DIVISION OF OVERSEAS MINISTRIES
DOM/GLOBAL MINISTRIES

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The Division of Overseas Ministries and Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ continue to share a common witness in mission through Global Ministries. DOM/Global Ministries participates in ministries of Critical Presence with over 270 partners located in 70 countries and through the presence of 106 missionaries. DOM/Global Ministries also helps facilitate the engagement of congregations in participating in God mission, thus living out the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which is “To be and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps ‘to the ends of the earth’.” (Acts 1:8)

General Principles and Policies
The “General Principles and Policies” of the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) originally developed in 1977 and approved in 1981, has been revised and updated to respond to the present and future of DOM’s continued faithful response to God’s mission in the world. The revised statement has been received and affirmed by the 2012 DOM Board of Directors. It describes where DOM is in its understanding of mission and ministry, how DOM has developed and evolved to meet the ever changing needs of the world, and the board’s hope for its future work. The updated document acknowledges that since 1996, the Division of Overseas Ministries is part of Global Ministries, a common witness in mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. This document strives to articulate both the unique contribution of the Division of Overseas Ministries as well as the common ministry of DOM and Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ, manifested in Global Ministries. (Copies of this document are available upon request.)

New three year strategic plan
A new three-year strategic plan was approved by the DOM/Global Ministries Board of Directors in 2012. This plan includes a vision, mission statement, core values and strategic directions. The vision is "That all of God’s people and creation share in God's abundant life". The mission statement is "To receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation and peace". The core values are presence, mutuality, community, justice and peace. The four strategic directions are as follows: nurturing community, which is to accompany overseas partners, United Church of Christ/DOC regions, conferences and congregations in witnessing to God’s abundant grace through the proclamation of the Gospel, and exchanges of people, gifts, and talents; working for peace with justice, which is to affirm God’s just and peaceable realm, by living as God’s global
mission church, facilitating the mobilization of God’s people as advocates for current issues; sharing the story by acknowledging that mission comes alive through personal stories and to work with local and global partners to grow in global understanding by engaging more deeply in mission relationships and sharing those experiences; and to recognize God’s abundance and growing opportunities for collaboration and generosity by strengthening existing and exploring new funding mechanisms and sources for God’s mission.

**Leadership Development**

DOM/Global Ministries provides opportunities for young adults to participate in God’s mission in the world. The Global Mission Intern Program is a leadership development program. It provides opportunities for young adults between the ages of 18-30 to serve with international partner organizations for a term ranging from 1 to 3 years. Global mission interns work in community development and human rights programs. This program is largely funded by Week of Compassion. Presently, there are 9 global mission interns serving in 9 different countries.

The Division of Overseas Ministries sponsors a summer internship program for Disciples seminarians, which allows the students to work directly with area and program offices in order to gain experience and knowledge related to the global church. Michael Robert Dodds and Tamika Nicole Montgomery served as interns during the summer of 2012. Michael is a 2nd year student at Christian Theological Seminary and is a member of Central Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. Tamika is a 3rd year student at Christian Theological Seminary and is a member of Union Christian Church in Franklin, Indiana.

**Retirements and Resignations**

Karen Kline, Administrative Assistant in the Finance Department of the Division of Overseas Ministries retired after 25 years of service.

Maria Cruzado, Program Coordinator for the People to People Pilgrimage Program retired December 31, 2012. She began her service as a missionary working with the Disciples of Christ in Paraguay, and after serving for four years, was appointed to work with the National Council of Spiritual Churches in Haiti. She concluded her missionary service as seconded staff to Church World Service, where she served as a pastoral and technical representative for projects in the Caribbean and Mesoamerica. She served as Coordinator for the People to People Pilgrimage Program for 9 years and served a total of 27 years with DOM/Global Ministries.

Sarah Riester submitted her resignation on August 23, 2012. She served as Program Associate in the Resource Development Office.

Robert Shebeck submitted his resignation and completed his ministry as Executive for Mission Interpretation and Constituency Relations on July 31, 2012. He and his wife, Patrice is serving as Overseas Associates of Global Ministries in their new positions in pastoral ministry with the Reformed Church of France, which they began on August 1, 2012.

**Staff hired in 2012**

Jonathan Barnes, a former missionary to Mozambique and South Africa, was appointed to serve as the Executive for Mission Interpretation and Constituency Relations and began his ministry in this position on August 1, 2012.

Mr. Mitch Saalfrank was selected to serve as the associate in the Finance Office and began his ministry July 30, 2012.
Catherine Nichols, Mission Personnel Executive, was appointed to serve as the Vice President of the Division of Overseas Ministries as of April, 2012.

The remainder of the report will highlight ways in which overseas partner churches and church agencies are responding to the challenging ministries within their contexts and ways in which Global Ministries not only accompanies, but is accompanied by these overseas partners, as well as ways in which Disciples and UCC members participate in “hands on” opportunities in God’s mission.

AFRICA OFFICE
Sandra R. Gourdet, Area Executive

Our brothers and sisters across the continent of Africa faced many challenges during the year, but many difficulties were seen as opportunities for growth and a renewed commitment to their witness and their faith in the midst of troubling times. Across the board, there was visible evidence of increased leadership development, the establishment of new congregations, the transformation of congregations to serve the needs of the community and renewed efforts to stand for justice and peace. As churches in America, we were privileged to be invited on the journey to reaffirm our own commitment to the wholeness of the one church.

One example of the establishment of new churches and transforming congregations is with our partner church in Angola – the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola (IECA). For many years the growth of the church was subdued by the civil war that raged in the country beginning in 1975 and continued, with some interludes, until 2002. Not only was it a struggle for power between two former liberation movements, but it also served as a surrogate battleground for the Cold War, with heavy intervention by the Soviet Union and the United States. The war devastated Angola’s infrastructure, and dealt severe damage to the nation’s public administration, economic enterprises, and religious institutions. During this period of strife as the rural exodus increased, our partner church, IECA, went from being a 100% rural church to a 100% urban church. Consequently, the church has focused on reconstruction and transformation of the church, particularly in rural communities where church life suffered the most. In both urban and rural settings, IECA has been involved in building new churches and renovating destroyed churches while reestablishing the social programs that were the lifeline of the church community before the war – schools, hospitals, social centers, and others.

Our mission staff worker in Botswana has worked with the Botswana Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa to assist the
inhabitants of a small peri-urban community realize their dream of building a new church building and engage in more outreach ministries locally. The church membership takes pride in what it has been able to accomplish over the years. Women of the United Church of Christ in Mozambique worked collaboratively on a micro-credit project to earn the necessary funds to start building a church in their community. With a small grant from Global Ministries, the building is nearing completion.

Church growth and revitalization is possible through many of the social programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo among our partners, the Community of the Disciples of Christ in Congo. The Bolenge community is in the third phase of rebuilding the Bolenge Hospital. Women’s micro-credit initiatives continue to expand to other regions. Schools that were destroyed by soldiers as they invaded villages during the war are being rebuilt. A new church is being built in Mbandaka to serve an entire community of refugees. The church is alive and growing.

