

**The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia
Report to the General Board**

March 2010

The Reverend Thaddaeus B. Allen, Regional Minister

The West Virginia Region of the Christian Church seeks to be faithful to God and to our mission in a variety of ways. 42 congregations and Bethany College share ties that bind us one to another as church. Additionally we serve with and along side of our brothers in sisters of the faith through churchly endeavors such as the West Virginia Council of Churches, the oldest state council of churches of which we are among the most major participants. In 2009 we finished the year with a financial surplus, eliminated any and all debt, and have several congregations leading the way for the denomination in matters of stewardship. Our assets are well over one million dollars. The region has a long tradition of receiving an annual audit. We also helped a congregation secure funding for a green building initiative. We currently have three congregations engaged in the search and call process. We will assemble next month in Weirton, WV.

We seek to facilitate “wholeness in a fragmented world” in a variety of places and ways. Our primary roles, caring for congregations, caring for the ministers of the church, and being the body of Christ in this locale all seek to bring wholeness, health, life and peace to the ones and the one we serve.



We have sought to offer wholeness to our congregations through a variety of ways and at different points of their lives. We have done, and are doing, studies with our congregations on a variety of topics. We are there in our teaching office. We are doing ministry in times when congregations become conflicted. We are present as congregations seek to find a way forward faithfully, and we are facilitating wholeness when pastoral transitions and search and call are of the order.

We seek wholeness within and among the clergy of the church. Certifying standing, receiving and nurturing candidates for the Order of Ministry, interpreting new policies and criteria, proving Buffalo Seminary and being pastoral at all times is indeed “wholeness” business. When ministers present reason for care, our staff and commission are ready to work. And we most certainly rejoice in the good and grand things of ministry that are ever present in our diocesan life. This is a good place to serve in ministry.

We still hold fast to our calling to be a leader in the ecumenical movement. Christian Unity (wholeness in a fragmented world) is still our polar star. A quick glance around the region’s life will find us in dialogue and on retreat with other traditions. We are active with the WV Council of Churches, and our local clergy can be found at ministeriums all over West Virginia and Western Maryland.

We seek wholeness with our members at crucial times of life. We work with young people and accompany them in ministry as they grow. We are ready and willing to be with the sick and the poor as appropriate. We seek wholeness with our flock as people discern which way life should unfold. We continue to seek wholeness through Reconciliation, and with our fellowship groups. And when pastoral care is called for, we give it to one another. We seek wholeness in fragmented world first and foremost by loving one another and loving God. This is what Christ has revealed to us, and charged us with. It is our ministry of wholeness. And in it, may all be made whole.