

**General Assembly  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Including the Office of the  
General Minister and President**

*Sharon E. Watkins, General Minister and President*  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada  
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***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.*

**Our Mission** is to be and share the good news of Jesus Christ,  
witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

**Our Vision** is to be a faithful and growing church that demonstrates  
true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.

**Our Imperative** is to strengthen congregations for this mission

The General Minister and President (GMP), in her convening, leading role, together with the staff of the Office of General Minister and President (OGMP) and leadership of other ministries seeks to help the church adopt the habits of a movement for wholeness as a foretaste of the Reign of God, even now breaking forth among us.

**BIENNIUM GOALS**

A new biennium is now underway ably led by Larry Brown, Moderator; Juan Rodriguez, First Vice Moderator; and Marilyn Williams, Second Vice Moderator. The new moderator team went on retreat in September with senior OGMP staff to get acquainted, become oriented to their work and to begin planning the biennium.

The GMP has identified three overarching goals for work during the 2009-11 biennium:

1. **Leadership:** Provide pastoral leadership for the church-wide imperative of resourcing congregations for mission and the continued integration of the four priorities.
2. **Identity:** Lead the church in reclaiming core identity as "Disciples of Christ: a Movement for Wholeness in a Fragmented World."
3. **Children, Youth and Young Adults:** To proclaim a church-wide focus on ministry with and for children, youth and young adults.

One of the guiding scriptures for this period will be: Deuteronomy 6:4-12. The primary message is: Tell it to the children.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

In the months following the 2009 General Board meeting, much staff time in the Office of the General Minister and President (OGMP) was focused on preparation for the 2009 General

Assembly. Immediately following the assembly, the search to fill a new position of General Assembly Program Coordinator was concluded. Patricia Case has been called to that position.

The General Assembly team of Sharon Coleman, Todd Adams, Patti Case and Wanda Bryant Wills has been working to improve efficiency in 2011. The Program & Arrangements Team met for three days in Nashville, TN, in late September to begin planning the 2011 General Assembly. The theme will be: "Tell it!" (Being part of God's Reign on Earth -- Right here... Right now... this good news of God's Steadfast Presence among us is the "IT" that we "Tell"...) The scripture focus is Deut. 6:1-12. The Local Arrangement Chairperson is Kathryn Davis.

The Assembly will especially emphasize three biennium goals:

1. Reaching and empowering younger Disciples, including a strong program designed for youth and youth workers as a core piece of the General Assembly
2. Helping Disciples name, claim and practice Disciples-appropriate ways to do evangelism, including some "out in the community" worship experiences that tie into the General Assembly.
3. Leadership – focusing on developing the transforming leaders we need for the 21<sup>st</sup> century as transforming communities, including a strong program designed to support this aim.

The registration rates for the 2011 General Assembly are:

\$120 – Host area

\$150 – Late registration rate for host area

\$150 – Adult Registrant

\$200 – Late adult registrant

\$80 – Youth and Children

\$100 – Late youth and children

\$60 – One day onsite only registration

### **CENTER FOR FAITH AND GIVING**

It is a joy, with this report to introduce the Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Director, Center for Faith and Giving. After an extended search, the search committee, chaired by Glen Miles, recommended Rev. Barkhauer to the Center's advisory committee who extended the call. Rev. Barkhauer comes to this position with a proven track record in stewardship education during many years of parish ministry. The center's vision statement: ***To create a culture of generosity across the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*** captures well a hope for the life of our church together beyond stewardship, narrowly conceived.

### **MISSION ALIGNMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL**

With this meeting of the General Board, the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council (MACC) completes its work. The nine areas for further conversation identified by MACC continue to give energy to the church's engagement in mission. Thanks to the members of the council, led by Dr. Newell Williams, for their creativity and discernment leading the church to identify areas needing urgent attention for us to be more "mission-driven and priority-focused".

Because of MACC's work we are clearer about the role of the General Board in the overall mission of the church. We have moved forward in our embodiment of one church embracing diversity through the repositioning of North American Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD) and through the institution of the GMP's Pastoral Table.

