

DIVISION OF HOMELAND MINISTRIES  
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
dba DISCIPLES HOME MISSIONS

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**Board of Directors:** Voting members of the DHM Board of Directors are: Janet Casey Allen, Indianapolis, IN; George Crawford, Gig Harbor, WA; Paul Few, Lincoln, NEB; Janet Fountain, Milton, Nova Scotia, Canada; Dave Geenen, Rock Island, IL; Alan Hilberg, Bakersfield, CA; Jim Hockman, Columbia, SC; Rebecca Littlejohn, Anniston, AL; Madelyn Logan, Ashland, VA; William McConnell, Wichita, KS; Valerie Melvin, Wilson, NC; G. Lee Parker, Lynchburg, VA; Norweida Roberts, Jackson, MS; Richie Sánchez, Orlando, FL; Jean Vandergrift, Boston, MA; KK Wiseman, Nashville, TN; Judy Row, Lakewood, CA; Debra Joseph, New Orleans, LA (Local Church Ministries Representative). Ex-officio Members without vote are the representatives to The United Christian Missionary Society: Martha Carroll, South Bend, IN; Sarah Draper, Hoover, AL; Mary Lou Kegler, Kansas City, MO; Richard Petty, Houston, TX.

January 1, 2010 represents my first anniversary as President of Disciples Home Missions. And what a year it has been! One of transition and change, learning and sharing, partnering and collaboration, administrative oversight and decision making, as well as a year of developing relationships that will enhance the mission and ministry of Disciples Home Missions and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Our every effort at Disciples Home Missions has been directed toward two purposes: (1) To be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented church and world, and (2) To exemplify the oneness of the body of Christ by welcoming all to the table as God has first welcomed us. These two strategic purposes have guided our every step.

It should come as no surprise to you that these are difficult days in the life of the church. All about us seems to be crumbling. Rick Morse from Church Extension and Todd Adams from the Office of General Minister and President have surveyed the landscape for us. About two-thirds of our congregations have been in decline for ten years, both in average worship attendance and in income. Sixty-three percent of them have been in decline for 20 years or more. Only one out of six of our congregations are able to sustain full time ministry: about 600 to 800 of our 3800 congregations.

Giving to the Disciples Mission Fund has declined by 52 per cent over the last 20 years (adjusted for inflation) and giving to local mission has declined by 33 per cent. While giving per capita has not decreased, congregational populations have decreased, making it imperative that larger percentages of operating income be spent on building and pastoral salary and benefits. Four hundred and eighty-five congregations give 80 per cent of our DMF dollars. Sixty-two congregations contributed to DMF in 2008 that (at the time I write this report) have not contributed in 2009. One hundred and twenty-nine congregations give above ten per cent of their income. Of the 582 Disciples congregations established since 2001, less than ten per cent have their own facilities. Eighty percent of these congregations are immigrant communities and ethnic congregations.

Rising health care costs for pastors and building maintenance costs eat away at the proportions of budgeted income available for mission and program. In 1930, a congregation of 30 families could sustain a congregation. Today, it requires a minimum weekly attendance of about 130 persons. Of 180 congregations established in the 1950s, only eight are at sustainable levels. Most of these congregations are located in neighborhoods which have had remarkable demographic change (both in average age and in race/ethnicity) while the congregations themselves are racially the same and much older than they were in the 1950s.

Too many of our churches are closing their visible ministries. To be exact, last year (October 2008-October 2009) 69 congregations have either closed or withdrawn or merged or asked to be removed as Disciples of Christ congregations. Since 2000, 492 of our congregations have closed their visible ministries. These statistics are courtesy of Howard Bowers, Editor of the *Year Book & Directory*. Maybe this is just a sign of the times and a toll of the bell of death in the life cycle of congregations; but, then again, maybe it is more.

Many of our congregations are in one form of distress or another: theological, numerical or existential. Heated battles over a more literal or figurative understanding of the Bible continue to rage on as do arguments over nationalistic fervor and Kingdom ethics. Gender equality and issues relating to extending hospitality to our gay sisters and brothers are hot topic items in many congregations, constituencies, and Regions.

When all the statistics are counted for in the upcoming *2010 Year Book & Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*, there will be recorded another year of numerical loss due to attrition – death of members, lack of attracting new members, and the decrease in participating and average weekly worship attendance in over 68 per cent of our congregations.

We can understand matters of theological diversity and its challenges. We can also understand matters of demographic shifts and the effects of living in an era characterized as post-Christian. Theological and numerical distress facing congregations are nothing new to those of us in this church. We have witnessed it, addressed it, and some of us have even participated in it.

