Board of Directors: Voting members of the DHM Board of Directors are: Candyce Black, San Antonio, Texas; George Crawford, Gig Harbor, Washington; Donna Davis, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Janet Fountain, Milton, Nova Scotia, Canada; David Geenen, Rock Island, Illinois; George Hanes, Claysville, Pennsylvania; Alan Hilberg, Bakersfield, California; Jim Hockman, Columbia, South Carolina; Young Sook Kim, Palmdale, California; Dale Richmond, Wichita, Kansas; Valerie Melvin, Wilson, North Carolina; G. Lee Parker, Lynchburg, Virginia; Richie Sánchez, Orlando, Florida; Jean Vandergrift, Boston, Massachusetts; KK Wiseman, Nashville, Tennessee; Mary Jacobs, Tempe, Arizona; Trinaka Jamison-Finger, Kenosha, Wisconsin (Local Church Ministries Representative – UCC). Ex-officio Members without vote are the representatives to The United Christian Missionary Society: Paul Few, Lincoln, Nebraska; Rebecca Littlejohn, LaMesa, California; Madelyn Logan, Ashland, Virginia; Jim Rivers, Wadsworth, Ohio; Archie Jenkins, President of Men’s Ministries; as well as Pat Donahoo, Executive Director, Office of Disciples Women; Timothy James, Associate General Minister and President/Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation; Huberto Pimentel, National Hispanic Pastor, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries; Jinsuk Chun, Executive Pastor of North American Pacific Asian Disciples.

The Bible calls the Church in all expressions to lift up our eyes unto the hills and be reminded from whence humanity’s help comes. Our help comes from the Lord who made the heavens and the earth [Psalm 139]. Our help comes from the Lord who created humanity and said, “It is good” [Genesis 1].

Our help also comes, as Archbishop Desmond Tutu has written, through the realization that we have been created “for community, we’re made for togetherness, we’re made for friendship.” Tutu continues: “We’re made to live in a delicate network of interdependence, for we are made for complementarity. I have gifts you don’t have. And, you have gifts I don’t have. Thus we are made different so that we can know our need of one another. And this is a fundamental law of our being.”
We and the world need God. We and the world need one another. And, as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we and the world need a healthy, vibrant, celebratory, peace-making, division-breaking, unity-creating, true community-building, justice-seeking, kindness-generating Church. Expressions of this kind of a Church need to be present in all 3,700 locations of our congregations throughout the United States and Canada.

Let me remind you that our main mission as a General Ministry of this Church is: “equipping Disciples for Christ and connecting people to the life-changing love of God.” We accomplish this mission by: (1) Developing partnerships throughout the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and (2) Serving congregations and strengthening leaders. All of this we do to make a difference in the world by revealing and reflecting the light that is Christ. Undergirding each of our mission imperatives is Disciples Home Missions’ commitment to be a pro reconciling anti racism Church.

Let me provide you with an analysis of the work of Disciples Home Missions since my last reporting. We said goodbye to Jennifer Riggs, Linda Williamson, Seminary Intern Matthew Walters, and Lois Robinson. We said welcome back to our Executive Administrator and Corporate Secretary, Jennie King, after a well-deserved period of sabbatical leave. We said a temporary goodbye for Parental Leave purposes to our Immigration Legal Counsel, Tana Liu-Beers, who gave birth on January 10, 2012, to her first child, Miriam Esperanza Liu-Beers, weighing in at 8 lbs. 3 oz. and 19 inches long, and then welcomed Tana back to active service on March 27, 2012. Since her return, Tana’s role has been redefined by Immigration Regulations finalized in December 2011 which now require Immigration Lawyers to file a notice of representation (called a G-28) for all Religious Worker cases she helps prepare or on which she gives advice.

We said goodbye to our sister and colleague, the Rev. Dr. Billye Pinkston Bridges, who died on February 17, 2012, after a brief period of hospitalization. We celebrated her life and ministry at her home congregation, Light of the World Christian Church, in Indianapolis, Indiana, on February 25, 2012. Her Pastor and Friend, the Rev. Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., presided at the Service with reflections offered by the Rev. Dr. Timothy James, the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins and myself. On that occasion I said, in part: “Billye lived her life with the same dignity and grace by which she died. She told me that she had two loves in her life – her work at Disciples Home Missions and her church – the Light. She loved these two with an unending love. Friday last, [February 17] in the darkness leading up to the turn of a brand new day, our colleague and friend, Billye Bridges, closed her eyes to the sickness of this life and opened them to the unobscured light and life which is God. It has been our privilege to have known her, to have labored alongside her, to have loved her. Now she knows those heights which never can we fully know on earth.”

At the request of Billye’s family, and to honor her life and ministry, the DHM Billy P. Bridges Scholarship Fund was established for the purpose of providing support to individuals to attend the annual Faith and Life Institute which she established to educate the church’s leadership, both clergy and lay.
On March 31, 2012, Disciples Home Missions bid farewell to a retiring Kaye Edwards who had served since May 1996 as Associate Director then Director of Family and Children’s Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). On April 17, 2012, we celebrated Kaye’s Ministry with a Retirement Reception at the Disciples Center, presenting her with a specially commissioned painting by artist Dede Buhler and the establishment of the DHM/Kaye Edwards Fund for Family and Children’s Ministries, a Permanent Fund established through the Christian Church Foundation.

