

GENERAL BOARD

BUSINESS ITEM # GB-09-0622

Title: Report of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina

Origin: Regional Minister: Sotello V. Long

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

Regional Staff:

Regional Pastor: Sotello V. Long, male, Black

Associate Regional Pastor & Convention Moderator: Deveta Brown, female, Black

Disciples Women Coordinator: Gloria Gilliard, female, Black

Administrative Assistant: Alma Turner, female, Anglo

Secretary: Claire Travis, female, Anglo

Assistant: Barbara Williams, female Black

District Moderators/ Coordinators

District Assembly 1: Jim Cummings, male, Anglo

District Assembly 2: Charles Cleaver, male, Anglo

District Assembly 3: Tom Shreve, male, Anglo

District Convention 1: Joe W. Brown, male, Black

District Convention 2: Eva P. Husser, female, Black

1) How has your region fulfilled the regions' primary purpose as stated in paragraph 20 of *The Design*¹.

¹ The primary purpose of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in regions is twofold: (1) to extend the ministry of Christ in mission, teaching, witness, and service among the people and social structures of the region; and (2) to establish, receive, and nurture congregations in the region, providing help, counsel, and pastoral care to members, ministers, and congregations in their mutual relationships, and relating them to the worldwide mission and witness of the whole church.

We extended the ministry of Christ through our Regional Conference and its outreach in the community as we registered over 250 persons and engaged the community from the mayor's greetings to breaking bread with visitors in the park outdoor fellowship.

We extended the ministry of Christ through Disciples Women, Men and Youth Fellowship ministries of discipleship and leadership development.

We extended the ministry of Christ through clergy leadership summits, retreats and facilitating the preparation of those called to ministry through promoting seminary and coordinating educational – training sessions.

2) As appropriate, please comment on your work in regard to the four mission priorities of New Church, Transformation, Leadership Development and Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism and the mission imperative of strengthening congregational life for our mission.

New Church: We added 1 new church in 2008. It is called Alpha and Omega Ministries and is located in Bamberg, SC. Our current count of new churches is 7. We have a New Church Regional Coordinator who works diligently in coordinating with the training efforts of the General New Church Ministry team.

Transformation: We have 4 out of 5 districts engaged in regular efforts of congregational transformation targeting a specific transformational focus each quarter. The template of regularly scheduling quarterly sessions sharing seeds of transformation and encouraging congregations to adapt methods as appropriate is the strength conducive to our polity. Church revivals, tent gatherings, work and mission projects (food, clothing and visitations) are prevalent.

Leadership Development: Disciples Women – Fall and Spring workshop;
Woman to Woman mission; and Regional Conference Women’s Fellowship
Session

Disciples Youth - Camp and Conference; Quarterly Youth Sessions in 2 districts;
Regional Conference Youth Fellowship Sessions and Scholarship
Ministry

Disciples Men – Men’s Work Projects; Congregational Fellowships and Regional
Conference Men’s Fellowship Session

Clergy – Clergy Development Series (3 Sessions in 2008); Commission on Ministry
Student Sessions (14 in 2008); Regional Conference Clergy Fellowship Session
And Ordination Services

Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism: Partnered in hiring Minister of Reconciliation for SERF
(SouthEast Regional Fellowship); Clergy and Mates retreat focused on
Reconciliation at Christmount; Initiated a region-wide cross racial pulpit exchange;
Sponsored the 5th South Carolina Regional Conference which is living into a
partnership at the highest regional expression of racial reconciliation

Regional Traditional Fellowship Gatherings: Ole Antioch Day; Camp Christian BBQ;
District Fellowships – All these provide leader development; build relationships
and strengthen our ties!

- 3) In response to interest expressed at the January College of Regional Ministers’ meeting, as appropriate, please comment on the following questions.
- a) What is your region currently doing to work toward the goal of transforming 1000 congregations by the year 2020?
As communicated earlier we have quarterly sessions to sow seeds of transformation in 4 of 5 districts. We conducted a series of pastor development summits (3 in 2008)
 - b) Which church transformation resources have you found to be helpful in those efforts?
Prayer – prayer – prayer! Listening - listening – listening!
The primary resources are the exercise of our spiritual disciplines and Relationship building!
 - c) What else do you need to make your church transformation efforts more effective? Communication – communication – communication!

Recommended Action:

The General Board receives the report from the South Carolina Region.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina
Min. Sotello V. Long, Regional Minister
“Treating You with Love Because Jesus Loves You!”
Regional Minister’s Email: newsCRM@aol.com
1293 Orange Grove Road Charleston, South Carolina 29407-3947
P.O. Box 32064 Charleston, South Carolina 29417-2064
Telephone: (843) 852-4537 or (800) 637-2718 Fax: (843) 852-4538
Office Email: ROCCSC@AOL.COM Website: WWW.SCDisciples.org
“Abide in the Vine in ‘09!”

The Regional Council of South Carolina announces the celebration of the
6th “*South Carolina Regional Conference of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ!*”

The Conference theme: “Abide in the Vine in ‘09!”

The Conference Text: John 15

It will be held Thursday October 1 at 7pm through Sunday, - October 4,
2009 at Greater Cherry Grove Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
80 Cherry Grove Rd., Brunson, SC 29911 *Phone: (803) 632-1911*

The Conference Hotel is the Days Inn
1235 W Elm Street, Hwy 278 and Elm Street
Hampton, SC 29924
Phone: 803-943-0411
<http://daysinn.com>

The keynote speaker is Dr. David Vargas, President, Division of Overseas
Ministries and Co-Executive, Global Ministries Office of the President,
Division of Overseas Ministries

For info call 843.852.4537 or 800-637-2718;
email: roccsc@aol.com or go to website at: www.scdisciples.org

Enjoy the Celebration! Grow Spiritually! Be Inspired!

Pastor Johnny O. Smalls
Host Pastor

Minister Sotello V, Long
Regional Pastor