We Disciples are getting our arms around the theological and numerical issues facing the church today. What concerns me is our lack of ability to deal with matters of existential distress. This is the distress that leads a congregation to sense there is no way out, that demise and death are the givens and that any future effort toward resurrection will only fail with the stone being rolled back over the door to the tomb. We are not running from the harsh realities any longer. We are facing up to them. My comments to this point are not to paint a picture of hopelessness, but to provide us a realistic assessment of where we are. *We are a fragmented church in a fragmented world!*

There are a plethora of tools on the market to help congregations deal with the realities of theological and numerical distress but few to assist congregations and pastors who are plagued by existential emptiness, loss of hope, and institutional depression. Such existential distress often leads to dry mouth instead of joyful sound, a walking faint rather than a soaring spirit; and, as the Scripture proclaims, vanity and vexation of spirit where there is no profit under the sun.

To make matters even worse, but not hopeless, our fragmented trouble is not only theological, numerical, and existential; it is also financial. Disciples Mission Fund's support of Disciples Home Missions has dropped by seven per cent. We are projecting the figure to look more like five per cent by the end of the year. Income from investments is reported to be more than 50 per cent less than last year. Right now it stands at 20 per cent. The Week of Compassion Board of Directors meeting in November 2009 decided to decrease its operating budget by 25 per cent across the board due to financial constraints. The decrease began with the last disbursements of funding for 2009. Such a decrease had a direct impact on Disciples Home Missions' Refugees and Immigration Ministries (RIM) as well as our Office of Disciples Volunteering (ODV).

Now, in light of all this, I want you to know that I am not ignoring the strides made in the markets since February 2009 or the fact that the fall quarter 2009 was the best in the stock markets since 1998. Studies I have read give me every confidence in the efficacy of long term investment strategies. However, there are too many in our society who are out of work, too many bereft of affordable health care options, too many at war, and too many who are at the point of Jean Paul Sartre's *No Exit*.

In light of all that is happening in the church today, Disciples Home Missions invites us all to hold on together. Things are changing by the minute. And the good news is that our God is a God of the minute, of the moment, of 'the twinkling of an eye.' Our God is a God to which a thousand years is as a day and a day as a thousand years. Our God is a God who makes all things new. This is our hope out of existential malaise and financial uncertainty, out of theological sparring and numerical decline. It is the very hope that has guided our ministry and mission here at Disciples Home Missions this past year.

Let me report to you on the signs of hope and wholeness, oneness and welcome, which have been at the heart of this past year's work at your Disciples Home Missions:

**Scholarships are now awarded by DHM under the new configuration of decision making recommended by our Board last May.** A racially and ethnically diverse Table guides the decision making process. The Rev. Dr. Billye Bridges is Chair of the Black Ministries Leadership grants program administered through DHM.

**The Disciples Women's movement is pressing on toward the Quadrennial.** DHM's partnership has been and continues to be strengthened with the women of our church. The women are full participants in DHM's decision making process with both voice and vote. The voluntary decisions by Adonna Bowman and Bonnie Gearlds to take early retirements to help DHM with its financial challenges is a testament to what can happen when our women are treated with respect and as full partners in the leadership of our church. We look forward to their continuation in 2010 as Volunteer Executive Director and Volunteer Administrative Assistant of the Office of Disciples Women

**MACC expanded its table on June 16-18, 2009, with representatives from Disciples Home Missions;** namely, Bill McConnell, Rebecca Littlejohn, Jennifer Riggs, Billye Bridges, R. Wayne Calhoun, and myself. That is six in all – six more than were present at the MACC table six months before. I consider this a significant accomplishment and look forward to MACC's next gathering to be held February 12-13, 2010.

**The Oren E. Scott Foundation funded a grant request made by Disciples Home Missions,** Church Extension, and Higher Education and Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to address the leadership priority of our church. The Leadership Summit was held in Indianapolis October 26-28, 2009 with DHM represented by: the Rev. Dr. Billye Bridges, Rev. R. Wayne Calhoun, Rev. Doug Pfeiffer, Adonna Bowman, and Judy Row. Representatives from CE and HELM, Global Missions, Regional leaders appointed by the College of Regional Ministers, and educators from seminaries and related institutions of higher education along with congregational pastors involved in intentional transformational ministries met to chart the path to the future. DHM, CE, and HELM met with our other General Ministry partners on November 19, 2009 to expand the table of discussion regarding leadership and established "next steps" on November 20, 2009. This is the first major effort of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to advance the leadership priority of the church that was adopted almost ten years ago.