The year 2012 has given rise to the formation of three Search Committees intentionally designed to guide us in our search for a new Refugee and Immigration Ministries [RIM] Director, three members of a Family and Children’s Ministries Team, and a person who can serve as Merger Staff specializing in Christian Education and Faith Formation and also serve as Assistant to the President of Disciples Home Missions. Let me give you an overview of the progress made on all three searches and a glimpse into the changing face of Disciples Home Missions during this period of staff transitions.


On September 15, 2012, this Committee met in Chevy Chase, Maryland, at the Regional Offices for the Christian Church Capital Area, to conduct interviews for the position. The Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley, a Presbyterian Minister from Fresno, California, and Director of a Refugee and Immigration Ministry called FIRM, became the Committee’s choice for the position.

On September 28, 2012, Dr. Stanley accepted the call to become the next Director for Refugee and Immigration Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is slated to begin her work on January 1, 2013. This ministry of DHM has been broadened to be in intentional partnership with the Christian Church Capital Area, the Disciples Center for Public Witness and National City Christian Church, which will house the RIM Ministry Office. On November 1-2, 2012, Dr. Stanley and Immigration Legal Counsel, Tana Liu-Beers, attended the meeting of the Week of Compassion Committee in Indianapolis to begin the process of building their new team.

The Search Committee to identify Family and Children’s Ministry Team Leaders was formed in July 2012 and consisted of myself; David Schoen, Director of Congregational Vitality and Discipleship of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ; Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Minister for Faith Formation Research, Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ; Lonna Owens; and, Jinsuk Chun, Executive Pastor for NAPAD Ministries.

There were 14 applicants for the two part-time positions which were announced from both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ
communities. The Executive Search Model Screener deemed that ten of the applicants either met or exceeded qualifications for the positions.

At its meeting on September 12, 2012, the Search Committee narrowed down the field of candidates from ten to six, requesting additional information from the remaining six candidates. The Search Committee met on October 22, 2012, for the purpose of selecting candidates to interview. Candidate interviews with four persons were held in Indianapolis on Wednesday, November 28, 2012, resulting in determining the two candidates of choice. A third part-time position will be added around the first of the year and be compensated by the United Church of Christ. This is the first attempt between Disciples Home Missions and Local Church Ministries to make joint appointments in a program ministry area. We hope it will serve as a model for future staff searches and increase our Ecumenical Partnership.

A third Search Committee was formed in August 2012, after much dialogue with the National Convocation and attentiveness to the details of the Merger Staff Position documents, for the purpose of filling the Merger Staff - Christian Education position left vacant by the untimely death of the Rev. Dr. Billye Pinkston Bridges on February 17, 2012. Additional duties as Assistant to the President of Disciples Home Missions have been incorporated into this specific job portfolio. The Search Committee consists of myself; the Rev. Dr. Timothy James, Associate General Minister and President and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation; the Rev. Dr. Pat Donahoo, Executive Director of the Office of Disciples Women; Minister Patricia Maples; the Rev. Dr. Bill Lee; and the Rev. Ann Pickett Parker.

Advertisements for this position were distributed widely throughout the Church and the African American Disciples Community on September 15, 2012, with a second distribution on October 31, 2012. The extended deadline closed on November 30, 2012. Executive Search Model Screener, Martha Bulluck, a Human Resource specialist and a Disciple, will screen all nine applicants for the position and forward the profiles and references of those who both meet and exceed the qualifications for the position to Search Committee members by mid-December 2012. It is anticipated that interviews will be held in early January 2013, resulting in the selection of a candidate who would begin service by March 1, 2013.

As you can see, we have three positions filled and one position in the process of being filled, all by March 1, 2013. Did I mention to you about a Disciples Home Missions in transition and about the changing face of DHM? I believe I did! As you are well aware, the past months since we last met have been consumed with the execution of professional staff searches and all the details surrounding such searches. This does not even mention the Ministry Associate positions which have been filled due to turnover and illness.

You might think that things would now settle down as we bring these multiple search processes to their fitting conclusions. Well, wouldn’t you know it? The plot instead thickens. On September 20, 2012, I called a special Staff meeting to announce the
pending retirement of Jennie King, Executive Administrator and Corporate Secretary for Disciples Home Missions, and a DHM employee for 28 years. After these many years of meritorious service, Jennie will retire on December 31, 2012. There are no words I can find to express the value of her contributions to Disciples Home Missions over the years, except to reference the words I sent to all DHM Staff, Board of Directors, and the UCMS Board of Trustees on the later afternoon of September 20: “We are fortunate to have worked with such a consummate professional whose work among us has been the work of ministry. Sad to see the time of her retirement come, we are thankful for the intersection of her life with ours and for all those things which have made us thankful for her presence and role as Executive Administrator and Corporate Secretary of Disciples Home Missions, not to mention all the myriad other hats that she has worn and duties she has performed . . . “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” [Matthew 25:23].

On Tuesday, November 13, 2012, Disciples Center staff, colleagues, family, and friends gathered on the front sidewalk of the Disciples Center at 10:00 a.m. to begin a retirement celebration for Jennie, during which time DHM had arranged for three doves – the sign of peace -- to be released into the sky in her honor. General Minister and President, The Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, offered a retirement prayer. A retirement reception followed in the Lower Level Conference Room at the Disciples Center, where DHM staff served as hosts. At 12 Noon, DHM staff, along with Jennie and her family, enjoyed lunch at an off-site restaurant in honor of her dedicated service to Disciples Home Missions and to the whole of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and wished Jennie well during retirement.