Leadership development is a priority for all our partners in Africa. There are story after story of church growth because of the emphasis not only on dynamic leadership but on leadership roles for youth and women. The National Council of Churches in both Zambia and Sierra Leone have chosen women to lead. A young woman serves as regional minister in an important district in the Republic of Congo. A woman serves as head of one of the partner churches in Mozambique. A young man serves as director of Bridgman Center in South Africa, a social center that provides leadership skills for children at risk.

In a spirit of ubuntu, or community, in promoting leadership development as well as strengthening south to south relations, a four way partnership with Kukhany’Okusha Zion Church in Swaziland, Theological Education by Extension College in Johannesburg, the United Congregational Church in Southern Africa and Global Ministries has been formed to provide theological training for grassroots pastors in Swaziland who have had limited access to educational opportunities.

Churches remain very engaged in social justice and peace initiatives. Our partner, Programme for Christian Muslim Relations (PROCMURA) continues to be the leading advocate on the continent for peace and harmony among Christians and Muslims. The Christian Council of Ghana has been very proactive in engaging youth on the need for sustainable peace and how youth can participate to avert conflicts, build community and join the fight against child trafficking. The Christian Council does training on gender, domestic violence, human rights and sexual reproductive health. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana has been recognized nationally and internationally for its achievements in environmental justice and sustainable development. The All Africa Conference of Churches has been vocal on the
inhumane and criminal practices of human trafficking among vulnerable refugees in the Sinai. The South Africa Council of Churches and the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa have spoken loudly and clearly on the inhumane conditions of in South African mines and the victimization of the workers. Churches in Namibia have a ministry with the San people who have been marginalized for numerous years while the church in the Democratic Republic of Congo provides educational and work opportunities for children of the so called “pygmy” ethnic group in the Equator region.

The Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), based in Nairobi, has been in the forefront on educating its member churches and the wider community on a transformative ministry that recognizes and responds to the daily struggles of those living in poverty and who are often voiceless. Our mission worker in Kenya has been asked to accompany the organization by assisting with the production of educational material that helps individuals understand poverty on a national and global scale but also requires one to analyze and take action at diverse levels of understanding.

Our partners are strong in their faith and are able to accomplish much. What remarkable faith and hope we learn from each other as co-workers in God’s mission. We could easily say that in the midst of troubling times that hope is left by the wayside. Yet, our friends and partners teach us so much about what it means to be in mission. We learn to look closely at what God is doing in the world around us and allow that to color and shape our course of action. It is then that we become better prepared to engage in transformative mission and make a difference in the lives of those with whom we come in contact.

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Xiaoling Zhu, Area Executive

Pacific Region
The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) is a faith-based, regional ecumenical organization (REO) that is paramount for the Pacific region. Its membership is comprised of the majority of the South Pacific nations from Tuvalu to Tonga, to Papua New Guinea to New Caledonia. The PCC engages in advocacy issues and fights on behalf of our member churches and nations throughout the Pacific. One of those areas includes advocacy against nuclear testing. A result of the PCC’s 2007 General Assembly was a mandate to address the ills that nuclear testing has created in the Pacific. The PCC struggles tirelessly with the people of Tahiti in their fight to obtain reparations for the 30 years of subjection to nuclear testing that they faced in the hands
of the French. Along with retroactive advocacy, the PCC is called to provide response for present-day catastrophes. The western part of Veti Levu (the main island) suffered flooding in early 2012. These floods left families displaced schools unsuitable and businesses dilapidated. The PCC responded swiftly by soliciting its member churches in Fiji. The PCC was successful in creating a Flood Appeal fund that was used to provide financial assistance for those most affected. Aaron Wiggins, sent by Global Ministries, worked in the fields of climate change and human rights for the PCC for last two years. The Pacific Conference of Church (PCC) recently changed its General Secretary which was a painful experience for churches in the Pacific and also for church partners in the world. Bishop Francois Pihaatae from Tahiti is the Acting General Secretary of PCC. The new election will take place during the PCC General Assembly in September 2012.

East Asia Region
The frequent occurrence of natural disasters caused many families to be displaced in the Philippines, China and North Korea. Japan is an earthquake-prone area surrounded by 54 nuclear reactors along the coast, with walls that are not higher than waves brought on by tsunamis. Many people moved away from their lovely homes because of the earthquake, tsunami and the resulting nuclear disaster. They are waiting for new, permanent, safe homes to move into. The US military presence is increasing in the Pacific. The leaders of our partner churches and other religions who attended Japan’s Article 9 Conference have great concerns regarding the new arms race. War is a great possibility between China and Japan if the governments of these countries do not resolve the territorial dispute of the Diaoyu Islands.

A workshop sponsored by Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) held in late January and early February this year brought together nearly 30 people from Orissa, India and several of the ICF’s School of Peace (SOP) alumni from Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka—countries that have experienced years of violence themselves. Bruce Van Voorhis, CGMB mission personnel, who works with the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY) in Hong Kong, as an ICF staff member and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) in Chiang Mai, Thailand actively, led these workshops.

China
Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital was founded in 1892 by the first Disciples’ missionary in China, Dr. William E. Macklin. The hospital’s 120th anniversary celebration took place on December 15, 2012. The East Asia and the Pacific Office successfully invited the Former U.S. President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter to attend the celebration that included the unveiling of the bronze statue of Dr. Macklin and the dedication of a new wing with 1,500 beds (totally 3,000 beds) which brings the hospital to the level of receiving 10,000 outpatients daily. Global Ministries had a delegation that included the Disciples Associate General Minister and Vice President, Todd Adams; Chairman of CGMB, Bing Tso and his wife Janet Gwilyn; Vice President of DOM and Executive for Mission Personnel, Cathy Nichols; Global Ministries Area Executive Xiaoling Zhu, former mission personnel, Tom Morse; and retired Disciples minister and his wife, Rev. Richard
and Linda Hull. Mrs. Marjorie Hancock, Dr. Macklin’s great granddaughter and many relatives also attended the celebration.

Zhoukou, an agriculture area with 11.4 million people, is the largest city in China, located in Henan Province. The Zhoukou area has been hit heavily by high incidences of HIV/AIDS for the last 20 years. There are more than 7,000,000 believers in 1340 churches in one city, but they only have 7 ordained ministers. Year-round church leadership training has been provided by the city church, and each week 600-700 are on campus to receive training. In addition to the training, there also are advanced agriculture technology classes. The students are required to become preachers, pastoral care providers for the local church, and agriculture development technicians for villagers. East Asia and the Pacific Office, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and Week of Compassion (WoC) supported Zhoukou Church to publish 120,000 copies of the Advance Agriculture Technology textbook. In recent years, Global Ministries has been supporting the Zhoukou Church Tree Project to conduct advance agriculture classes as part of the lay-leaders training. Working with the China Christian Council and People’s University in Beijing, the Zhoukou Church will be a good example for the whole church in China in carrying on the Three-Self principle (Self-Governing, Self-Propagating and Self-Support), which was created by Rufus Anderson, Assistant Secretary of ABCFM in 1830. Global Ministries is honored to be a part of the progress.