**The staff of Disciples Home Missions, Church Extension, and Higher Education and Leadership Ministries and the staff of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ** will meet together to talk about the state of local church ministries and the ways in which we might work more closely together. The meeting will be held on March 10, 2010, near Columbus, Ohio. Robert Welsh, President of our Council on Christian Unity, and Lydia Veliko, Ecumenical Officer for the United Church of Christ, will shepherd our discussions.

**To address the growing concerns about the role of youth in the life of our church, Disciples Home missions has called a Youth Summit for the Christian Church**

**(Disciples of Christ)** to be held March 12-14, 2010, to address the question of what is effective youth ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Members of our General Youth Council and General Youth Commission will gather at the Indiana Regional Camp and Conference facility along with some select youth ministry specialists.

**The work of DHM's Anti Racism Pro Reconciliation Team continues.** The ARPR Team, in consultation with April Johnson, Minister of Reconciliation, is planning Anti Racism training for our next DHM Board of Directors meeting to be held at Christmount in Black Mountain, North Carolina, May 2010.

**Since our major focus these past few years has been congregational transformation,** I can share with you in no uncertain terms that it is happening in our congregations and Regions. My calculations, based on my counting of individuals who have attended congregational transformation events and congregations who self-identify themselves as congregations involved in transformation, are that to date we have 677 individuals and congregations who are in the process of renewing congregational ministry and mission. Our stated goal as a denomination is to transform 1,000 congregations by 2020. But 1,000 revitalized congregations are not enough. We need to set as DHM's goal the transformation of 3,000 congregations. Through our GPS events and a whole array of other programs and efforts aimed at transformation, the seeds have been planted, God's rain is watering them, and surely there will be a great harvest.

**Disciples Men** have launched a new quarterly newsletter, *The Voice of Disciples Men*. **The Young Adult Commission** has launched a new Disciples Young Adult discussion community at: [DiscipleYoungAdults@yahoogroups.com](mailto:DiscipleYoungAdults@yahoogroups.com). **Disciples Women** have entered their second year of publishing, *Just Women*, the official publication of the Office of Disciples Women. Disciples Home Missions, effective February 1, 2010, will launch its official new Web site. This new endeavor will be more user friendly, will help consolidate our communication efforts, will offer on-line payments, and will schedule small event registrations. DHM Program and Administrative Staff will be able to update DHM publications as needed as well as post new publications in a timely fashion.

**In 2009, DHM's Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM)** resettled over 1,000 refugees. There is still a need for more of our congregations to get involved in this ministry to the strangers in our midst.

To date, **10,953 Disciples volunteers** representing 1,106 groups from every Region of the church have worked 431,950 hours giving the equivalent of 8.75 million dollars. Ten Disciples congregations have been restored or rebuilt.

Although I have not been able to identify in this report the work of all the ministries carried out in behalf of our church by Disciples Home Missions, I call your attention to our **Chaplaincy Services, Search and Call, Leader Development, Evangelism, Christian Education, Family and Children's Ministries, Scouting, Mission Centers, Disciples Farm Workers, AIDS Network, Urban Spirit, Environmental Education**

**and Advocacy ministries.** I am grateful for the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our Program Staff, Merger Staff, and Administrative Staff. Although each of them has not been named or their ministries highlighted, they are, nonetheless, an integral part of all that we do to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented church and world and to extend the hospitality of Christ as all are welcomed to the table.

Disciples Home Missions must continue, without fail, to connect our whole church to the life giving love of Jesus Christ. We must choose, without hesitation, community over isolation, fun over drudgery, bold over mild, frontiers over fortresses, and now over later. These categories are not mine but those identified by Paul Nixon in his, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*.

Disciples Home Missions is all about facing our losses and finding our future. I can assure you that we in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) can find our future only with a strong Disciples Home Missions that advocates for us to steer away from complacency, immobilization, stubbornness, and constant hesitation. The church today cannot afford to be complacent about anything, immobilized to act, hold on to its stubborn silo mentality, or hesitate. The world will only pass it by. We are truly thankful for our partnership with the other general ministries, Regions, and congregations in strengthening the church through mission for a time such as this.

### All Peoples Christian Center

***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.***

The major components of APCC are **Educational Support Services, Adult and Family Support Services and Community Services.** These programs are supported by Administration. During 2008 APCC served over 8,141 individuals. Over 70 % of APCC participants utilize three or more services during the year.

**Demographics 2008 (Data for 2009 is being compiled)**

GENDER		ETHNICITY		AGE		INCOME
Male	42%	African American	24%	0 - 17	47%	Under 17K - 82%
Female	58%	Asian Pacific Islander	5%	18 - 24	12%	17K – 34K - 8%
		Latino	68%	25 - 64	30%	
		Caucasian	2%	64 +	11%	

### **Administration**

The economic downturn has impacted our ability to meet community needs with reduction in resources and overall increased demand for support. In 2009, ten grants

were awarded from new resources to offset reduction in previous funding from City of Los Angeles.

