

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION  
GENERAL BOARD REPORT  
APRIL 17-20 2010**

**Submitted by Don Dewey, Co-Regional Minister-President**

**The PSWR is blessed with an amazing staff that is passionate, dedicated, and Spirit-filled!**

Don Dewey, Co- Regional Minister-President, ordained, M, C, part time  
Susan Gonzales Dewey, Co-Regional Minister-CEO, ordained, F, H, part time  
Xose Escamilla, Deployed Staff for Hispanic Ministries, ordained, M, H, part time  
Wilfredo del Pilar, Deployed Staff for Hispanic Ministries, ordained, M, H, part time  
Jinsuk Chun, Deployed Staff for Asian Ministries/NAPAD, ordained, M, A, part time  
Brenda Poindexter, Deployed Staff for African-American Ministries, licensed, F, AA, part time  
Tina Carter, Staff Director for Loch Leven Camp & Conference Center, F, C, full time  
Bruce Indermil, Admin. Assistant, M, C, full time  
Kimberly Petty, Admin. Assistant, F, AA, full time  
Asa Moore, Director for Youth Ministries, M, C, part time  
Kim Perring, Director for Youth Ministries, F, C, part time  
Sam Ramirez, Director for Youth Ministries, M, H, part time  
Jae Cho, Director for Youth Ministries, M, A, part time  
Andy Homer, Director of Young Adult Ministries, M, C  
Marie Durflinger, Bookkeeper, F, C, part time, laywoman

We believe God calls the Pacific Southwest Region to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

**OUR VISION**, to be a faithful, growing regional church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and passion for justice (Micah 6:8); and,

**OUR MISSION**, to be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth”. (Acts 1:8)

We are a region of 139 congregations, with 45 congregations affiliating. We have a wide diversity of participating members which include Hispanic, Chinese, Korean, African American, Vietnamese, Haitian and many multi-ethnic, multi-racial congregations.

**We believe our Regional Ministry and Mission in the last year is best reflected in the theme from our 2008 Regional Assembly: “One Church, New Church, Transformed.” We have recently identified 4 key goals for our Region as we enter into 2010. They are: 1) To be One Church; 2) To be a Missional Church; 3) To nurture and develop vital, healthy, growing congregations; 4) To be a well organized and well administered Region. Along with our Region’s vision and mission statements, these goals are in response to our General Minister and Presidents mandate “to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, welcoming all to the Lord’s Table just as God has welcomed us.” Please note that the General Church’s four mission priorities are contained in this larger Vision.**

**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 new congregations by 2020 that share God’s ancient love in brand-new ways**  
>>>Our New Church Development team has recently reorganized itself for more effective and faithful ministry. We welcomed two new churches in 2008, and two in 2009. Our New Church Development Committee has about 10 members who provide ongoing support, guidance and direction for all of our affiliating congregations and churches in formation. We sent 12 people to the New Church Planter Training by General Staff. We have at least a dozen more new churches envisioned.

**Encouraging established congregations' radical openness to God's guidance and their communities' needs through transformation** >>>Our Transformation Teams efforts have resulted in some very exciting transformation developments in many local congregations. We are seeing the fruits of that effort in at least a dozen congregations, with transformation taking place in many different expressions. Eighteen of our congregations experienced a New Beginnings consultation and many of them have made significant changes for more effective ministry. In June of 2009 we sponsored a region-wide participation in "Unbinding the Gospel" study as a part of our transformation work with 25 congregations participating.

**Living into our God-given reconciling, open and inclusive identity which challenges the sins of racism, exclusion and oppression.** >>> Our Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Committee has been able to increase the number of Reconciliation grants to local churches who are involved in many exciting new ministries. In 2009 we hosted a two-day Anti-Racism training for staff and Board members with 45 participating and we will be hosting another one in April of 2010 for all pastors and laity in the Region. Our Committee on Ministry has recently voted to require ordination and commissioning candidates to take Anti-Racism training prior to the completion of their ordination/commissioning process. We are also broadening the representatives on our committee to further reflect the make-up our diverse Region. We have also been intentionally increasing the number of constituency representatives on our Regional Board and Committees. Our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration was well attended with April Johnson as our 2010 speaker and we awarded scholarships to two MLK youth recipients in 2009 and four recipients in 2010. We have also created a Regional Committee for Transformational Conversation which is establishing a process whereby the Region can openly address issues of sexuality, racism, equality and justice. We will host a "wholeness café" style conversation with all pastors of the Region on the issue of homosexuality this fall.