In November, Rev. Dr. Patricia Donahoo, Executive Director, Disciples Women’s Ministries and Rev. Dr. Xiaoling Zhu led a delegation of Disciples Women delegation to visit China. The Disciples’ Women Study Year on China is scheduled for 2013.

Hong Kong
Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF), a joint program of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY) in Hong Kong and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, completed its fifth School of Peace (SOP) conference. SOP began on February 1st and ended in mid-May in Bangalore, India. This year there were 20 participants—the largest number since SOP’s inception in 2006— including several participants from the US, Canada, and England. There are now 88 SOP alumni from 16 countries. ICF is training some of its SOP alumni to be resource people for future programs in several areas; such as community organizing; human rights and tools for transformation; or the use of music, art and drama for advocacy. A workshop will be held to collect the stories of indigenous people in Asia and how their spirituality relates to fostering just peace. Before the end of this year, visits are planned by the ICF staff with SOP alumni in Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines to learn more about their work in the past year and to make plans for programs they will organize at the national level in their countries to promote just peace from an interfaith perspective. Rev. Bruce Van Voorhis, mission personnel has made important contributions in these ministries.

Japan
Sendai is a city at the heart of the entire area affected by the tsunami. Reconstruction in this city has become a model for other regions. The worst-hit area in the city of Sendai is Wakabayashi Ward. Half of the area has been damaged by the tsunami. Natori City is adjacent to the city of Sendai, and the second largest city in Miyagi prefecture. It is one of the regions greatly affected by the tsunami, and the number of victims is more than 900 people. Ishinomaki City suffered the most damage from the tsunami. Over 1,500 people who had lived around this coastal area have to live in the temporary housing complex which is in a confined distant location. Tohoku HELP is an organization that started immediately after the earthquake on March 11, 2011. One of the programs in the project is to help victims to obtain their self-reliance. They have been conducting volunteer coordination, emergency rice supply, support for creation of a residents’
association, and educational support in cooperation with local officials, churches and other organizations in Sendai, Wakabayashi Ward, and Natori City.

**Micronesia**

Shelten Neth, Moderator of the Micronesia Council of the United Church of Christ, and President of Ohwa College in Pohnpei, FSM traveled with the Area Executive, Xiaoling Zhu to the Philippines in February 2012 to help set up partner relationship with Northern Christian College of UCCP and purchased a pig feed processor for their piggery program supported by Global Ministries. This program will aid the college to do more with the bio-gas program. The processor will help them to sustaining and use fish bone waste on the islands, and could be a model project for farms.

Rev. Nicodemos Sopepa received his Master of Theology degree at Eden Theological Seminary, supported by CGMB. He returned to Ohwa College as a Dean, a long-term volunteer of Global Ministries and provided an excellent lay-leaders training in the region in 2012.

**New Zealand**

On January 19, 2012, a strong 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck off the west coast of New Zealand's South Island. It was followed about two hours later by a 5.2-magnitude aftershock with its epicentre in the same area. Christchurch, New Zealand's second most populous city, which is also on the South Island, was battered by a powerful 6.3-magnitude earthquake. One Great Hour of Sharing and Week of Compassion sent support through Global Ministries to the partner in New Zealand.

**Philippines**

Lester Dipit, pastor of United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), was trained in the Asian Rural Institute in 2010. On his return, he introduced the organic agriculture skills to the communities around the Northern Luzon Conference, a poor agricultural area. UCCP representatives and conference leaders have agreed to restart their agriculture center in Combura, Northern Luzon. Rev. Dipit will be an instructor at that center. East Asia the Pacific Office has been working with UCCP to create the Condora Center for Integrated Rural and Agricultural Development in La Union, Philippines, a faith-based center focused on teaching and promoting alternative and sustainable farming methods and practices. With the land, facilities and teachers, the center can train 210 trainees per year, including participants from ecumenical partners local and abroad. Dr. Carlos Madrazo, with a Ph.D. in agriculture has been assigned as mission personnel to the Condora Center.

**North Korea**

Tens of thousands of people have been left homeless and starvation again threatens the people of North Korea after heavy flooding this summer. North Korea remains one of the world’s most closed societies. Its’ population of 24 million people are unable to access free media, express political opposition or enjoy religious freedoms. Last year the UN estimated almost 6 million people required urgent food assistance to avoid famine, and that almost a third of children under 5 showed significant signs of malnutrition. In their weakened state, people are highly susceptible to tuberculosis, which is fatal when left untreated. North Korea has one of the highest rates of tuberculosis infection in the world. It is very hard for Global Ministries to have direct communication with the church in North Korea since there is no diplomatic relationship between the US and The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).
South Korea
The South Korean society is going through a difficult period due to a serious economic crisis and deterioration of human rights and democracy as a result of the conservative stand of the current administration. The marginalized people in the society are bearing the heavy burden of this situation and their lives have become miserable. It is in this context that the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) has initiated various programs and projects to address the economic justice issue. The PROK has been actively working with civil society to improve the deteriorating human rights situation through transformation of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. Civil society, including PROK and the National Council in Korea (NCCK), is consolidating all its efforts to restore the value of democracy and human rights through the presidential election in December of this year. Representatives of various faith communities from Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Canada and the United States, undertook a visit to Kangjeong Village, Jeju Island on December 5-7, 2012 to learn about the construction of a Korean naval base.
All have agreed: Kangjeong Village and its surrounding area is a UNESCO-designated ecological reserve and the building should be stopped.

MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE OFFICE
Peter Makari, Area Executive

Radwa Salah is a young Egyptian woman studying for a doctorate in interfaith relations in Lebanon, and was supported in 2012 by Global Ministries with scholarship assistance. She is a part-time program coordinator for the Arab Group for Muslim-Christian Dialogue, one of Global Ministries’ partners in the Middle East. At a recent conference on “The Future of Muslim-Christian Relations,” she commented, “We must look for new methods of dialogue. We need to avoid thinking of ourselves [members of various religious groups] as ‘minorities,’ but as essential components of our nations. We need to avoid the pressure to emigrate, but resist [it] and remain steadfast.” In the Arab world today, any religious community is a minority somewhere—Sunni Muslims in Iraq and Syria, Shi’ite Muslims in Lebanon; and Christians—in their diverse ecumenical communions—in most countries. For relations to improve, thinking in terms of numerical minority status, Radwa was saying, must yield to a different ethic—that of the social contract among citizens.

