

General Assembly Report including the Office of General Minister and President Spring 2026

Report of the General Minister and President

Executive Committee of the General Board

General Board

April 10-14, 2026

I am grateful to the Church for the gift of a sabbatical time, November 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026. I was able to enjoy much needed physical rest, spiritual rejuvenation and treasured time with family. My reading time was spent largely in reflecting on the work of the late Howard Thurman. His sermon, “The Growing Edge”, particularly resonated with me as I considered the new season into which we are living as a church and as an institution.

“Look well to the growing edge. All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of the child—life’s most dramatic answer to death—this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!”

Howard Thurman, February 1949, The Fellowship Church, San Francisco, CA

For Thurman, the growing edge is the beginning of hope. In times like these, the hymn says, we need a Savior. In times like these, we need an anchor. For so many of us, the polarization and division; the violence being visited upon so many communities, especially immigrant communities; the attempt to erase the history and presence of women and people of color; the rush to war without

counting the costs---all of these characteristics of our current world weigh heavy upon us and the congregations where we worship and serve.

Upon my return from sabbatical in February 2026, I attended the Winter Talk gathering, sponsored by the Center for Indigenous Ministries. I attended a series of sacred ceremonies in Minneapolis, MN, led by indigenous leaders to honor the memory of Nicole Renee Good and Alex Pretti, both of whom were killed by federal ICE agents on the streets of Minneapolis. I was able to visit the sites of both of their murders and shared this time of witness with several Disciples in the Minneapolis area.

I remain grateful for the General Assembly meeting in Memphis, TN, July 12-15, 2025. Powerful preaching, spirit-filled worship, engaging keynotes and workshops were key elements to sure. The historic presence of the Rev. Dr. Bernice King, youngest child of the late Coretta Scott King and the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was an energizing and inspiring /beginning for our time together. The closing worship marked an historic milestone with a conversation with our 3 living former GMPs, and myself. The General Assembly approved, without question or dissent, the additional changes to The Design recommended by the Governance Committee's Implementation Team and the proposed new Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly. This approval prepared the Church to begin to live into the changes to the Design first proposed in GA-2343 in 2023. I am grateful for the Rev. Belva Brown Jordan, former moderator of the General Assembly, who took on the task of chairing the Implementation Team and immediate past moderator Elder Clyde Hunt who helped to shepherd the planning process. Current moderator Cindy Kim-Hengst was an integral part of the work to define the processes and standing rules for the General Board. She is prepared to help lead as we begin to live into these new processes. It is important that we understand that we are establishing a new culture that allows us to imagine, to change, and continue revising and changing as we see necessary. The work we will do as the Executive Committee and General Board, now operating under the auspices of these changes, is crucial to our future.

Since the 2025 General Assembly, I and the OGMP staff have been focusing on the following:

- Onboarding the new moderator team
 - OGMP senior staff and the new moderator team met in retreat in Oakbrook, IL in early September 2025. In addition to establishing relationship, our focus was on review of the draft Standing Rules for the Executive Committee and General Board, providing history and background to prepare for these meetings.

- Preparing for the first online General Assembly, which will begin July 10-11, 2026.
 - We have negotiated a contract with Big Marker, whose Big Heart platform will be the technology we will use for online General Assembly, hosting and delivering educational content, along with an app capability that will enable us to communicate with GA delegates and General Board members throughout their terms of service.
 - The Technology Task Force has been meeting since late 2023 to review technology options and has thoroughly reviewed 2 other vendor options in addition to Big Marker/Big Heart.
 - The Tech Task Force is now working on the implementation plan, which will include planning support from the vendor, and development of education for all users, including working with regions to support local gathering locations. Training sessions for local gathering tech support have already begun, with 2 sessions held in March 2026. A recording of these sessions and a PDF of the technical specs and guidelines are now available on disciples.org.
 - To support digital voting (including verification of voters), the BigMarker platform was customized to support our online voting needs.
 - Regional ministers were asked to share ideas for topics for education, discussion and prayer. That list is being reviewed by the Executive Committee, and a final short list will be discussed at General Board to finalize the topic(s).
- Preparing orientation for the Executive Committee and General Board
 - We are grateful to Ellen Annala, Disciple laywoman, for her consultation in material as we introduced the new rules and processes to the Executive Committee and General Board, focusing on how we can lean into working as a board for the good of the whole church, leveraging the wider range of skills, gifts and abilities that this new board brings. Ellen shared with us in our online General Board meeting in October 2025.
- Moving forward with the Proclamation Project
 - The Proclamation Project has recently issued a call for applications for another round of bi-vocational ministry grants.
 - A new cohort for African-American preachers is being formed, with Rev. Rae Karim, 1st Vice Moderator, as the facilitator.

- The 2nd annual Preaching Retreat was held in Arizona in mid-November 2025. Nearly 100 Disciples clergy attended, with Rev. Dr. Casey Sigmon as the keynote speaker.
- We are producing a video component to accompany the new Chalice Press publication, *We Call Ourselves Disciples*, now available. This resource is intended to support development of a stronger sense of identity with the Disciples of Christ and can be used as a study resource in congregations. Expected release date for the video component is May 2026.
- A short introductory video is being produced that can be used by congregations to post on their websites, social and media, as well as being used as an introductory piece for new members' classes. With the new ability for more Disciples to attend meetings of the General Assembly online, we hope that this resource will reinforce an understanding of our theological foundations.
- Continued support of all Treasury Services clients
 - Treasury Services now supports 20 of our soon-to-be 30 regions.
- Church narrative project
 - 15 regions have now engaged the Church Narrative Project. A group from Bethany Fellows will engage the Transforming Community Conferencing (TCC) process at the end of April 2026. We hope that additional regions will share in this church-wide conversation.
 - The Reconciliation Commission and Executive Committee participated jointly in 1-day TCC to do some visioning work around the future of the Reconciliation Ministry. We anticipate issuing a call for applications for the new Executive Director by the end of April.
- HR and staffing
 - We are excited to welcome Diana Hodges-Batzka as the new Special Assistant to the GMP, effective January 1, 2026. We have revamped the job description to elevate its responsibilities to ensure that we have a high-capacity, high-functioning professional in this role. Following election by the Executive Committee, Diana will assume the role of Corporate Secretary.
 - We are also excited to welcome Rev. Adam Freiburg as the new Director of Data Architecture and Integration, effective at the

end of January 2026. Adam has done doctoral work in data analytics and has been a part of the support and design team for Alex, our system for congregation data, since its inception. Adam brings a wide range of technical expertise to the OGMP and the wider church, and has been leading our efforts with BigMarker to customize and implement the platform for the online General Assembly meetings,

- We have been consistently reviewing staffing skills and responsibilities and made the decision to eliminate the Director of Events and Social Media position. We currently utilize a conference management company to assist with hotel and venue contracts, and we plan to engage a director on a contract basis. We believe this will be an optimal approach with our limited budget.

I have continued to preach for several congregational milestone anniversaries across the church. These events always provide an opportunity to see what is happening in congregations but also share with them about the new General Board and General Assembly. I have celebrated with the following congregations since General Assembly 2025:

- FCC Nebraska City, NE
- Chestnut Ridge Christian Church – Marietta, GA
- FCC Garland, TX

I participated in a Tri-Regional Partnership Day of Service in Kansas City, MO, as the Nebraska, Kansas and Kansas City regions worked together to prepare hygiene kits for the homeless, sandwiches for Micah Ministries, and cards to share with public school teachers, and children of immigrant families new to the local school district. The TRP has been engaged since the fall of 2025, and continues to provide an opportunity to imagine new models for collaborative regional ministry.

