



**Christian Church in Kansas
General Board Report
Rev. Tom Stanley
Regional Minister and President**

Summary:

2025 was an exceptionally busy year! November and December of 2025 I was on Sabbatical, and the Rev. Dr. Bill Rose-Heim stepped in as an Interim Regional Minister and I am so grateful! Bill is willing to do this for any region at an exceptional price per hour. He considers this his gift to the Regions. We are also working with Bill to do some part-time work in the future.

Rev. Travis Smith McKee transitioned off the staff of the Christian Church in Kansas in 2025. The Kansas Region continues the work of local church transformation!

What is your Region celebrating:

In 2025, Rev. Olivia See transitioned out of her leadership role with Camp Tawakoni. The Kansas Region decided that we needed two people to fill the role Olivia has been doing. We now have a Director of Operations, Conita Burden, and a Business Director, Tonya Koehler.

Disciples Center at Camp Tawakoni hosted 250 plus children and counselors in 2025. The Disciples Center continues to grow. The Kansas Region has invested \$250,000 into Camp Tawakoni this year. We added small new office building. We have rehabilitated the director's home, the Training Lodge was taken down to the studs and rebuilt, and our pool has been completely redone including many green upgrades. The Training Lodge will add 36 new beds to our camping facility.

The Oklahoma Region brought their CYF Camp to Disciples Center in 2025 and had a fantastic experience. This has proven to be a fabulous partnership, and we will likely

expand this into other camping areas. We want to continue to share resources and not duplicate efforts.

The Kansas regional youth retreat hosted 30 teens at Disciples Center in 2025. We are looking forward to the 2025 spring and fall retreats and further integration with our camping program in 2025. The focus this year will be on youth leadership! Our Regional Youth Council has been incredibly active and leading many ministries. The RYC group visited 15 churches in 2025.

We continue to reevaluate all of the ministries hosted by and supported by the Kansas Region. One of the ministries that continues to grow is our Spirituality Retreat. This event is hosted at the Spirituality of Center of Great Bend, Kansas. The Kansas Region hosted six boundary training sessions in 2025, using the two new boundary training programs out of the Upper Midwest Region and the Illinois and Wisconsin Region. These training sessions were received with much gratitude because of the new information! The Kansas Region sent sixty-five people to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Memphis.

Disciples Women, and Men have resumed meeting in person. The Kansas Disciples Women hosted over 160 women in two sessions of their retreat in 2025. The Kansas Disciples Women also celebrated having women from the Greater Kansas City Region and the Nebraska Region present at the event.

Disciples' men hosted their annual retreat with 36 total men attending; the Rev. Dr. Bill Rose-Hiem was the keynote speaker. The topic was "closer to God," it was very well received!

The Kansas regional communications team continues to develop ways for our churches and widespread members to remain connected. Justin Sperry is our new Director of Communications after the previous two found their "dream" jobs while gaining experience with the Kansas Region.

The Tri-Regional Partnership between Nebraska, Kansas, and Greater Kansas City is alive and well! We continue to explore how to share resources, continue education, and people. For the first time in five years, we did not receive scholarships to KLC. Their feed back to the TRPI is we want to see how you are using this training! So, we are working our way through what that means for 2026.

Another large blessing this year has been the increasing number of people seeking ordination. In March of 2026 our RCOM will interview fourteen candidates! We have five churches who have put forward new candidates in the past year. This is wonderful news.

Biggest Challenges:

Our biggest challenges currently are search and call; the number of pastors in search and call is insufficient for the needs of the whole church. We continue to seek those called by God to serve the church and plan to expand our lay ministry program. Phillips Theological Seminary's lay ministry program is a natural gift for meeting this need. However, it is nearly free to attend seminary between regional scholarships and PTS scholarships, so there is some pushback from our Regional Committee on the Order of Ministry as to why people don't go to seminary.

Additionally, growing the ministry at Disciples Center is challenging. We are nearly at capacity for beds, days, and events. Last fall, the Disciples Center was not booked for three weekends. We must continue to develop staff, resources, and infrastructure to support this level of activity. We added staff to support camp operations in 2024, however, one of the largest camper groups invested in a camp of their own and will not be returning to Disciples Center in 2025.

What we want to accomplish:

As a region, we want to develop a path leading to ministry for individuals who wish to serve. Working within the framework of TIFFCOM, we want to develop a path towards ministry that does not seem so daunting right from the start. This may be not developing something new; it may be as simple as presenting it differently. For example:

We have an individual who is now in search and call who began exploring commissioned ministry but is now on the seminary track. The candidate did not believe seminary was possible for her at this stage in life, but that changed as we explored scholarships, aid, and the reality of online learning. Vienna's experience can be modeled for other people who wish to serve either their local congregation or the wider church. As we explored what she wanted to do, it became clear she wanted to explore ministry, education, and credentialing beyond commissioned ministry.

Also, 2026 is the year of policy revision! We will be touching every single policy within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas. Beginning with our Constitution and Bylaws, every single policy will be brought into agreement with our governing documents. Our current Moderator will leave office in August of 2026 and is leading this operation and will continue to do so even after she leaves office.

How can we pray for your ministry:

Please pray for our pastors, congregations, and regional ministers. Pray for God's guidance, strength, and presence. More than that, is that we, the Christian Church in Kansas, will follow God's lead into the future.

Financials:

Please see the attached files.

Moderator Contact:

Our Moderator for 2025 is Ruby Brower, her phone number is 785-532-8621 and her email address is moderator@kansasdisciples.org.