As the Middle East has continued to experience the challenges, tensions, and conflict of the so-called “Arab Spring,” the ideas of citizenship and equality have been points of debate in countries like Egypt, where elections and the drafting of a new constitution took place in 2012. The Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) is one of Global Ministries’ partners there. With all that has transpired, its Forum for Intercultural Dialogue “called upon different groups represented in the various political forces for serious and effective dialogue [and rational thinking to] work out a solution to the current crisis that meets all the needs of citizens, in line with the basic principles of democratic systems that guarantee the rule of law and the separation of powers, and ensures the rights of citizenship for all.” We continue to support CEOSS’ work in community development, which seeks to improve relations among religious communities through its work.

While the political debate in Egypt continues to be passionate, it has largely been non-violent. In Syria, by contrast, the war for primacy rages. At this writing in early 2013, the number of Syrians who are refugees exceeds 600,000, and the number of displaced within Syria is estimated at more than
two million. Through Global Ministries’ Week of Compassion has contributed to the alleviation of some of that suffering. Such efforts have been made through various partners, including Global Ministries’ partner, the Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue (FDCD), and its efforts in Aleppo, a historic city in Syria that has experienced an extremely high intensity of fighting in 2012. That response was in cooperation with the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), which responded with basic food and nutritional supplements. It also was through other partners, the Middle East Council of Churches and Greek Orthodox Church in Jordan, to supply boots for children in the Za`atari refugee camp in northern Jordan, near the Syrian border. More than half of the nearly 40,000 refugees there are women and children, significant numbers of who left Syria with the clothes on their backs in the summer, and have needed more suitable covering for their feet, as the cold and rainy winter months approached. As the crisis in Syria continues, Global Ministries provides updates and ways for Disciples members to make a difference in the midst of the large-scale humanitarian disaster that this war has created.

In 2013, as part of Global Ministries’ effort to support the work of partners and offer young adults the chance to experience the church in the world, three Global Mission Interns (GMIs) served in the Middle East and Europe. Gabrielle Worley worked with the Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue and Middle East Council of Churches, living and working in Beirut, Lebanon. While there, she spent much of her time assisting both the FDCD and the MECC in their work with Iraqi, and later Syrian, refugees in Lebanon. Her blog, “it will not return to me empty,” provides very thoughtful reflections on her experience. She continues to serve as a GMI, now appointed to serve in Armenia with Global Ministries’ partners in the Protestant Armenian community there. Amy Lester is working with the Reformed Church in Hungary, learning about its work, experiencing life in Budapest, and helping the RCH in its English communications and working with refugees there, particularly through English instruction. A third GMI spent three months with the Joint Advocacy Initiative of the YMCA and YWCA in Palestine, during which he assisted in writing and research, and got a first-hand experience of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has engaged through mission and mission relationships in the Middle East for over one and a half centuries. Partners in Israel/Palestine, particularly Palestinian Christian their ministries and witness, in the settlement expansion, limits on movement. They yearn help bring them to fruition, through non-violent means. On
General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, and the Division of Overseas Ministries’ President, the Rev. Julia Brown Karimu, joined eleven ecumenical colleagues in addressing a letter to Congress that “urge[d] an immediate investigation into possible violations by Israel of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act and the U.S. Arms Export Control Act....” The letter concluded, “We request, therefore, that Congress hold Israel accountable...by making the disbursement of U.S. military assistance to Israel contingent on the Israeli government’s compliance with applicable U.S. laws and policies.... We also encourage Congress to support inclusive, comprehensive, and robust regional diplomacy to secure a just and lasting peace that will benefit Israelis, Palestinians, and all the peoples of the region, and the world.” The letter has received much attention—both positive support and negative criticism—but is a clear example of the many ways in which the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) engages in global issues through public witness, and amplifies the voices of partners throughout the world, and in this case, in Israel/Palestine.

One of our Palestinian Christian partners is the Diyar Consortium of Bethlehem’s Christmas Lutheran Church. A project of Diyar is the Religion and State program that is working on the role of Christians and of religion in the formation of a new Middle East. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has supported this work through the appointment of mission personnel to work in this area, and through financial support from Week of Compassion. The project promotes “education, advocacy, training and empowerment of minorities and women, sustainable human development, addressing religious and gender discrimination as [among] the root causes of poverty, hunger and marginalization. It aims at improving the quality of life for all as it strives for full citizenship and fuller social and economic participation.” This approach is tangible work toward achieving the change envisioned by Radwa, and carries forth the Disciples’ vision for reconciliation and wholeness in a broken world. We pray that this vision is advanced in 2013, and beyond, and participate actively in ways to support that prayer.

SOUTHERN ASIA OFFICE
James Vijayakumar, Area Executive

The region of Southern Asia, home to both the major religions of the world and the majority of the human population, witnessed some serious religious tensions and upheavals during 2012. The reactions sparked by the movie attacking the prophet Mohammad spread across Southern Asia in most of the countries with a significant Muslim population. Pakistan witnessed the greatest number of protests with violent demonstrations in many parts of the country. In some places even young children were led into demonstrations by school teachers. In other instances, people refusing to participate in the demonstrations were charged with blasphemy under the anti-blasphemy law of Pakistan. More than thirty people were killed, many Christian institutions and churches were burned and numerous businesses were destroyed. The church leaders in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia have called for responsible use of the freedom of speech, in a manner that is not offensive to the religious sentiments of the followers of other religions. The unqualified defense of “freedom of expression” has allowed inconsiderate attacks and further jeopardized the safety and existence of the minority communities. Many Christian families had to flee their homes and communities, and taken refuge in jungles and remote areas.

Following this upheaval, the World Council of Churches, with support and participation from Global Ministries, arranged a hearing on the misuse of Pakistan’s blasphemy laws. The Blasphemy Law has been used in recent years to victimize minority religious communities in the country. Recently one such case gained wide international attention: a twelve year Christian girl with downs syndrome, Rhishma, who was a rag picker, was falsely accused of burning the
Koran and was imprisoned under the blasphemy law awaiting sentencing. This sparked a huge international outcry on her behalf. It turned out that an extremist cleric thrust a burnt page of Koran into her bag stealthily and then accused her of burning the Koran. Eventually Rhishma was released from prison and now lives in hiding for fear of her life and the life of her family. The WCC hearing on this issue was attended by representatives of diverse faith communities including Muslims, Christians and Hindus, as well as civil society groups. Most of the churches in Pakistan and diaspora Pakistani Christians were represented in this gathering. The group “urged the Government to constitute a competent Inquiry Commission immediately to look into the tragic consequences of the Blasphemy Law and suggest a way out of this difficult and embarrassing situation.”