The significant effort of the MACC to listen to the church during this time of dramatic cultural shift, led to a different overall outcome related to "congregations being resourced for mission" than originally expected. Rather than engaging in wholesale church restructure, leaders have leapt across ministry lines to adopt broad new patterns of collaboration, a move

toward the “partnering, networking, whole-church” way of working envisioned in the mission alignment principles. Renewed cross-ministry focus on leadership development – especially for congregational transformation as detailed through the October leadership summit – has sparked new energy for two of the church’s current priorities. Other conversations stimulated by MACC’s work – in particular New Church, the GMP’s Pastoral Table, the justice working group – bring new dimensions to the two other mission priorities of anti-racism and establishing new congregations.

Two MACC proposals have reached their fulfillment. On January 1, 2010, North American Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD) began its life with a new more direct relationship with the church through the General Board. At this meeting the Council of General Ministries proposes the final distribution of its escrow.

The MACC process is more fully reported elsewhere in this GB docket. Since last year’s General Board, many leaders from all three expressions of the church and higher education have participated in the nine processes created through MACC’s work. Great thanks go to Todd Adams for his detailed and effective implementation plan for the nine areas of work identified by the MACC recommendations.

## **FINANCE**

2009 continued to be a challenging year for everyone. In April 2009, under the leadership of Todd Adams, the report to the Administrative Committee was that our income was better than projected and our expenses were under budget – a solid picture in a challenging time. The week following, the Christian Church Foundation board voted that the area of greatest need gift for 2010 (which we credit as part DMF 2009), would be directed to provide financial support of the Charitable Gift Annuity pool. This coupled with further losses in market value resulted in a major revision of our 2009 spending plan. The modified spending plan approved by the finance committee represented a 20% cut over 2008 (about 8% of this had been cut in the 2009 original budget). In the audited financials you will read that 7 out of 9 divisions in OGMP finished in the black, barely, but in the black.

The greatest area of concern is the General Assembly. Lower registrations (about 250 off projection) coupled with losses on World Café and overruns related to the production company contract, resulted in losses over \$80,000. Resultantly, the fees for the 2011 General Assembly have been raised and the budget is based on fewer attendees. The non-personnel expenses in the General Assembly budget has been modified by approximately 10% in order to cover the 2009 shortfall and restore the General Assembly to a cash positive basis.

**Disciples Mission Fund:** In 2009, Disciples Mission slowly crept along to a loss of 10.04 percent. Congregational giving was down 7% and gifts from the Christian Church Foundation were down 41%. Fortunately, the Foundation provided advanced notice regarding the decreased payouts. Part of the overall decrease was buoyed by an offering of over \$37,000 at the General Assembly. This was the first time the General Assembly promoted DMF in a worship service and received an offering. In spite of the overall economic conditions in the US, special offerings were off 1% - 4.89%, with a cumulative drop of less than \$100,000. A PowerPoint presentation is available to the General Board via the website breaking down further the DMF information.

**Human Resources:** In 2010 as part of our cost savings measures, employee benefits were reduced to balance the budget. To offset the exposure for employees and maintain the cost savings, a Health Reimbursement Account was established. The maximum HRA financial exposure for OGMP is still less expensive than the cost of maintaining the previous benefit schedule. Additionally, the Personnel, Policy and Procedures Committee of the Administrative Committee is receiving a proposal for Catastrophic Leave Sharing Policy, which will allow employees to donate sick leave to other employees under an approved sharing plan beginning in 2011.

## **2010 PASTORS' CONFERENCE**

The 2010 Pastors' Conference will be held September 21-23, 2010 in San Diego, CA. Diana Butler Bass is the keynote speaker. The event will include a state of the church address by Sharon Watkins and sermons by Randy Spleth and Juan Rodriguez.

## **COMMUNICATION MINISTRIES**

Communication Ministries' (Wanda Bryant Wills, Executive Director) core responsibilities are to articulate the church's vision and mission to all expressions of the church and to listen to the larger church in ways that help us enhance our identity as a "movement for wholeness in a fragmented world."

