

**Report of the Canada Region  
Catherine Hubbard, Regional Minister**

**Regional Staff:** 1, Female, Caucasian

**Number of Congregations:** 24 (6 in formation)

**Total Members:** Approximately 800

**States/Provinces included in Region:** churches in 6 of 10 provinces (soon to be 7 of 10)

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

In August 2009, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Region, at their Annual General Meeting, voted to consider reorganization of the region. The region is considering maintaining its current three areas utilizing three part-time Area Ministers with a stipend to be paid from the elimination of the Regional Minister position. Area Ministers would carry-out the tasks and responsibilities of Regional Ministers in their areas. The region understands such a restructure refutes the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Canada as a “region” spans 4,000 miles coast-to-coast and travel costs for an effective regional ministry cannot be realized. The Board of Directors believes Area Ministers will be able to have a greater presence in congregations due to their proximity. Area Ministers will need to be appropriately compensated, have realistic travel budgets, and job descriptions for which they are held accountable. It is recommended that the Area Ministers undergo training.

We are considering a Regional Elder system as some regions have put in place. The Regional Elders would assist the Area Ministers in their responsibilities acting in some instances as “first responders” to congregational needs.

Regional and area committees are over-populated and as a result, experience significant turnover. Streamlining committees will improve their function, clarify their tasks, and hopefully improve committee members’ commitment and tenure.

In addition to the region’s Constitution and By-Laws and Policies and Procedures, a more definitive operations manual is needed to lend clarity to the Executive Board positions and all committees. Conflict over tasks and responsibilities will be minimized and duplication of work will be reflected in the quality of the region’s programs and budget.

**2. Knowing that the current policies of the church are to start new congregations, transform existing congregations for mission, nurture leadership for these new and renewed congregations, and become an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church, what is the roll of your ministry in fulfilling any of these priorities?**

The Canadian region had one new church start on Prince Edward Island this past year. All Peoples’ Christian Church began its formation in January 2009 and has come into full affiliation as a

church in formation. All Peoples' Christian Church nests with the first Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that chose to become an Independent Christian Church. It has been an interesting and happy union (or should we say "reunion"). The church, led by Rev. Scott MacIsaac, is "doing church" outside the box. While maintaining traditions like the Lord's Supper, the service is innovative and welcoming.

In May, and with the thanks of New Church Ministries, we will have a Korean new church plant in Langley, British Columbia. The church will be named "Jubilee Chapel" and meet at Trinity Western University. The community has been in formation for several months and will celebrate its first service the first part of May. Dr. Paul Yang will be the planting pastor.

Guelph Christian Church sold their building two years ago and without the burden of maintaining the church, they have managed to grow into a healthier and more vital community. The membership has grown a bit and they are now seeking a church planter for a new start.

Wyndholme Christian Church has called an Intentional Interim Pastor thus benefiting from the Intentional Interim Pastor program established in 2007. The region will match the pastor's salary dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000.00 (\$40,000.00 total). The pastor will be employed for two years for the express purpose of growing and transforming the church.

The Board voted to establish area support teams for new church planters and their churches. By doing so, the teams will assist the new churches in areas of evangelism, budget and finance, policy and procedure, resourcing and pastoral care.

Dr. Paul Yang completed the Disciples History and Polity Course offered through Brite Divinity School in anticipation of his new church start. Dr. Robert Steffer served as his mentor.

The region currently has one student studying for his M.Div

#### General Ministries-

We have been blessed to be in partnership with New Church Ministries. Through their previous work with New Beginnings in the Guelph Congregation, the team has enabled them to come to sound decision-making and realize a future vision. Guelph has "gotten their feet back under them" and now, through the resources of New Church Ministry, are looking at candidates for their new church start.

This past year we voted to become a Global Mission Region. This decision has become multi-faceted by offering Canadian Disciples the choice of becoming a Global Mission Church, a Global Mission Area as well as a Global Mission Region.

#### Week of Compassion

The Canadian Region gave \$11,567.35 for Haitian earthquake relief that was matched dollar-for-dollar by the Canadian Government.

#### Council on Christian Unity

Cathy Hubbard serves on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer of the Council on Christian Unity. As well, work continues on the Canadian Council of Churches Board. Ann Stainton of Hillcrest Christian Church serves on the Writing Committee of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Robert Steffer serves on the Faith and Witness Committee.