We met with the GMP and counterparts of DHM and DOM, along with our ecumenical officers for a partner meeting March 2-3, 2026. Our hope is to have 1 in-person meeting and 1 online meeting per year, focusing on having various leaders at the table based on the topics at hand.

I attended the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) Churchwide Assembly. We celebrated the ministry of outgoing presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, with whom I have

worked closely on the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches and in our bi-lateral Disciples-ELCA dialogue. I was present for the election of the new presiding bishop, Bishop Yehiel Curry, the first person of color to serve the ELCA as presiding bishop. He was formerly the bishop of the Chicago synod, and is highly regarded within the ELCA and in Chicago. I was among those ecumenical guests who helped to lead in one of those worship services.

I also attended the General Council meeting of our full communion partner, the United Church of Canada in Calgary. I was present for the election of their new moderator, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, and we have had an initial meeting with her and their ecumenical officer. We are planning a partner meeting in fall 2026.

I was present for the groundbreaking of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society's addition to their facility in Bethany, WV, during the meeting of its Board of Trustees. During that meeting, a Miracle Day was organized with volunteers from not only West Virginia, but the Ohio and Pennsylvania regions lending support to clean and repair areas in the Campbell Mansion. Students from Bethany College were also among the volunteers.

We continue to see transitions in regional ministry leadership. I officiated the installation of Rev. Michael Davison in the Oklahoma region in early March 2026. Rev. Kevin McNeil has been called to serve Tennessee, and I will officiate his installation in May 2026. Rev. Allison Robuck has been called to serve the Great River region, with an installation scheduled for November 2026. Rev. Dr. Adam Harmon will be installed as the new regional minister in Georgia in late April 2026. Rev. Dr. William Crowder has been called to serve the new Living Waters region, a merger of Illinois/Wisconsin and Michigan. Upon approval by the General Board, the new regional bylaws will go into effect as of January 1, 2027. Dr. Crowder will be installed in October 2026. The Kansas City region is close to naming a new regional minister. Northern California/Nevada and Florida are now in transition with the upcoming retirements of Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum and Rev. Sandy Messick, respectively.

As a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee, I met with the body in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June of 2025. I was asked to speak on a panel to discuss issues of injustice and advocacy in my national context. As you might imagine, there was great interest in my perspective on the issues facing the US. There is great concern among our global ecumenical friends, and I made an appeal for those churches to not be afraid to name the injustices they see in the US, just as Christians in the US have not been afraid to name and advocate for an end to injustices in other parts of the world. We were blessed to have the WCC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay, as the speaker for

the Disciples of Christ Historical Society (DCHS) and Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry (CUIM) dinner at General Assembly. Disciples of Christ have a long and stellar history of leadership and engagement with the WCC.

National Council of Churches Governing Board/Christian Unity Gathering celebrated the 75th anniversary of the NCC in October 2025. Disciples were founding members of the NCC, and over the years, we have provided strong leadership. J. Irwin Miller, noted layperson, business leader and philanthropist served as president during the early 1960's. An award is given annually in his name to honor laypersons dedicated to the ecumenical movement. Michael Kinnamon served as General Secretary, and Sharon Watkins has served as chair of the Governing Board. Each GMP is a member of the Governing Board as head of communion. Following in a great tradition of Disciples leadership, I was honored to be elected as vice chair of the Governing Board, and will then move to serve as chair at the end of 2027 for a 2-year term. I have served as Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee for the past 4 years, and will continue my service on that committee.

My new book, *Staying at the Table: Being the Church We Say We Are* was released at GA 2025 by Chalice Press and released more widely in the major book markets on January 6, 2026. An online book study on October 28, which has been well received. Several groups across the church used the book for Lenten study, and I was excited to share in a group discussion with about 20 young adults in late February 26. Both the Council of Theological Institutions (CTE) and the HELM board have engaged in discussion of the book. Given the overwhelming response to both this study and the summer book study on *The Faith We Affirm* by Ron Osborn, I am planning to do a series of Bible studies starting in 2026. I also wrote the 2025 Lenten devotional for the church, *Facing Jerusalem*, the essay on communion in the aforementioned *We Call Ourselves Disciples*, as well as an entry in the Disciples African-American Advent devotional and an entry in the upcoming African-American Lenten devotional. I also contributed to an Advent devotional edited by the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, former GMP of the United Church of Christ. I have also contributed a "soul story" for a volume entitled *Soul Stories*, written by Disciple African-American female leaders, forthcoming in 2026.

Treasury Services

OGMP Treasury Services' (TS) eight-member team would like to add an accounting assistant in 2026.

We are thankful for the following partnerships as we provide accounting services:

- the ministries of OGMP – Communication Ministries, Promotion of Special Day offerings, Yearbook/ALEX, Reconciliation, Week of Compassion, Center for Faith & Giving, Treasury Services, General Assembly event, and the Proclamation Project.
- ten other ministries: Christian Unity & Interfaith Ministry, Christian Church Services, National City Christian Church Foundation, College of Regional Ministers, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Obra Hispana, Disciples Seminary Foundation, Higher Education & Leadership Ministries, Florida Senior Enrichment Center, and Black Disciples Endowment Fund.
- twenty-three regions: Florida, Greater Kansas City, Upper Midwest, Illinois-Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Northern Lights, Mid-America, Capital Area, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Central Rocky Mountain, Southwest, Oklahoma, Great River, Ohio, Arizona, Michigan, Nebraska, Virginia, Kansas, Tennessee, and Alabama-Northwest Florida.

Center for Faith and Giving



The Center for Faith and Giving exists to create a culture of generosity across the life of the whole church.

Our mission is to encourage and promote the understanding of stewardship as a faith discipline and life practice in response to a generous God.

SPRING 2026 REPORT

A LOOK BACK

As we shared in our year-end letter, in 2025, the Center for Faith & Giving:

- **Equipped more than 400 congregations with comprehensive stewardship theme materials**—liturgies, sermon commentaries, lessons, and more that helped congregations *Dream God's Dream*.
- **Generated over 2,000 views for each of our weekly lectionary- based liturgies** that cultivated generosity Sunday after Sunday.
- **Helped 50+ congregations write more compelling, ministry-based generosity stories** by strengthening internal practices, improving transparency, and renewing trust through Cultivating Generous Congregations, Generosity Plus, Financial Boundaries Training, and one-on-one coaching.
- **Walked alongside dozens of pastors and lay leaders as they sought guidance** on assessing resources for ministry and developing year-round stewardship rhythms centered in spiritual practice and rooted in mission.
- **Connected personally with over 250 Disciples at General Assembly** through our booth and workshop (Generosity in the Way of Jesus & Justice).

A LOOK AHEAD

Our hopes for 2026 include continuing **to innovate and collaborate across the life of the whole church** to embody our belief that **abundant generosity and faithful stewardship are required ways of living** as ones created in the image of our **extravagantly generous God**.