Now, let’s move beyond the thickening plot of transitions and the changing face of Disciples Home Missions to a whole array of developments which chart the path ahead. Our Immigration Legal Counsel, Tana Liu-Beers, is now in her second year of service as the Immigration Legal Counsel for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). At its second meeting on June 28, 2012, the Advisory Committee agreed unanimously that the local pastor’s presence is required on all consultations between Tana and her clients. On November 1, 2012, the Legal Counsel Advisory Committee, composed of myself, Huberto Pimentel, Lonna Owens, Charlie Wallace, April Johnson, John Richardson, and Amy Gopp, met for a third time. Tana has created a document entitled, “Immigration Status and Marriage,” which is now translated into Spanish and is posted on the DHM Website.

The Nurture and Support Committee established for the Director of Disciples Volunteering, the Rev. Joshua Baird, composed of myself, Johnny Wray, Ben Bohren, Chip Artz, and Suzanne Lasalle, met for its maiden voyage on October 9, 2012. Covered on the agenda were: (1) the reasons leading to the establishment of the Committee, (2) the Committee’s Purpose and Mission, (3) a Summary Overview of Disciples Volunteering [a brief history of where we have been], (4) a Vision for this Ministry [where we are going and our development of a new infrastructure], (5)
identification of Reasons for Celebration and Causes for Concern, and (6) dialogue on how this Committee can provide support. The Program and Relationships Committee of the DHM Board, at its November meeting, reviewed a document describing the nature and purpose for this Committee. Advisory Committee members expressed a strong consensus that consideration be given to changing the name of Disciples Volunteering to Disciples Serving and to brand its identity as a servant ministry of the Church designed to Call, Connect, Equip, and Send Disciples into the mission field of the church and world.

Disciples Home Missions secured the services of Attorney Joseph Kidwell of Brown McCarroll in Dallas, Texas, to locate the title to the property of the Mexican Christian Church, 1501 Guadalupe Street in San Antonio, Texas, and to assist Disciples Home Missions in transferring the title to the local congregation. The Disciples Home Missions Board authorized transferring title to the local congregation at its meeting in May 2012.

Disciples Home Missions sponsored a Leadership Week for the General Youth Council [GYC], June 9-14, 2012, in Indianapolis. It was a valuable time of learning for them on how this Church works and a time for our youth and adult youth sponsors to meet with General Ministry leaders. GYC youth also participated in each of the Racial/Ethnic Youth Ministry gatherings this past summer 2012, including the United Church of Christ National Youth Event on the campus of Purdue University and the Miracle on 43rd Street Youth Experience in Los Angeles, CA. The latter event was a partnership between Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, and the Pacific Southwest Region, during which over 125 youth participated in revitalizing a church structure and an entire neighborhood.

On September 26, 2012, after extensive conversations with the leadership of the Florida Region, Ms. Yarlynn Collado was appointed to be the Disciples Home Missions liaison between the General Youth Council [GYC] and the 2013 General Assembly Youth Program Committee. Yarlynn is responsible for organizing and providing oversight for the Winter 2013 meeting of the GYC in Orlando, Florida, facilitating youth presence at the Orlando General Assembly with the General Assembly Youth Program Committee and working with youth ministry leaders on conversations surrounding the future face of youth ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Yarlynn will serve as a DHM contract staff person through July 2013.

On September 28, 2012, Disciples Home Missions entered into an agreement with Chimiste Doriscar to serve as a Christian Theological Seminary Intern on the staff of Disciples Home Missions for the purpose of organizing, strengthening, and extending the relationship between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and the Haitian Disciples Community in the United States and Canada.

Chimiste will field questions and inquiries about Haitian Disciples and facilitate conversations between all expressions of the Church: general, regional, and congregational, as well as with ecumenical and interfaith partners; establish a directory of Haitian Disciples leaders and congregations, complete with mailing address,
telephone contact, and e-mail contact information; and, explore possible new Haitian Disciples connections. He will convene quarterly conference or video calls with Haitian Disciples leaders to keep them apprised of his work and to solicit their input for additional ways to strengthen our mutual relationship and identify concerns and needs. Disciples Home Missions is delighted to be able to provide initial organizational and administrative support to the growing Haitian Disciples Community.

In July 2012, Disciples Home Missions honored the Kentucky Region, the members of the Mount Sterling congregation, and our DHM Executive for Kentucky Appalachian Ministries, The Rev. Dr. Lon Oliver for outstanding contributions to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). During his sabbatical leave this past year, Lon made the intentional decision to serve a local pastorate and get back in touch with pastoral ministry on a first hand basis. DHM extended its gratitude to Kentucky Regional Minister, Greg Alexander, and Mount Sterling Board Chair, Miller Hoffman, for arranging this occasion to honor Lon Oliver.

The Chair of the DHM Program and Relationships Committee, Valerie Melvin, and members of that committee, conducted interviews with each of our historic Mission Center Directors as well as leaders of other DHM affiliated mission enterprises. Interviews were conducted with Lon Oliver of Kentucky Appalachian Ministries, Linda Hill of the Kansas Christian Home, Feliberto Pereira of Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, Saundra Bryant of All Peoples Christian Center, David Bell of Yakama Christian Mission, Janie Harrison of the Inman Christian Center, and Deb Conrad of Urban Spirit.