This year CM developed new ways to deliver information to Disciples across the United States and Canada. Traditional printed-based communication has shifted to more online and social media options. In 2009, CM enhanced its Facebook fan page by adding more content, video and commentary. The site nearly doubled from about 4,000 fans at the beginning of the year to nearly 8,000 by year's end. A Twitter account also was established in early 2009 to carry prompt, newsworthy items about Disciples, and counted about 200 followers by year's end. In addition, more information was posted online, such as the proceedings of the 2009 General Board as well as more video placed on YouTube.

Communication Ministries continued with its responsibility at the 2009 General Assembly of providing news and information. New this time, text messages, MySpace and Twitter postings were used to attract youth and young adults. Facebook, e-mail blasts, and Twitter postings were used in combination with print publications and web updates to inform other attendees and General Assembly supporters. Video streaming of the General Assembly worship services was offered. According to viewing statistics provided by our streaming service, about 1,000 unique visitors took advantage of this opportunity, although we are aware that many groups also organized "viewing parties" in congregations, so actual viewership may be as high as 1500. We are investigating ways to connect more congregations to this technology.

Starting in the fall, a podcast series of sermons from Disciples Center chapel services was offered for the first time via the web. CM also began organizing resources from general ministries to begin a web-based resource collection for liturgical seasons, such as Advent and Lent. In addition, several updated web sites were redesigned and launched including the Disciples Mission Fund ([www.disciplesmissionfund.org](http://www.disciplesmissionfund.org)), Reconciliation Ministry ([www.reconciliationministry.org](http://www.reconciliationministry.org)) and online registration for the Pastors' Conference in Sept. 2010.

CM played a role in convening Disciples communicators for conversation and planning during 2009. In addition to the regular quarterly schedule, CM hosted two additional meetings in December 2009 in response to communicator concerns about church-wide communication needs following the December announcement from DisciplesWorld magazine that it would cease publication in January 2010.

In 2010, CM is exploring ways to provide quicker news and information delivery to Disciples as well as ways to implement a "Movement for Wholeness" identity campaign.

## **CONVENING, OVERSIGHT, DISCERNING VISION ROLE OF THE GMP**

In addition to the GMP's normal role of convening the Council of General Ministries (CGM) and participating in several general ministry boards (assisted in this role by Todd Adams and Timothy James), this year had a focus on higher education ministries with the work of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education, chaired by Charles Watkins of Decatur, Illinois. The task force drafted new language for the covenant between colleges and universities and the church. That covenant comes before this board meeting for church approval before going before the undergraduate institutions. In addition, the college and university presidents have engaged

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) and the General Board (through its Governance Committee) in a review of how the institutions of higher education relate to the governance structures of the larger church.

Sharon Watkins continued her work in consulting with regions during times of transition. The Northwest, Central Rocky Mountain, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Florida and Illinois/Wisconsin regions have all had regional or transitional regional minister searches during this year. Todd Adams was able to step in to work with the Florida region during the GMP's sabbatical leave.

## **ECUMENICAL**

In her role as ecumenical representative, Sharon participated fully in the National Council of Churches through membership on the Governing Board; and in the World Council of Churches through membership on the Central Committee and the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration, and attendance at the once-every-seven years Plenary of the Faith and Order Commission of the WCC.

In support of our particular partnership with the United Church of Christ (UCC), she attended the UCC General Synod meeting and their Annual Consultation (a meeting of national, conference and higher education executives). She also was invited as ecumenical guest to a special Israel/Palestine Consultation which proved to be good preparation for her sabbatical focus on the Middle East.

Our partnership with the UCC is gaining expression at the "middle judicatory" level as several of our regions/conferences have teamed up to explore models of partnership – especially around the possibility of shared services in those geographical areas where one partner is numerically not as strong as the other. Another new initiative for the partnership took place recently when staff from congregational services ministries of both denominations met to share stories of their work.

During this last year Churches Uniting in Christ, which had suspended programming to work on internal relationships and reconciliation among the partners, has experienced a hopeful new beginning as all partners have agreed to look toward a plenary in 2011 and a new beginning focused on a joint mission around racial justice and shared ministry.

A last "ecumenical" report is about the renewed energy in the relationship between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ International (also known as the Assemblies churches.) As reported in Disciples New Service, "The two branches of Disciples have been apart since 1868 when the annual conference of Disciples of Christ in North Carolina voted to separate from black Disciples . . . in a racial severing of ties. Over the ensuing years, the two groups developed separate worship styles, governance and structures. Today, the Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ International are comprised of about 25,000 members in 300 churches spanning from New York to Miami, with additional churches in Africa and the Caribbean. . ."

