

## **GENERAL BOARD**

**BUSINESS ITEM # GB-09-0615**

Northeastern Region Christian Church, Disciples of Christ  
765 Lafayette Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11210  
2009 Annual Report  
Submitted by  
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The Northeastern Region Christian Church, Disciples of Christ is in a “new start” regional process. A remnant of leaders and persons are leading the region to “re-start” focusing on healing, transformation, Disciples of Christ identity and principals. Facing the reality that congregations in mission and ministry together can accomplish much more than an individual congregation can accomplish, ministry plans are being formed to initiate dialogue across the region to address healing, transformation regional identity and unity, hopefully fostering the Northeastern region’s forward movement.

In six months the following ministry teams have been formed and are functioning: Intercessory Prayer Ministry, Communications Ministry, Development Ministry, Financial Ministry, Regional Church Office Relocation Ministry, Women’s Ministry, New Church Ministry, Personnel, and Commission on the Ministry. The Intercessory Prayer Ministry meets weekly; the Executive Committee meets twice monthly. The Mission and Outreach Ministry will be renamed as it is presently not active; Regional Elders have been identified and will have their initial meeting by April 1; the Northeastern Region Disciples Day Co-Chair persons have been named and will meet mid-March. 2010 Regional Church Assembly Co-Chairpersons have been named. These ministry teams constitute the essential skeleton crew necessary to initiate continuing Christ’s ministry in mission and ministry in the Northeastern Region.

The New Church Ministry Team is meeting monthly to establish regional priorities in establishing new churches; the first priority will be to ensure regional support and sustainability of new church starts; regionally affirmed new church starts will be in direct and active relationship with the regional and national church ministries.

The Development Ministry Team is launching the region’s first annual campaign; this campaign currently is twofold with the focus on individual gifts and initiating congregational tithing; the tithing will be with initiated with planned area trainings prior to its launch, with follow-up.

The regional priority focus is to meet with each constituency group in the region to initiate communication and relationships within each constituency group; the current focused groups

include: La Convencion which has not positively responded to my invitations to meet (from October, 2008 to the present); Haitian pastors, African American pastors (Northern Black Pastors –New York and Southern Black Pastors – New Jersey); congregations in Western NY; each group is challenged to unite with their unique identity and culture and embrace a regional vision, mission

and ministry. This process will follow the dyad/triad model of prayer/biblical reflection process which was initiated at the last Regional Church Board meeting.

The foundational challenge for the Northeastern Region is spiritual. Current and past leaders and members in the region continue to focus on the past regional actions and processes which created deep wounds within almost everyone in the Northeastern Region. This deep woundedness is the catalytic impasse for the other Northeastern Region challenges: Disciples of Christ identity, individual- personal priority, financial, white power/privilege denial, power issues. The Commission on the Ministry and Regional Church Board approved required annual one day training for all ministers to maintain standing. The 2009 training focus is on Disciples of Christ Identity, History, Polity and understanding of covenant; 2010 focus will be on healing and transformational leadership.

The attached pictures are from the January, 2009 Regional Church Board; the directed dyad/triad model of praying and reflection throughout the Regional Church Board meeting initiated the healing process for members of the Regional Church Board.

**Recommended Action:**

The General Board receives the report from the Northeastern Region.