As a result of these interviews, the Program and Relationships Committee observed the need to: (1) Identify the areas in which DHM and these various missions can work more closely together, (2) Call the whole of our Church to celebrate the work of our Mission Centers and enterprises, and (3) Lift up our Mission Centers and mission enterprises in prayer. In October 2012, All Peoples Community Center celebrated its 70th Anniversary as a Mission Center of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In November 2012, the Inman Christian Center celebrated its 100th Anniversary. It is fair to say that mission has been at the heart and center of our Church’s life from the beginning. To be a missional church is nothing new to those of us who call ourselves Disciples!

In the midst of all this activity, we refreshed our Disciples Home Missions Web site this past Spring and implemented a process whereby we could take our website to the next level: one of complete ownership and maintenance by DHM staff. Finishing touches were being added to the website as it went ‘live’ November 29, 2012! Now, DHM will have the advantage of owning its own website as well as providing the internal management to maintain and improve it.

Disciples Home Missions was represented by President Ron Degges at Memorial Services of Disciples leaders T.J. Liggett at Pilgrim Place in Claremont, CA and Bill Howland at National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C., both in May 2012, and that of former DHM Interim President Don Shelton in Bakersfield, CA in October 2012,
and of DHM Interim President Raymond Brown in Indianapolis, Indiana in November 2012; at the dedication of the Newell Williams Conference Room at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in Nashville, TN in May 2012; with our Disciples Peace Fellowship Interns in June 2012; with our Minister of Green Chalice, the Rev. Carol Devine, in June and July 2012; in making DHM Scholarship Awards leading to the disbursement of $72,000 in scholarship aid to 36 recipients in June 2012; at the Disciples Men’s Event held in Bethany, West Virginia and the spirited Extreme Faith/Bold Action emphasis in July 2012; at the Hispanic Assembly, Association of Disciples Musicians gathering, the Faith and Leadership Institute, and the National Convocation meetings in July 2012; at the NAPAD Assembly where President Degges was elected to be the General Ministry representative to the NAPAD Board of Directors in August 2012; at the meeting of the Disciples Men of the Nebraska Region in August 2012; at the Pastor’s Conference in St. Louis in October 2012, and at the Beecher Lectures at Yale Divinity School in October. President Degges also celebrated with the Church at large the Installation of Gregory Sterling as Dean of Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut. Gregory comes to Yale as a scholar from the Stone-Campbell movement.

In his report to the DHM Board of Directors, November 7, 2012, President Degges thanked the Disciples Home Missions Board of Directors, Staff, and General Ministry partners for their support, encouragement, and prayers which have undergirded the work of Disciples Home Missions. Over these four years of his tenure as President of Disciples Home Missions, he stated, “I believe that I have learned the value of seeing the Church and world and the value of appreciating the differences which are part of our everyday life and experiences. I believe we have come to know ourselves better than before as a result of the books we have read, the pro reconciling anti racism training we have received, and the conversations as well as actions that have been taken. Our discussions with each other about our beliefs, hopes, and aspirations for Disciples Home Missions and for this Church we love have been endless.”

“Moreover,” he continued, “each of us has learned that no matter how gifted and talented we are – it is not all about any of us individually. It is about all of us together! Making our Church and world communities productive and edifying for all means listening to one another without pre-judgment, equipping one another to lead and serve, and moving from where we are to the place where God wants us to be. This is what your Disciples Home Missions is all about.”

He concluded his remarks with a brief visit to the literary tradition of the past, grounded in the children’s literature of Germany in the early years of the 19th century. It was there in 1812 that Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm wrote about characters like Rapunzel, Hansel & Gretel, and Cinderella in their 1812 collected works known as Grimms’ Fairy Tales. He shared that over the years, he found myself reading collected works such as these at the end of a long day of travel and productive work, listening for a word from those who had traveled this way before – life’s way.

The following Grimms’ tale, “The Ungrateful Son”,* goes like this:
“A man and his wife were sitting by the door of their house, and they had a roasted chicken set before them, and were about to eat it together. Then the man saw that his aged father was coming, and hastily took the chicken and hid it, for he would not permit him to have any of it. The old man came, took a drink, and went away. Now the son wanted to put the roasted chicken on the table again, but when he took it up it had become a great toad, which jumped into his face and sat there and never went away again, and if anyone wanted to take it off, it looked venomously at him as if it would jump in his face, so that no one would venture to touch it. And the ungrateful son was forced to feed the toad every day, or else it fed itself on his face; and thus he went about the world knowing no rest.”

A roasted chicken turning into a venomous toad, feeding on your face, never knowing rest – now you know why these fairy tales are called grimm. But, no matter how you look at it, the moral remains true: “if you hide your gifts, they will eat away at you for the rest of your life.” We must work to share with the larger church and world the gifts which God has given us to equip congregations for vital, life-giving ministry and mission. In doing so, we are placing our roasted chicken on a Table open to all and praying that none go away hungry or thirsty, but that all come to experience eternal life which is Christ.


The General Board has reviewed Report No. 1310 from Disciples Home Missions. The report is submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and discussion. No action is required. (Discussion time 12 minutes)

*Financial information included in this report can be found in the reports posted on the General Assembly website at www.disciples.org/ga.
ADIIIM Report for
General Board and General Assembly

The Association of Disciples Intentional Interim Ministers is a new affiliate member of Disciples Home Missions, created to support clergy who are intentional interim ministers. Our purpose is to provide information, resources, support and connections by working with regional staff and general units of the church as they service congregations during the time between installed pastors.

