

GB-21-1164
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Church Capital Area

Christian Church Capital Area
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Leadership

Rev. Jeffrey N. Stinehelfer, Interim
Regional Minister

Ms. Aracelis Vicente, Office Manager

Rev. Delancy Catlett, Moderator

For the Christian Church Capital Area, 2020 has been a year of transition. The much appreciated, five-year ministry of Rev. Allen Harris concluded with the Regional Assembly in early October. The Region's celebration of his service among us is heartfelt and lasting, though due to virus restrictions a proper farewell for Allen was not possible.

The Regional Board determined that administrative, programmatic, and financial realities required that the position of Regional Minister be filled temporarily on a half-time, interim basis. The work of the Interim Regional Minister is supported by a capable Office Manager, though also not full-time. The Region employs seasonal staff for camps. A Search Committee has been formed to seek a full-time Regional Minister for what will hopefully be a more financially stable Region in 2022 and beyond.

The mission and ministry of CCCA is, of course, as full-time as it has always been, in support of 125 active, bi-vocational, and retired clergy, and 40 diverse congregations in Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Baltimore and Washington, DC. By the direction of the Regional Board, the four priorities of the Interim Regional Minister are administration, bridge-building, fundraising, and pro-reconciliation/anti-racism. CCCA program ministries are centralized in the Commission for Congregational Life, the Commission for Ministry, and the Commission for Camps and Conferences.

The Commission for Congregational Life sponsors an annual observance on Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday, organizes pro-reconciliation/anti-racism training events, and plans topical educational programs for both clergy and laity. Congregations that continue to decline in membership are of special concern to CFCL.

The Commission for Ministry welcomes clergy through ordination and transfer, ensures the legitimacy of clergy credentials, monitors in-care candidates, and otherwise manages regulations applicable to "good standing". An annual spiritual retreat for clergy, co-sponsored with the Clergy Association, was postponed to 2021 because of

the pandemic. Throughout 2019 and 2020, the Commission, and regional staff, devoted inordinate time and energy to local congregations experiencing conflict.

The Commission for Camps and Conferences discovered the inevitable challenges associated with “virtual” camping, including disappointing participation and revenue at both Camp Mary Mac and Bethany Beach Conference Center. During the winter of 2019-2020 (pre-pandemic), the Commission hosted numerous “town meetings” for the purpose of discerning the viability of maintaining and sustaining two properties for camps and retreats. Ironically, because of an unexpected offer to purchase Camp Mary Mac, those conversations have evolved into re-visioning the Region’s long-time camp ministry, and re-assessing the financial capacity for continuing it.

The mission and ministry of CCCA continues at a full-time pace under part-time staff leadership, with the acknowledgement that the Holy Spirit is at work full-time among us, opening minds to new possibilities and hearts to a new vision.

Camp Grounds

Camp Mary Mac
16951 Sprecher Road
Sharpsburg, MD 21782
CONTACT: Christian Church Capital
Area
8814 Kensington Parkway, Suite 208
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-6743
(301) 942-8266
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The Christian Church Conference
Center
15 North Pennsylvania Ave.
Bethany Beach, DE 19930
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