**AND To educate and empower every congregation to become a healthy, vital and growing 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** >>>At our 2008 Regional Assembly and our 2009 Regional Gathering a special emphasis was made to address the importance and need to support our Disciples Mission Fund giving. We have recently appointed a Stewardship & Giving Development Team to begin to educate, encourage, and expand pastors and congregations awareness of DMF. We have recently been setting up events with all our constituency groups to focus on DMF giving and stewardship education. Our Annual Fund continues to grow each year and we have asked all Regional Board members to make a gift or pledge for 100% participation.

**Developing authentic Disciples leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> century church while engaging an ecumenical and inter-faith context** >>>We have recently formed a Regional Leadership Development Team to begin giving direction to educational opportunities in leadership for both clergy and laity. We continue to have great success with our Leadership Apprentice program, training women for leadership for local, regional, and general church. Our Regional Youth Leadership Team gives excellent leadership to all our youth programming. Our Young Adult Ministry is growing with a very successful Annual Retreat. Women's and Men's Ministries both provide training and inspiration. Our Regional Assembly held this past October had over 450 in attendance with the theme: "In Covenant and Communion: A Journey Toward Wholeness." We had Bible Studies in three different languages and workshops on caring for older adults, mission opportunities and ministries, evangelism, healing arts, going green, loss and grief, and peaceful living amidst diversity. We also gathered over 750 school kits for CWS and received over \$2,000 for this project. We are again sponsoring a Pastors Gathering in March to connect our Pastors and leaders with a common vision and mission for ministry. We have secured our General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, as our featured keynoter and we are anticipating an attendance of over 125 of our pastors, the largest gathering yet! There will also be a Region wide gathering on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> to hear Dr. Watkins. We recently brought on staff four young adults to assist in developing a wider ministry with our Regional youth encompassing our whole constituency.

**Calling on local congregations to become “Missional Churches” where servanthood is integral to all ministry** >>>Within our Region we have two significant mission sites, All Peoples Christian Center, located in South Central Los Angeles and Eastmont Community Center, located in East Los Angeles. The mission of All Peoples Christian Center is to provide a broad spectrum of social services to all, regardless of faith or race, and to empower the community to meet its needs by promoting equality, unity, respect and self-determination among all who participate in its programs. Hands-on mission experiences are conducted by groups within the Region and outside the Region at All Peoples. Eastmont Community Center in collaboration with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is designed to enhance the quality of life for children, youth, working adults and seniors in low-income families by providing needed education, social services, and health and wellness services that promote personal development and self-sufficiency. Recently we have connected our Hispanic congregations to this important mission program as well as restructured their board for greater partnership and effective service. Another unit of our Region is Project IMPACT. In order to meet the ever increasing needs of the community, Project IMPACT offers a comprehensive Juvenile Diversion program providing "at-risk" youth positive alternatives to drugs, gangs and other elements that destroy young lives. Project IMPACT is partnering with 15-20 of our congregations as a part of a comprehensive plan for transformation and mission-directed ministry through free tutoring services for “at risk” youth in local schools. They have members of Disciples congregations providing tutoring, congregations and Disciples Women's group giving \$, staff, and churches offering sites for their usage. We have also become a Global Mission Partner Region and co-hosted a Global Mission Interpreters Training with our UCC partners. For the fifth year, we will have participated in a Regional Mission/Work Trip to Nicaragua. We have also hosted our second Mission/Study trip to Israel/Palestine with 11 people from our Region in 2010. We hosted Cathy Nichols, visiting missionary from Palestine, as a part of our Global awareness in several key areas around the Region in 2009. This August we will hold a “Miracle Week” in Hawaii with three sites: one at FCC Honolulu, one at Wahiawa CC, and one at Christ Church Uniting (DOC/Presbyterian) in Kailua. We are expecting about 100 volunteers and we hope to raise \$40,000 for major attention to deferred maintenance as well as some great re-furbishing of church facilities. We have formed ONE Global Mission Task Force with our UCC partners, focusing on global mission efforts: in addition to Eastmont Community Center, All People’s Christian Center.