We seek to provide networking and cross fertilization of ideas and resources through a website (www.adiim.org) and a social gathering place called The Oasis (www.disciplesinterims.ning.com). We publish an online newsletter (The Faster Pastor Express) and webinars for interested participants throughout the year. We plan to provide training events for Disciples interim ministers using faculty and resources of the Interim Ministry Network.

We received a grant from the Christian College in Georgia allowing us to provide 23 free Webinars on subjects related to the practice of Intentional Interim Ministry in 2010. In 2011, we offered 28 webinars covering 19 different subjects and were presented by 7 different trained and experienced Interim Pastors.

We will have a presence at the General Assembly within the Disciples Home Missions display area and expect to offer informative workshops. We are also planning an after-session at the General Assembly in 2013. We have an annual gathering of Disciples at the Interim Ministry Network annual conference.

We currently have 39 members and a goal of reaching 100 members by the end of 2015 General Assembly.

Membership fees are $50.00 per year. Our income for the 2009-2010 period was $2,170.00. Our expenses for the same period were $1,165.28. Through the third quarter of 2012, our income was $1,048.00 and expenses $500.00. Our major expenses come in General Assembly years.
ADIIM has a steering committee, which functions as a guiding board. Several members have served on our Steering Committee whose terms have ended, including: James Cotton, Burley Herrin, Herbert Knudsen, Johnny Loughridge, Sharon Kiesel, Jerry Kirkpatrick, and Mike Weinman. We thank them for their service. The current steering committee is composed of the following:
Leigh Earley, Wichita, Kansas; Terry Foland, Astoria, Illinois; Katheryn Graham, Mission, Kansas; Margaret J. Hickman, Paris Kentucky; Paul Pryor, Helena, Montana; Norman Stolpe, Dallas, Texas; Rick Truitt, Texas.

All Peoples Community Center
Los Angeles, California

Founded in 1942 by the Christian Church Disciples of Christ – United Christian Missionary Society, All Peoples Community Center is now a mission center of Disciples Home Missions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Prior to the Civil Rights Movement, All Peoples was a revolutionary concept which sought to be a place in the inner-city where all people could unite under one roof to share a vision for a stronger, more self-reliant community and to help turn the dreams of struggling local youth and adults into reality. Rev. Dan B. Genung, All Peoples founder, had the extraordinary vision to create an integrated, safe refuge for the community. He and his wife, Francis, challenged societally-accepted barriers that segregated people of different races, ethnicities and religions by welcoming all people to join the Church and Community Center. The values and principals continue today, 70 years later.

Our neighborhood is composed of a large youthful community; nearly half of the residents (52%) are under the age of 25. The vast majority of the population (85.3%) identifies as Latino or Hispanic. The next largest identifying group is African-American, which accounts for 13% of the population. The majority of the population (approximately 80%) speaks Spanish in the home. The median household income is $23,851. More than one-third of families (37.1%) are living below the Federal poverty level. In our community, 60% of the residents have not graduated from high school. More than 50% of adolescents drop out of school after entering the 9th grade. More than 50% of students entering the ninth grade read at 3rd or 4th grade level.

The services provided: day care, pre-school, comprehensive after school program, summer residential camp (held at Loch Leven Camp and Conference Center), continuation high school, sports and recreation, parenting, anger management, parent support groups, domestic violence support group, counseling, early childhood literacy workshops, Supplemental Food Distribution, legal clinics, health education classes, employment referrals, computer literacy, health screenings, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. The Center also hosts mission groups from Disciples and UCC churches interested in building relationships with persons living in the inner city and conducting work projects.
In 2011, the Center provided services to over 9,348 individuals. Seventy percent of the population served took advantage of at least three different services throughout the year.

The support received from Disciples Home Missions is primarily through Disciples Men’s Cookin’ for Mission and the “Remember there are no Undeserving Children in the World” fund. These funds are designated for our “Tomorrow’s Leaders” program. All Peoples was also a beneficiary of the Miracle on 43rd Street Youth event, held this summer. Young people from across the country and Korea volunteered their services in working with our youth by cleaning and organizing storage and distributing food to low income families.

All Peoples’ “Tomorrow’s Leaders” program has served over 157 youth ages 1st – 12th grades in 2012. The program operates at our main site and in three housing developments off campus. Our students attend public, private and charter schools in the surrounding community. The program operates Monday through Friday 2:30 – 6:30 and includes healthy snacks, academic, social development and recreational activities. A component of the program is parent participation. Parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer at least 10 hours a quarter. Their involvement includes assisting in community events, participation in education workshops or field trips. Workshop topics include but are not limited to: Education Advocacy, Supplemental Education Services (SES), Choices (magnet programs available), A-G requirements, Immigration information.

Each year we collect student’s report cards and test students through STAR Reading and Star Math. 2012 test scores are indicated below; 67% of our students showed an increase in Math levels and 15% maintained the same math level. 64% of our students showed an increase in reading levels and 19% reading levels remained the same. Staff has instituted 30 minutes reading period on a daily basis for students enrolled in our program. The majority of our youth participants are Limited English Speakers and staff is working very hard with students to increase reading and comprehension skills.

