

# GB-2204

**Name of ministry:** Christian Church Foundation

**Ministry**

**Executive/Regional**

**Minister name:**

Rev. Gary W. Kidwell

**Ministry**

**Executive/Regional**

**Minister email:**

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

This year the Foundation reached a new milestone--\$1 billion in total assets. These dollars represent the combined holdings of over 800 Disciples ministries. This is a tremendous witness to the vitality of our church and the strength of Disciples ministries working together.

The Foundation is strong. Our key metrics—assets under management, total gifts and deposits, distributions for ministry, operational results—are all record-breaking. The Foundation is growing. The Foundation has more than doubled in size over the last 10 years and is nearly 10 times larger than it was when I joined the staff in 1998. We have used that growing strength to bless the whole church. We have steadily reduced costs to our partners, while at the same time upgrading our services. Cost reductions, mission-focused services, and greater efficiencies are making it possible for all of our ministry partners to move more money to mission.

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

The pandemic. It feels like one step forward and two steps back. Fortunately, we have become adept at change. In June, we returned to the office, after pandemic-induced months of work-from-home. In September, we hit the pause button and went back to

most everyone working remotely. What has been most amazing to me is the absolute ease with which our staff has moved through this period of change, without complaining, without allowing their performance to suffer. With change, we have become stronger and more agile.

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

I will be participating next year in the Initiative for Responsible Investment at Harvard University. The project will examine the important role that faith alignment across an investment portfolio can play as a force not only for shareholders, but all stakeholders in society as well. I am particularly interested in exploring what makes faith-based investing unique, its divergence from ESG investing, and how to best assess systemic risks.

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

The Foundation is celebrating its 60th birthday. We were incorporated on Monday, November 27, 1961, with the mission of “helping Disciples make a difference forever.” Our founders had big dreams, but virtually no money. In 1964, when the Foundation turned three, assets under management totaled less than \$15,000. This year, the Foundation’s assets reached \$1 billion.

I have no doubt that the Foundation’s early leaders believed that the Foundation would grow to \$1 billion. But no one could have imagined that it would happen in the middle of a global pandemic!

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

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” Luke 12:48 NIV  
Pray that the Foundation will always remain faithful to its mission and calling.