We're excited to:

- Release our **2026 Stewardship Theme Materials** in partnership with the UCC Office of Philanthropy and the SALT Project with an upgraded look for greater ease of use and stronger, more cohesive branding (while still including all the robust content congregations have come to expect!).
- Launch our **monthly Stewardship Sessions**, gathering clergy and lay leaders in online community for practical guidance from a multitude of voices on generational giving, narrative budgeting, legacy gifts, expressing gratitude, and more as we help **pilot the Disciples Leadership Network, powered by Disciples Home Missions**;
- Train **1-2 additional Generosity Coaches** to expand our Generosity Plus capacity and geography; and
- Offer **Cultivating Generous Congregations** in partnership with the United Church of Christ;

- Release an **updated edition of Offering Invitations, published by Chalice Press in partnership with the Center for Faith & Giving and the Bethany Fellows**. These 75 fresh invitations are designed to inspire confidence and share wisdom from across the life of the church with worship leaders as they seek to inspire generosity in their own contexts.
- **Evaluate our first 15 years of ministry and establish priorities for our future** in light of our mission to **create a culture of generosity across the life of the whole church** by gathering representatives from Obra Hispaña, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD), National Convocation, Canadian Disciples, Puerto Rican Disciples, the Christian Church Foundation, and Disciples Home Missions, through a generous grant from the Oreon E. Scott Foundation;
- **Update our website** to make our **resources easier to find and to use**, whether you're a region, congregation, or individual seeking support.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

We continue to **seek additional streams of revenue** to sustain the ministry of the Center for Faith & Giving. At our February board training, we evaluated the trends we've seen in our income (budgeted vs. received) over the last five years and determined that we need to shift our priorities to opportunities with greater potential (e.g., offering our services at a lower price point by using online tools, leveraging things we already do well like our annual Stewardship Theme Materials with other denominations) vs. continuing to count on services that have gotten less traction than we had hoped (e.g., Generosity Plus).

We remain grateful for the support we receive through **Disciples Mission Fund, the Christian Church Foundation, the Easter Special Day Offering, and our contributions from individual donors**.

THE JOY OF PARTNERSHIP

One of the greatest joys in ministry at the moment is partnering with **Higher Education Leadership Ministries (HELM)** to resource their **Youth Leadership Symposium** (high school students) and **Leadership Fellows** (undergraduate students) ministries.

We share a common belief that **generosity is a mark of faithful discipleship—and it's not one to begin practicing at a certain age, stage, or economic reality**. It's a spiritual discipline that, through age-appropriate faith formation, accompanies us our whole lives.

We're tackling both the **practical realities** of stewardship for leaders (e.g., how to read a budget and a profit and loss statement) as well as the **theological ones** (e.g., what does how we spend, save, and give reflect what we believe to be true about God).

A GOOD WORD FOR GOING

There's one thing we hear again and again in this work: **"Generosity is so much bigger and so much more than I realized!"** When people say that, we feel as though we've achieved our mission.

Our hope is that:

- 1) **Our regions and congregations know that the Center for Faith & Giving exists.**
We hear equally often, "I had no idea we had a ministry like this!"
- 2) **We're seen as a hub** for annual campaign materials, educational resources on the biblical and theological foundations of generosity and stewardship, coaching through Generosity Plus, and practical financial ministry tools to equip our leaders in strengthening and sustaining faithful, transformative generosity.
- 3) **We're sought as a partner.** We love hearing your feedback, ideas, and stories. Generosity undergirds every expression of our faith—and we're honored when you invite us to be a part of what God is doing in your midst.

Grace & gratitude,

Rev. Melissa R. St. Clair

Minister for Faith & Giving

Executive Director, Center for Faith & Giving

2026 CFG Board of Stewards:

Jackie Byrd - Covington, GA
William Garcia - Yonkers, New York
Ching-Hsin Steven Han - Arcadia, CA
Sarah Kingsbery - Jefferson City, MO
Maria Lilomaiaava - West Valley City, UT
Jill Michel - Coralville, IA

Derrick Perkins, Sr. - St. Louis, MO
Matt Rosine - Indianapolis, IN
Tom Stanley - Topeka, KS
Tanya Tyler - Alto, NM
Candis Wilson - Beavercreek, OH
Terri Hord Owens - Indianapolis, IN (GMP)
Karen Georgia Thompson - Cleveland, OH (UCC GMP)

Week of Compassion

General Board Report - Spring 2026

Mission: As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

Vision: A world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

Core Values:

- We value *connection*, partnering with individuals, congregations, and organizations to attend to impacted communities.
- We rely on *integrity*, and commit to faithful stewardship, ensuring gifts entrusted to Week of Compassion are making the greatest impact.
- We focus on *accompaniment*, embodying God's grace by committing to a long-term presence with communities and response partners.

We gather in a moment when the world feels both fragile and urgent—when disasters are increasing, displacement is deepening, and systems that once provided support are shifting or, in some cases, disappearing altogether. And yet, in the midst of this, the Church continues to show up—with courage, compassion, and faith. This has been the story of Week of Compassion in 2025.

Throughout 2025, Week of Compassion has continued its core ministries of disaster response, immigrant and refugee support, and sustainable development, working through trusted local and global partners. Here in the United States, we have responded to communities impacted by floods, tornadoes, wildfires, and infrastructure failures, supporting recovery efforts from Mississippi to Puerto Rico and engaging more than 550 volunteers alongside our partners. At the same time, we have deepened our commitment to disaster equity, ensuring that recovery resources reach communities historically left behind. This has included providing Disaster Equity Grants to households impacted by crisis, many of whom are Black and Hispanic families, as well as supporting community-based efforts like the Westside Long-Term Recovery Group in Chicago, where women of color are leading innovative and sustainable recovery work. These efforts reflect not only our response to immediate need, but our commitment to long-term, just recovery.

At the same time, we are navigating a rapidly changing federal landscape that is reshaping disaster response across the country. Delays in federal declarations, reduced capacity, and policy changes affecting our partners are creating new challenges for communities already facing vulnerability. These realities are pushing us to think differently about how we support recovery—strengthening local leadership, investing in community-based solutions, and ensuring that equity remains at the center of our work.

In our immigrant and refugee response, the challenges have been equally profound. In 2025, shifts in federal policy have dramatically reduced refugee admissions and expanded detention and enforcement mechanisms, creating heightened fear and uncertainty for immigrant communities. And yet, in the face of these realities, Disciples congregations and partners continue to embody compassion and courage. Through the Arizona Disciples Border Initiative, Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, and the Border Dignity Project, we have seen ministries adapt and respond creatively—offering legal support, hospitality, vocational training, and advocacy. In partnership with Obra Hispana, we have also launched Operation Cacti, developing pastoral and educational resources to support children and families impacted by immigration enforcement, while equipping congregations to respond with empathy and solidarity. Across the church, there is a growing desire to show up in meaningful ways, and our role has been to help cultivate not only action, but relationships that sustain that action over time.

Globally, our work continues to center locally led development and deepening ecumenical collaboration. In places like the Philippines, Latin America, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, we are strengthening partnerships that prioritize resilience, reconciliation, and community leadership. These partnerships remind us that the most effective responses are those shaped by the people closest to the challenges. This commitment is also shaping how we invest in leadership development. In 2025, seminarians and young leaders engaged in global immersion experiences, learning firsthand from communities navigating climate change, displacement, and poverty. These experiences are forming leaders who understand that faithful ministry requires humility, partnership, and a willingness to be transformed by those we seek to serve.