**Despite reductions in funding \$ .87 of every dollar received is allocated to direct service for the programs.**

### **Educational Support Services**

The neighborhood high schools served by All Peoples have a 50% drop out rate. Therefore it is critical for our staff to place an emphasis on obtaining high school diploma. The afterschool "Tomorrows Leaders" program has focused on ensuring that all students and their parents are aware of the essentials to successfully graduate from high school and pursue college education. We have hired a College Coordinator to work directly with students and their parents in laying the foundation. Our expectation is that all of our youth should achieve a college diploma. 33 parents have completed 68 hours of college preparation workshops. 35 students have completed individual plans for college. We anticipate that all 100 students enrolled in Tomorrows Leaders will have will complete their college plans in 2010.

The Vernon Central Workforce Development Network (VCN) was established to meet the needs of unemployed, out of school, young adults 18-25 years old. VCN is a 10 month program which young people will specialize in career training in the areas of construction, computer technology and green jobs. APCC provides specialization in technology. Our goal for the first class was 15 graduates. 17 young people successfully completed the program in November 2009.

In 2009, we celebrated 60 years of Joe Ide Camp. APCC utilizes the Loch Leven Camp and Conference Center of the Pacific Southwest Region. Each year over 60 inner city youth have the opportunity to leave the congestion of urban concrete jungle.

Their eyes are opened to all of God's creations in mountains, trees, and flowers, birds, lizards, stars and the moon that cannot be seen in the City. Most youth who attend the Center continue to lift up camp as their most life changing experience. Many of our volunteer staffs are former campers

### **Adult and Family Support Services**

The Supplemental Food distribution program experienced the greatest increase because of the impact of the economy. In 2008 we were serving 80 families a week and in 2009, 150 families receive fresh fruits and vegetables, and food staples weekly. We received additional resources from stimulus funding to help meet the increasing demands. We have over 1,097 families that are registered in the food program as of December 31.

During the years we increased parenting and anger management classes to meet the need of parents and adults in the community. We are excited about a new program "Project Fatherhood" The program provides weekly support group for Fathers. Our goal is to enable fathers to become better parents to their children. The children and mothers also meet in separate groups at the same time.

### **Community Services**

We continue to our efforts to bring the community together to determine immediate needs and long term needs. We work collaboratively with the non-profits, public, faith based entities to develop a community plan for the area served by APCC (Vernon Central). These efforts will continue in 2010. With the support of DHM we are exploring more ways to remain in covenant with the Christian Church through developing more relationships with our churches.

**All Peoples Christian Center  
Statement of Financial Position  
December 31, 2008**

**Assets**

**Current assets**

Cash and cash equivalents, unrestricted	\$	156,804
Restricted cash		11,503
Contracts Receivables		182,915
Other Receivables		18,474
Investments		182,409
Prepaid expenses		4,599
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Total current assets		556,704

<b>Property and Equipment, net</b>	\$	634,132
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Total assets		1,190,836

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**Current Liabilities**

Line of Credit/ Current portion of Notes payable	\$	-
Accounts payable and accrued expenditures		43,551
Deferred Revenue		1,030
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Total current liabilities		44,581

**Commitments**

**Net assets:**

Unrestricted		947,473
Temporarily restricted		-
Permanently restricted		198,782
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Total net assets		1,146,255
<hr/>		
Total liabilities and net assets		\$ 1,190,836

Our website is [www.allpeoplescc.org](http://www.allpeoplescc.org)  
Our e-mail is [allpeoples@allpeoplescc.org](mailto:allpeoples@allpeoplescc.org)

## **Christmount Christian Assembly, Inc.**

*Michael P. Murphy, Executive Director*  
222 Fern Way, Black Mountain, North Carolina 28711  
(828) 669-8977 Fax (828) 669-6301  
E-mail: [info@christmount.org](mailto:info@christmount.org)  
Web site: [www.christmount.org](http://www.christmount.org)

**Mission Statement:** Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Christmount is the camp, conference and retreat center for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Its mission is to serve God by providing opportunities for life-changing and enriching experiences in faith, knowledge, leadership and personal relationships.

Christmount has served the church for over 60 years as a retreat center. Ours is a ministry of hospitality which provides not only for physical needs like food and lodging, but spiritual and intellectual needs, too. This program ministry has expanded to include eleven youth events and nine adult conferences each year, continuing our commitment to providing educational and spiritual programs for and with the Church. Programs are well-attended. The program ministry is strong and doing well. These programs offer challenges to clergy and laity of all Disciple's traditions.

