

**REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD-April 2010
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA
Submitted by Ben Bohren, Regional Minister-President**

It is impossible to speak highly enough about this staff and its commitment to being a passionate, dedicated, Spirit-filled team. They are amazing in their leadership and servanthood!

Ben Bohren, Regional Minister-President, M, C, full time, ordained
Paula Pochiecha, Minister of Congregational Care & Women's Ministries F, C, 25 hours a week, ordained
Cliff Cole, Regional Minister for Placement, Training and Care, M, C part-time, ordained
Sandhya Jha, Minister of Transformation & Reconciliation, F, A, 25 hours a week, ordained
Kyung Min Daniel Lee, NAPAD Ministries, M, A, part-time, ordained
Molly Carlson, Minister of New Church Movement, F, C, part time, ordained
Quan Walker, Admin. Assistant, F, AA, full time, laywoman
Open, Director for Youth Ministry, part time
Sue Tarleton, Annual Meeting Planning, F, C, part time, laywoman
Josh Stanley, Director of Young Adult Ministries, M, C, part time, layman
Diana Silva, Bookkeeper, F, C, part time, laywoman
To be announced April 24, Minister of Hispanic Ministries, F, H, part time

We are a region of 69 congregations, 3 of which are house churches, with 15 congregations in formation. First Christian Church, Sparks, is our only congregation in Northern Nevada. Our House of Representatives voted that our region be named "open and inclusive" in 1993. We are 4000+ participating members which include Hispanic, Chinese, Korean, African American, Samoan, Vietnamese, Indian, Mongolian and many multi-ethnic, multi-racial congregations.

In contemplating the Disciples Statement of Identity, "We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us," we believe the best way to view our Regional Ministry and Mission in the last year is to refer to our Regional Five Year Vision. We are truly "living into" this Five Year Vision. Please note that the General Church's four mission priorities are contained in this larger Vision. We ARE a church with a vision...we ARE a church with a mission!

CCNC-N Five Year Vision (2008-2012)

To cultivate a faithful, growing regional church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice (Micah 6:8)

- **Supporting the birth of 40 new congregations by 2020 that share God's ancient love in brand-new ways**
>>>Our new church movement is "on fire!" We welcomed three new churches in 2006, three in 2007; three in 2008; three in 2009 and we will welcome three more at our Annual Meeting next week-end. We have at least 10 more new churches envisioned and we have received over \$300,000 in support of this movement. We will introduce our first Minister of Hispanic Ministries at that same Annual Meeting. Our New Church Ministry Committee is very active in its work. We continue to send more and more people to New Church Training by General Staff.

- **Facilitating existing congregations' radical openness to God's guidance and their communities' needs (transformation)**
>>>2005-2009 was a huge four year emphasis on transformation with 19 congregations undergoing New Beginnings; 4 Regional Transformation Summits; 3 Transformation Vans which saw close to 450 people attending each one; at least a dozen congregations

are seeing miraculous transformation; a natural progression from transformation is to mission church!

- **Living into our God-given reconciling, open and inclusive identity which challenges the sins of racism, exclusion and oppression.**

>>> Our entire staff had anti-racism training last fall; third year for our MLKing Service and first year we were able to give 2 MLKing scholarships to Disciples college students; our Reconciliation grant program has come alive with 6-8 grants a year now doing outstanding projects in local communities; our next Healthy Boundary Training for clergy will be on cultural competencies; Formation of a Justice Commission with a great process to engage the region is important issues on the hearts and minds of Disciples using "Circles of Peace" three step process; exploring how to live more fully into our 1993 vote to be an "Open and Inclusive" Region

AND

To educate and empower every congregation to become a healthy, vital and living witness to the love, justice and grace of God through Jesus Christ (Acts 2:43-47).

- **Claiming a belief in a God of Abundance through practicing intentional giving**
>>> Formation of a regional Stewardship Team; 2011 this will be our major focus for the whole year; we believe and trust in an Abundant God and act like it; despite economic downturn we received a record \$75,000 for Annual Fund and received \$63,00 for our Miracle Day; We are modeling tithing to local congregations as every major gift (\$5,000+) to region from a church is tithed to an outside Disciples mission effort; we ended 2009 without a deficit!
- **Cultivating Disciples of Christ to be dynamic "evangels," sharing the good news of God's transforming love**
>>> Many of our churches are growing significantly in number and spirit; churches we imagined might not live beyond 2010 are seeing double worship attendance! In 2012 our focus will be on "proclaiming the Good News"; every new member of every congregation is reported to the regional office and receives a welcome letter from the Region. We realize that this priority is very hard work in the culture of Northern CA-NV where less than 20% of the population attends church. We believe that our energy and hard work on other priorities is vital and must be a strongly integrated part of this priority. We have more work to do here!
- **Developing authentic Disciples leadership for the 21st century church while engaging an ecumenical and inter-faith context**
>>> Our Academy of Christian Training and Study (ACTS)-a three year cycle of lay leadership training is in its first year with over 100 participants in the first two courses; Our Regional Youth Council gives excellent leadership to all our youth programming. Our Young Adult Ministry is growing with a very successful Winter Retreat. Women's and Men's Ministries both provide training and inspiration to their leadership councils. our

nine Regional Elders and regional staff are beginning a three year training program for local church elders and spiritual leadership; a Regional Poetry Contest created by one of our young adults had 26 entries; Healthy Boundary Training 201 required for all clergy was on law, governance and Clergy Code of Ethics; we continue to work with about 15 Disciples seminarians and we are excited about the new Ecumenical Center of Berkeley, the former University CC, now owned by Disciples Seminary Foundation and Pacific School of Religion.

- **Calling on local congregations to become “Missional Churches” where servanthood is integral to all ministry**

>>>”Becoming a Missional Church/Region” is our focus for 2010- Lenten Devotional; Annual Meeting; The Pentecost Project; 5th year for Gulf Coast Mission Trip; creating a week-long In-Region Mission effort; we are a Global Mission Region and developing wonderful and exciting relationships with Republic of Congo and Tom Morse in China; we have three trained Global Mission Interpreters; presenting a totally new set of by-laws (three years process) and complete restructuring of Regional Board, Geographic Areas and Committee for final approval at Annual Meeting in April- totally helps us focus on mission FIRST!

- **Creating soul-stirring, life-changing, prayer-full worship and spiritual development**

Two special events have been a joy to offer. A “Technology in Worship Workshop” has been offered twice with about 25 people learning important skills; not just how to use PowerPoint but how it can become an important worship element. and “Engaging Worship,” a two day event, about 30 attending, with seven radically different style worship services to assist persons in experiencing new possibilities for their own worship services.