Volunteers are important to our work with youth. USC students from the Joint Educational Partnership (JEP) provide one-on-one support for students who need additional help. We also recruit volunteers through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. The Coalition for Responsible Community Development - Ameri-Corps City Scholars program places six young people as after school mentors for 4 months. In 2011-12, volunteers provided more than 450 hours of service to our youth.

All Peoples held a summer day camp, entitled Urban Adventures. There were three major components: (1) gardening, nutrition and cooking class, (2) sports/fitness clinic and structured camps and (3) NASA/science experiments. The elimination of summer school for the past two years has resulted in a change in our summer program. It is critical for our students to continue to acquire knowledge and skills so that they do not forget over the summer break. Research indicates that youth who are not engaged
during the summer break may lose up to six months of academic learning. Sixty-five students (6-12 years old) participated in summer day camp program.

Our youth continue to give back to the community with service learning activities. During the summer, 17 teen youth volunteered as Counselors in Training (CIT), clerical aides, receptionists, and food program assistants. No summer jobs were available, yet these young people demonstrated their commitment to the community by giving back through service. The individual hours ranged from 60 – 317. The students contributed 2,490 hours of service. At the end of the year, a special luncheon was held for the students; and, in keeping with the Olympic theme, they were awarded medals with their certificates.

APCC also operates a one-week residential camp called Camp Joe Ide. Fifty-four youth attended the Joe Ide Camp this year. For many of our young people, this was their first experience outside of the city limits. Christian Church of Northern California and Nevada Region provided Health Kits (toiletries, sunscreen, soap, face cloth, toothpaste etc.) for each camper. They have established an ongoing partnership of prayer and support, beginning in 2010.

All Peoples celebrated our 70th Anniversary on October 11, at the Belasco Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard of the 34th District attended the event and shared words of inspiration. We also honored local community leader Mark Anthony Wilson of Coalition for Responsible Community Development and corporate sponsor Transamerica.

All Peoples continues to make great strides in serving everyone in a neighborhood that stands out statistically for being one of the poorest and most educationally disadvantaged in Los Angeles. One of the cities’ oldest and most trusted place-based community organizations, All People’s Community Center helps the diverse, economically-challenged residents of South Los Angeles measurably improve and transform their own lives by providing a comprehensive range of vital services, grassroots leadership, problem solving and authentic, hands-on care.
Campers with purple Health Kits provided by Northern California Region.
Mission Group from University Christian, Ft. Worth, Texas, painting All Peoples Continuation High School classroom.
Tony Tolbert, PCC Board Member; Congresswoman Roybal-Allard of 34th District; Saundra Bryant, Executive Director; Don Dewey, Co-Regional Minister.
Mission Statement: To provide opportunities in the heart of the mountains for Christian hospitality, rest for the soul, and renewal for the journey.

Christmount is the retreat, conference, and camp center for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Christmount is a place for educational events, church retreats, camps, family reunions, and other events for promoting growth in churches and individuals. In the ecumenical spirit of the Disciples of Christ, Christmount is used by churches of many Christian traditions as well as by non-profit groups, families, and individuals.

In March, the Board of Directors approved a Strategic Plan for 2012 – 2016 which will guide staff and Board in seven areas: programs, facilities, resources and finances, technology, church relations, governance and leadership, and staffing. Our new mission statement was also approved at this meeting.

In its third year, Camp Lakey Gap for people with autism grew in numbers once again. Ninety-five campers from ten states attended six weeks of camp. Heather Holt joined Christmount’s staff in June as the new director of Camp Lakey Gap.

Christmount sponsored 10 adult retreats, including two stewardship conferences, one for clergy and one for laity, as well as Appalachian Advent, an Advent fun event. Traditional camps included Christmount-sponsored camps and NC regional camps. Two camps for adults who are developmentally challenged were well-attended, with a CYF group coming to each Camp Sunshine to help staff.

Many clergy used the sabbatical apartment in 2012. Diverse groups such as Korean Methodist youth and adults, a Hmong church, Hispanic churches, Episcopal Cursillo, and African-American churches all used Christmount’s facilities for various retreats. Georgia men, SERF Disciples Women, DHM Board, and NC regional women’s and men’s retreats were here, too. Christmount is also the first Green Chalice facility of its kind and continues to work to be environmentally responsible and good stewards of the natural resources.

Christmount’s history includes being located on the former estate of architect and builder Raphael Guastavino. His works are found in Grand Central Station, Carnegie Hall, Ellis Island, and the Biltmore Estate. We are well along in work which will continue to restore parts of Guastavino’s historic estate, “Rhododendron,” and have raised funds to set up signage and a walking tour of some of the older sites on the grounds.
2012 is the 50th anniversary year for KCH. The first resident arrived in February 1962. There were only two wings open at that time; we now have five. In 50 years we have grown to serve an average of 87 in the nursing center each day and over 100 on the independent campus. We faced challenges in funding, in new regulations and in the NBA bankruptcy. But with strong community ties to the Disciples churches and faithful listening to God’s call, we are still here and getting ready for the next 50 years.

If you haven’t been to KCH lately, you have missed our new building! It has become a quiet, family-like addition to our nursing center. They even have special events like making peppernuts and gingerbread houses. It has remained full since opening in June of 2011. The warm colors, separate dining room and huge TV make it first choice!

The remodeling of older rooms into private rooms helps the nursing center stay full but most people say it is the level of care they receive. From the first day, elders are called by their name, staff is aware of their eating preferences and sleeping patterns. Everything is done to make them feel welcome and right at home!