Leadership development, transformation, spiritual renewal, and Christian education remain the main emphases of Christmount's ministry. Christmount continues its heritage of openness to all Christians regardless of race, national origin, or economic circumstances. Christmount offers programs to help educate elders, deacons, clergy, and laity: Elders and Deacons Workshop (co-sponsored with Lexington Theological Seminary), Gigabytes for the Gospel (church web site development), Discovery Weekend Women's Retreat, Music Workshop, Arts and Spirituality Retreat, College Retreat, Oreon E. Scott Clergy Conference, and Christmount Week all offer time for learning, leadership development, worship, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. Week of Wonder Adult Work Camp, Youth Work Camp, Middle School Girls Camp, and Mountain Camp all offer outdoor experiences for youth and adults to learn more about mission and care for the earth as well as offering opportunities for deepening the spiritual lives of youth.

Christmount continues to be an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) not only through its own programs, but through working with regions and general units. Christmount collected over 25 pounds of medical supplies for the Democratic Republic of the Congo with its new mission emphasis through Week of Compassion. The Southeastern Regional Fellowship's Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism training was held at Christmount in November. Disciples Men and Women from North Carolina also use the facilities annually. The new sabbatical program was well-used during the year by several Disciples and clergy from other traditions. Several Hispanic non-denominational congregations held retreats throughout the year, welcomed by Christmount's Disciples ecumenism. SERF regional staffs also gathered here for their annual retreat. Christmount was a participant in the Indianapolis General Assembly with a large display within Disciples Home Missions' area.

The newest venture at Christmount will be a summer-long camp program for children with autism. For the past 12 years, the Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC) has rented camp space for about 10 weeks in the summer. Because of North Carolina government budget cuts, ASNC had to end the camp. Christmount's staff and Board decided to continue the program, bringing the ASNC camp director aboard as a new staff member. This summer, Christmount will host six weeks of its own camp for children with autism, Camp Lakey Gap. In addition, a continuing program, Camp Sunshine for cognitively-challenged adults, will add a second week's experience in 2010.

**CHRISTMOUNT CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY, INC.**  
**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 149,651	\$ 108,858
Promises to give, net	-	12,017
Accrued interest	15,604	18,650
Other receivables	12,894	11,779
Total current assets	178,149	151,304
Non-current assets:		
Deferred costs, net	15,988	18,656
Investments	68,255	201,601
Property and equipment, net	2,117,007	2,154,212
Total non-current assets	2,201,250	2,374,469
Assets restricted to endowment:		
Investments	1,589,992	2,394,766
Total assets restricted to endowment	1,589,992	2,394,766
Total assets	\$ 3,969,391	\$ 4,920,539
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 9,006	\$ 16,101
Line of credit	21,000	-
Accrued expenses	48,961	39,301
Deposits	8,000	15,945
Notes payable - other	2,902	5,821
Total current liabilities	89,869	77,168
Long-term liabilities:		
Notes payable - other, less current portion	6,236	9,329
Total long-term liabilities	6,236	9,329
Total liabilities	96,105	86,497
Net assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	(9,050)	66,707
Investment in property and equipment	2,107,869	2,139,062
Total unrestricted	2,098,819	2,205,769
Temporarily restricted	143,197	201,624
Permanently restricted	1,631,270	2,426,649
Total net assets	3,873,286	4,834,042
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 3,969,391	\$ 4,920,539

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**CHRISTMOUNT CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY, INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

	2008			Total
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	
Public support and revenue:				
Contributions	\$ 185,817	\$ 37,579	\$ 7,633	\$ 231,029
Fees for services	427,630	-	-	427,630
Road revenue	18,050	-	-	18,050
Water, sewer, and solid waste revenue	69,849	-	-	69,849
Gain on sale of property	2,619	-	-	2,619
Conservation easement	-	-	-	-
Investment earnings	141,069	-	-	141,069
Net realized loss on investments	-	-	(35,685)	(35,685)
Net unrealized loss on investments	-	-	(767,327)	(767,327)
Miscellaneous revenues	8,824	-	-	8,824
	<u>853,858</u>	<u>37,579</u>	<u>(795,379)</u>	<u>96,058</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>96,006</u>	<u>(96,006)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total public support and revenues	<u>949,864</u>	<u>(58,427)</u>	<u>(795,379)</u>	<u>96,058</u>
Expenses:				
Program services	865,328	-	-	865,328
Supporting services	191,485	-	-	191,485
Total expenses	<u>1,056,814</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,056,814</u>
Change in net assets	(106,950)	(58,427)	(795,379)	(960,756)
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>2,205,769</u>	<u>201,624</u>	<u>2,426,649</u>	<u>4,834,042</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 2,098,819</u>	<u>\$ 143,197</u>	<u>\$ 1,631,270</u>	<u>\$ 3,873,286</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



