

GB-2214

Name of ministry:

North American Pacific/Asian Disciples in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Ministry

Executive/Regional

Minister name:

Chung Seong Kim

Ministry

Executive/Regional

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In what ways is your region/ministry thriving?

The North American Pacific/Asian Disciples of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) affirms the cultures and heritages of Pacific/Asian peoples within the historic and living Christian faith. As part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we join with other Disciples in the total mission of the church, to recognize and promote the gifts and presence of North American Pacific/Asian Disciples in the life and work of the Church.

To participate in God's mission through the various expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

To contribute to the wholeness and unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

To advocate for Pacific/ Asian Disciples within and outside the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

To share the gifts and traditions of Pacific/Asian Disciples with the wider church.

NAPAD ministry continued to thrive in accordance with the Disciples identity in becoming "a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world". NAPAD is faithfully

on the frontline of accomplishing the four mission priorities of the Church: Becoming a Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racist Church; New Church Establishment; Congregational Transformation; and Leadership Development.

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

COVID 19 negatively affected our ministry in many ways. We have been conducting our ministry on the assumption that the condition will not be changed in the foreseeable future.

A. we expect DMF offering will be decreased due to the financial difficulty of the local congregations. Since our ministry budget greatly depends on the DMF offering, we need to adjust our expense conservatively so that we can maintain our sound financial condition.

B. there are so many congregations and members who are directly affected by the condition, our ministry will focus on supporting them in this emergency. I am working with other general ministry partners, such as Week of Compassion, NBA and Pension fund, and was able to provide some emergency support for many congregations and individuals.

C. NAPAD office continuously monitors the situation and working with our partner to cope with racism, especially against the Asian American community.

D. We are working with many other ministries to provide resources for the congregations in the new environments.

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

Even though the status of our ministry greatly improved, we are still facing some issues which ask us to respond to them boldly and faithfully. Declining DMF (Disciples Mission Fund), which is our main sources of income, asks us to find new financial resources and to think creatively how to do our ministry. We are diligently working to increase our endowment by donation and investment to support our ministry and it shows some

positive results. Redefining the role of ministry teams in ever-changing ministry environment is great challenge, especially when we have to support them with reduced financial resources. To establish new working plans with regional and general ministry partners has been increasingly important part of ministry. Finding and developing new leadership for the future is crucial part to fulfill the vision of NAPAD ministry

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

There are about 126 churches (23 among them are new church or newly joined less than three years) in 2021 which consist mostly of 18 different ethnic and linguistic groups: Burmese, Cambodian, Chin, Chinese, Chuukese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Karen, Korean, Laotian, Mongolian, Montagnard, Samoan, Tongan, Vietnamese, and Zo. We gather to form one community – the NAPAD community. NAPAD contributes to the Disciples being “a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.”

We have offered culturally adapted anti-racist training (in Korean) in Pacific Southwest Region in consultation from the Reconciliation Ministry. Several ethnic group leaders are being trained to offer language and culture adapted training in several languages. We are working with Reconciliation Ministry to develop new way of educating general public in NAPAD.

We are continuously seeking to educate new leaders who can have anti-racism training in each ethnic language. Our new focus has been on Chuukese and Samoan community since 2020.

There have been significant challenges among immigrants’ community due to US government anti-immigrant policy in the last US administration. We have been working closely with DHM Refugee and immigration ministry to develop a specific educational resource to support NAPAD community affected by it. Advocating immigrant community and cooperating with many other NGO became important ministry of NAPAD

and whole Disciples are working together for this important issue.

Since the Covid 19 pandemics, there has been significant increase of physical and verbal threat and violence against Asian community. We have been working closely with other ministries and our ecumenical partners to speak out against this racism and provide our communities with the tools to resist it.

How can we pray for your region/ministry?

Please pray for our young leadership. More and more young leaders in NAPAD community are recognized throughout the churches and playing important roles. Many leadership changes throughout the Disciples community give us new opportunity to renew our covenant with many ministry partners in rapidly changing condition. This also provides more opportunity for new leaders in NAPAD to work not only within NAPAD community but also in wider churches.