One of the most significant accomplishments of this year has been the deepening of our commitment to equity and localization—not simply as guiding principles, but as practices embedded in how we work. From disaster equity grants in the United States to locally led

partnerships around the world, we are seeing a shift toward models that center dignity, agency, and long-term sustainability. This is not just an evolution of our programs; it is a reimagining of how the Church participates in humanitarian response.

This work is also made possible through collaboration across the life of the church. One example is our partnership with Obra Hispana through Operation Cacti, which brings together multiple expressions of the church to support immigrant families with care, resources, and theological grounding. We are also seeing collaboration at the congregational and regional levels, where churches are stepping forward to accompany communities in crisis, offering not only resources but presence. These partnerships are a reminder that Week of Compassion does not act alone—we are part of a wider body, and our impact is multiplied when we move together.

Looking ahead, we are aware of significant challenges. The shifting federal landscape continues to affect both disaster response and immigrant support, while the increasing criminalization of immigration-related ministry raises new risks for congregations seeking to live out their faith. At the same time, climate-related disasters are becoming more frequent and severe, and global humanitarian funding gaps are leaving many communities without the support they need. These realities require us to remain adaptable, grounded in our values, and committed to innovation in how we respond.

And yet, even with these challenges, we hold a deep sense of hope for what lies ahead. In 2026, we see an opportunity to lean more fully into locally led, globally connected ministry. With new opportunities, including the Lilly Endowment capacity grant and the continued work supported by the Oreon Scott Foundation, we are positioned to strengthen domestic disaster preparedness, deepen global partnerships rooted in equity and trust, and continue forming leaders who will guide the church into the future. This is a moment not only to expand our work, but to more clearly embody the kind of church we are called to be.

If there is one thing we hope each member of the General Board will carry back to their local congregation, it is this: Week of Compassion is not simply a program—it is the Church in action. It is your congregation's generosity that becomes food for families in crisis, shelter for those displaced, dignity for those pushed to the margins, and hope in places where hope feels distant. Through this ministry, congregations are connected to a global

witness of compassion, justice, and love that extends far beyond what any one community could do alone.

Even in a time of uncertainty, we continue to see signs of hope—in congregations that open their doors, in partners who remain steadfast in the face of adversity, and in emerging leaders who are stepping forward with courage and vision. The work ahead will require faith, imagination, and trust, but we move forward knowing that we do not do this work alone.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Vy Nguyen

Executive Director, Week of Compassion

WEEK OF COMPASSION BOARD OF STEWARDS:

Matthew Cahill - Washington, D.C.

Jake Caldwell - Hagerstown, Maryland

Ben Chou, Vice Chair - Burbank, California

Kristine Culp, Chair - Chicago, Illinois

Monica Greenberg - Seattle, Washington

Ailsa Guardiola González - Tucson, Arizona

Clyde Hunt - Memphis, Tennessee

John Kuebler, Secretary - Jefferson City, Missouri

Andy Mangum - Fort Worth, Texas

Jeri Sias - El Paso, Texas

Alicia Speidel - Hood River, Oregon

(ex-officio) Terri Hord-Owens, General Minister and President - Indianapolis, Indiana

EUROPEAN EVANGELISTIC SOCIETY

**PO Box 24560
Indianapolis, Indiana
www.eesinc.org
317-299-0333
Tony Twist, Ph.D., D.Min., President
2025 General Board Report**

The European Evangelistic Society (EES), was incorporated in 1946. The Institute for the Study of Christian Origins was established in Tübingen, Germany in the early 1960s. Its purpose is to encourage and guide research in the earliest church and to focus the application of that research on the church today.

The essential mission of EES in its history has not changed. It remains: To develop Christian leaders for significant service through higher learning. The vision of EES is that every nation has effective leaders of disciple-making movements who make a global impact on their churches, cultures, and countries for Christ. This vision reflects the common mission priorities of the Disciples of Christ as a movement for wholeness that welcomes all to the Table, and fulfills the last command of Jesus – “. . . as you are going, make disciples of all nations immersing them into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching obedience to all that I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

The mission of the EES is focused on this concern of leadership development necessary to realize the Four Priorities of the Church as outlined in the 2020 Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The EES views its priorities in terms of developing Christian leaders and future Christian leaders for significant service, especially among international students who gravitate to the University of Tübingen for theological studies. EES staff and partners provide practical assistance, counsel, and hospitality when students and visiting scholars arrive on site in order to establish relationships. This initial assistance is complemented through prayer, fellowship, and studies as students become more involved.

Through the Institute for the Study of Christian Origins in Tübingen, Germany, the EES is actively involved in promoting research and publication. This mission expresses itself in three primary areas of ministry:

- ☐ To develop international leaders through advanced studies,
- ☐ To assist emerging leaders in research and publication of relevant articles, books, and other materials in their respective global settings,

- To help encourage the establishment and development of churches, colleges, and agencies focused on evangelism and disciple-making.

The Institute for the Study of Christian Origins is being positioned to help develop dedicated leaders for significant service throughout Europe, Russia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and beyond.

The educational ministry at The Institute for the Study of Christian Origins, led through 2025 by Director Dr. Dennis R. Lindsay, continues to function alongside the Protestant Faculty of Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen, Germany. The Institute has a long and productive relationship with the prestigious and influential University. The influence of this ministry has been felt all over the world, as international students and scholars have come to Tübingen for research and study. The Institute promotes research, offers colloquia through the academic year, organizes international symposia every three or four years, provides highly specialized library resources in Early Christianity, and engages in continuing dialogue with scholars and students from around the world.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The English-German Colloquium in New Testament (offered in partnership with Prof. Michael Tilly from the Protestant Faculty)

The English-German Colloquium (EGC) in New Testament is increasingly popular. The EGC meets weekly throughout the academic year and serves as a forum for visiting professors and scholars to present research work in progress. The EGC also provides an opportunity for doctoral students to present their work (dissertation proposals, a chapter from the dissertation, conference papers, etc.) and to receive feedback. Moreover, it offers an opportunity for scholars at all levels—master’s students, doctoral candidates, post-doctoral fellows, and professors—to meet and to discuss current research with one another. The EGC is offered in hybrid format (in person and online), making it possible for scholars from various parts of Europe and all over the world to participate and present papers at the meetings. Participants and presenters from as far away as the US, Romania, Africa, and Australia took part in the Colloquium in the course of the year.

During the Winter Semester 2025-2026, Dr. Daniel Schumann from the Protestant Faculty stepped in to co-lead the EGC while Prof. Tilly was away for a research semester.

A sampling of presentations in 2025/2026 included:

- 03.07.2025: Daniel Schumann, Prof. Lichtenberger: Buchbesprechung Andreas Wagner:

Zwischen Engeln und Menschen: Die Rolle Henochs im slavischen Henochbuch".

