



Report to the General Board  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada  
By: The West Virginia Region  
Prepared by: The Reverend Thaddaeus B. Allen, Regional Minister  
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**Our Calling...**

Through the grace of God, the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia is to glorify God by sharing the gospel and love revealed to us in and through Jesus Christ. As people of God we are called to model faithful servanthood and live in the covenant that binds the Church of Jesus Christ together in all of its manifestations.

**Our Identity...**

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia claims and affirms its Appalachian heritage and values in light of the Christian gospel. God continues to bless us as a Region with dedicated leaders, faithful stewards and a variety of human, spiritual and physical resources.

**Our Purpose...**

God calls and directs the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia to empower its members and congregations:

- + to make disciples,
- + to grow spiritually, and
- + to develop leaders,

in order to:

- + engage in ministries of love and reconciliation,
- + acknowledge sin and oppose evil,
- + promote Christian unity, and
- + minister together in worship, community, and mission.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia<sup>1</sup> is a vital and lively region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We continue to be marked by a full life of ministry and to be guided by our purpose as stated in paragraph 20 of *The Design*.

The region is a sign of unity in the church and we seek to continually embody and represent the wholeness of the church in our corporate life and mission. We teach the faith, call Disciples into active service, and serve congregations, clergy, and members pastorally and prophetically. We are the church in our place and serve ecumenically and publically for the benefits of all within our reach.

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<sup>1</sup> Which includes Western Maryland

The four mission priorities of the Church are not being ignored in our corporate life. Our Anti-Racism team is active. We are working with NIRF on pro-reconciliation initiatives. We participate in the funding of this initiative through the Reconciliation offering, and are participating in the exciting process of becoming a Global Mission Region. We are leaders and participants in the Ecumenical Movement and this priority is consistent with our still constant quest for Christian Unity.

Leader Development is part and parcel to what we do and to who we are as a people. Through our assemblies, publications, and ecumenical endeavors, leaders are cultivated and called. Our fellowship groups of women, men and youth continue to be areas where leadership development is both offered and fostered. We recently held a post high retreat with 31 college and recent college graduates in attendance. Our camps and CYF Conference are growing. Our women's and men's ministries are faithful and growing as well.

Congregational revitalization is happening in many ways, and it is a visible sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the church. Through our small church consultations, college of ministers, intense accompaniment with congregations in need<sup>2</sup>, our NIRF annual meeting, week long residential visits by the regional minister, and through our teaching with congregations and members revitalization is being fostered. We have several examples of excellent pastoral leadership in our region, and there exists a clear linkage between pastoral leadership and vital congregations. It is a joy to care for our pastors as well as the congregations in ways that are life giving. The support of ministers who are on the frontline of this initiative is a holy task of the regional church. The recruitment and retention of caring and gifted pastors is a priority as we seek to be faithful to the calling we have been given as the church.

Search and call is another moment when intense care is given to congregations and the newly called pastors. Additionally, the region leads in stewardship education efforts, governance practices and models church administration for congregational life. Receiving new ministers into the Order of the Ministry is yet another way in which we lead and care for the church. Our audit is on file in the office of the General Minister.

**Recommended Action:**

The General Board receives the report from the West Virginia Region.

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<sup>2</sup> Even assigning a Senior Staff to serve as pastor when appropriate