

# GB-22-1198

**Name of ministry:** Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Capital Area

**Ministry**

**Executive/Regional**

**Minister name:**

Rev. Jeffrey Norris Stinehelfer

**Ministry**

**Executive/Regional**

**Minister email:**

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**In what ways is your  
region/ministry thriving?**

To characterize our Region as "thriving", in a time that will be remembered for the influence of a pandemic of unprecedented proportions in the modern era, must be understood in relative terms. In addition, the operation of the Region is currently dependent upon staff that serve on a part-time basis. These circumstances by nature mitigate against the concept of "thriving". Rather, the Christian Church Capital Area is "holding its own", as best it can.

Yet, while the routine administration of the Region continues as normally as possible, there are exciting things happening: Local congregations are effectively developing new ways to worship. Boards, commissions, and committees are learning new ways to meet. A beloved camp property that has served its time is about to be sold, honoring the principles of Christian stewardship, while improving the financial strength of the Region. "More Than Enough!", a multi-year fund-raising effort inspired by the teachings of the Apostle Paul, will ensure that the Region can regain the capacity to employ a full-time Regional Minister. The campaign's general goal is \$100,000 per year, and it was launched with the announcement that early pledges totaling \$50,000 per year had been committed in the Advance

Phase! The Committee presently searching for our next Regional Minister can do its work with confidence!

**What are the biggest challenges facing your region/ministry this year?**

A clear challenge is to assure the congregations, members, and clergy that the services of the Region are as responsive to their expectations as ever. At the same time, we need to increase the number of churches that actually contribute directly to the Region's ministry. The likely sale of a camp property, and the anticipated success of a special campaign, must not excuse many of our congregations to continue their relaxed attitude toward the stewardship of the wider church. The foundational concept of covenant must be more clearly understood in the basic terms of responsible relationships.

Another primary challenge is to successfully complete the Search and Call process for the Region's next Regional Minister. The hope is that full-time, long-term, extraordinarily gifted leadership will be the result of the search that is underway.

A third challenge will be to successfully relocate the camp operations historically held on a site that will no longer be available, to the Region's other camp property, without compromising the overall quality of our camp and conference ministry.

**What is something you hope to accomplish in the next year?**

Important accomplishments in the next year will be 1) to conclude the sale of a camp property, 2) to achieve \$100,000 or more in annual pledges to "More Than Enough!", 3) to positively advance the Region's Search and Call process, 4) to significantly increase the number of congregations that financially support the ministry and mission of the Region, and 5) to increase the appreciation of our churches for the racial, cultural, and geographic diversity represented in the Region.

**What is something you would like the General Board to know about your region/ministry?**

The expectations of the General Church must adapt when a Region is burdened with the realities of part-time leadership as opposed to full-time leadership. That may also mean offering assistance by deploying General Church resources in creative ways. The Christian Church Capital Area has historically served as a repository of exceptional leadership and partnership for the General Church, and that relationship must be encouraged and maintained for the benefit of both manifestations of the One Church.

**How can we pray for your region/ministry?**

Pray that the challenges and opportunities described above, will enjoy measurable success, even or especially during an "interim" period of answering the collective call to be faithful Disciples of Christ.