In Afghanistan, Global Ministries continues to support and be involved in the work of its partner IAM (International Assistance Mission), primarily in the area of health care. The specific program of IAM supported by Global Ministries is the ‘Orthopedic Workshop and Physiotherapy Centre / Community Based Rehabilitation’ in Maimana of Faryab province in northwestern Afghanistan. The combined project of the Orthopedic Workshop and Physiotherapy Centre (OWPC) and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) aims to reduce the negative impact of disability in the Faryab province. Based in Maimana, OWPC provides orthopedic assistance to people with disabilities. Regular monthly visits to the local prison are being made to treat disabled prisoners. The Community Based Rehabilitation program serves people with disabilities in the rural areas of the Faryab province. Local fieldworkers were trained and disability committees identify people with disabilities, referring them to OWPC for treatment. Hundreds of disabled people were identified in one district of the Faryab province alone. Children with disabilities are supported to attend a governmental school. Many disabled people receive vocational training in carpentry and tailoring. Micro-business loans were given to some, and some others received goat loans. Some of the disabled children attend the preschool at the center in Maimana. The OWPC & CBR also works with the disabled young people of the community promoting sports activities. Their wheelchair basketball team won first place in the first Afghan National Wheelchair Basketball tournament on June 15, 2012, held in Kabul. This historic event gathered wheelchair basketball players from all over the country. The captain of one of the teams said “being disabled does not mean that you have to sit in a dark room all day doing nothing. Disabled people can do anything!”

In Bangladesh, through the Social Development department of our church partner, the Church of Bangladesh, Global Ministries has been supporting the community development and women’s empowerment programs in the regions of Wazirpur and Faridpur. The issues facing the communities here are manifold: most of the land in this area is marsh land, and cultivable land is very limited. Even that limited amount of land frequently gets flooded, preventing people from doing sustained cultivation. Because of the rise in the sea level caused by global warming, many of these areas when flooded are under saline water, causing the plants to die when the floods recede, forcing the people to seek alternate means of livelihood. One of the things that COB is helping these communities with is to develop floating gardens. A floating flat bed is made by tying bamboo together and filling with cultivable soil which allows them to cultivate some vegetables and greens. Another project helps women to form self-help groups that start sustainable microcredit enterprises which help many families. Carpentry, toy making, tailoring, embroidery, mat weaving are some of those enterprises undertaken by families or groups of women. We had the opportunity to host the head of the Church of Bangladesh, Bishop Paul Sarker at the last General Assembly in Nashville.

In East Timor, our partner church the Protestant Church of East Timor has started implementing some of the long term strategic plans for the church, its administration, and programs which
were worked out over a period of more than two years with the involvement of all its ecumenical partners, and particularly Global Ministries missionaries Carlos Madrazo and Tom and Monica Liddle. All three of our missionaries have concluded their terms and returned to the US in the summer of 2012. It is quite encouraging that one of the staff at the Immanuel Clinic where Monica was serving, Ms. Amena Christovo, got an opportunity through the efforts of the Liddles and the scholarship support of Global Ministries, to do a formal laboratory technician course at a university in Duluth, Minnesota. She has started her studies this fall, first with a semester of intensive English, and then the regular training program. Before coming to the US, Amena was already working at the clinic for the last several years as its only laboratory technician, though without any formal training. She was already doing diagnostic tests illnesses like tuberculosis with the informal training that she had received from her predecessor and doctors at the clinic. It is hoped that when she goes back after her training, she would not only help strengthen the services at the IPTL clinics, but also train more laboratory technicians in East Timor.

Our partnership and work in Laos received some boost in 2012 with the placement of two young mission personnel. In October, Nicole Betteridge, our Global Mission Intern started working with our partner in Laos, the Lao Evangelical Church as an English teacher. The LEC has a program of teaching English to the local people both youth and adults to help increase their employment opportunities. Nicole is our first GMI to be placed with the Lao Evangelical Church and this placement will certainly strengthen our partnership with the church in Laos. Earlier in the fall another young volunteer, Marissa McArdle, a recent high school graduate from the First Christian Church in Naples, FL was sent as a volunteer to work with the after school program at the Donkai Children’s Development Center and was efficiently mentored by our missionary, Xuyen Dangers. Marissa’s presence was a real source of encouragement for the local teachers and volunteers. It is also encouraging that the Lao government authorities from the Education Department in the northern Oudomxay province have formally requested Global Ministries to provide additional classrooms and dormitories to accommodate increasing number of students in the lower school and also help upgrade it to a high school in the remote Akka tribal region of Ano where we have already provided a lower secondary school building. The demand for lower secondary education in the Ano area is increasing at a rate of about 25% a year. The Education Department in Oudomxay does not have funds for infrastructure. While they are suspicious of many outside agencies, it is encouraging to note that they hold Global Ministries and Church World Service-Laos in high esteem, and are very comfortable and eager to work with us.

In Sri Lanka, one of the main priorities of our partner, the Church of the American Ceylon Mission, is leadership development. In this war-ravaged nation, this has to be done at all levels. As part of this effort, some young pastors are receiving additional training. Rev. Jude Sudharshan, one of its dynamic young pastors is currently doing his theological studies at the Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis. In addition, several training sessions including trauma counseling are being conducted for pastors and lay leaders with the help of teachers and facilitators from India. In the severely affected area of Vanni, many day care centers, children’s homes and after-school activity centers are being established for these young people who otherwise would not have the opportunity for education. Julianna Nitz, a Global Mission Intern is teaching music in one of our partner schools, the Uduvil Girls School in Jaffna. In December, much of the eastern part of this country where our partner church has a major presence was severely affected by floods. Global Ministries was able to provide support for relief efforts from the Week of Compassion. The peace and reconciliation process in post-war Sri Lanka is gaining some momentum with the churches and human rights groups. “The immediate and urgent challenge is to address issues connected to healing and reconciliation among people, integration and cohesion of communities along with rehabilitation of the socio-economic infrastructures, particularly for the benefit of the adversely affected during the
protracted conflicts.” The church is Sri Lanka still enjoys acceptance among most segments of population and maintains authentic contact with all communities. Its ministry of presence among these communities, especially at times of war and natural calamities, has strengthened its credibility among affected people. This places the church in an advantageous position to initiate peace and reconciliation efforts.

In Indonesia, our partner “The Christian Church of Western Sulawesi (GKSB)” is currently focusing on leadership development. As part of this program, regular leadership training programs are being conducted for senior pastors and lay leaders. This training is provided by the regional theological consortium OASE where our missionary John Campbell-Nelson is also extensively involved. A major challenge that is currently being faced by GKSB is the government proposal to build four hydroelectric dams in the area of Kalumpang and Bonehau, which is the homeland of the majority of GKSB members. If this project is forced the membership of GKSB will be scattered at random and 95% of residents’ homes will be submerged. The ethnic groups of Kalumpang and Bonehau will disappear and the cultural and social heritage of Kalumpang people will be lost. The GKSB rejects the government’s plan to build the Mega-Project Hydroelectric Dam on the Karama River and the Synod leadership is pro-active in working together with the people of Kalumpang and Bonehau to present the rejection of the plan to the government. The people carried out a peaceful demonstration at the Governor’s office from February 4-6, 2012, but did not get a positive response from the government. The pastors working in the region of Kalumpang described this proposal of the government as ‘genocidal’ and have pleaded for our advocacy help on their behalf and to put pressure on the local government to stop this project. They feel that this project is driven by business interests from some of the nearby Asian countries and not by a commitment to serve the local population.