# Disciples Care Network, Inc.

“... devoted to good works and acts of charity.” Acts 9:36

Don D. Brewer, Director

8791 Jellison Street, Arvada, CO 80005

303.425.1337

[www.disciplescarenetwork.org](http://www.disciplescarenetwork.org)

Disciples Care Network is responding to God’s calling, “To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian Spirituality and a passion for justice.” as stated in the Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

“True community” calls us to continue to care for “the least of these.” More than 48,000 persons with various needs are cared for in more than 80 social and health service ministries of the Christian Church. On your behalf, it is our pleasure and passion to help improve the quality of life for abandoned babies; pre-school children; abused, neglected and at risk children; youth and young adults in turmoil; persons with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries; those in need of language and literacy, family life and job training; older adults seeking retirement living, assisted living, nursing care or community-based programs; hospice assistance and many other needs are cared for every day by your Church’s care ministries.

Members in congregations across the US and Canada continue to find ways to express their own spirituality as they put their faith in action. They make and collect needed items for those in care, lead vesper services, work on mission trips, read to those to young to read and those whose eyes no longer allow them to read and a myriad of other supportive activities for the residents and clients of Disciples care ministries.

More than 500 Disciples attended the General Assembly dinner cosponsored by Disciples Care Network and Disciples Benevolent Services. Dr. Fred Craddock challenged and inspired us to continue to tell the stories of helping to create wholeness in a fragmented world. He said, “Some among our congregants have said Disciples should get out of the care business. That would be like saying we should **get out of the Jesus business.**”

No one present at that dinner or those serving in care ministries are interested in getting out of the Jesus business. In order to be more effective in helping the Church understand the vast scope of social and health services, Disciples Care Network membership has approved a Care Alliance agreement with Disciples Benevolent Services. The agreement will be reviewed by the DBS board at its March 2010 meeting. Upon approval by the DBS board, DCN and DBS will continue working together to eliminate duplication and present a united approach for care services delivery to the whole church.

It is interesting to note that most of the 87 differently incorporated care ministries associated with Disciples Care Network have the word “community” either in their title or missions statement. DCN and DBS are all about community building.

The Christian Church Foundation has been a gracious colleague the past four years allowing DCN to piggyback meetings with the Disciples Development Conference and thus saving care providers considerable expense. We are most grateful.

### **Disciples Care Network Board of Directors**

Class of:

- 2013 Ralph Allen**, VP Mission Advancement, Christian Care Communities, Louisville, KY
- 2013 Ken Burger**, Executive Director, The Summit, Lynchburg, VA
- 2012 Sue Cherney**, Executive Director, Southern Christian Services for Children & Youth, Jackson, MS
- 2013 Bob Cooper**, President, Tennyson Center for Children, Denver, CO
- 2013 Kay Ellis**, President, Juliette Fowler Homes, Dallas, TX
- 2011 Wanda Gottschalk**, Chief Development Officer, Child Saving Institute, Omaha, NE
- 2011 Linda Hill**, Development Director, Kansas Christian Home, Newton, KS
- 2012 David Lundeen**, CEO, Cleveland Christian Home, Cleveland, OH
- 2011 C. Mark Palmer**, CEO, Woodhaven, Columbia, MO
- 2012 Don Stump**, President, Christian Church Homes of Northern California, Oakland, CA
- 2011 Karen Wardlaw**, Administrator, Disciple Homes, Gladewater, TX

2010 Officers:

President, Bob Cooper  
Vice President, Sue Cherney  
Secretary/Treasurer, Don Stump

Respectfully submitted,  
Don D. Brewer, Director

January 19, 2010

## Inman Christian Center 2009 Annual Report



### *Mission Statement*

*The Mission of Inman Christian Center is to empower the children, youth, families and elderly to develop to their full physical, mental and spiritual potential within the communities that Inman serves.*

As Inman Christian Center continues into its 97<sup>th</sup> year of service in San Antonio, Texas, the Center still focuses on the inner city families and elderly who need sustainable income, affordable housing and employment opportunity. During the program year that ended on June 30, 2009, Inman offered programs in four areas.

