



Christian Church Capital Area

REGIONAL MINISTER'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD

OF THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

2026 General Board meeting on April 11 - 14, 2026 at Geist Christian Church in Indianapolis, IN

REPORT DATE: 02/24/2026

Regional Minister's assigned General Board Business Item Number: GB-26-1337

Regional Report of the CCCA: Marcus Leathers

Report submitted: generalboard@disciples.org

Purpose:

The General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is the deliberative and coordinating governing body of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), providing strategic oversight, policy guidance, and resource alignment to strengthen congregational life and mission across the denomination.

1. **Regional Minister's 2026 Report to the Administrative Committee of the Christian Church Capital Area, Inc.**
2. **CCCA ministry's most recently audited year-end financial statement and most recently approved budget (Utilizes Treasury Services).**
3. **The name and contact information for your board chair / moderator: Reverend Dr. Delores Carpenter, Email Address: dcarpenter@cccadisciples.org**
4. **In your written report, the Moderator Team asks that you include:**
 - ***An accomplishment from 2025—***

(a) Through the leadership of the Regional Moderator and Board, a goal that I shared in my 2025 report to the General Board is being pursued. The goal is focus and evaluation of the infrastructure of the CCCA for considerations of redevelopment, restructure, personnel to support and advance the mission of the CCCA.

(b) On Saturday, February 26, 2026, the first advance level Anti-Racism/ Pro-Reconciliation Continuing Education class will be offered in the Capital Area. The intention of the advanced level classes of AR/PR are to encourage continued support for the Anti-Racism imperative of the CC(DOC) that can provide further credentialing for DOC clergy and engagement by the laity.

(c) 2026 is the CCCA celebration of the 125th Anniversary of its Camp and Conference Ministry located in Bethany Beach, Delaware. This summer will offer Chautauqua at Bethany Beach, led by Reverend Dr. Rick Powell and Reverend Jayna Powell. This has been a goal to enlarge the interest in this regional Camp and Conference ministry.

- **A hope for 2026**—A few weeks ago, I expressed to a friend that in my faith journey, hope (elpis) is prayer. It is confidence and assurance in God. I am in prayer for the successful work of the Regional Board's leadership of its Assembly to reorganize its work (structure) to serve its future needs for mission and ministry. I am hoping for enthusiasm and support for the Ministry Institute of the CCCA in order to encourage regional engagement for an enriched program of Continuing Education enjoyed by clergy, congregations, and the communities they serve.

- **Challenges ahead—**

(a) The conclusion of 2026 will also be the conclusion of funds raised by the "More than Enough" financial campaign of the CCCA which procured three years of funding designated for the compensation of its Regional Minister.

(b) Skilled and talented leaders in Pastoral Ministry among the DOC to support the development of new congregations in the Capital Area.

(c) Availability of financing for the revitalization of viable congregations within the Capital Area.

(d) Assistance with recovering properties which may be eligible as assets of the Disciples of Christ.

- **A congregational story of strength or hope in your region that the General Board members can share with their own congregations—**

Congregational Story of Strength and Hope — Christian Temple, Catonsville, MD: Rooted in Faith, Reaching Out: Christian Temple's Renewal of Hope

Christian Temple (5820 Edmonson Avenue, Catonsville, MD) has become a quiet beacon of resilience and welcome. Led by longtime lay leader Vaughn Quellette, members have turned ordinary acts of care into a renewed congregational rhythm: a weekly community meal that feeds neighbors and builds relationships; a monthly youth leadership cohort for formation, service, and mentoring; and a small team partnering with nearby congregations to provide emergency pastoral care during a local transition. These efforts began with simple notes and phone calls—each one offering encouragement, practical help, and a steady insistence that the church remain a place where people are seen and supported.

Their story is one of faithful improvisation. When a leaking roof threatened the fellowship hall, volunteers organized a repair day, raised modest funds, and invited a neighboring congregation to share tools and labor—turning a maintenance crisis into deeper connection. When young adults asked for more formation, the church repurposed a Sunday-school room into a learning circle where scripture, vocation, and community organizing are discussed together. Through it all, members describe a renewed sense of covenant: they give time, talent, and small gifts, and in return receive companionship, spiritual formation, and the joy of shared ministry.

"We learned that generosity is not only what we give but how we gather—around tables, tools, and prayers."

- Connection in action: Small, consistent acts—meals, mentoring, mutual aid—strengthen a congregation's neighborhood witness.
- Shared resources multiply impact: Collaboration—sharing labor, expertise, and modest funds—turns problems into opportunities for unity.

Christian Temple's story is an invitation: when congregations invest in relationships and leadership, hope spreads.

Respectfully Submitted,

