

**Christian Church Capital Area  
Lari R. Grubbs, Regional Minister  
3/12/10**

**Regional Staff:** At present we have two people on staff full time. **Lari R. Grubbs** – Regional Minister – white, male. **Nicole McPayten** – Administrative Assistant (non-clergy) – ethnic minority, female. We also have several persons on staff part time: **Joyce Hollway** – Accountant (non-clergy) – white, female. **Noemi Mena** (clergy) – Hispanic Ministry Specialist – ethnic minority – female. **Ramona Crawford** – Capital Campaign Director (non-clergy) ethnic minority, female.

**Number of Congregations:** 49

**Total Members:** 9,056

**States Included:** Delaware and the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

1. We had to suspend our program for transformation due to declining revenues over the past two years. We have been able to continue our Hispanic ministry specialist because those funds were in a designated category.

2. We continue to evaluate the work of our Anti-Racism/Pro-reconciling team and the next steps that we have to accomplish to ensure that we continue toward the goal of becoming an anti-racist Region.

We have a new church start in Laurel, MD (United by Faith), Seaford, DE and nesting in our MT. Rainier Christian Church. We also are taking a resolution to our Regional Assembly to set a goal of beginning a new congregation every biennium.

3. The Regional Office was moved onto the grounds of one of our congregations in October, 2009. The move is planned for four distinct phases and we are in phase two. The move has saved the Region over \$15,000 in its annual budget, however over the last two years DMF giving is down \$107,000.

4. We have begun a Capital Campaign to raise \$1.58 million dollars for improvements at our two camp facilities. The Conference Center at Bethany Beach will have an expanded season as a result of our adding a year round residence. This should enable us to attract a number of spring and fall events to the 109 year old facility on the Atlantic Ocean.

5. Camp and conference programming for all ages continues to be a major strength if the Region.

6. The Capital Area has been engaged in an intentional program of Transformation. The Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm has been serving as our consultant and we plan on presenting a plan of transformation to the Regional Assembly meeting October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our featured speaker is our General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins.

7. An additional source of income that has rebounded, but has been significantly lower the last two years is our endowment and saved funds. We have lowered our draw in a number of cases to 4% following the Christian Church Foundation recommendation. In other cases, where the value of the fund dipped below the beginning balance, we have not taken a draw from those funds. This, of course, has further stressed our budget.

**How has the Capital Area been a movement for wholeness?** I believe that endeavoring to model wholeness in the midst of the stress of declining revenues and stressed congregations has been a first rallying point. Continuing to call our congregations to account in being reconciling in an era of rigidity and self-centeredness is a second step toward wholeness. Our programming continues to center around helping congregations develop leaders, continue to transform themselves into care and mission communities and to be islands of evangelism in an ocean of despair and faithlessness. We continue to be a praying Region seeking God's wisdom, guidance and strength through meditation and study.

Our efforts to be with and begin congregations in the Latino, Haitian and African communities also offer us ways to weave cultural differences into a serape for the whole Region. We continue to strive for justice and an ecumenical witness in an era of sectarianism and egotism. Finally, we are nurturing a number of students from a variety of congregations to be ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the whole people of God!