- 04.11.2025: Jonathan Hirschberger: Three learned Jews came to me (WA 53:461,28): Martin Luther's Disputation with Three Jews about Isaiah 7:14: Fictitious Hospitality or Open Hostility?
- 11.11.2025: Mihai Udrea: University of Bucharest, Romania (online): Besessenheit & Inbesitzgenommen-Sein. Vom Verstehen zur Begleitung: Evangelische Seelsorge und Pastoralpsychologie im Kontext von Zwangsneurose, Abhängigkeit und Fanatismus
- 02.12.2025 Anne Rath, Uni Tübingen: Der καιρός Jesu: Aspekte von Zeit im Johannesevangelium - ausgehend von Joh 7,1-10

Theological German and Theological English



Listed in the University catalog, these “Übungen” (exercise) courses are offered by approved EES staff in the seminar room at the Institute. **Theological German** offers non-German international students the chance to read and discuss theological texts written in German, while **Theological English** attracts mostly German students, some of whom are preparing for an exchange semester/year abroad. Both courses include readings from a rotating selection of prominent Christian authors and a variety of topics. The classes are designed to enable students to: 1) develop and hone language skills for reading and discussing theological texts in the respective languages; 2) engage in theological reflection on important topics related to biblical theology; and 3) deepen relationships with God and others. These classes, offered as they are in the University setting, attract students from both religious and non-religious backgrounds, representing a range of involvement in the local church, from pastors to nominal church members, to members of other faith traditions, to professed agnostics and atheists. A common discussion of theological texts

and ideas within this circle often leads to stimulating conversations and insights about the Christian faith.

3. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PROTESTANT FACULTY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TÜBINGEN

Cooperation with the Protestant Faculty: International Symposia and Publications:

Following the highly successful International Symposium on “The Great Commandment” in October 2024, Dennis Lindsay continued work with Dr. Daniel Schumann and other research assistants of Prof. Tilly to gather and edit the Symposium papers for publication in the *WUNT* series (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck). The projected publication date is fall 2026.

Supporting TCM International Institute Educational Program

Institute Director, Dennis Lindsay, served through the year as a member of TCM’s faculty teaching courses on New Testament Introduction, Readings in Christology, and New Testament Teaching and Preaching. Dennis travelled to Estonia for an in-person session in October 2025. Additionally, Dennis has been supervising Masters theses for two TCM students.

RESEARCH AND SPEAKING ACTIVITIES

In October 2025 Institute Director, Dennis Lindsay travelled to Estonia to present a special lecture for the Baptist Seminary in Tallinn on the topic of “Interpreting the Bible in the 21st Century: The Church as a Hermeneutic.”

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PROTESTANT FACULTY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TÜBINGEN

The Institute continues to work with the Protestant Faculty on ongoing programs such as the New Testament Colloquium and on special events and projects such as the periodical international symposiums. In May 2025 EES President Tony Twist, along with Christian Witzmann and Dennis Lindsay, met with our faculty liaison, Prof. Dr. Michael Tilly, as part of our routine commitment to maintain a healthy and productive relationship with the University. Prof. Tilly remains very supportive of the ongoing relationship between the Institute and the Protestant Faculty.

STUCKENBRUCK LIBRARY

We are grateful to Loren and Lois Stuckenbruck for their recent contribution to the Earl and Ottie-Mearl Stuckenbruck Library of several boxes of valuable historic texts. Most of these books stem from the personal library of Earl Stuckenbruck, who founded the Tübingen Institute over six decades ago. The volumes are directly related to the history and heritage of the Stone-Campbell ("Restoration") Movement and provide an important supplement to

our existing collection. In our integration of these books into our library, we have created a new section of shelving where these, along with other books related to the Stone-Campbell heritage, form a discreet collection that is easily accessible for scholars interested in the background and theology of the founders and sponsors of the Institute for the Study of Christian Origins.

HOSPITALITY

The Institute facility includes a simple, semi-private guest room for two persons (with shared kitchenette and WC/shower facilities down the hall) in order to provide overnight guest accommodation for Colloquium presenters and visiting scholars within our research network. Being able to offer this accommodation has enhanced our ability to attract students and visiting scholars outside of Tübingen to participate in face-to-face presentations. In January 2025, we have now installed an outdoor key safe to allow our guests access to the guest room if they arrive or depart outside regular office hours. Guests in 2025: Luke Ogden (Colloquium presenter); Guests in 2026: Dr. Litvinau (Colloquium presenter); Dr. Schwarz (Colloquium presenter);

EES Goals:

- ☐ Develop relationships between EES and other universities to help provide access to resources and research opportunities for the growing number of graduate students needing advanced studies.
- ☐ Provide doctoral mentoring, supervision, and opportunities for graduates and others through the EES networks.
- ☐ Provide opportunities for
 - ◆ Mentoring doctoral students
 - ◆ Teaching theological English and theological German to students at Tübingen University
 - ◆ Preparing students from Eastern Europe and Central Asia to conduct research, write, and publish quality materials in their own languages
- ☐ Conduct the German-English Colloquium in conjunction with Protestant Faculty at Tübingen University.

Although the EES does not work specifically in any one congregation, it seeks to promote the cause of reconciliation throughout the world by developing leaders who will demonstrate our commitment to the idea of a faithful, growing church that exhibits true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice. The EES seeks to be an international witness for the Christian gospel in one of the most influential theological settings in the world. In keeping with the original vision of the European Evangelistic

Society, the goal is to see churches thriving and flourishing throughout the world by equipping capable leaders to serve.

The EES is characterized by a deep and abiding interest in the oneness of the Body of Christ. The original purpose of the organization was to create a channel through which it might cooperate in accomplishing the divine mission transmitted to the Church through the New Testament, and that its fraternity in this cause should be recognized as a fellowship for advancing the Christian mission. That interest has not changed with the years of ministry. The European Evangelistic Society is one of the few ministries among Stone-Campbell churches that has historically sought to work among all three streams of the American expression of this ideal. For over half a century, the dream of a united Church, bound by its commitment to the New Testament as the revelation of God about the person of Jesus Christ, has been the unchanging focus of its mission.

National City Christian Church and Foundation

Spring 2026

Looking back on 2025, National City is pleased to see growth in some key areas of our ministry. Like many churches and foundations, it took time to emerge from the pandemic, assess what our new needs were, reconnect with our longstanding strengths, and make decisions that equip our ministry to be sustainable and faithful to God's call. In that spirit, we'd like to share a few of the moments from 2025 we are celebrating:

Justice Partnerships

National City continued its longstanding commitment to justice by renewing our established partnerships and building new ones.

- In April 2025, we worked with our ecumenical, interfaith, and denominational partners to host a prayer vigil prior to a court case before the Supreme Court.
- In June 2025, our campus alongside DC Pride hosted World Pride. We partnered with AllianceQ of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ's Office of Gender and Sexuality to host a welcoming presence for the parade, National Trans Visibility March Empowerment Service, and several musical performances.
- Several times throughout the year we also joined other faith leaders at rallies organized by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)'s partners the Poor People's Campaign and Repairers of the Breach.

Food Crisis Response

In addition to national partnership on milestone events, we continued to be a steady presence for our neighbors in DC with our food pantry. National City's food pantry is the longest continuously running pantry in the district, having not missed a Wednesday in over 30 years. This ministry helps meet immediate needs of our neighbors.

- Our food pantry serves on average 250 individuals a week and maintains service every week of the year.
- We enhance this ministry in December with the *Great Day of Giving*, where we provide new dignity staples and warm clothes to our neighbors. We are proud to have such an ongoing feeding ministry in our community.

