is organized around four movements:

- A Church Multiplication Movement
- A Faithful, Effective, and Innovative Congregational Movement
- A Congregational Redevelopment Movement
- A Congregational Support Movement

In addition to our excellent lay constituency ministries, care and oversight of pastors, and our outdoor ministries, here are some of the new ministries we are doing within the four movements.

Church Multiplication Movement

Since 2002 we have had seven new church projects. Over the last two years we have launched: A congregation within a prison (one of only 14 in the US), a Latina/Latino congregation, and a congregation in the fastest growing part of Lexington.

In 2008, the Church Multiplication Team will be intentional that all new congregational starts will be launched by congregations, individually or in partnership, as part of their evangelism strategy.

Faithful, Effective, and Innovative Congregational Movement

This ministry is conducted primarily by the General Minister as a support ministry of the pastors and lay leaders of our FEI ministries. In addition, the pastors of these congregations serve as consultants to new pastors who are serving their first pastorate as the senior minister.

Congregational Redevelopment Movement

Since 2001 CCK staff members have helped over 100 CCK congregations begin the journey of redevelopment/transformation. CCK staff members have received extensive training in congregational redevelopment and transformation customizing such ministries as Natural Church Development, Healthy Congregations, Spiritual Strategic Journeys, Asset Mapping, the World Café's "Café Conversations," and Appreciative Inquiry along with resources developed by the staff (Listening to God, Table Evangelism), in assisting congregations to reach their full Kingdom potential.

In addition, our Interim Ministry Network in Kentucky is partnering with the CCK staff to be trained as Healthy Congregations Facilitators so that they can lead congregations through this process during their time serving as interim ministers of a congregation in ministerial transition.

Congregational Support Movement

CCK staff continues to provide excellent pastoral care and consultation to pastors and congregations in a wide range of areas. Currently, new ways of serving congregations requiring these kinds of ministries are being explored to increase our ability to meet these needs.

2. Where relevant to your ministry, how are you working to address the following priorities:

Becoming anti-racist/pro-reconciling – in 2008, in partnership with the regions who comprise the Southeast Fellowship

In 2008, SERF (Southeast Regional Fellowship), called the Rev. Sekinah Hamline as a shared staff person to help organize the Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation work of our various committees within each region. There is great excitement and energy in how all eight regions, working together under one shared staff person, will contribute to a kind of "learning laboratory" in the best methods of achieving our goal of becoming anti-racist/pro-reconciling regions.

Establishing 1000 new congregations – See #1

Transforming 1000 existing congregations – See #1

Forming and re-forming leadership for these ministries – See #1

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

In recognition that cultural shifts, the current global economic crisis, and changing needs of the church is rendering the historic ways in which regional ministry has been carried out less and less effective, CCK will be working with an internationally known church consultant to redesign its ministry. The mandate our consultant has been given is to take a blank sheet of paper and recreate faithful, effective, innovative and relevant regional ministry for today and beyond. It will be a region-wide effort.

4. Special concerns of the region

By May 31st the staff of CCK will be three full-time regional staff and a volunteer contract staff member. This is down from six full-time regional staff members and two contract staff just four years ago. The demands placed upon the regional staff have actually increased in that same time frame. The CCK leadership is acutely aware of this reality. It is a major reason for doing the regional reinvention in 2009-2010. A second major reason is that how we have done regional ministry since Restructure is no longer the right formula for our current context of ministry.

5. Other items of interest

We celebrate our historic ties with the Cane Ridge Preservation Project, the Kentucky Council of Churches, Christian Care Communities, Inc., Lexington Theological Seminary, Transylvania University, and Midway College.

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

- A. *What type of accounting method do you use: **Cash***
- B. *Is a professional audit done annually on your books? **Yes***
- C. *For the last three years, with regard to your OPERATIONS BUDGET ONLY, please provide the following information:*

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Total income	\$727,426	\$654,470	\$610,133
Total expenses	\$744,588	\$725,657	\$701,383
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$17,132)	(\$71,187)	(\$91,250)

- D.** *Currently, what is the total amount of Permanent Funds the Region has from which an "Annual Draw" of endowment earnings income is used to support your operations and programming? What is that percentage of draw and how is it calculated? □*

Not applicable in 2009.

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

We have primarily reduced staff. We have been more strategic in promoting DMF and the Christmas Offering. We are seeking ways to reduce the costs travel. We are expanding our search for more income streams starting with an expansion of our Annual Fund appeals.

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

Our congregational giving no longer sustains the historical expectations our congregations have of the role of the Region and its ministries.

Recommended Action:

The General Board receives the report from the Kentucky Region.