

# GB-22-1201

**Name of ministry:** Christian Church in Georgia

**Ministry**

**Executive/Regional**

**Minister name:**

Rev Denise D Bell

**Ministry**

**Executive/Regional**

**Minister email:**

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

Despite the pandemic's effects, our region thrived in three different categories.

Leadership Investments:

Younger and newer members now make up the bulk of our regional board. This year's goal was to get board members involved throughout the region. New task forces were formed to handle the finances, property improvements at the camp, and document revisions at the regional level. To accommodate the regional minister's sabbatical, the executive team assumed new tasks and responsibilities, and they continue to operate at a high level of shared leadership. Three new employees were employed because of a new process for determining staffing needs.

Program Ministries:

Despite the pandemic's disturbances, we faithfully served as Christ's church. Our Reconciliation Commission organized anti-racism and pro-reconciliation training event sponsored by the General Church Reconciliation Ministry. The Commission conducted three regional

virtual dialogues on reconciliation. In addition, Boundaries Training continues to be a joint venture with the UCC Southeastern Conference. Both of our Disciple Women's virtual events were a great success. We maintained our summer camp program's creative and loving nature despite the COVID-19 regulations. We were forced to cancel our yearly youth assembly due to the pandemic. The YAC team organized a successful regional youth event on our campgrounds. Finally, our cooperation with Inspiritus, a refugee agency in Georgia, is what we're most proud of. This year, we received a family of ten from Afghanistan who arrived in Atlanta in the fall of this year. Members of our churches worked together to help this family and are preparing for the next family that will come. The Champion Partner level of sponsorship is our ultimate objective, and it entails six months of weekly visits with the family and a donation of \$3,000 per family.

Relationships, strengths, and linkages between regional and congregational levels:

A new program called Upgrade Thursdays was created and used a virtual platform to deliver contemporary subjects that enlightened, excited, and encouraged Georgia Disciples. This innovative format will continue into 2022. Also, this year we started using Constant Contact to send a bi-monthly e-newsletter to each congregation and subscriber.

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

We have four challenges. First, we are challenged to recruit volunteer leaders to serve in program areas across the region. Secondly, we are challenged to develop new formats and resources to help clergy, congregations, and regional ministries re-imagine ministry. The nature of this challenge is in competing with time slots in congregational life and creating dual-oriented ways to gather virtually and in person. Thirdly, we are challenged with financial giving. The pandemic

negatively impacted congregational resources, so we must find creative ways to generate income streams. Fourth, we are challenged to help small congregations to recognize new creative ways to offer relevant ministry to their communities.

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

**Leadership Investment:** We are excited about the possibility of hiring a part-time Associate Regional Minister to serve primarily in our New Church and Church Development Ministry.

**Organizational Development:** We intend to review organizational structure, organizational clarity, which involves updating policies, procedures, constitution, and bylaws.

**Stewardship and sustainability:** We will develop new and innovative ways to discover and secure various funding streams, including existing and traditional methods and uncharted measures.

**Program Ministries:** We will continue to support the recreation of current regional ministries to engage with congregations and members in discovering new ways to do relevant ministry together.

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

The Christian Church in Georgia is pivotal to embracing change, renewal, and transformation into the future. A new urgency is emerging to move forward despite uncertainty without looking back.

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

Our prayer request, "That we might have a spiritual resolve to seek God's mission for the Christian Church in Georgia!"