Denominational Collaboration and Communication

As the national church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we have worked in 2025 to continue to cultivate a strong relationship with and across the denomination. In addition to our Justice collaborations outlined above, we strengthened our partnership in 2025.

- In June 2025, we launched *The Meeting House*, a once a month newsletter to foster connection and share our work as the national church with the wider church.
- In July 2025, we attended the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada in Memphis, TN and made connections with lay leaders and pastors across the life of the church, many of whom had warm memories to share about their connection to the Foundation.
- In July 2025, we announced the forthcoming Kathleen Swihart Office of Denominational Collaboration, a space for denominational leaders to use when they are in our nation's capital to work, host small meetings and stay connected.

Music and Arts Programing

Our Music and Arts program continued to celebrate excellence in performing arts.

- Music at Midday, our free Friday organ concert, celebrated another stunning season of special guests and opened our doors to a wide range of public audiences who visit to take in our historic sanctuary and beautiful performing arts.
- We also partnered with Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC as they welcomed LGBTQ+ choirs from around the world for World Pride. The concerts we hosted in our space captured the joy and creativity of God's love.

- In 2025 we continued to strengthen our partnerships with organizations that create high quality performance arts experiences. This initiative strengthens our relationships locally and nationally and provides another source of revenue for our Foundation to sustain its legacy.

Capital and Operational Improvements

National City Christian Church and Foundation spent the 2025 year working to strengthen its physical presence on Thomas Circle.

- We opened our office space to welcome three new tenant organizations.
- We added two new full-time staff with a commitment for at least one more, to support the faithful management of our facility and bring us to a staffing plan that better supports our historic space and its impactful programming.
- We welcomed Executive Minister Rev. Victoria ‘Tori’ Wick to our team after a two-year search.
- We also continued with facility improvements such as an update to the infrastructure and landscaping in our courtyard off of Thomas Circle, LED lighting fixtures to improve building efficiency, and new water filling stations on each floor to encourage environmentally friendly habits with our tenants and visitors. We are excited in 2026 to announce the completion of some other long term projects of 2025.

Often in ministry, it is easy to see all that has yet to be done, but as National City looks back on 2025, we are pleased to see that the national church said yes to God’s invitation to collaborate and strengthen our presence as the national cathedral of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We are excited to share more of what we are working on in 2026 with the wider church, as we share in this expansive vision of our founding Disciples and the church.

Insurance Board

2026 General Board/General Assembly Report

In accordance with the request of the General Board/General Assembly of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), I offer the report below.

It has been our pleasure to serve Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) churches since 1989. Over the past few years, many insurance providers have been canceling and non-renewing large swaths of churches across the country as they repositioned in the face of marketplace challenges. Despite these difficult market conditions, which largely impacted property insurance cost and availability, Insurance Board has been a stable provider of property and liability insurance solutions for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) churches. This is evidenced by the fact that, at the end of 2025, Insurance Board offered property, liability, and risk management services to 575 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) churches and ministries; only **one less** than year-end 2024. 575 represents 13% of the churches and ministries currently participating in Insurance Board's risk management and insurance program and includes churches and ministries across all U.S. states. Individual Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) churches possessed and insured property values ranging from \$2,500 to nearly \$40,000,000.

In 2025, Insurance Board paid out more than \$7M in property claims for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) churches and ministries. This figure represented one quarter of all property claims paid in 2025, and included claims due to hail, flooding, pipe bursts, insects (bees in walls), fires, and tornadoes. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) churches experienced more property claims (24.9%) relative to their percentage participation in Insurance Board's program (13.0%). While Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) claims significantly outpaced their relative participation in 2025, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) participants' church property claims have averaged approximately 17% of Insurance Board's total property claims since 2015.

Insurance Board property and liability insurance products are available to all Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) churches that choose to participate. Given our objective to make churches safer places for ministry, those churches choosing not to purchase their property and/or liability insurance through Insurance Board are still able to access educational and risk mitigation resources through our website at www.insuranceboard.org/safety-central. Most of our on-line resources are available at no cost for our denominational members and their affiliated ministries, and include materials

and toolkits related to abuse prevention, protecting people and property, water sensor monitoring (participating churches in areas prone to freezing conditions or churches with prior water damage losses often qualify for water sensors at no cost to them), liability created by third-party users of church premises, insurance considerations for churches as both small businesses and employers, etc. We believe that Insurance Board provides a valuable covenantal resource for our denominational partners given that we work to accommodate as many qualifying churches and ministries as possible, often writing and retaining churches that our competitors reject. Our board of 21 directors currently consists of three Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) members, with an additional two members tentatively approved to be added in March of 2026. In addition to providing oversight for the insurance program, these board members ensure that a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) perspective is always considered.

In 2025, Insurance Board completed its 40th year in business. 2025 full-year financial results are favorable, but unaudited and not yet available. As soon as these results are audited, we will publish them on our website as we have done previously. Until then, Insurance Board's 2024 Annual Report can be accessed digitally or by downloading from our homepage at www.insuranceboard.org.

Should there be additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. On behalf of the Insurance Board organization, I am thankful and appreciative of our mutual work in edifying Christ's universal Church!

Faithfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy Harris", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Timothy Harris, CPCU
President & CEO
Insurance Board

CHRISTMOUNT CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

Christmount is the national conference center for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina, the mission of Christmount is to provide a place for all to discover community, acceptance, and purpose.

222 Fern Way, Black Mountain, NC 28711-9771

(828) 669-8977, FAX (828) 669-6301

E-mail: guest-services@christmount.org

Web site: www.christmount.org

OFFICERS

Rev. Rob Morris, Executive Director

Jon Blalock, CTRS, Assistant Director

Ginny Ostgaard, Assistant Director of Adapted Programs

Leigh Ann May, Guest Services Director

Rev. Betsy Goehrig, Director of Development

Jeremy Hopkins (Moderator), North Carolina

Rev. Megan Huston (Vice Moderator), Kentucky

Rev. Beth Thomason (Secretary), Alabama/Northwest Florida

Gwen Myers (Treas.), North Carolina

Gordon Hamlin (Asst. Treas.), North Carolina

Report for the year 2025:

Christmount continues to recover and rebuild from the destruction caused by Tropical Storm Helene in the Fall of 2024. We sustained an estimated \$2million in damages, including six roads completely washed out, a dozen roads compromised, multiple landslides, four buildings with water & mud damage, dozens of broken water lines and sewer lines, loss of the playground, and destruction of significant portions of our nine hiking trails.

Thanks to the assistance of over 30 Disciples churches participating in Disaster Recovery Trips in 2025, the support of Week of Compassion, and the support of donors far and wide, Christmount is well on our way to realizing full and complete recovery. We are grateful and humbled by the response and support from the churches and individuals in the denomination.

In addition to our Adapted Programs – Camp Lakey Gap for autistic campers and Sunshine Retreats for adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities – Christmount offers programs and accommodations for youth, families, churches, and adults in a myriad of lodging options. Situated on 600 acres, Christmount has plenty of outdoor recreational

amenities and is conveniently located in close proximity to the Biltmore Estate and other attractions in nearby Asheville and other sites in western North Carolina.

Christmount is currently in Phase Two of a Capital Campaign, with a focus on the construction of a new Residential Lodge and Cabins. The new lodge will replace Davis Hall, a building from a decommissioned hospital used in World War II.

