

# GB-2207

**Name of ministry:**

Division of Homeland Ministries dba Disciples Home Missions

**Ministry**

**Executive/Regional**

**Minister name:**

Rev Sheila P Spencer

**Ministry**

**Executive/Regional**

**Minister email:**

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

I am grateful for the passion, commitment and creativity of the DHM community. The pandemic has brought challenges but birthed opportunities. We are grateful for the resources created for congregations through Ministries Across Generations. The network of Chaplains who continue to reach out and serve the community that surrounds us and the regular support that the Office of Chaplaincy offers. We are grateful for the ministries that continue to be committed to the voices of the most vulnerable and committed to justice. The ministry of RIM (Refugee and Immigrant Ministries) continues the work of providing resources and advocacy. Our Immigration Legal Counsel offers counsel and legal support to our Disciples pastors and communities. It is through the Green Chalice Ministry that calls us to be advocates and honor creation. We are connected in partnering with ministries through our various grants. It is the sowing into the ministries of seminarians through the the Scholarships and Continuing Education grants to support ministers who continue to learn. We have a Staff that is committed to their call.

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

The Pandemic continues to shift the world around us. Our devoted staff has continued to adapt to meet the needs of those around us. One of the questions is making sure that we continue to be present to meet the shifting needs of our clergy and leadership.

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

We plan to continue to nurture relationships with our Disciples community. This includes partnering with Staff to find ways that we can continue to collaborate to meet the needs of our Disciples Community. We are grateful for the filling of some key positions which include the Director of Christian Education/Faith Formation and the creativity with connection and creation of resources and partnership.

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

Disciples Home Missions continues the commitment to connect people to the life changing love of God through our various ministries. Our DHM Staff continue to be committed to offer service, resources and support.

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

Pray for the DHM Staff that are completely committed to their ministries. Pray that they take the time to care for themselves as they care and minister to others. It is not selfish to refill your own cup first before pouring into others. Self care is not a luxury, it is essential. We cannot pour from empty vessels. I have been intentional about encouraging staff to take time to breathe and rest. Living in the midst of multiple pandemics and challenges has shifted the paradigm for everyone. The opportunity for virtual connection has opened up doors for us to be creative and reaching out in new and engaging ways. Pray that their creative spirit will continue to thrive. Pray for our Ministry as we continue to work with our partners to connect people to the life changing love of God. Pray that we continue to be open to the Holy Spirit's direction for moving forward.