



**Report to the General Board
GB Business Item - 26-1349
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina**

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A Proud Accomplishment for 2025

One of the accomplishments we are most proud of in 2025 was the difficult but necessary work of our Regional Board to approve a 2026 budget to reduce our deficit by **\$72,000**.

Let me say plainly—this was not easy. It required prayerful discernment and shared sacrifice *without lessening our productivity*. We had to sit at tables and have honest conversations about what it truly costs to meet the real needs of congregations and clergy. We asked hard questions: What must remain essential? Where can we streamline? How do we remain responsive without becoming overextended? We were committed to maintaining our deep responsibility to the long-term health of the region. That meant aligning our spending with our mission, protecting vital ministries, and ensuring that the services our congregations rely upon would remain strong and sustainable. This decision was not about shrinking vision—it was about strengthening foundation.

A Hope for 2026

Our hope for 2026 is the continued cultivation of a genuine spirit of revival among North Carolina Disciples through our **Vibrant Vision** of resourcing, counsel, and connection. Revival for us is not emotional enthusiasm; it is renewed clarity, renewed partnership, and renewed courage.

We will continue to encourage congregational partnerships, advocating for shared ministry—“yoking” churches together across geography and size so they remain vital and sustainable. Our goal for 2026 is to establish five new congregational partnerships. Collaboration is not weakness; it is covenant in action.

For the fourth consecutive year, our **New and Emerging Church Committee** will present a new church in formation to the Regional Assembly, another step in strengthening the disciples footprint in NC.

Through **Reconciliation Ministries**, offering solidarity grants and hosting special events, we will support congregations in living the Micah imperative—doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God—encouraging collaboration across racial, economic, and cultural lines for meaningful community impact. We will use the 250th anniversary of our country (July) and the 225th anniversary of Cane Ridge (August 2026) as pivotal moments to build relational capital and advance our collaborative efforts for peace.

We will continue regional mission service projects that unite us in shared witness. Our **Disaster Response Team** remains engaged in long-term recovery alongside Christmount Assembly, while we also support the Brighter Lights Food Pantry at Barton College, addressing food insecurity among college students.

We will enhance scholarship programs and expand Discernment Weekends, creating space for individuals to explore how their gifts may serve beyond the local church—in chaplaincy, justice work, nonprofit leadership, and emerging ministries. A key partner in this formation work is our **Regional Green Chalice Ministry**. Through our Creation Care retreat, we will learn more about the resources, both developed and developing, at Camp Caroline (Pollinator Garden, Living Shoreline, Nature Trail and Community Partnerships).

Revival in 2026 looks like this: churches standing together, leaders discovering their call, congregations serving side by side, and a region choosing to care—together—for God’s people and God’s creation.

Challenges Ahead

We continue to face relational and cultural challenges. The threads between covenant and autonomy can sometimes feel thin. Words meant to clarify can be received as coercive. Political leanings, when elevated above our shared identity in Christ, can quietly erode trust and fracture relationships.

These tensions are real. They require intentional listening, careful language, spiritual maturity, and a recommitment to covenantal relationship grounded in Christ rather than ideology. Our work in this season is deeply spiritual—learning how to disagree without disconnecting and how to remain family even when perspectives differ.

A Congregational Story of Hope: Trauma Ministry

A beautiful example of what it means to do together what we cannot do alone comes through our **Trauma Ministry** and the testimony of Hood Memorial Christian Church.

When their pastors and congregation found themselves walking through deep grief and strain, the **NC Regional CARE Team** (Church Assistance for Resilience and Empowerment) stepped in—not with quick fixes, but with presence. The Regional Minister met with the pastors and helped discern the need for “wellness leave,” a concept often mistakenly relegated solely to sabbatical language in congregational settings. Our CARE Minister met onsite, listened carefully, and helped create a plan for both pastoral and congregational care. Reconciliation grants allowed the pastors to step away briefly for wellness while ensuring the congregation remained supported.

The CARE Minister was deployed to the congregation for four weeks, preaching, teaching, and addressing trauma and grief through Scripture and reflective action. The congregation was equipped with practical tools to navigate grief together. Follow-up conversations helped the church determine faithful next steps.

The CARE Team ensured that both pastors and congregation had what they needed—not only to survive a difficult season, but to begin healing together.

This is what a Regional church looks like. Not bureaucracy. Not control. But connection, care, and covenant in action.