The **Childcare Program** served 174 infants and young children with care, educational and nutrition services. The Center collaborated with the Family Services Association *Smart Start* program to maximize and enrich early learning opportunities for the program's young participants. The family incomes of most of the participants are under \$5,000 yearly.

The **Children, Family and Youth Program** provided summer day camp for 56 neighborhood children. Families in crisis or who have lost employment received emergency supplies to feed and care for their infants. Community churches donated formula, supplies and organized the supply room that gave supplies to 657 clients. Additionally 2,325 family members were helped with referral information for rental and utility assistance, housing and various health services.

**Inman Housing Services** continued to operate at capacity throughout the program year. Four of the apartment complexes served 256 elderly residents whose income averaged \$767 monthly. The other two apartment complexes served 43 adults with disabilities whose monthly income was \$788. The ethnicity of the six apartment complexes over the past year was as follows:

Elderly citizens and disabled residents were 64% Hispanic, 13% White / Non-Hispanic, 15% African-American, and 8% other.

Support services and transportation services were part of each complex's activity.

**Inman Mission Volunteers in Service** welcomed ten volunteer groups throughout the spring and summer. Volunteers shared their talents and skills with participants and enhanced Inman's aging facilities. The volunteers gave 5,048 hours of service.

Inman Christian Center received \$17,215.00 worth of in kind donations in 2009. Additionally, we received 1,588 social service calls. The Center continues to carry on the mission tradition of Dr. Samuel Guy Inman to lift up education and opportunity and to serve those in need.



January 2010

Hello from Kansas Christian Home!

What do you get when you have 25 seniors, 20 volunteers, two buses, giraffes, zebras, monkeys and assorted sack lunches? A wonderful day at the zoo! On September 19, we borrowed a bus from Hillside Christian Church, rented a special bus for wheelchairs, used the KCH van and volunteer cars to transport all the people, wheelchairs, scooters, medical and personal needs, and sack lunches to the Sedgwick County Zoo. What a grand time we had. I thought we had really tired them out but by the next day they were asking to go again. It was touching to see how that one outing lifted spirits and made friends!

Have you ever seen 295 people laughing until they cry? You have if you went to the Legacy of John dinner in July. It was a fun and crazy night – from the song of the majestic eagle to the prayerful consideration of a gift. We had several first-timers and raised over \$50,000. Another successful dinner! The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner will be on July 17, 2010.

There are many projects going on here. Landscapers were hard at work all summer cleaning and planting around the campus. Each of the homes in Tilsley Manor has a new HVAC unit. The board is going forward with building an Assisted Living Center; we hope to break ground in a few months. The opening has been moved to spring of 2011. New kitchen equipment is being added to one of the dining areas. This will enable residents to special order breakfast and will improve the quality of food.



The Auxiliary worked hard organizing their bazaar. Each year they raise money to help with special projects that are not in the operating budget. They bought the kitchen equipment and two hi-low beds for resident rooms.

Auxiliary has also purchased a new range for the main kitchen. The 2009 bazaar brought in more than \$7,000!

As you can tell, Kansas Christian Home really does depend on the generosity and love of its supporters. We would not be able to make these improvements or continue to provide a high level of care without charitable giving. Thank you to each congregation and person who continues to be committed to this outreach ministry.

Linda Hill, Director of Development

PS: Did you notice the new logo? We thought it was time to update and have a symbol that would match our vision for the future – open and welcoming, modern and still Disciple.



UrbanSpirit/KB Ministries Inc.  
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[www.urbanspirit.org](http://www.urbanspirit.org)

**UrbanSpirit/KB Ministries Inc**  
**2009 Report to Disciples Home Missions**  
**Board**

UrbanSpirit continues to grow in our mission of poverty education for the non-poor through leadership development programs, primarily our week-long simulation of life at minimum wage. We seek to be a voice for those who experience poverty, helping well-meaning people of faith to realize that poverty is a result of systemic economic policies and issues, not merely a failure on the part of individuals to be clever, charming or ambitious enough. Through our “mission trip with a twist,” we are teaching people, especially young people, to find their voices, to understand issues, and to look more deeply at the life and teachings of Jesus; and then we are empowering them to challenge injustice and make a difference in their own communities. In short, we are working to create a generation of “social irritants.” To this, we are called and compelled.

#### **Disciples Home Missions Connections**

We continue to be edified by our partnership with Disciples Home Missions. That partnership has manifested itself in these primary ways in 2009.

1. As a Mission Center and destination for Disciples congregational groups.

In 2009, we realized a new level of growth in our mission programming. We celebrated our busiest summer yet, welcoming groups comprising nearly 150 people from 10 states.

