



2025 Annual Report to the General Board
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City
Spring 2026

Rev. Ron Routledge, GKC Interim Regional Minister and President

Peggy Chandler, Board Moderator

Greetings Disciples across the globe. It is a joy to share with you the ministry of our Region in this Annual Report. As Interim R.M. I have sought to build upon the fine work I inherited from Rev. Bill Rose-Heim. We are a strong Region with many thriving congregations, a talented Regional Board and Staff, and dedicated, creative Pastors.

Our Mission

Connection: building meaningful and engaged communities across the Greater Kansas City Region.

Support: providing support for clergy and congregations in transition and pastoral care for all.

Celebrate: recognizing important milestones in the lives of congregations and Pastors which makes us better together.

Accomplishment from 2025

Greater connectedness among clergy/ congregations

Hope for 2026:

Successful Endowment Fund/ Smooth transition for New Regional Minister

Review the ministries and work of the Greater Kansas City Christian Church Disciples of Christ Regional Office in 2025 as listed in our Annual Report:

Clergy Support

- 4 Installations
- 1 Ordination

- 2 financial help with clergy crisis
- 7 new Ministers on the Ordination/ Commission path
- Sent 6 to Innovative Preaching training
- 12 Northland & Johnson Co. clergy gatherings - about 30 clergy total
- 6 Older Adult ministry gatherings
- 11 Ordination Committee meetings
- Fall Ordination Retreat
- One on One fellowship with more than 70 active clergy (regional minister)
- Sponsored “The Journey of Discovery: The Helping Process” - mental health provider training for those in pastoral care
- 5 Youth and children leaders (YAC Herd) meetings

Congregation Vitality

- 6 Search & Call assistance
- 58 Disciples ATTENDED General Assembly in Memphis
- 10 congregations participated in a Pentecost Picnic *celebration*
- 1 Search Committee for new Regional Minister
- 6 Older Adult ministry gatherings
- Springtime KC Royals fellowship outing
- 4 new congregation starts
- Provided funding, marketing consultation, and strategic planning support to three new churches and one new faith-based nonprofit.
- Provided free congregational growth consulting to four established congregations.
- Affiliated four new congregations to our region
- Spring & Fall Disciples Women's Mission Retreats
- Confidential Congregational Support

Camp and Conference

- 70 first-time campers in 2025 - 20% more than 2024
- 50% increase in Day Camp participants
 - Children - 92
 - Adults - 67
 - Youth - 179
- Camp Scholarships to 16 campers
- 31 different churches
- 379 total, including directors, counselors, and keynoters
- Welcomed 13 youth to the 2025-2026 Regional Youth Cabinet

Essential Services

- Posted 120 times on social media - 140% growth from 2024
- Shared 33 YouTube videos a 32% growth from 25 posts in 2024

- Published 24 newsletters a 167% growth from 9 newsletters in 2024
42 posts on our news section a 100% growth from 21 posts in 2024
- 4 Regional Board meetings (and 1 Board Retreat)
- 12 Executive Committee meetings
- 8 Finance & Budget meetings
- Re-imagined Regional Support needs by making better use of staff's gifts and time - creating a Director of Engagement role and leaning into technology to reduce administrative time demands saving \$16K+ in the 2026 personnel budget.
- Identified almost \$10,000 in one-time subscription and software savings, \$1,500 in credit card rewards, \$1,200 in 2026 Cost Avoidance and \$215 in refunds
- Published first ever "Christmas Offering" video [Christmasbulletin-03.JPG](#)
- Offered first ever Chalice Press bulk order opportunity for the 2026 Annual Planner
- Shepherding 140 clergy through 2026 Standing Renewal, including 6+ transferred ministers
- Removed 2 unused temporary structures reducing 2025 Property Taxes by 50% at our Camp and Conference Center (Tall Oaks)

Justice/Mission

- Third Annual Racial Justice Summit with 100 attendees and more than a dozen breakout sessions led by a variety of local Justice focused individuals and agencies
- 1 Tri-Regional Partnership - Intergenerational Day of Service attended by Disciples from Kansas, Greater Kansas City, Nebraska, which include Rev. Terri Hord Owens.
- Published podcast - Reflecting Together About Spirituality and Activism
- Provided funding, marketing consultation, and strategic planning support to one new faith-based nonprofit.
- Quarterly DWM (Disciple Women's Ministries) gatherings
- Sponsored "*Films For a Cause: No Other Land*" regarding current realities in Israel & Palestine
- Established a Refugee & Immigration site on www.kcdisciples.org
- LAUNCHED BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY Pod-Cast in December
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Endowment We formed a task force to establish an Endowment Fund for the Region which we call the "Greater Legacy Society". We developed a Gift Policy and Endowment Policy and are officially launching it in Feb. 2026 for long term sustainability.

Staffing Changes:

We began the year after three of the four regular staff had resigned or retired, so that required a Greater Kansas City Region Staffing Reconfiguration which includes a new Staffing Plan Going Forward (131 hours/week):

Staff Position Status

Regional Minister Full Time (40 hours)
Associate Regional Minister Full Time (40 hours)
Camp/Conference Coordinator (20 hours)
Communication (10 hours)
Administrator Part Time (20 hours)
Administrative roles
Financial Support

Standing Renewal (contracted) Part Time--contract with Kansas Region to do this work as part of the Tri-Regional Partnership

Commission on Ministry Innovation is a group of clergy and laity working together to meet the current challenges of ministry with adaptive leadership, trauma informed care, and radical solidarity. By breaking open the colonial traditions of church building, we create space for organic community structures to evolve. Instead of a one-size-fits-all model, we integrate community organizing and spiritual leadership skills to co-create in communion with Spirit and each other.

Our focus is two-fold:

- Supporting spiritual leaders who are initiating and organizing new spiritual communities.
- Supporting spiritual leaders who are initiating new ministries within existing congregations.

Immigrants--Several of our congregations joined together to find creative ways to offer support and shelter to our immigrant neighbors.

Silver Chalice—Some of our congregations are moving intentionally into the Silver Chalice ministry with intentional outreach to our older adults.

GKC Board Moderator

Peggy Chandler
peggyjochandler@gmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to share with the wider Church the exciting ministry happening in the Christian Church (DOC) of Greater Kansas City!

In Christ, Rev. Ron Routedge, GKC Interim Regional Minister and President