We hope you will consider attending a program, hosting an event, and supporting Christmount as we continue to represent the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as your national camp and conference center.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

College of Regional Ministers

February 2026

The College of Regional Ministers Executive Officers

President: Rev. Dr. Christal L. Williams, drchristal@indianadisciples.org

Vice President: Rev. Tom Stanley, tstanley@kansasdisciples.org

First Vice President: Bishop Valerie J. Melvin, valerie@ncdisciples.org

Second Vice President: Rev. Dr. Thaddaeus J. Allen, thaddaeus1969@gmail.com

Secretary: Rev. Dr. Paul Koch, paul@ccmadisciples.org

The College of Regional Ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States in Canada is made up of 30 regions, and 28 Regional Ministers in the United States and Canada. The College includes the Executives from NAPAD, The National Convocation, Obra Hispana and OGMP.

Accomplishment from 2025

In this report, you will read information from our standing committees stating the College's accomplishment for the past year.

General Commission on Ministry Executive Summary:

Rev. Sandy Messick, Florida Region, GCOM chair.

GCOM met on February 9-10, 2026, online. As a reminder, there are dedicated spaces for 5 Regional Ministers on GCOM. They are suggested by the Exec. Committee of CRM and appointed by the GMP. Ideally, they will represent the 5 Fellowship Groups of CRM. Regional Ministers currently serving are:

- Andy Mangum – ROSES

- Paul Koch – Heartland
- Richie Sanchez – WRIM
- Allen Harris – NIRF
- Don Gillett – SERF

Rev. Messick was appointed to GCOM as an “at large” member and appointed as chair by the GMP. Each fellowship group will review proposed changes to the TPF.COM document in 2026 as proposed in 2025.

In 2025, the commission had been working on and approved in 2026 major revisions to the GCOM Misconduct Policy. The updated policy is available here:

<https://disciples.org/general-commission-on-the-order-of-ministry/> We learned from our UCC partner, Elizabeth Dille, of changes to IRS rules around new and affiliating churches inclusion in the group 501c3 exemption of denominations. From their legal counsel website: ***Churches granted standing on or after January 20, 2026, will not be automatically included in the group exemption and the addition of these churches to the group exemption have been temporarily paused as of January 20, 2026, due to IRS Rev. Proc. 2026-8. Processes and guidance are currently being developed for compliance, and this page will be updated soon. Any group exemption letter issued for a church that obtained UCC standing on or after January 20, 2026, is not valid due***

to IRS regulation updates. Terri reported that our DOC legal counsel was reviewing this change and would be issuing guidance for us as we work with congregations seeking to be included in the group exemption. The UCC General Counsel page is here:

<https://www.ucc.org/office-of-general-counsel-2/>

1. Paul Koch is now chairing the Search and Call Subcommittee. They approved a slight change to language in both the minister and congregational profiles around options for Health Care to align more closely with what is actually possible. They will also be looking at alternatives to the Oxford Background Check recognizing the high cost that is a burden for some clergy. We have a joint contract with the UCC that will come up for renewal in April 2027, so the time for exploring options is now.
2. TPF.COM Review – Andy Mangum continues to lead the team reviewing this document and processes. The next step will be to meet with Regional Ministers in Fellowship Groups to get feedback on the direction the revisions are heading.

With input from CRM:

1. Auto-attaching background checks to Search and Call profiles: Currently these are automatically attached when you download a .pdf of a profile. This decision was made by

the OCV. We briefly discussed this at a previous CRM meeting, and there was no consensus, so more conversation is needed.

2. When a region removes standing for cause, this decision is reported to OCV. The question has been raised about how much background information should also be shared with OCV to keep a backup record of the investigation and conclusion. Should regions not just report that standing has been removed, but also details of the charges and findings?

3. Currently if a decision made by a Regional COM is appealed to GCOM, GCOM only looks at whether the region followed its own processes. Should there be a place for GCOM to review the decision itself? What happens if the region gets it wrong? We will look for opportunities within CRM meetings for these discussions.

College of Regional Ministers Calling, Advisory, & Orientation Committee:

Rev. Dr. Bill Spangler-Dunning, Virginia Region.

Overview of Current Transitions: (4 regions currently in some stage of transition)

3 Regions in prep phases of search process (Oregon/SW Idaho Central Rocky, Nebraska)

1 Region is now interviewing candidates (Greater KC)

Completed and waiting for installations

The Great River Region has called Rev. Allison Robuck as their next Regional Minister.

The Oklahoma Region- Assembly Confirmed Michael Davison as their next Regional Minister to start August 1, 2025. Search Completed September 16, 2025. Installation (March 7, 2026)

The Tennessee Region has confirmed Rev. Kevin McNeil as their next Regional Minister.

Installation May 2, 2026, at Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville,

The Georgia Region called Rev. Dr. Adam Harmon as their next Regional Minister, October 2025. Installation on April 24th, 2026, at Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Georgia.

Illinois/Wisconsin & Michigan (Living Waters Region)- Rev. Dr. William E. Crowder was confirmed by Regional Assembly and officially began December 1, 2025. Installation TBA.

The Christmas Offering:

Rev. Allen Harris, Ohio Region.

The 2025 theme of the Christmas Offering was "The Work of Christmas." Hats off to the CO team and especially to Rev. April McClure Stewart, our graphic designer. We will thank her with a gift card to Chalice Press. There are many graphic options. They are housed at www.disciplesmissionfund.org Creative ideas on how the Christmas Offering is promoted were shared such as creating videos, extending thank you acknowledgement in personal ways to congregations, screen shots of Christmas Eve services, writing of Advent candle liturgies, personalized thank you notes to individuals.

The ARPR Team:**Rev. Dr. Jay Hartley, Arizona Region.**

At each College of Regional Ministers gathering, we make a point of having an anti-racism experience, often a pilgrimage of sorts in the location where we meet to put our bodies in places of historical significance on racial issues.

At our annual meeting in December 2024, we had a guided tour of the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN. The museum offered a powerful history of racism in America and, more importantly, of resistance to racism in America. The tour culminated with a look into the hotel room where Martin Luther King, Jr. spent his last moments before being assassinated on the hotel's balcony. Our tour also helped us prepare to lead an anti-racism experience at the 2025 General Assembly, which included another guided tour for all participants followed by practices using the Disciples definition and analysis of "racism" to process what we saw and heard during our tour.

In April of 2025, following the General Board meeting in Louisville, KY, the College met with Raymond Brown, Jr., whose father was one of the major architects of the Merger Agreement. Following a brief presentation about the Merger Agreement, Rev. Brown challenged the College with a presentation of his vision of a type of reparations within the church: "A Proposal for Wealth Investment in African American Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Congregations." The proposal is based on our shared commitment to social justice and a desire to address the "historic wealth injustices and wealth disparities" that African Americans have faced historically.

At our annual meeting in December 2025, the College made a visit to Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. for a discussion with their church historian, Mr. Lee Bennett. While many of us thought of this as another pilgrimage to the site of a race-based violent tragedy, Mr. Bennett's presentation focused on the history of resilience within their community. Rather than wanting to be seen as victims of a tragedy, Mr. Bennett focused on their identity as survivors and leaders throughout the years. He noted the massacre of several members of the church associated with Denmark Vesey in 1822, focusing on how for over 200 years the congregation has faced, survived, and overcome major adversity.