MISSION INTERPRETATION AND CONSTITUENCY RELATIONSHIPS
Jonathan Barnes, Executive
Derek Duncan, Advocacy Associate (Cleveland)

The Office of Mission Interpretation and Constituency Relationships coordinates and lead the education work of Global Ministries for congregations, regions, general ministries and other constituencies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and promotes, develops, and maintains global relationships and linkages with those constituencies as a critical presence priority.

Weekly Global Ministries Updates
These updates are reaching an average of 13,251 people per week. Global Ministries highlights weekly prayers, partner and missionary news, and ways to be involved with Global Ministries through advocacy and giving.

Mission Live Webinars
The Mission Interpretation offices in Cleveland and Indianapolis continued to use this technology through August of this year. However, as the number of viewers declined, a decision was made to suspend the use of live webinars. Understanding the continued need to produce multimedia resources to connect with both missionaries and partners, Global Ministries is recording presentations by missionaries as well as interviews with representatives from international partners when they visit the offices. Once edited, these will be highlighted on the web site so that they may be used as an online resource for congregations.

Ministry and Mission Interpreters
At the writing of this report, there are 1192 trained UCC (520) and Disciples (672) MMI’s. On the weekend of October 25-28, 125 participants and staff gathered in Cleveland for the biannual Missionworks/MMI training event which focused on “Learning from our Global Partners.” Both the Cleveland and Indianapolis offices have committed to continue to train new MMI’s as well as resource those currently trained. To this end, discussions have begun concerning how the MMI program should evolve to meet the growing needs.

Disciples Communicators Forum
The General Ministries Communicators Forum continues to meet monthly. Plans are underway for all General Ministries to cooperate in providing Disciples pastors with resources from the general ministries via email.

Staff Pairing with Disciples Regions
The staff pairings with Disciples Regions continued through the 2012 regional assemblies’ cycle. Staff was present at 27 of 33 events. They were involved in various ways including presentations and accompanying visiting international partners. Staff continues to work hard at building relationships and understanding between Global Ministries and Disciples Regions.

Be A Global Mission Region
There continues to be a great deal of energy and potential for transformation around the establishment of Global Church Partnerships in Disciples Regions. Many of these partnerships have been started as a direct result of Regional Minister Immersion trips over the past few years. There is the anticipation that additional immersion trips will take place so that new regional ministers, as well as those who were not able to take part in past pilgrimages, may be able to connect with global partners.

Advocacy
The Global Advocacy and Education Team was comprised of one staff person, the Cleveland Advocacy Associate, for the duration of 2012. Given the vacancy of the advocacy position in Indianapolis, the scope of the Cleveland associate widened to include certain advocacy responsibilities of the Africa and the Latin America and the Caribbean area offices. At the same time an effort was made to enhance regular communication with all area offices on advocacy priorities of regional partners, and to focus with the Partnership Team on two advocacy priorities: Global Peace with Justice and Global Hunger and Food Security.

In 2012 the Cleveland Associate engaged in advocacy networking and collaboration with the Disciples Justice Table, the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, the Church World Service-related Asia Pacific Forum, the CWS Education & Advocacy Committee, with Global Hunger and Food Security working groups at the UN and Washington, DC, and with ecumenical contact groups on the Congo and human trafficking.

Advocacy Campaigns, Alerts and Resource Materials
Special education and advocacy awareness attention was given to the theme of Peace with Justice through resources prepared in connection with the International Day of Prayer for Peace (September 21) and Human Rights Day (December 10), and attention to Hunger and Food Security on the occasions of the Churches Week of Action on Food (October 14-21), World Food Day (October 16) and National Food Day (October 24). In addition, special preparations were made for congregations participating in the Congo Awareness Week/Cell Out campaign October 14-20, as called for in the 2011 General Assembly and General Synod Resolutions, “A Call for Reflection and Advocacy on Behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.” Other notable issues receiving advocacy attention continue to be human trafficking, climate
change, peace in the Middle East, militarization in Asia and the Pacific, and human rights in the Philippines. The Cleveland associate prepared advocacy alerts this period on Colombia, Congo Week, reauthorizing the Farm Bill, reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (including on the occasion of Human Trafficking Awareness Day, January 11), and the International Day of Prayer for Peace. The Cleveland Associate wrote an article on “Global Ministries and Human Rights” for the spring 2012 issue of the Disciples Advocate and a December 2012 Global Advocacy Report on “The M23 and the Crisis in Goma, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.”

An update of the Justice and Advocacy Global Ministries webpages has been made, including a new Calendar of Advocacy Dates and Events, and a “What (in the World) Can I Do?” feature included in the GM Weekly Update that identifies a specific advocacy action for an issue relevant to the week. New electronic advocacy materials were also prepared on Global Peace with Justice, Global Hunger and Food Security, Human Trafficking, Gender-Based Violence, Congo Week, and Climate Change. Advocacy Team support for social networking for advocacy in 2012 included helping the development of a UCC Palestine-Israel Network (PIN) and a Global Advocacy Facebook group for human rights advocacy on the Philippines.

**Presentations and Engagements**

The Advocacy Associate was active in the planning of Ecumenical Advocacy Days in March 2012, and is engaged in preparations for the April 2013 Advocacy Days, which focuses on food security. In addition to helping plan denominational activities at the conference, the Cleveland Associate was principally engaged as the Asia-Pacific convener in arranging workshops for that regional track at Advocacy Days, including the participation of international partner guests in the conference: Bishop Reuel Marigza from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and the Rev. Kim Young Ju, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Korea. As co-chair of the ecumenical Philippines Working Group, the Cleveland Associate also worked with the Asia Pacific forum to coordinate a delegation of Philippines human rights leaders to lobby prior to Ecumenical Advocacy Days in conjunction with their participation in the Philippines "Universal Periodic Review” before the UN Human Rights Council in April.

The Cleveland Associate also presented workshops in 2012 on Global Human Trafficking at a Consultation on Cross-border Sex Trafficking at the Romero Center in San Ysidro, CA in April 26-28, on Global Hunger and Human Trafficking at the UCC National Youth Event at Purdue University in July 10-13, and presented a keynote address entitled “Enough for All? A question of Food Security around the world and in our own backyard” at the Southeast Virginia Association Annual Meeting, UCC Southern Conference, Virginia Beach, VA on October 20. He participated in a September 21 ecumenical consultation on the question of economic leverage in advocacy on Israel/Palestine, hosted in St. Louis, MO by the U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation, and on a panel of ecumenical representatives coordinating Congo advocacy at a meeting of the Presbyterian Church Congo Mission Network in Newark, DE from October 3-5.

