

GB-21-1179
CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO



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Leadership

Visiting Regional Ministers:

Eugene James: Districts 1, 2, 3, & 6
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Thaddaeus Allen: Districts 4, 7, 10/11, & 15
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Dean Phelps: Districts 12, 13/14
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Rick Spleth: Districts 5, 8, & 9
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The Christian Church in Ohio finds itself in a season that is marked by faithfulness in action and planning, as well as faithfulness in discernment and waiting. God's presence and peace have enfolded us over the last year, and for this reality we remain thankful. In addition to God's good and

constant care we have the support of one another. As a covenant people, we affirm in word and practice that the ministry of this region is too important to be left alone; so in all things, we serve together. We serve with our members and congregations, we serve with the support of our neighboring regions as we share staff, and we serve in support of and with the support of our general church.

While we can provide a lengthy account of where the church has been active, in this report we lift up three areas: Fiscal Life, Gathering together in COVID 19 times, and a Bright Future. In all of this we think you will see the themes of togetherness, covenant, and partnership embedded in our ethos.

Even in COVID 19, fiscally, we are stronger this year than we were in the last. A PPP loan and robust investment returns of our invested funds with the Christian Church Foundation have had a positive impact on our balance sheet. Additionally, the regional church engaged in a campaign to shore up our camp coffers and to test the waters of our readiness to call a regional minister. The faithful were generous and the “Renewal” campaign was by all accounts a success. We were also the recipients of a major estate gift in 2020. The finance committee has reviewed and refreshed our fiscal policies and continues to value and promote transparency in our financial life. Continued monitoring of expenses helped and will be an important part of our future life. The arrangements with our neighboring regions for regional minister support have been financially beneficial.

Gathering together has required nimbleness, openness, and creativity. Our camp could not gather, so the region held virtual camp. The region gathered in assembly virtually for learning, worship, fellowship and the election and installation of new officers. Our council, commissions and committees have met regularly via ZOOM. The clergy have a monthly convocation online. While we long for a time to be physically together, there is ample evidence that the region has gathered for common life in many ways and in great numbers.

We fully believe that God is not done with us. Next year you may read a report that shows that we have called a new Regional Pastor and President to serve among us. We hope that we can report on a fully engaged and going camp and conference ministry to, with, and for our young Disciples. We hope to list many in person ordinations and commissioning, and we hope to share this report in person with the General Board.

It is our hope and belief that by being the best regional church that we can be, that we will, indeed, fulfill our mandate and mission as an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We are grateful for our partners in ministry who continue to make life good from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

Camp Ground

Camp Christian
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**Benevolent institutions supported by the congregations
in Ohio:**

The Cleveland Christian Home

11401 Lorain Road

Cleveland, OH 44111-5476

(216) 671-0977

Administrative Offices:

4614 Prospect Avenue East, Room 240

Cleveland, OH 44103

(216) 476-0333

Charles Tuttle, CEO

Community Care Network

11401 Lorain Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44111

(216)416-4277

Shaker Heights Housing Associates

Campbell Court

16650 Van Aken Blvd,

Shaker Heights, OH 44120-3616

(216) 921-8448

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Hiram Farm

P O Box 937, 6868 Wakefield Road

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De Ann Brewer, Executive Director