



**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in Illinois and Wisconsin**

founded in 1850

**Report to the 2010 General Board
for the period of April 1, 2009 to February 1, 2010**

Regional Property Locations

Regional Office 1011 N Main St, Bloomington, IL 61701-1753
Phone 309-828-6293 Web www.cciwdisciples.org Fax 309-829-4612

Camp Walter Scott 15290 E 300th Ave, Dietrich, IL 61414-9325
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Regional Staff

<u>Full-Time Clergy Staff</u>	<u>Gender/Race</u>	<u>Tenure</u>
Beth Dobyns, Acting Regional Minister and President Regional Board, Finance, Personnel, Transition and Innovation, Women's Ministries, Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team, West Area minister	F/C	11/03
Christal Williams, Associate Regional Minister Urban/Metro/East Area Minister, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Camps and Campus Ministries, Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team	F/AA	06/99
Scott Woolridge, Associate Regional Minister South/East Area Minister, New Church Establishment, Mission Committee, Annual Fund, Transformation Team, Technology	M/C	03/92

Part-Time Clergy Staff

Kathy Frus, Contract Associate Congregational Redevelopment Initiative staff person for East Area congregations.	F/C	02/04
Jerry McCoy, Minister of Formation and Standing Staff for Ministry Committee, Ministerial Credentials, Clergy Ethics Committee	M/C	10/07

Administrative Support Staff

Mary Bible	F/C	10/07
Receptionist, Youth Ministries, Yearbook, Registrar		
Beth Zumwalt	F/C	10/97
Search and Call, Ministry Committee Newsletter editor, Women's Ministries		
Pat Meyer	PT/C	09/08
Meeting Planning, Finance, Reconciliation		

Becky Lewis, Camp Manager
Barry Parnell, Resident Camp Caretaker

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Mission Partnerships

General Ministries: High Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM)

Dennis Landon, President

Global Ministries: Bruce and Linda Hanson, DOM Overseas Staff in Honduras

Christian Church Foundation: Darwin Collins, Zone Vice President

Number of Full-standing Congregations: 159

Congregations In Formation: 6

Reported Membership:

Total 36,635

Participating 20,322

Average worship Attendance 10,100

Total Membership Additions 958(361 by baptism, 597 by transfer)

(figures reported in the 2009 Christian Church Yearbook and Directory)

States included in the Region: Illinois (except 6 St. Louis metro-area congregations) and Wisconsin

Total Disciples-Related Outreach Offerings to CC Finance council in 2009:

Disciples Mission Fund \$708,607

Special Day Disciples Mission Priority Offerings \$196,971

Week of Compassion \$140,414

Reconciliation \$29,255

Responses to question in the General Board Report Guidelines

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

Our mission statement is “Growing Disciples congregations for healthy, vital ministry.” Our vision states that we seek to become “A region composed of healthy Disciples congregations filled with fully devoted followers of Christ, engaged in vital ministries and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.”

In bringing this vision to reality, our efforts are concentrated in being of service to congregations as they discover the nature of the Gospel message, and its direction for our lives together. We continue to work on building the capacity for health and vitality through honest conversation about how we speak and act with one another. We are seeing the development of lively networks among churches who are doing mission work in our region and around the world. Although our staff has seen a great deal of transition this last year, we continue to follow our staff mission of E3—Equip, Empower, and Encourage.

2. What is the role of CCIW's ministry in fulfilling the current priorities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in starting new congregations, transforming existing congregations for mission, nurturing leadership for these new and renewed congregations, and becoming a pro-reconciliation/anti-racist church?

New Church establishment work is being done every day, with the exploration of the start of new churches where all persons are welcome. Many languages are spoken, and many lively faith traditions and practices are embraced in the development of new congregations. This also presents another avenue for the work of Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racism as we look at how the “table” of the Disciples is a place of welcome for all.

CCIW has been at work on congregational transformation for several years now. There are many avenues for churches and pastors in this work. We have coaching/supportive groups for pastors involved in revitalizing churches who have felt no progress for a while. Our clergy continuing education event, CEO (Clergy Education Opportunity) presented each pastor with a copy of the book, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*, by Paul Nixon. We also have groups who do some coaching around innovation and new ideas for ministry.

The research project around Unbinding the Gospel has led to several strengthened congregations. Through practice and preparedness, several churches report a sense of renewed vigor and aliveness. One congregation produced materials for children and youth in conjunction with the Unbinding work. This material is being used nationally. This year, several congregations have been added to the “Unbinding” team, and they will be working with churches who have some experience in this project.

New efforts in the work of transformation are continuing. We look forward to continuing the work begun through the generous gift of donors who see the joy and hope in supporting the work of ministry in our Region. Churches are making use of networking, coaching, and collaboration as they look for a renewed life together.

Leader Development continues to be one of the strongest qualities of our Region. We continue to enlarge the circle of trained pastors in the area of Healthy Congregations, a program which helps train and sustain the work of transformative conversation and action. In other words, we train for change. We train pastors and then church leaders are trained and they “practice what they preach” in the work of their congregation. We also provide regular reunions for the trainers so that their skill base will continue to grow.