Other engagements in 2012 included leading an online training on Global Advocacy for the 2012 Disciples Peace Fellowship summer interns, a training on Global Advocacy for the Global Ministries Missionary Conference on September 27, and a training on Global Advocacy for the Ministries and Mission Interpreters training October 26-27.

**United Nations**

The Cleveland Advocacy Associate, who maintains the church’s UN non-governmental organization accreditation serves as the Main Representative for Global Ministries, maintains routine engagement at the UN with the Israel-Palestine NGO Working Group, and the NGO Global Hunger and Food Security Working Group. A new Union Theological Seminary Field
Education placement was initiated in 2012 in collaboration with Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, to continue the internship with Global Ministries programs and witness at the United Nations. A middle-year student, Nicki Amouri from Virginia, is serving in the placement for the 2012-2013 academic year, and focusing her engagement with the Ecumenical Women working group and plans for the 2013 Commission on the Status of Women conference in March and Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference in April.

MISSION PERSONNEL OFFICE
Catherine Nichols, Executive
Maria Cruzado, People-to-People Pilgrimages Coordinator

As a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries participates in a ministry which attempts to break the divide among God's children by partnering with overseas partner churches in the sending and receiving of missionaries. The exchange of people and their gifts serve to help unite people across geographical, racial, gender, and economic barriers. Other important aspects of this ministry include the presence of missionaries in congregations, regions and conferences as they share the ministries of the partner churches and the lasting impact of people to people pilgrimages, which offer individuals and congregations opportunities to cross boundaries and share the love of God as they receive the love of God from those they encounter.

Through the Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, missionaries are participating in ministries of Critical Presence in 40 countries around the world. They are engaged in a variety of ministries such as: theological education, leadership development, community and development work, human rights, health ministries, children’s ministries, and pastoral ministries.

A total of 106 missionaries served in 40 countries in 2012, which included 46 fully-supported missionaries, 9 global mission interns, 14 long-term volunteers, and 37 associates. In addition, 23 individuals served as short-term volunteers.

Twenty-three persons, including 9 re-appointees, were appointed to church and/or church-related institutions around the world. Terms varied from fully supported to long-term volunteer staff. This distribution by area of total appointments was Africa 6; East Asia and the Pacific 3; Europe 0; Latin America and the Caribbean 9; Middle East 2; Southern Asia 4.

Six new global mission interns join the three renewed supported by Week of Compassion funds. They are: Nicole Betteridge, Laos; Matthew Fehse, Philippines; Ashley Holst, Dominican Republic; Amy Lester, Hungary; Andrew Long-Higgins, Palestine; Lindsey Mercer, Mexico.

Eight new long-term volunteers (one year and longer) were appointed in 2012: Scott and Rebecca Hardin-Nieri, Costa Rica; Diana and Terry Hutter, Swaziland; Scott Nicholson, Mexico; Doug Smith and Kate Moyer, Mexico; Pedro Carlo Muniz, Argentina/Paraguay.

There were 35 short-term volunteers (two weeks to eleven months) appointed in 2012 who served in 2012 or will serve in 2013. A list of names and term dates are available upon request.

The overseas associate category is a recognition normally given to members of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ who are serving outside of the United States and Canada with a church, ecumenical institution or project that involves a ministry that is in accordance with the mission principles of the Common Global Ministries Board. The new associate appointments in 2012 were: Ernie Beal, China; Nathan Eddy, United Kingdom; Carla Grosch-Miller, United Kingdom; William Herod, Cambodia; Tim Meadows, United Kingdom; Joel DeJong and Kari Nicewander, Zambia; Tanya Rasmussen, United Kingdom; Fran Ruthven, United Kingdom; Bruce Schoup, Lebanon; Stephen Taylor, United Kingdom; Elizabeth Searles, Romania; Robert and Patrice Shebeck, France.

Eleven individuals completed their service with the Common Global Ministries Board in the category of regular appointees: Jon and Dawn Barnes, Mozambique; Ken and Betty Frank, Turkey; Thomas Liddle, East Timor; Laslo and Coralyn Medyesy, Hungary; Samuel and Nohemi Pagan, Middle East; Doug and Elizabeth Searles, Poland.

No one completed their term as a global mission intern in 2012.

Twenty-three individuals completed short-term volunteer assignments (ranging from 2 weeks to 11 months) in 2012. A list of names is available upon request.

Twenty-one people completed their terms as overseas associates in 2012.

**Missionary Relationships**

From January 1 to December 31, 2012, thirty-one missionary units were involved in a ministry of critical presence through missionary visits and relationship building: Doug Searles, Poland (5 months), Liz Searles, Poland (5 months), Samuel Pagan, Jordan and the Holy Land (6 months), Nohemi Pagan, Jordan and the Holy Land (1 month), Gloria Vicente, Guatemala (2 months), Ken Frank, Turkey (4 months), Betty Frank, Turkey (4 months), Anil Henry, India (3 months), Teresa Henry, India (3 months), Katie Pickens, long-term volunteer in Haiti (14 days), Don Westra, Zimbabwe (3 months), Maryjane Westra, Zimbabwe (3 months), Jon Barnes, Mozambique (8 days), Dawn Barnes, Mozambique (2 months), Elena Huegel, Chile (1 month), Jack Barnes, short-term volunteer to Zimbabwe (1 month), Midge Barnes, short-term volunteer to Zimbabwe (1 month), Lizzy Beach, long-term volunteer to Swaziland (2 months), Michael Joseph, Colombia (15 days), Tom Liddle, East Timor (5 months), Monica Liddle, East Timor (5 months), Jeffrey Mensendiek, Japan (4 months), Tom Morse, China (5 months), Lynnea Morse, China (5 months), Judy Chan, Hong Kong (3 months), Carlos Madrazo, East Timor (3 months), Gabrielle Worley, Lebanon (1 month), John Campbell-Nelson, Indonesia (3 months).

Included in this count we also had former missionaries making church visits: Ann Nichols, former missionary to Zambia (10 days), Howard Goodrich, former missionary to Botswana (2 days), and Darlene Goodrich, former missionary to Botswana (2 days).

From April 9 – May 18, 2012, Global Ministries hosted Vatsala Vijayakumar, principal of the King’s Matriculation School at Family Village Farm in Kasam, India. Vatsala itinerated in 16 congregations, 1 annual meeting, 5 conferences, and 1 region. Global Ministries, also hosted Dr. Aidong Zhao, Chinese scholar on Tibetan missionary history from July 29-August 22, 2012 who visited two congregations and one national office in Tennessee.
From January 1 – December 31, 2012, 17 UCC Conferences and 19 Disciples Regions received visits. (Two point eighty seven Conferences/Regions were visited per missionary unit.) Of those visits, 179 were to UCC Congregations and 284 were to Disciples Congregations. (Fourteen point ninety four congregations were visited per missionary unit.) There were a total of 898 missionary presentations made. (Twenty nine presentations were given per missionary unit with an average of 11 presentations per month of interpretation.)