A new annual event for fundraising and the enjoyment of residents is the Silver & Chrome Run. The motorcyclists spend the morning riding around south central Kansas then return to KCH for lunch and an auction. The residents participate in a parade, sit on a motorcycle and get their picture taken and even get tattooed (temporarily) if they want. If you ride, have a group that rides together or know a neighbor that rides, keep us in mind for the first weekend in June. You will be riding for residents!

We invite mission groups and visitors to see our “home”. If you are looking for such an opportunity, contact information is on our new website—www.kschristianhome.org. If you want to see the new Garden Path or the Tilsley Manor homes for DOC ministers, missionaries and church workers, we will make you feel right at home.
UrbanSpirit does what no one else does. Changing the World By Changing the Way We See the World.

Ask most Mission Centers what they do, and they’ll talk about being alive in the communities they serve. They provide direct service to people in dire need, and when groups come to these places, they join in the work – repairing homes, organizing children’s programs, stocking food pantries, or cleaning vacant lots. The work matters, and folks may learn things along the way about what life is like in that community.

At UrbanSpirit, we reframe the question. Instead of inviting folks to ask “how can we help?” we compel them ask “how can we let people live this way?” We put awareness at the top of the agenda, and engage groups in a serious and challenging examination of the root causes of poverty and deprivation. At UrbanSpirit, we say, the Project is You.™

Groups that come to UrbanSpirit experience life in a neglected community, but they do so within the context of a simulation of life at minimum wage. They work, not to feel good or even to live out a servant-faith, but to earn a living, to hold their families together, to survive in an indifferent system. They do this to understand. They do this to be changed. They do this to learn how to change the world.

Since we began in 2001, we’ve welcomed hundreds of participants. Nearly half of the groups who come to us are from DOC congregations or ministries. Clearly Disciples care about mission, and we are pleased to continue to nurture this relationship.

UrbanSpirit regularly meets challenges with creative solutions. It’s in our DNA. Community-based ministries across the country are challenged when the economy rises and falls; our fortunes so often reflect the circumstances of the communities we serve. The decade of the “oughts” was devastating for our country, and it was the decade in which UrbanSpirit was begun. We were “born into” economic hardship, as it were. We have, from the beginning, pursued an uphill climb of creating a strong organization, garnering a following for our unconventional ministry, and working to amplify the voices of so many who are so often ignored. The climb continues, as we compete for resources, try to inspire donors, and entice groups from across the country to come and try this poverty event.

In late-2010, we determined that owning a facility was not in the best interest of the ministry at that time. So, last year, we listed and sold our 1930s church building, emotionally difficult because of the tremendous memories we’d gathered along the way, including welcoming the Disciple Women’s Quadrennial in 2002. We were able to cut in half our operating costs, and focus on leadership and program development. We haven’t said we’ll never own a building again; we just want the time – and the facility –
to be right. We want to be driven by our righteous mission, not by our nostalgia over a
place.

**UrbanSpirit continues to dream big. In fact, we’re dreaming again.**

We have on the drawing board a plan for a “social justice collective” which we imagine
to become a gathering spot for organizations and individuals committed to challenging
and changing the social policies that make poverty inevitable and human dignity so
tenuous. We imagine such a place to be designed for teaching, designed to host our
simulation, designed for community events, designed to host and house young adult
interns, designed to respond to community challenges. We imagine collaborating with
organizations that work to eliminate “urban food deserts;” speak out for fair wages; lift
up economic human rights; or help us connect the dots between wars on poverty, wars
on drugs and systemic racism. We are alternately calling it SoJust Center and Jubilee
Place, wondering which one may stick – or whether it may tell us its own name in due
time. It’ll take partners to make it happen – partners who are not living in the trenches,
but who are positioned to help us garner the resources to plan and build the thing,
partners who can see the need, who will help us tell the story and set God’s people on
fire.

**But we aren’t just staring out a window and daydreaming; we have a ministry to
run. We’re embracing transition.**

We are becoming intentional about growing beyond a “founder-led” organization,
although we are not sure what that will eventually look like.

We have, at 11 years and counting, completed a comprehensive review of our
programming, and are imagining what more we may be capable of.

We are expanding our Board of Trustees, and growing into a board that attends to the
big things: staff and donor development, 10-year planning, strategic partnerships. We
have elected our first president who lives outside of Louisville, the Rev. Dr. Donna
McNiel, an Episcopal priest and executive director of the New Mexico Conference of
Churches; she is a graduate of our program, and has, from her first experience here in
2005, imagined UrbanSpirit expanding its justice education across the country. As I’m
writing this, we are preparing for our 2012 board retreat; among our new trustees, we’ll
welcome the Rev. Ann Shepherd, Disciple pastor and associate regional minister in
Virginia.

We are attuned to strengthening our strategic partnerships, and will look forward to
telling our story in new ways at the 2013 General Assembly (as well as the General
Synod of the UCC).

**And we need you. Collectively.**

We are thankful for our partnership with DHM, and would like to entertain the question
of how we can deepen our relationship. In Wichita last winter and via conference call
this fall, we have imagined together how DHM may support UrbanSpirit – and how
UrbanSpirit may be a resource for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We invite you to imagine as well.

*Individually.* You may find that our work is of special interest to you, that it stirs your spirit in some important way. Please consider what you may contribute – financial gifts and gifts of skill are all valuable to us. We invite you to imagine.

