

GB-2610 Disciples Overseas Ministries General Board Report

➤ An Accomplishment from 2025

Disciples Overseas Ministries (DOM) and Global Ministries continue to experience significant momentum. God is doing a new thing in and through their shared work as they seek to embody a faithful, relevant, and transformative global witness.

In 2025, the ministry commissioned three new mission co-workers and renewed one appointment:

- **Chesla Nicholson** — four-year appointment as Chaplain at Inanda Seminary, South Africa
- **Eric and Sara Marean** — four-year appointments as Project Managers with the Pacific Conference of Churches, Fiji

During the General Assembly, DOM released a commemorative coffee-table book, *Faith Across Continents: 175 Years of Disciples in Mission Beyond Borders*, celebrating 175 years of participation in God's mission and 30 years of partnership with the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries. DOM hosted twelve international guests representing partners from all five regions. Unfortunately, two African church leaders were unable to attend due to visa restrictions.

➤ A Hope for 2026

In 2026, DOM celebrates **30 years of partnership** between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries—a remarkable milestone and a testament to God's faithfulness. The ministry is not simply observing this moment; it is actively shaping the next chapter of this extraordinary partnership.

In late 2025, a staff team began planning the 30th Anniversary Celebration. Through a consensus process, they selected the year-long theme: **One Mission, One Calling — 30 Years of Partnership.**

The celebration is grounded in Ephesians 4:1–6, which calls the Church to humility, gentleness, patience, unity, and love. Verse 4—“*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling*”—will guide communications and events throughout the year.

The planning team also collaborated with a designer to create a 30th-anniversary logo in green and pearl white. This visual identity will accompany communications and events throughout the year, symbolizing the beauty and strength of this shared ministry.

➤ Challenges Ahead

DOM continues to accompany global partners during a period when the United States government is stepping back from international engagement. Interpreting and navigating these policy shifts is becoming increasingly complex.

Major cuts to international funding and newly imposed bond fees for citizens from select—primarily Black and Brown—countries may limit the ministry's ability to host international guests at church-sponsored events such as the General Assembly, regional gatherings, and other significant moments in the life of the Church. These cuts will also create gaps for partner churches

and organizations. While challenging, this moment invites DOM to mobilize new resources and strengthen its commitment to global solidarity.

➤ **A Story of Collaboration**

DOM has entered a new collaboration with Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) and Week of Compassion (WOC) through a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding establishing the **Global Theological Fellows (GTF) Program**.

In 2025, the program launched its inaugural cohort of ten theological students. This initiative provides emerging church leaders with a transformative global experience that deepens their ministry and equips them to serve across diverse cultural and international contexts. The program is designed to:

- Equip emerging clergy with a global perspective on ministry
- Provide opportunities for meaningful global engagement
- Deepen understanding of the Church's work in global mission and advocacy

➤ **What General Board Members Are Encouraged to Share with Their Congregations**

DOM remains deeply rooted in its 175-year legacy while faithfully embracing the future of God's mission. In partnership with the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries, DOM continues to provide transformative opportunities for leaders across the Church to engage in global mission.

The ministry offers:

- Short-term and long-term volunteer opportunities
- Sabbatical experiences with international partners
- Group immersion opportunities through the People-to-People Pilgrimage program
- Virtual webinars that share global stories
- The appointment and support of mission co-workers

As the global religious and political landscape evolves, the need for faith-rooted advocacy has never been greater. DOM remains steadfast in accompanying global partners, cultivating advocacy, and expanding opportunities for global engagement—with renewed emphasis on leadership development, programmatic growth, and organizational sustainability.

The entire Church is invited to the **30th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, November 7, 2026, in Indianapolis, Indiana.**