People-to-People Pilgrimages
In 2012, the People to People program supported eighty-five (85) delegations from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ in pilgrimages to Global Ministries partners in Latin America and the Caribbean. These pilgrims were received by Global Ministries’ partners in Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and Venezuela. Additional trips to other partners were sponsored by area offices and are listed in their respective reports.

A joint delegation of 16 participants from Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ, organized by the People-to-People Pilgrimage office, went to Cuba in August. After interacting with the 4 partners of Global Ministries in Cuba: El Centro Martin Luther King, la Iglesia Pentecostal Evangelica, Council of Churches in Cuba and Matanzas Theological Seminary, the participants returned with a renewed commitment to work at home on improving the U.S.-Cuba relationship and ending the devastating embargo.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
Jane Sullivan Davis, Executive
David Owen, Associate

Special Giving and Ministry with Donors: In 2012 the Global Ministries Resource Development Office, continued to engage members, churches, and all expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ to connect in global mission through their special giving for the work of Global Ministries. The priorities for special giving categories for both direct and planned gifts are the following:

1. Priority: Unrestricted Gifts
2. Priority: Gifts for Missionary and Long-Term Volunteer Support, including gifts for new missionary appointments
3. Priority: Restricted Gifts for donor-specified partner programs or theme-based designations

In 2012 Global Ministries received special gifts, both unrestricted and restricted, through the offices of the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) in Indianapolis and of Wider Church Ministries (WCM) in Cleveland from approximately 3,000 donor households, 750 local churches and regional/conference judicatories (248 of which are Disciple), and 50 organizations/churches of other denominations. Total direct giving was approximately $1.9 million. In addition, more than $600,000 was received in new gifts to DOM and WCM endowment funds, bequests, and planned gift residuals. (These figures were not final at the writing of this report.)

In 2012, Global Ministries continued developing nonconventional/innovative giving opportunities that provide constituents with new options for raising funds for Global Ministries. Individuals
have chosen to participate in these nonconventional/innovative opportunities to give through Facebook, eBay, GoodSearch/GoodShop, Terracycle, and through vehicle donation.

Promotion, Appeals, and Special Campaigns: In April 2012, the Global Ministries Spring Appeal went out to more than 39,000 households, including Disciple and UCC constituents. The Indianapolis Year-End Appeal was mailed to over 10,000 constituent households that are not UCC (the WCM Annual Appeal went to UCC constituents) in late November 2012. In addition, the Office of Resource Development coordinated special giving promotions throughout the year through its Monthly Giving Emphases, VBS and Youth Camp special giving opportunities, Alternative Christmas campaign and donor events hosted by individuals, board members and former missionaries. Resource Development staff worked with fundraising efforts initiated by constituents, and visited individual donors and donor congregations, sometimes in the company of one of the Global Ministries Co-Executives, persons in mission, or home-based staff colleagues.

FINANCE
Nancy J. Pickell, Finance Executive
Mitch Saalfrank, Finance Associate

The Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) total revenue in 2012, from all sources both operating and designated giving, is estimated at nearly $6.6 million, down $294 thousand from 2011. Operating revenue was down $170 thousand and designated giving was down $124 thousand. The decline in designated giving is directly related to the decline in funds requested from Week of Compassion for critical needs and global disasters.

Of the total revenue, $2.01 million or 30% is designated giving for special programs, projects, endowment contributions and capital and new church funding. $1.68 million or 25% is from Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ as part of the funding of our joint work together as Global Ministries. The balance of the revenue, $2.98 million or 45%, comes from Disciples Mission Fund (DMF), investments of DOM, United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS) endowment distributions, Christian Church Foundation (CCF) permanent fund distributions, operating fund gifts and miscellaneous income. DMF (including the special day offerings) and the endowment revenues made up 20% and 19%, respectively, of the revenue. The remaining 6% came from the operating fund gifts from individuals and congregations, reimbursements and interest income.

The DOM Endowment assets are invested with the CCF in the Beasley Growth Fund and the Campbell Multi-Strategy Fund. Annually DOM takes a draw, which is 5% of the average prior 20-quarter rolling market value of the total investment. This draw is used to support operations and designated spending based on the restriction of the endowment. In 2012, this draw was $646,458 (compared to $654,260 in 2011).

An independent audit is performed annually of the financial records and accounting systems of DOM. A complete audit will be provided for the Yearbook upon completion of the audit and report to the audit committee of the board. The audit committee will address any material internal control weaknesses found during the audit and suggested improvements to internal controls in the management letter to the board.
The Child Sponsorship Program of Global Ministries works with fourteen overseas Children Centers and Homes in East Jerusalem, Jamaica, Zimbabwe, India, the Philippines, Armenia, Lebanon, and China. Throughout the United States today, there continues to be a growing concern for children growing up in a better environment both in the United States and throughout the world. This is manifested in the ongoing financial support sponsors provide for brothers and sisters around the world from individuals, local churches and local church organizations and the ever increasing numbers of new sponsorship each year. The financial support given does not completely eliminate the problems of these orphans, semi-orphaned, abandoned, marginalized and impoverished children, however, the financial assistance provided does help reduce hardships these children endure and it assures them that they are loved and that someone cares.

During 2012, two unique mission projects were rejuvenated within the sponsorship program. Although not promoted, for decades the sponsorship program has been providing assistance to homeless, widowed and deserted elderly residents at two facilities. In 2012, we renewed that focus. At the Family Village Farm, these elderly are referred to as ‘surrogate’ grandparents. The grandparents play a significant role in the children’s lives because their presence allows the children to grow up in an environment with three generations living together and the grandparents use their wisdom to assist with caring and nurturing the children. At the Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Centre these elder residents have lived and worked there the majority of their lives. Many continue to work to overcome idleness and others are too sick or bedridden and under the doctor’s care and unable to work. In many countries around the world social security or pension is little to none as elders live out their last years. Financial assistance to these centers provides these elders peace of mind, respect and basic health care.

Education is a critical step to success for all children. In Vellore, India many children did not have the opportunity to attend school because their families could not afford to send them until the Global Ministries Day School Student Assistance program was started. Today more than 80 students are able to attend King’s Matriculation School. These children are non-residents of the Family Village Farm and live with their families in thirty-two surrounding villages. These non-residential children live within Dalit communities where jobs rarely provide enough income for parents to feed or send their children to school. As a result, many of the children live in impoverished, uneducated and illiterate households. The Global Ministries Child Sponsorship program is an inspiration to the young and old around the world.

The General Board has reviewed Report No. 1312 from Division of Overseas Ministries. The report is submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and discussion. No action is required. (Discussion time 12 minutes)