We are currently planning similar events for our 2026 gatherings, continuing to spend meaningful time together where we go beyond conversations and intellectual discussions about racism to having embodied experiences of the weight of historic and current racism. Our hope is to cultivate not just better understanding, but meaningful shared experience and solidarity as we continue to grow into our mission imperative to be a pro-reconciling, anti-racist church.

A Hope for 2026:

The hope for the College of Regional Ministers is to ensure that all regions are secured with called and settled Regional Pastors who will be able to engage their regions, as well as the whole church in ways that are covenantal and relevant. It is our prayer that the College of Regional Ministers, the Elders of the church, will be prayerfully present to the needs of congregations, members, and those who are a part of the whole church. The message we wish to promote is one of the community, connections, and collaboration in every facet of General and Regional Church Life.

The All-Saints Fund:

Rev. Dr. Thaddaeus B. Allen, West Va, PA, and Northeastern Regions.

Thad Allen is the trustee of the College's All Saints Fund. The All-Saints Fund is to honor the lives and ministry of Regional Ministers Past, Present, Retired, and Interim. At the last meeting we were left with words of wisdom around the core of our regional endurance: TRUST + WISDOM = LEADERSHIP

Wisdom is gained by thoughtful, well intended, and well-informed people asking questions and wrestling for answers together. Wisdom is gained by breaking bread with the Saints. We will be living this out at three upcoming gatherings in 2026. General Board April 2026, FORUM July 2006 and The Winter Meeting December 2026.

Challenges ahead: The challenges facing the College of Regional Ministers center around the upcoming retirements of some long-time clergy. Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, Northern California-Nevada, and Rev, Sandy Messick, Florida. Also, concerns around caring and educating those seeking to become our next regional ministers. We also pray for declining congregations and funding.

A story of strength of hope in our regions is how the College of Regional Ministers show up: Members of the College of Regional Ministers are every place where the life of the church gathers. We have attended Black Ministers Retreats, National Convocations, Obra Hispana, NAPAD, and shared in pastoral prayers at the General Assembly. We try to always take the pulse of the breadth of the entire general ministry landscape. This included inviting General Ministry presidents and partners to speak to the college. Last year this including Disciples Global Missions, Week of Compassion, Christian Church Foundation, Pension Fund, Disciples Home Missions, National Benevolent Association, Center for Faith & Giving. We are true Elders of the Church, and we take that role responsibly.

Submitted by,

Rev. Dr. Christal L. Williams

Regional Minister

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana

President of the College of Regional Minister

February 24, 2026

Reconciliation Ministry

General Board Report

2025

Commission Co-Chairs – Rev. Dr. Eric Brown and Rev. Brian Frederick Gray

Reconciliation isn't just the name of the ministry, it's our mission, the mission of OUR movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. "17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them." 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Reconciliation Ministry is a mission fund and special offering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. 2025 -2026 has been a year of movement, transition, and preparation.

Beyond Brokenness – Building Beloved Community

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5 are nothing short of revolutionary. He invites us to see the world no longer "from a human point of view," but through the lens of God's new creation. In Christ, the old order—built on rivalry, suspicion, and estrangement— has been decisively overturned. This is not a private, inward experience alone; it is the launching of a new social reality in which divisions are healed and relationships restored. God's reconciling work is about transforming the way we live together here and now. To belong to Christ is to belong to this ministry—a vocation in which our every word, every action, is shaped by the message that God has already made peace with the world through Jesus.

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Half of each gift remains in the region from which it is sent. Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide education, programming, and service through grants to General Ministries working across the whole church to move beyond

brokenness and to congregations, camps, and conferences that receive a grant from their region that are actively developing and implementing programs that dismantle racism and build beloved community.

The Reconciliation Commission gratefully acknowledged the 17 year contributions of Rev. April Johnson and offered commendation and blessing at the Reconciliation Breakfast at General Assembly 2025 where the Rev. Dr. William Barber II served as the speaker. In October of 2025, the church was also invited to consider making a gift to the April Johnson named fund in tribute to her faithful service and retirement as Executive Director of Reconciliation Ministry.

As a result of the generous and vital support of the church, leaders and congregations are being equipped to witness to God's reconciling love in this time and this season. Thank you for being an ambassador of reconciliation through your generosity. General Ministries are working across the whole church to move beyond brokenness. Congregations, camps, and conferences that receive a grant from their region are actively developing and implementing programs that dismantle racism and build beloved community.

Beyond Discovery – Love

Annually, Reconciliation Ministry hosts a 21 day period of prayer that begins on the holiday that commemorates the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year, leadership, faith, and prophetic imagination were offered by 21 dynamic leaders around the theme Beyond Discovery: Love in Community. Beginning on January 19, 2026, the Commission boldly invited the church to pray and reflect on the timely and soul stirring sermon that Dr. King preached in 1966 in Dallas, Texas titled: "**Beyond Discovery: Love**. At the time, our church was known as the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

The Reconciliation Commission has been providing leadership and living more fully into their standing rules as a commission of working boards. The Commission has released statements as a commission, shared in the work of fundraising, and represented Reconciliation Ministry at events with ministry partners including the Black Ministers Retreat. Commission members have been and will be present to represent Reconciliation Ministry at Obra Hispana, NAPAD, and National Convocation.

Preparing For The Future

The Commission has committed significant time and committed focus to reviewing the history, mission, Standing rules, and Resolutions GA-1721 "A Renewed Commitment to Reconciliation Ministry" and GA - 0731 "Recommendations Concerning Reconciliation Ministry." Clarifying vision, mission, and values has been a part of its ongoing work throughout the year. In February, the Commission co-convened a Transformative Community Conference with the Executive Committee to listen to stories and to map out a narrative of a shared future

for Reconciliation Ministry. The results of the TCC will inform the future direction of the ministry and the search for a new executive. The Search Committee will follow the Executive Search process. It is anticipated that a new Executive Director will be called by summer of 2026.

The Commission worked diligently to build on previous leadership models and reimagine the work of the Executive Director in partnership with the Commission and looks forward to calling a new leader. The search process has begun. The call has been framed as follows:

The Executive Director provides visionary leadership, prophetic ministry, and strategic collaboration in partnership with the Reconciliation Ministry Commission to eradicate racism and to foster institutional, congregational, and community wholeness. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Building on the long established anti-racist identity of the Christian Church, the Executive Director will center, develop, and partner to support “movement ministry” that includes programs and partnerships that dismantle racism in the church and the world. Movement ministry is not just the work of education and grant administration but the application of prophetic analysis that strengthens and expands the educational program and fund development initiatives of the ministry, cultivates greater accountability, and develops the capacities of justice leaders across the whole church.

Reconciliation Commission Members

- Eric Brown – Co-moderator
- Brian Frederick Grey, DHM, Ex-officio – Co-moderator
- Erin James-Brown
- Tracey Anderson-Tellado
- Bill Rose Heim
- Jasmine Sanchez
- E. Regis Bunch

Ex-Officio Members

- College of Regional Ministers representative – Kevin McNeil
- National Convocation Administrative Secretary – Delesslyn Kennebrew
- Core Organizer Trainers Representative – Yvonne Gilmore
- Executive Pastor for North American and Pacific Asian Disciples – Chung Seong Kim
- National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries – Lori Tapia
- General Minister and President – Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens