

Job Description for General Minister and President

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada is poised to be on the leading edge of God's mission for wholeness in the 21st Century. We seek a visionary, transformative leader who understands the changing context of the church and society and can offer a clear direction for the future. With this direction, we seek a candidate to serve as the next General Minister and President. The six-year term will commence July 2017 upon election by the General Assembly meeting July 8-12, 2017, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Indianapolis based position serves as Elected Head of Communion/Spiritual Leader of the Church; the denomination's Chief Executive Officer; and as President of the legal entity and the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Inc. The General Minister and President shall be an ordained minister with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Objectives:

- To manage and maintain the Office of General Minister and President in its entirety
- To be a pastoral resource to the various ministries of the denomination
- To uphold and embody the Design
- To support ecumenism as a value and priority in ministry
- To foster, within our Church, an awareness of the unique cultural differences that shape our denomination
- To maintain bridges of communication among general, regional ministries, and local congregations
- To sustain a strong belief that all should be welcomed into the life of the church and welcomed at God's Table
- To be an effective public communicator--in preaching, teaching and social media
- To be aware of and faithful to our Covenants and Merger Agreements within the Church

Responsibilities/Requirements:

- Preach, lecture, provide ministry of presence in meetings with leadership and congregations
- Lead a team of ministries, nurturing covenantal relationships
- Offer guidance and leadership, including but not limited to, Council on Christian Unity, Racial Ethnic Ministries (Obra Hispana, National Convocation, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples)
- Provide new insight and structure for a 21st century church
- Serve as Corporate Agent and sign legal/contractual documents as necessary
- To uphold the Denomination's commitment to Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism

Experience:

- Leadership within congregational, regional, and general church ministries (may include paid staff position and/or volunteer officer position within the denomination)
- Demonstrates ability to bring diverse groups of people into community
- Church and/or Business Administration
- Team leadership

Skills:

- Critical presence and active listening
- Understand systems and structures (to cast vision for 21st century church)
- Ability to articulate, embody, and promote an ecumenical and interfaith spirit
- High emotional intelligence
- Deep spiritual life

As the spiritual leader of the Church, the successful candidate will lead the Church as she/he embodies and interprets the Design for the Christian Church. Embodying and interpreting the Design requires leadership experience with all three expressions of the church; congregational, regional and general. Service may include staff positions or board leadership/officer positions within various ministries. The GMP provides this leadership through preaching, lectures, the ministry of presence, and meeting with congregants and leaders across the life of the church.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) works closely with ecumenical partners. The General Minister and President serves as the primary ecumenical representative working closely with the President of the Council on Christian Unity who is the Chief Ecumenical Officer of the church.

The successful candidate should have ecumenical experience, articulating a commitment to our historic leadership with the National Council of Churches, Canadian Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches and other organizations such as, but not limited to, (the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico, The General Assembly of the Church of Christ Disciples of Christ International, Christian Churches Together, Church World Service, and other key partners.

In the life of the church, the General Minister and President works collaboratively with leaders of General Ministries, Racial Ethnic Ministries, Regional Ministries and leaders of institutions of higher education. A key leadership quality is the ability to bring together diverse leaders for a common mission. Together with these leaders and the General Board and/or Mission First process, the General Minister and President shall discern and cast a vision for a multi-racial/multi-ethnic, 21st Century context.

Candidates must have deep relationships across the diversity of the church. The General Minister and President may convene groups such as the Pastoral Table, the General Ministry Cabinet, and the Team Leadership Conference (TLC).

The Pastoral Table includes the Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation, the National Hispanic Pastor and the Executive Pastor of North American Pacific/Asian Disciples.

The General Ministry Cabinet consists of the President of each General Ministry, Racial/Ethnic Ministry, and Disciples Women.

The Team Leadership Conference consists of Regional Ministers, General Ministry Cabinet, and Presidents of Seminaries and Divinity Houses.

Additionally, the GMP meets with the College of Regional Ministers, the Council of Theological Education and the Council of Colleges and Universities.

Leading in the life of the church is complex, requiring a broad network of relationships, high emotional intelligence, understanding systems and structures to envision for 21st century church, and a deep commitment to one's own spiritual life. The GMP serves along with four other elected officers in the church. The elected officers, in addition to the GMP, are the Moderator, First Vice-Moderator, Second Vice-Moderator and Moderator Elect. These officers are elected every two years. The GMP is accountable to the whole church, through the Administrative Committee, which serves as the board of the Office of the General Minister and President.

As the President of the Corporation, the General Minister and President must be able to lead a complex organization and will have a fiduciary responsibility for the Office of the General Minister and President's finances. She/he will serve as the primary spokesperson for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and sign official documents of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Additionally, as CEO of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the GMP will serve as the corporate resident agent for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and will designate officers of the General Minister and President executive staff to serve in representative capacities, as appropriate.

**Materials Requested from potential
General Minister and President Candidates**

All materials are to be submitted online at: ksantiagodoc@gmail.com

Completed Search and Call papers must be in the Search and Call Office and all materials received no later than July 10, 2016.

Materials are to include:

- 1. A letter of interest**
- 2. A c. v. or resume including: vital information, education, work, history, date and region of ordination, awards, publications, etc.**
- 3. Four references- include name, phone numbers, relationship, an email address if the reference has one**
- 4. A video link or audio file of a sermon**
- 5. Anything the applicant wants the Search Committee to consider**
- 6. Answer the following essay questions (no more than 4 pages, single space, 12 point font, 1 inch margins)**
 - What is your understanding of the role of the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? What are strengths and challenges of the position of the General minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?**
 - "Imagine you are ending your first term as GMP and the church is at its best. What might it look like? What is the church doing as a denomination and as a movement for wholeness in the world? How are we living into Christ's commandment to love one another? What leadership skills and gifts will you use to lead us there?"**
 - In your opinion, what is the most critical issue facing the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) today. As the General Minister and President how do you address it?**
 - How have you embraced diversity in your ministry and what do you personally do to promote justice and equality for racial and ethnic minorities and other marginalized groups and individuals?**