CCIW provided a Region-wide Women’s Retreat last year. This event provided lively ideas for growth and strength in personal and community life for women who attend. Verity Jones, publisher of *DisciplesWorld*, was the keynote speaker for the event. Several rounds of leadership training were available through the day. A long-standing, well-regarded Southern Illinois Women’s Retreat is also held each year at our campground, with Jackie Meece Summers providing the keynote leadership this year. A Women’s writing retreat is offered every summer at Eureka College. Two published authors, Kathleen Fannin, chaplain at Monmouth College, and Beth Dobyns, Acting Regional Minister, shared their experiences of working with publishers and writing for publication.

We also continue with our three-part series of clergy ethics seminars built around the following topics: (1) Healthy Boundaries in Ministry Relationships, (2) Legal Issues Clergy Face, and (3) Clergy Wellness and Self-Care. Mr. Don Clark, nationally- known attorney specializing in church law, provided training for the Legal Issues seminars held in four locations around the region. This next year, we will focus on Clergy Wellness, with Deborah Dornaus, a private practice psychologist, providing leadership for clergy.

A Disciples History and Polity Class will be offered again this summer for Licensed Ministers and those in seminary who need to fulfill this requirement of study. Held at Eureka College, Dr. Amy Artman will teach the class.

Our Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team continues to provide strong opportunities for training, discussion, and change. All of the Regional committees have received training in the work of dismantling racism in our institution. With new leaders coming on Regional committees, the training will continue. We work to build on the discussions, the honest encounters with racist practices, and the suggestions for concrete change that come through awareness and support for that change. A statement of re-affirmation of the work of Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racism in our region was approved at our Regional Board meeting in February. We have also approved a statement of Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist identity which will be placed on all Regional publications.

The statement is:

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois-Wisconsin seeks to be a region that responds to God's call to be fully transformed, anti-racist, and multi-cultural in all its expressions.

Acknowledging that racism is a sin and is deeply embedded in the systems and power of our institution, it is necessary that we claim as members of the Body of Christ, an anti-racist identity that empowers, heals, and makes whole.

We will demonstrate our commitment to this identity through prayer, allocation of resources, and organized efforts to challenge racism wherever it exists within the Christian Church in Illinois-Wisconsin.

3. *In what ways in CCIW partnership with the other expressions of the Church and with other general ministries?*

We are in partnership with HELM and young adult ministries. Christal Williams, our associate regional minister has worked on a task force this year with Disciples colleges and universities. Beth Dobyms, Acting Regional Minister, was part of the Global Ministries' Pilgrimage Trip to the Middle East in December. As a result, we will have further discussions around anti-racism, and around the possibility of becoming a Global Mission Region. Church Extension has ongoing relationships with many congregations in CCIW and we continue to have investments and ongoing partnership with CE in the work of establishing new congregations. We are also grateful for the continuing partnership with Christian Church Foundation in terms of investments and education in finance as well as the Pension Fund as we seek to help support ministers in transition times during their ministries.

Persons from our region are on the planning team for Quadrennial in 2010. We continue to promote Campus Ministries Sunday on the last Sunday in August in support of the variety of campus ministry in our region.

4. *How has CCIW been involved in helping congregations to fulfill their mission and ministry?*

The three clergy staff spend 50-65% of their time working with congregations in a variety of ways. We are clear that we expect, hope, and pray for change that is appropriate in all congregations. We do work toward building capacity for health and vitality among our churches and their pastors, and we do realize that we spend some time dealing with conflict. One change we have made is that we will not continue to work on conflict over and over with congregations. Once again, we expect change for the better! If congregations and/or pastors have no intention of getting well and past whatever the conflict may be, then it becomes wasted time and energy. We cannot and will not cater to that, but will always look for ways to engage those congregations in a path to wholeness and effective ministry.

5. Special concerns/joys for the CCIW region

We continue to work in the midst of significant change. A search committee is in place to call the permanent regional minister and president within the next month, with a special Regional Assembly being called later in the spring for the official call to the new RMP. We are pleased that leaders throughout the region continue to step up to some effective, exciting work in many areas of regional life.

As 2010 begins, we have finally realized a much-needed goal: the restructure of our entire financial operating system, bringing the operation in-house and making more transparent reporting available to the region. It has taken an extensive amount of time and work to get this operational, but we believe it will strengthen our ability to understand, interpret, and share financial information among congregations, the Region, and the General Church as well.

We have also made substantial changes in the camping program, bringing it in line with 21st-century practices. All camps will be identified by age range rather than by “insider” or traditional names that have little meaning for new persons getting acquainted with camp. We have established an eighth-grade transition/relationship camp that has been well-received by those who attended. While any change generates some discomfort and concern, this change will hopefully help us encourage new persons in leadership as well as offering a solid camping program at two remaining sites.

We have a new website which will allow us to offer more useable resources as well as online registrations and donation capabilities. It been operational since mid-December, and it will take some time to realize where things are located, but we feel that it is an updated improvement over the existing site which served us well, but needed to be enhanced.