"Last May Sharon Watkins preached at a special Pentecost Sunday service in Goldsboro held at St. Mark's Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ . . . The 2009 service was the first time a Disciples GMP had been asked to preach at an Assembly worship service, although in previous years, a general minister and president from the Disciples brought greetings."

At the recent Black Ministers' Retreat, hosted by the Bishop Chester L. Aycock, Presiding Prelate, Goldsboro-Raleigh District of the Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ International, the GMP and General Bishop Alton Smith were able to renew their conversations and looking forward to more opportunities in the future for the churches to find ways to live into a greater sense of unity.

## **JUSTICE**

In keeping with our vision to be characterized by a passion for justice, the GMP wrote a pastoral letter to the church urging congregations to be informed and involved in the national conversation about the reform of our health care system. We are the wealthiest nation in the world but have 30-50 million people without health care coverage; we have the best health care system in the world but have the highest infant mortality rate in the industrialized world. These factors and more make health care reform a moral issue. The high cost of health care causes difficulty for many of our congregations to call full time pastors; this makes health care reform a church issue. Hopefully this year will see progress in fixing some of the most pressing problems of our national health care system to the benefit of many citizens and church members.

In addition, the GMP signed on to a number of letters together with ecumenical partners addressing various issues in keeping with previous General Assembly actions or ecumenical consensus.

She also participated as a speaker in Ecumenical Advocacy Days where the subject was Immigration Reform. Though the immigration reform debate is likely to be as difficult as health care and Disciples will hold divergent views, it is a subject that is at the heart of our life as church. Many new congregations in several regions include immigrants as both pastors and members. Issues of documentation, religious worker visas and family cohesion are live issues among us. Both our new church and anti-racism priorities, as well as our passion for justice and our own origins as an immigrant church, will lead us to participate fully in the national conversation on immigration reform.

### **OUTSIDE THE CHURCH**

Sharon has participated this year as a member of the first President's Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. It has been an opportunity to serve the nation, to keep the name of the Disciples in the spotlight, and to help make the case that faith-based non-profits are worthy partners, bringing expertise to the table that can be helpful in meeting the needs of low income and other underserved people in our nation and around the world.

She also continued her membership on the board of Sojourners.

### **SABBATICAL**

Fall 2009 was a season of sabbaticals: Wanda Bryant Wills, Timothy James and Sharon Watkins each had sabbatical time.

Sharon enjoyed time with family, including the ordination of daughter Bethany Watkins Lowery to Christian ministry, and time with parents. The study focus of the sabbatical centered on three weeks with husband, Rick Lowery, in the Middle East: two weeks at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, and one week with the National Interfaith Leadership Initiative (NILI) trip to Israel/Palestine. NILI is comprised of Jewish, Muslim and Christian religious American leaders who together encourage the American White House and State Department to leverage their influence toward a two-state solution to the Middle East dilemma. The time in the Middle East provided opportunities to become better acquainted with Global Ministries partners and to reflect on the challenges of living as harbingers of God's wholeness in a world so very fragmented by a history of violent division.

### **SABBATICAL COVERAGE**

While Sharon was on sabbatical, we did not employ additional support to cover the duties of the General Minister and President. Instead, Sharon Coleman, John Goebel and Beth Sullivan worked closely with Todd Adams to provide appropriate support, while he covered the duties of the GMP. Moderator Larry Brown also gave valuable advice and counsel. During this time there were several major issues that were addressed in the life of the church.

In Florida, Rebecca Hale, emergency interim regional minister; Sekinah Hamlin, SERF Reconciliation Minister; and Todd Adams have worked closely with the regional board to address a leadership change.

During this time we also received word of the closing of DisciplesWorld magazine. After many years of trying to find a financial model that would allow a subscription based print journal to be financially viable, the magazine closed.

Other events (normally part of the GMP's portfolio) ably handled by Todd Adams during this time include: meetings with the College and University presidents regarding their relationship to the church, participation in the HELM and DBS board meetings, participation in the College of Regional Ministers' fall meeting, participation in the Hispanic Commission meeting, participation in the National Convocation Board meeting, continued work related to an Immigration Attorney for the Christian Church, which is now in the hands of DHM regarding their future roll with Refugee and Immigration Ministry, coordination of MACC webinars and preparation for the meetings with the Proposal 9 working group and MACC.

### **OTHER REPORTS**

Included herewith are reports of the various committees, commissions and organizations which report to the General Assembly through the Office of General Minister and President: Christian Church Services, Inc.; General Commission on Ministry; Center for Faith and Giving; Reconciliation Mission; Week of Compassion; World Convention of Churches of Christ.

Four organizations with recognized relationships with the general expression of the church submit their reports to the General Board through the Office of the General Minister and President. These are: European Evangelistic Society; National City Christian Church Corporation; The United Christian Missionary Society and College of Regional Ministers.

Although *The Design* does not require a report from the College of Regional Ministers, the General Minister and President is a member of the College and requested an overview of some of the activities of our regions.

Minutes of the General Board and the Administrative Committee of the General Board appear with this report.

### **AUDITORS' CERTIFICATES**

All financial reports have been audited by Capin Crouse, Certified Public Accountants. The OGMP Audit will be posted once the Administrative Committee has received the Audit. Auditors' certificates and notations are printed for the fiduciary corporations. Audits for the other units and organizations are on file with the Office of the General Minister and President and are available for inspection by members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

## **Christian Church Services, Inc.**

R. Steven Belding, Executive Director  
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Christian Church Services, Inc. (CCS) is a subsidiary corporation of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and exists to provide building and special services to the General Ministries who are tenants in the Disciple Center in Indianapolis. A Board of Directors, composed of seven General Ministry presidents, manages Christian Church Services, Inc.

The staff provides common services including telephone and voice mail oversight, central mail services, common property insurance, workers' compensation processing and conference room scheduling. They also serve as the liaison between the 200 employees of the Disciple Center and the building owner, Perennial Washington, LLC, to coordinate such services as building maintenance and cleaning. The staff of CCS is composed of the Executive Director, two central mailroom personnel and a receptionist in the main lobby of Disciples Center.

It is the goal of the staff of Christian Church Services, Inc. to provide a work environment for the General Ministries conducive to affirming and sustaining the mission, imperative and vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

## Report from the Center for Faith and Giving

**Director:** Bruce A. Barkhauer

**Committee Members:** John Mobley (Chair), Ed Taylor, Marilyn Fiddmont, Katie Hayes, Raphael Mendez, and Sharon Watkins

**Activity:** The Center officially began its ministry on February 1, 2010, meaning that only thirty (30) days have elapsed between our beginning and this report. In that time, however, the Center's Director has met with the primary leadership of all three Ethnic Constituency groups, met with the General Minister and President, three General Ministry Presidents, a Seminary President, three Regional Ministers, the director of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center, and pastors from over a dozen congregations.

Initially, the Center's Director will focus on listening to the constituent groups that the Center has been designated to serve. This will include: *Congregational Pastors, Regions, General Units, and Seminaries*. The purpose of the "listening" is to discern what is known about stewardship and currently being practiced with success; what deficiencies exist in our biblical and theological understanding of the practice of stewardship as it relates to spiritual discipline; what resources will re-enforce our strengths and adequately address our weaknesses; resource development; and what is the best delivery system for those resources we produce or those existing resources that we direct our constituencies toward.

The Center's Director will also be involved in all three national gatherings of the Church's ethnic constituencies during 2010, to learn about the great tradition of stewardship as a faith practice within these traditions (for the edification of the whole Church).

During a conference call that included all members of the Committee, several documents were proposed by Rev. Barkhauer. They are intended to guide the Center's work and mission over the next five years. Three of those documents, as revised by the Committee are attached to this report: Mission Statement, Five Year Plan, and Suggested Goals: Five Year Progression.

There are concerns about the budget as it relates to the ability to fund ministry initiatives and to support the broad responsibilities entrusted to the Center (to create a culture of generosity across the life of the whole Church). The Committee has approved the Director's request to transfer \$30,000 of the reserve funds associated with the establishment of the Center to assist in the fiscal support of the remainder of this year's (2010) operational budget. ***Future consideration must be given to the provision of appropriate resources to fund this ministry in its developmental stages if it is to achieve significant impact across all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).***

The Center's Committee is excited about the direction of the Center for Faith and Giving and the energy that exists within our team and our Director at this early stage of our development. We believe good things for the future of our common work as Disciples will come from this effort.

REPORT OF  
EUROPEAN EVANGELISTIC SOCIETY  
FORTHCOMING

REPORT FROM  
NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH CORPORATION  
FORTHCOMING

## Reconciliation Ministry

### **Mission:**

Reconciliation Ministry seeks to advance the Church's journey toward wholeness by empowering each expression of the Church to implement structural change to address historic fractures caused by racism and the systems that perpetuate it. It is our shared goal to foster life-giving community within our church and in relationship with the whole family of God. We accomplish this ministry through intentional dialogue, experiential education and inclusive worship.

### Focus on mission.

Reconciliation Ministry has enjoyed increased partnerships with each expression of the Church. Congregations, Regions and General Ministries have included the ministry of reconciliation in their ministry and mission throughout the year. Congregations have partnered with Reconciliation Ministry to host forums on race relations, book and bible studies using new resources provided by the ministry as well as having formed interfaith alliances to collectively combat the vestiges of this sin in their communities. Many congregations graciously invited Reconciliation Ministry to assist with resources to help shape and inform their engagement of this mission priority.

Regions continue to partner with Reconciliation through the efforts of their existing and newly formed transformation teams. Teams have mobilized around new training initiatives, provided training for their Regional committees as well as supported and supplied resources for their Ministry Commissions' continuing education opportunities. Regions also have committed their resources and time on the programs of their assemblies to focus on this mission priority either as the general theme or as programmatic themes. Through partnerships with the NIRF cluster and with individual Regions, we facilitated retreats to help re-invigorate this priority. It is a great joy to share in the witness and commitment of our Regions their efforts toward advancing our Church's identity as a movement toward wholeness in a fragmented world.

General Ministries continue to incorporate this mission priority in our collective and individual life and work. As the landscape of ministry presents new challenges and needs for presenting the Gospel, Reconciliation Ministry has partnered with the Council on Christian Unity, New Church Ministry and our Racial – Ethnic Ministries to explore and develop resources for an increasingly diverse and changing church. In addition, this year, Reconciliation Ministry re-instituted its granting process for General Ministries, Regions, Higher Education Ministries and Recognized Ministries of our church. We were able to fund 12 of the 15 requests that were received providing \$43,000.00 in total to promote intentional dialogue and experiential education in our seminaries, camp and conference programs and leadership development with our congregational pastors.

This year the Reconciliation Ministry Commission reformed its mission and vision and its rules of governance to reflect our commitment to accountability to the larger church and to communities of color. We move into 2010 with new co-moderators, a renewed sense of purpose and partnership with the broader church and an aggressive agenda to continue to foster life-giving community brokering unity in the family of God without demanding uniformity. It is the desired goal of the Reconciliation Commission to increase our partnerships in the life of our church in effort to help each of our expressions and ministries undergird its work with a vision for wholeness, reconciled to God and to one another.

April Johnson  
Minister of Reconciliation

## **THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

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The United Christian Missionary Society continued to furnish financial support for the Division of Homeland Ministries, dba Disciples Home Missions, and the Division of Overseas Ministries, by investing and managing its endowments and permanent funds for the benefit of the two Divisions.

During 2009, there were no gift annuities released. When gift annuities are released, the funds are either distributed outright to Disciples Home Missions and the Division of Overseas Ministries or added to the permanent endowments of The UCMS. The UCMS did not receive any restricted bequests.

The UCMS continued to be involved with ethical issues which related to its investments and was active with the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR). This is an ecumenical organization of 17 Protestant denominations and approximately 200 Roman Catholic orders which cooperate concerning ethical and social concerns as expressed by actions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The UCMS, which has eight trustees and four officers, has no active employees. Beginning in 1993, The UCMS contracted with the Christian Church Foundation, Inc., to perform the treasury services for the Society. The current officers of The UCMS are as follows: Ronald J. Degges, President; David Vargas, Vice President; Jennie A. King, Corporate Secretary, and Lonna Owens, Corporate Treasurer.

Four trustees are nominated by each of the two Divisions served by The UCMS. They are elected by the General Board of the church and serve a term of four years. Their responsibilities are to oversee and determine policies concerning the investments of assets owned by The UCMS. The protection as well as the income realized from these assets is of paramount concern for the trustees. Their invaluable service is recognized and this report is submitted in their behalf.

The UCMS distributed the following from the investment pool in 2009: DHM - \$1,001,615; DOM - \$1,340,757; and other entities - \$75,340.

**WEEK OF COMPASSION COMMITTEE**  
**Rebecca Hale, Chair**  
**Amy Gopp, Executive Director**  
**Brandon Gilvin, Associate Director**  
**Elaine Cleveland, Administrative Assistant**  
**P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206**  
**317-713-2442**  
**[www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)**

2009 was a year of increasing economic instability, an ever-worsening global food crisis and even more evidence of climate change. All of these factors greatly impacted the work and witness of Week of Compassion. Human-created disasters such as the protracted, violent conflicts in Iraq, the Middle East, the Darfur region of Sudan and in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained among the most horrific humanitarian crises of the year, yet again. Disciples continued to support and trust the historic efficiency and effectiveness of Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee and development mission fund. Responding to some form of human need an average of every other day, Week of Compassion offers a reliable and faithful mechanism for Disciples to participate in helping to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression.

Poverty, hunger, lack of clean water, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, displacement and other inequities remained as pervasive as ever, and Week of Compassion's support of long-term sustainable development projects remained an important part of WoC's witness and work in the world. Grants totaling over \$325,000 were made to projects in 35 countries and to seven states in the USA. These included 20 food production/security projects in 15 countries through our partnership with the Foods Resource Bank and Church World Service, with WoC/Disciples serving as lead funder for projects in the Dominican Republic and Bosnia. Through Seed Programs, Inc. WoC/Disciples provided seeds to thousands of families and hundreds of communities throughout Africa. In conjunction with Global Ministries' Area Offices, WoC funded sustainable development projects in Ghana, Haiti, Congo, Israel/Palestine, Egypt, China, Pakistan, and the Republic of Georgia, to name a few. WoC's sustainable development work encompasses food security, income generation, health care, water, sanitation, education, vocational training, women's empowerment, peace-building, trauma counseling and psycho-social care.

WoC continues to make long-term rehabilitation (post-disaster) work a priority, and the strong support WoC received in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricane season enabled us to continue such critical ministry along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast to complete the second phase of the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative, in close partnership with DHM and ODV, the GRR and the SW Regional and Area Offices.

In addition to the close partnership we share with DHM/ODV, RIM, and DOM, we also celebrate the CURAJ table of which we are a part (CCU, Reconciliation, GMP and WoC) and are grateful for the ways it has allowed us to build stronger relationships and collaboration. For example, we lift up our joint efforts in post-Hurricane Ike Galveston and Texas City, TX. Together with our local churches, DHM/ODV, the SW Region, and Reconciliation, we modeled together what it means to live out our call to be a movement for wholeness in an otherwise fragmented world.

In 2009, undesignated giving to Week of Compassion remained solid at \$2,051,755. Designated giving reached \$272,583, a decrease of 62 percent under 2008 designated giving. Income from WoC's endowment program and other funds in the Christian Church Foundation

equaled \$122,241, down from \$139,888 in 2008 because of the impact the economic crisis had on the Christian Church Foundation.

WoC also hired a new Associate Director, the Rev. Brandon Gilvin, who joined the staff in August. Brandon brings many gifts and experience to this ministry, including international and ecumenical experience as well as having served in a local congregation. WoC also hired Stephen Moseley as our new website designer and communications manager. While a small staff, WoC is committed to all of our partners, including first and foremost our congregations and members, without whom we simply could not exist. Everything that WoC does is in partnership and for that we are most grateful. WoC is a profound expression of what it means to be whole church.

REPORT FROM THE  
WORLD CONVENTION OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST  
FORTHCOMING