*Faithfully.* There is church because the job is too big for any one of us. We are at our best when we set our faces to the vision of New Jerusalem. No hunger, no tears, no deprivation. Jesus and the prophets have laid it out quite clearly for us. It is what we are to do; it is why we exist as the Body of Christ. This is church.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Dr. Deborah D. Conrad*
Yakama Christian Mission

Yakama Christian Mission, “Enhancing the wellbeing of children and youth through advocacy and education,” has had a full and hope filled 2012, in large part to the generous donations of our family of individuals, church partners, and grantors. 2012 was our second year to provide year-round extended learning to children and youth. Our My Future program stood beside youth providing guidance, support, and space to simply talk about hurts, hope, and dreams in age appropriate ways. During the school year, My Future served middle and high school youth.

Art is the core component to My Future practice. Art creates a comfortable space for youth to be themselves, express themselves, and most of all, become comfortable asking for help. Help has meant sitting alongside and UrbanSpirit listening to a young man’s angst of feeling lost because no one felt it important enough to reprimand him when he had done something wrong (while the other young men in the group he was with were reprimanded). Help meant reading, commenting, and helping with sentience structure on a young woman’s Senior Project. Help meant struggling with a middle-school student as he tried to break through his frustration with basic math and pull his grade above an “F.” Help also meant sitting and painting alongside a young woman who showed up each day, having just smoked a joint, and having conversations that helped reduce the amount of cutting on her left arm (Cutting, in this case, is a practice of slicing oneself with a razor blade.).

During the summer, My Future switched gears and served children from pre-school through sixth grade. Each day children received snacks and a nutritious meal (This is in a community where many youth receive one meal per day). As in years past, literacy is a focal point for My Future during the summer. Our goal was to have every child maintain the reading and comprehension level they entered the summer with or raise it. My Future also used the playground as a place to intentionally enhance community and social skills—helping children to broaden their worldview of friendship and who may become a friend.

More so, Yakama Christian Mission welcomed and worked with Learning and Serving groups (mission/work groups) during the summer of 2012. Thanks to volunteer group support, we were able to sustain the My Future program—Volunteers helped with feeding, playground supervision, and moving and building our children’s library. Additionally, these groups worked on the homes of many of My Future children: painting, roof repair, yard clean up. Additionally volunteers dug footings, formed a foundation, framed walls, installed a roof and windows, and place siding in the course of rebuilding a home that burned in the White Swan 2011 fire.

Last summer, My Future served 90 children, providing 9,360 hours of childcare, which at $4/hr provided an equivalent value to our community of $37,440. Additionally, children spent 1606 hours reading 320 books and 402 hours writing and journaling, which led to 50% of the children maintaining their grade reading level and 50% increasing their grade reading level by one-year over the course of the summer! More so, we served thousands of snacks and 2,847 nutritious meals to our community’s children. During the school year, over 60 middle and High school students participated
in My Future. Students sang in three different concerts and presented artwork in three different venues!

Over the course of the year, Yakama Christian Mission worked with 82 volunteers from 7 groups, representing 4 states, who worked 3,219 hours. Thanks to their work, volunteers have donated an equivalent of $70,142.01 to our community! All of this on a $150,000.00 budget!

The sustainability of Yakama Christian Mission (YCM) is tenuous though. Located in the rural center of the Yakama Nation, YCM has never recovered from the financial hit of 2007 when the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (DOC) ended eighty-six years of financial support; and YCM’s ninety-first year may be its last. 2012 became a sustainable year for YCM for two reasons. First, staff and board closed up the Mission facilities on the corner of Mission Road and Signal Peak Road. The My Future program was moved to the White Swan middle and high school during the school year (The Mt. Adams School District feels My Future is critical to the wellbeing and education of the communities children. As such, the District Board approved My Future’s use of the High School art room, wood shop, and metal shop. Additionally, the School District awarded Belinda Bell an accommodation for providing extended-learning opportunities to the school district’s youth.) and to the Methodist Church during the summer. As a result, YCM provided the only after-school programming for White Swan community youth during the 2012 summer and 2012 fall school year. Second, YCM received two private foundation grants in the fall of 2012 whose support has allowed the My Future to continue through summer 2013.

In the fall of 2012 Yakama Christian Mission began conversations with the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) concerning potential collaboration or union or federation. Reasoning for this particular collaboration arises from the reality that like the DOC, the UMC arrived on the reservation with a theology supporting the Christianizing and civilizing of the Yakama people. Like the DOC, the UMC provided helpful-healthful services while also promoting the colonization and cultural destruction of the Yakama. Though the Yakama Christian Mission is no longer a ministry of the DOC, UMC representatives are interested in discussion that may lead to a relationship with YCM where repentance and generational reconciliation may become a reality.

I would also note it is unlikely YCM would still have any viability if it were not for Don Shelton’s guidance over the last three years. Thanks to his guidance YCM has asked questions, found some answers, and put into place practices that have helped move the Mission toward potential sustainability. Don’s passing this year is a great loss to the Mission, staff, and board. Thankfully, Larry Crist has agreed to help us move through this tumultuous moment in the life of the Mission.

The staff and board of the Yakama Christian Mission are looking forward to 2013 with a bit of trepidation, a lot of hope, a desire to become a reconciling presence, and a craving to serve a community in need of healing.
Peace,
David B. Bell
Director
Yakama Christian Mission