6. What is your region currently doing to work toward the goal of transforming 1,000 congregations by the year 2020?

Our Region is approaching the work of transformation as “sewing.” We have been thinking about the imagery around the different types of sewing, with the Gospel being the “thread.” There are different types of training and assistance needed by congregations, and they are defined in the following ways:

Hand stitching—this kind of work includes coaching, listening, and diagnosis of issues that may benefit from new directions and/or training in certain tasks.

Machine sewing—specific training and technical information that may provide new insights into problems that plague congregations.

Mending and darning—this is the work of undoing knots (conflict issues) and getting things back in useful, usable condition. Often, this is mending rips and tears in the fabric of church life, and finding ways to bind up the wounds for healing and wholeness.

Embroidery—celebration and praise; this is the chance to see health breaking out, the chance to enjoy God together, and to have fun!

We have utilized many resources in terms of books and training as well as coaching and ongoing support for pastors engaged in energizing congregations. We realize that we cannot deal with every church in the same way. What we work toward is restoring function, and dealing with churches one by one. Networking among pastors and congregations is also becoming a great tool in our region for the work of transformation. We could use more staff time to partner with pastors in support of their work. This year a new Transformation Team is being formed.

8. How are you a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world?

Although it seems slow-going, this region is taking steps to find its center and its sense of oneness at a common table. The Region's Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Team continues to gather and provide quality training. A blog for ongoing discussions around PR/ART topics has been established, linked to the region's website. While those who work in the **Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racism** work of the Region may think things are not happening fast enough, there is a sense of movement in every conversation and every gathering of Disciples. There are many times when the work of wholeness takes the shape of a simple conversation between those who finally decide to be honest and just ask how things happen the way they do. The personal day-by-day interactions among pastors and members, between pastors, and among leadership in the region will help bring about a sustained sense of wholeness. It is even a move toward wholeness when we simply look for the ways we are the same instead of delineating all the ways we are different. It is not a simple matter, perhaps, but on the other hand, it is about coming together as persons who love Jesus Christ, and who seek to follow his lead, wherever, however, whenever that might happen. We are trying every day to have meaningful conversations about who we are and how things can change for the good of all people. We hope to continue to have ever-expanding opportunities for training in the work of PR/AR so that we may all be mindful of ways that we may actively work toward the permanent dismantling of the crippling sin of racism.

We also anticipate a wide-ranging discussion of our place in **Global Missions**. Having been a first-hand witness to the work of our partners in difficult places in the world, such as the Middle East, our acting Regional minister will lead discussions and presentations throughout the Region. It is our calling as those who live by the gospel to practice what we say we believe....all persons are welcome in God's sight and in our lives. When we consider the life-threatening forms of fragmentation in this world, we must be bold in responding to our call to wholeness. We must look for ways in which we find similarities rather than differences. And so in this region, we seek those points of common ground rather than lining out all our differences in practice, in geography, in language.

This year our Region found great joy in participating in a **Great Communion** worship service. Through the experience of conversation, planning the event, and making contacts with participants, we came to a common table with the beginnings of understanding our common ground. Even in the discussion about how we would do things, the participants discovered our

similarities and the things that we thought we knew about the “other” may not have been accurate. This experience has paved the way for further conversation in a variety of settings. The worship service was held at Lincoln Christian University, an Independent Christian College/Seminary, with participants from all three streams of the Stone-Campbell Movement.

7. Financial Information, Concerns, and Reports of the Region

- A. What type of accounting method do you use? Cash Accrual
- B. Is a professional audit done annually on your books? Yes No
It will be done in late April or May.
- C. For the last three years, with regard to your Operations Budget only, please provide the following information:

	2009	2008	2007
Total Income	\$791,518	\$820,664	\$871,759
Total Expenses	\$824,396	\$894,516	\$910,063
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$32,878)	(\$73,852)	(\$142,726)

- D. Currently, what is the total amount of Permanent Funds the Region has from which an “Annual draw” of endowment earning income is used to support your operations and programming? What is that percentage of draw and how is it calculated?

The market value of our permanent funds is \$897,173.93. We have elected not to take the usual 5% draw during the entire last year. This amount is calculated on the basis of a rolling twelve-quarter balance average, calculated by the Christian Church Foundation.

- E. If your region has had insufficient income or deficits in Part 7C above, how has your Regional Board and Finance Committee been trying to balance your budget (e.g., staff reductions, program cuts, larger draws from permanent funds, initiative postponements, new streams of income, etc.?)

Our new financial operating system is in place now, and with the help of a new in-house business manager, we are getting more usable information that is available daily rather than a month-and-a-half later.

We are seeing good development in our relatively new Annual Fund, and we hope this will continue to grow as an effective funding stream for the region. We are seeing strong support for the Christmas offering, and we anticipate that support continuing.

F. What are the key financial issues and concerns currently facing your Region's life and vitality?

Our visioning process has been ratified by the region, and there have been major staffing changes over the last two years. We hope to make effective use of electronic media in terms of keeping connected to one another throughout the Region, and this would include opportunities for information about gifts to Disciples Mission Fund as well as the special offerings through the year. We continue to look for ways to strengthen our financial life so that we may be as effective as we can be in light of our call to spread the Gospel.