Since we began this program in 2003, our participant “names wall” now lists more than 500 youth and adults from 18 states – Christians from 6 denominations as well as Muslim participants, and student groups from 4 universities. We credit much of that to our partnership with DHM, which saw quite early the potential for this

unusual ministry, and supported us with volunteer labor and donations, denominational attention and endorsement, and students interns.

2. Collaborator for DHM summer interns.

This was our 6<sup>th</sup> year connected with the DHM summer intern program, the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for me as coordinator. Working with these students, and with Carl and Robin Zerweck, continues to be a source of joy and inspiration for me personally, and brings a creative energy anew each summer to the work of UrbanSpirit.

In 2009, we piloted the Second Summer intern program, for DHM interns who wanted to continue to grow in ways they identified during the first summer of service. Nichole Mansfield from Eureka College spent her first summer at FAST; Hannah Truxell from Virginia Tech served at UrbanSpirit her first summer. Both came to UrbanSpirit for a Second Summer of leadership development, vocational exploration and personal growth, and both matured tremendously during that time. To facilitate Nichole's exploration of parish music ministry, we connected with Shepherdsville Christian Church nearby; Hannah explored her passion for civil rights law through planned conversations with the local ACLU, the Fairness Campaign, the office of our US Congressional Representative, and, oddly, a film festival. For both of these women, intentional reflection and mentoring by me and others helped them clarify their vocational goals in the context of faithful discipleship.

3. General Assembly.

Not least, it was a pleasure to participate in the 2009 General Assembly in Indianapolis, helping to tell the stories of Disciples missions, reconnecting with friends of UrbanSpirit, getting to know some of the churchwide staff members with whom I've had "electronic relationships," and meeting so many passionate volunteers.

### **News and Goals**

4. SoJust.

In 2009 we began a "social justice camp" for middle school students, seeking to fill a niche. Congregations seem always to be searching for opportunities for their 6-8 graders, while the high schoolers are off on groovy mission trips. This half-week event, refined for 2010, offers middle-school students introductions to biblical themes of social justice, combining action and reflection to prepare them for our full-week poverty simulation (available to high school and up), to create a foundation for other mission trips with their congregations, or to help them take the next step to orient their lives as followers of Jesus. About 35 youth and adults participated in this in 2009.

5. Expansion.

UrbanSpirit leaders have been asked regularly over the past 6 years if we could imagine becoming a "national model" or opening a branch campus somewhere. "Will there ever be a west coast UrbanSpirit?" As we've grown and the program has deepened, our board has decided it may be time to consider seriously the possibilities of such expansion. In 2010, we are recruiting board members from other cities who can bring a different perspective, and help guide the conversation appropriately. This is a big time for us. I would like to ask the DHM Board who you may imagine nominating to this board from Disciples outposts around the country.

As always, I am tremendously grateful for your partnership. UrbanSpirit and I personally are blessed by our friendships and mission collaboration with Disciples Home Missions, and I thank you for your ongoing support, trust and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Deborah D. Conrad, Executive  
Pastor

Yakama Christian Mission  
Report to the  
General Board of the  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Yakama Christian Mission (YCM) has appreciated its relationship with Disciples Home Missions and the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The financial assistance received from them made it possible for CM to have a new roof on the Log Church, a new pump house, and new paint on the office and Intern housing facility. Our appreciation is also extended to Carl and Robin Zerweck for the hours the Office of Disciples Volunteering has provided to enable all this to happen.

The maintenance of the above has enabled YCM to continue to help meet the needs of the community of White Swan, Washington. One of our more significant ministries has been to facilitate personal and educational development for children in need. Thanks to a grant from the "There Are No Undeserving Children" fund administered by Disciples Home Mission we were able to help more children than anticipated. The Summer Fun program averaged 34 children with 70 being our highest attended day. We had 80 different children participate in this ministry.

Summer Fun program has three approaches to ministry. 1. Feeding children a snack and lunch each day of the program. This is covered by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. 2. Educational. We have received a grant for this ministry from the Feed the Brain Grant through the Children's Alliance in the state of Washington. We are the only site that has been funded every year since the inception of this grant program. This has become a three year funding program for some recipients, one of which is Yakama Christian Mission. However, with no summer school being available our numbers were up significantly and we could not have met their needs without the grant from Disciples Home Missions mentioned above as well as a grant from Week of Compassion. 46% of the children in this ministry enter school in the fall maintaining the reading level with which they ended the last school year. 54% have increased their reading level by at least one year. 3. Provide a safe, nurturing place for children to come, have fun, and find mutual respect.

Thank you for helping to make this ministry happen. Donations are accepted through Disciples Home Missions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Shelton, President