We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us.

Our Vision is to be a faithful and growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. Micah 6:8

Our Mission is to be and share the good news of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Acts 2:8

Our Imperative is to strengthen congregations for this mission

Called by God’s covenant of love, the Office of the General Assembly convenes the church in mutual accountability for witness and service.

General Assembly
The initial planning for the 2015 General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, has begun. The theme for the 2015 assembly is “SOAR!” based on Isaiah 40:31. The Program Planning and Arrangements met January 19-22, 2014, and the Worship and Education Planning Teams will meet February 20-22, 2014, both in Columbus. The February gatherings will include local arrangements committee selection with Ohio pastors.

The contracting phase has begun for General Assembly 2017 with the City of Indianapolis. The Request for Proposal Process for 2019 has started as well.

Reflections on Orlando 2013: Orlando was chosen as host city to answer the question, “For a General Assembly, does the destination matter?” The answer is yes. In Orlando, a larger number of young adults and families with children registered (over 900). Conversely, a lower than average number of older members attended citing Florida as a winter destination with too much of a “tourist trap” atmosphere.
The Orlando location was also impacted by the participation of the local community. Under the leadership of Larry Deitch, Florida Disciples volunteers provided outstanding hospitality. Unfortunately, there were not enough of them. Only 275 local hosts registered compared with 435 in Nashville, over 900 in Indianapolis and over 1200 in Fort Worth. The Orlando Assembly made clear that the financial viability of a location requires at least 8000 Disciples within a 1½ hour radius of the convention center.

The Assembly posted a loss of about $50,000 (actual loss of $75,000 less the $25,000 General Assembly reserve). This loss will be covered by OGMP reserves. Contributing to the deficit were a contractual loss, expenses that in the past have been volunteer (the children's program) or paid by other ministries of the church that can no longer afford the expense due to staff reductions or changes. In spite of hotel rebates and outside contributions as well as controlling other costs, registrations were simply too low to support the Orlando Assembly.

Feedback from all three expressions of the church suggests that it is time to again review our “sense of the assembly” process. Is there a more constructive way to engage in dialogue around controversial topics? Can Disciples model “unity in diversity” on these matters? Can we open a space where all truly feel welcome? The Governance Committee of the General Board will review and bring proposals in this biennium.

**General Board**
The role and purpose of the General Board is being discussed at several tables of church leadership. The General Cabinet has begun to imagine a new approach that would focus primarily on mission rather than governance. The vision is to establish in place of the General Board a church-wide "Mission Council" that would allow all expressions of the church to collaborate and coordinate mission initiatives and programming. At the time of this writing, the Cabinet has prepared an "invitation to a conversation" issued to other ministries of the church to explore this concept and model together.

Robert Welsh, president of the Council of Christian Unity and the CCU board had already initiated a conversation about the future of the CCU and its relationship with the General Board (GB) and OGMP. In a resolution before this GB, there is a proposal that the OGMP join with the CCU in piloting a new model of relationship between the GB and a general ministry. In this model, the GMP Vision Advisors Committee would transition into the Standing Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations which would function as CCU’s board. Goals include: integrating Christian unity matters more closely into the life of the whole church; opening the door to conversation about the relationship of the GB with the other program ministries of the church; continuing the conversation about the most effective way of relating the Church’s ecumenical ministry with the work and ministry of the OGMP. The CCU board and the Governance Committee of the GB will guide next steps in this process. There will be discussion regarding this process during the 2014 General Board meeting.

**Finance**
OGMP continues to have solid financial reports. Conservative budgeting, not replacing staff, and adding additional streams of revenue have resulted in six consecutive years in
the black, while building reserves and eliminating debt. The current forecast projects a seventh year of positive numbers. Two factors weigh heavily on our budget:

a. Post-retirement healthcare. When first offered, accounting standards did not require this liability to be funded. With changed accounting rules, the benefit was closed; however, the financial obligation remains. Our current cost is around $40,000 per year.

b. Healthcare. While the Pension Fund works diligently to contain costs, we still spend $230,000 per year on healthcare for employees and families. Small group plans would be even more expensive. To mitigate costs, we have reduced the benefit by increasing the deductible from $500 per year to $1,000 to $2,500.

OGMP Treasury Services (TS) client base is expanding. We provide integrated accounting for: the Council on Christian Unity, Christian Church Services, 9 entities of OGMP, National City Christian Church Foundation, and the regions of Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, Upper Midwest, Northwest, Greater Kansas City, the Capital Area Region and 6 of 7 entities of Mid-America. We have had conversations with North Carolina, Virginia, Oklahoma, Southwest, Pacific Southwest and Central Rocky Mountain regions. OGMP TS provides a service that saves between $10,000 and $40,000 per year per entity.

Audit Note: OGMP continues to use the services of CapinCrouse. The Audit will be completed in normal fashion by April 1, 2014. Once it is received by the Administrative Committee, a link to the audit will be e-mailed to all General Board members.

Disciples Center

The Christian Church Services board recently voted to extend our building management contract for three more years. Through this relationship OGMP coordinates conference rooms, maintenance and shared space in our leased building, and manages the relationship with building owners.

A property committee of Todd Adams, Gary Kidwell and Jim Hamlett are currently working to address the size, location and cost of the Disciples Center. Our current lease will expire in 2016, however, a decision on whether we will stay in our current location or move is anticipated in the next six months.

Communication Ministries

General Assembly in Orlando dominated the work of Communication Ministries following the 2013 General Board meeting. Strategies for communicating Sense-of-the-Assembly resolutions included short videos featuring individuals from throughout the church. The General Assembly Facebook group page became a lively discussion forum as well as a source of information. During assembly, daily Disciples News Service editions highlighted the events of the day and invited those not attending to watch worship webcasts. A final newsletter summarizing the event was mailed in August.

General Assembly saw the unveiling of new “identity initiative” materials. A cooperative effort with the Council on Christian Unity, four videos and accompanying study guides
were produced. In addition, ideas for advertising and promotion, preaching and learning were added to the disciples.org website. More are added as staff become aware of other resources. A short video on the identity page tours the materials available. Key words from the identity statement also formed the foundation of the Advent video featuring the biennium's moderator team.

A second phase of the identity initiative kicked off 2014 with a letter from General Minister and President Sharon Watkins on Jan. 1. Different parts of the resource page are currently being highlighted in Disciples News Service and Disciples Together (see below) publications. GMP blogs on the key ideas of movement, wholeness, welcome and table are also forthcoming. CM staff and others will share the materials in several regional assemblies in the spring and fall of 2014.

Disciples News Service weekly e-letters were joined by a bi-monthly e-letter for pastors and chaplains known as Disciples Together. It is a cooperative effort with General Ministries. An October survey of readers expressed special appreciation for worship resources. Both e-letters are archived and accessible through disciples.org. Revenue from advertisements in DNS paid for the subscription to the e-mail service provider.

Other projects included an animated video explaining Disciples Mission Fund and one on how to become a Disciples pastor (in cooperation with General Commission on Ministry). Videos of individuals sharing the need for immigration reform were edited and posted for Disciples Home Missions' Refugee and Immigration Ministry.

A new Facebook group was introduced in the spring for sharing ideas. Disciples Exchange now has more than 800 members. Topics range from practical “how-to” advice to theological discussions.

Ecumenical Representative

According to the Design, the GMP serves as the Church’s primary ecumenical representative. (The president of CCU functions as “ecumenical officer”.) During 2013, the GMP served as co-chair of the National Council of Churches (NCC) search committee for a new General Secretary/President as the NCC transitions to a smaller, more flexible network-type organization. In November, she was elected Chair-Elect of the NCC Governing Board for 2014-2015.

The GMP, who serves on the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC), also served as moderator of the Program Guidelines Committee at the WCC Assembly in Busan Korea in the fall.

Also during 2013, the GMP and her counterpart at the United Church of Christ, traveled to China. Led by Dr. Xiaoling Zhu, Global Ministries Area Executive serving East Asia and the Pacific, the group visited ministry partners as well as historical sites in China.

Disciples continue to be active in Churches Uniting in Christ (formerly Consultation on Church Union). Timothy James represents us there along with Robert Welsh. We also
participate in Christian Churches Together, the newest and broadest ecumenical initiative of our time. April Johnson and Robert Welsh represent us at CCT.

**General Minister and President Sabbatical**

As approved by the Administrative Committee, the GMP took the first half of her sabbatical leave from July 29 – September 8. The time was spent working on the first draft of a book (working title “As God Has Welcomed Us”). The second half of the sabbatical will come during the period February 24- April 6, 2014.

**Recommended Action:**

The General Board receives the report of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including the Office of General Minister and President.
MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
April 5-6, 2013

Indianapolis, Indiana
Indianapolis Marriott East

Regina Morton, Moderator
Susan Diamond, First Vice Moderator
Rick Ikeda, Second Vice Moderator

Overview

The Administrative Committee convened the afternoon of April 5, 2013 and adjourned at 1:00 PM after sharing lunch together on April 6, 2013. First Vice Moderator, Susan Diamond, led the Committee in worship throughout the meeting.

On Friday, General Minister and President, Sharon Watkins gave her report regarding the Office of General Minister and President. Sharon highlighted the TLC meeting which took place on April 4, 2013 as a new beginning for this group of leaders. The group is made up of the Cabinet, Regional Ministers, representatives from Higher Education and representatives from the Office of General Minister and President. TLC came together as leaders of the whole church as opposed to leaders of individual ministries. Sharon reported that this was a day of great beginnings, as the group identified leadership development as one of our four priorities that needs work. Sharon also highlighted the continued evolution of the Justice Table as it begins work on a devotional for distribution to congregations.

On Saturday, Associate General Minister and Vice President, Todd Adams, walked the Administrative Committee through their roles at both the General Board and at General Assembly. The Committee was reminded that since this is an Assembly year, there will be more work done in small groups, led by Administrative Committee members, on resolutions during General Board. The committee members were given time to organize their small group work with their leadership partners. Todd also reviewed the Committee’s responsibilities as the Business Committee during General Board and as the Committee on Reference and Counsel during General Assembly.

Business of the Administrative Committee

Agenda

VOTED to approve the agenda of this meeting
AC-13-2175  2012 Audit of the Office of General Minister and President, Year Book & Directory, Reconciliation Ministry, Week of Compassion and Communication Ministries

**VOTED** to receive the 2012 Audit with the note that the audit received the best possible outcome - a clean opinion with no comments

**Consent Agenda**

**VOTED** to approve the following items from the Consent Agenda

- Minutes of the Fall 2012 Administrative Committee
- AC-13-2176  Election of Administrative Committee Member to the Pastoral Commission for Hispanic Ministries
- AC-13-2177  Designation of the General Board Offering - offering will be divided between Disciples Mission Fund, Reconciliation Ministry and Week of Compassion
- AC-13-2179  Revision to the Open Meetings Policy
- AC-13-2180  Accepting Disciples Center for Public Witness as a “Recognized Organization” of the Church
- AC-13-2181  General Nominating Committee Class of 2017

AC-13-2178  **Executive Search Model**

An extensive review and discussion was held on both Friday and Saturday regarding the content and terminology of the Executive Search Model. It was decided that the Administrative Committee would recommend to the General Board that the Executive Search Process be adopted, with an additional recommendation that it be referred back to the Administrative Committee for further editing. The Administrative Committee would then approve the edited version on behalf of the General Board with the General Board then ratifying that decision at its 2014 meeting.

**MOTION** The Administrative Committee recommends that the General Board refer the Executive Search Process back to the Administrative Committee for further work.

**VOTED** to approve the motion made regarding AC-13-2178, Executive Search Process

Two additional motions were made in regard to the Executive Search Process
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AC-13-2182</th>
<th>Supplemental Document to the Executive Search Process - Historically Underrepresented Groups</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VOTED</strong></td>
<td>that the Administrative Committee draft a supplemental document to the Executive Search Process to provide cultural orientation and preparation to boards and/or organizations issuing calls to persons from historically underrepresented groups</td>
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<tr>
<th>AC-13-2183</th>
<th>Supplemental Document to the Executive Search Process - Advocacy/Support and Grievance Resolution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VOTED</strong></td>
<td>that the Administrative Committee draft a supplemental document to the Executive Search Process to provide a place of advocacy/support and grievance resolution for persons from historically underrepresented groups</td>
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</tbody>
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MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
October 25-26, 2013

Indianapolis, Indiana Downtown Hilton Garden Inn

Glen Miles, Moderator
Joan Bell-Haynes, First Vice Moderator Tony Rodriguez, Second Vice Moderator

Overview

The 2013 Fall Administrative Committee opened with worship and communion, led by First Vice Moderator Joan Bell-Haynes. As the approach to the work of the Administrative Committee is that of worshipful work, God’s presence was visually represented by a worship center and candle in the room. Joan also led us in worship on Saturday morning and as we closed our meeting.

Since this was the first meeting of this particular iteration of the Administrative Committee, Moderator Glen Miles led the group through two exercises allowing the members to introduce themselves and learn a bit about each other. We then moved on to a Board Orientation Review by Associate General Minister and Vice President, Todd Adams.

Business of the Administrative Committee

Agenda

VOTED to approve the agenda of this meeting

Consent Agenda

VOTED to approve the following items from the Consent Agenda

Minutes of the Spring 2013 Administrative Committee

AC-13-2191 Report on Maintaining 501(c)3 Tax Status Report with IRS
AC-13-2199 Establishing the Price for the 2014 Year Book & Directory
AC-13-2184 Election of Corporate Treasurer and Secretary
AC-13-2188 2013 Audit Engagement
AC-13-2201 Approval of the Parliamentarian for the 2013-2015 Biennium
AC-13-2200, Amendments to the Standing Rules for the Center for Faith and Giving was removed from the Consent Agenda for further review and discussion.

**AC-13-2189** General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) including the Office of General Minister and President

**RECEIVED** upon the conclusion of General Minster and President Sharon Watkins’ presentation of the report

**AC-13-2200** Amendments to the Standing Rules for the Center for Faith and Giving

**VOTED** to approve the amendments to the Standing Rules of the Center for Faith and Giving

Todd Adams provided an overview of the 2014 budgets for the entire committee

**VOTED** to approve the 2014 Budgets listed below

- **AC-13-2193** OGMP Administrative Budget
- **AC-13-2194** OGMP Promotions Budget
- **AC-13-2195** OGMP Communications Budget
- **AC-13-2196** OGMP Year Book Budget
- **AC-13-2197** OGMP Treasury Services Budget
- **AC-13-2198** General Assembly Budget

**AC-13-2192** HR Change to OGMP Employee Handbook

**VOTED** to accept the proposed change to the OGMP Employee Handbook which reinstates the fourth week of vacation for the exempt staff inadvertently removed during the rewrite of the OGMP Employee Handbook in 2012

**AC-13-2185** Recognized Ministry Partners - Criteria and Process

**VOTED** to approve the establishment of criteria and process as amended, for making recommendations to the General Board of ministries outside the church desiring official recognition as a Recognized Ministry Partner
Vacancy for Moderator Elect

VOTED to approve Rev. Paul Tche to serve as the Moderator-Elect for the 2013-2015 biennium and Moderator for 2015-2017

General Assembly items for Research and Reflection

VOTED to delay a formal decision on these items until the February 2014 Administrative Committee meeting so the Program Planning and Arrangements Committee may meet in January 2014 which will allow for educational opportunities for the 2015 General Assembly to be defined

Discussion Items

Review of 2013 General Assembly Resolutions

Beth Sullivan provided the Committee with an update on the 2013 General Assembly resolutions, including what actions have been taken to date since the Assembly, what is pending and which resolutions will be assigned to the General Assembly Committee of the General Board for continued follow up during the next biennium.

Theme and Logo for 2015 General Assembly

The theme and potential logo for the 2015 General Assembly was revealed to the Committee. The theme is SOAR! and is rooted in Isaiah 40: 1-5; 28-31. The Committee provided helpful insight and suggestions to assist in fleshing out possible images suggested by the scripture.

Council on Christian Unity - General Board Relationship

Robert Welsh, president of the Council on Christian Unity (CCU), joined the Committee on Saturday morning to present a proposal regarding CCU, the General Board and the Office of General Minister and President (OGMP). Proposal calls for the integration of CCU within the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) while maintaining CCU’s identity and integrity as a general ministry in covenantal relationship to the whole church. Also calls for a shift in the role of the General Board to develop a new model for visioning, mutual accountability and collaboration with a general ministry of the church.

A period of discussion ensued following Robert’s presentation on topics such as funding, perception of this idea by other program ministries, structure of the General Board, the General Board’s capacity and how that needs to evolve, possible opposition, and how do we define governance within a governance.

At the conclusion of the discussion the following motion was made, seconded and approved:
AC-13-2204 A Proposal Regarding the Council on Christian Unity (CCU), the General Board (GB) and the Office of General Minister and President (OGMP)

VOTED The Administrative Committee joins with the Council on Christian Unity Board in forwarding “A Proposal Regarding the Council on Christian Unity (CCU), the General Board (GB) and the Office of General Minister and President (OGMP)” to the General Board for consideration and action.

The Administrative Committee acknowledges that the General Minister and President will assign the proposal to the Governance Committee of the General Board for modification of “The Standing Rules for the General Board”. The Governance Committee will work in partnership with representatives of the Council on Christian Unity board to prepare the business items for the February 2014 General Board Meeting.

GB-13-0848 Supplemental Document to the Executive Search Process

The Committee was informed that our immediate past Moderator, Regina Morton will lead a task force to draft a supplemental document which will provide cultural orientation and preparation to boards and organization issuing calls to persons from historically underrepresented groups.

GB-13-0849 Advocacy Support and Grievance Resolution

The Committee was informed that the charge of this General Board item to address the issue of advocacy support and grievance resolution across the life of the Church for persons from historically underrepresented groups will dovetail with a National Convocation and General Ministry colleague initiative already in formation.

2014 General Board Agenda

This being a non-Assembly year, the General Board will be focused on education. It will once again feature covenantal dialogues with the General Ministries, Racial/Ethnic Ministries and OGMP. The meeting will also focus on the four strategic mission priorities, feature the Identity Initiative and how the covenantal dialogue process helps to internalize the accountability of the General Ministries to the General Board, written into the Design.

Resolution Process for the 2015 General Assembly

Question - “how do we evolve the resolution process?”

Todd Adams presented an initial proposal worked on by himself, Robert Welsh and Sharon Watkins to address the difficulty of our current process when addressing issues in today’s society. Built upon the work and experience of the Council on Christian Unity
in partnership with Disciples Peace Fellowship over the past four years in creating the Faithful Conversations’ model to address difficult issues and questions before our members, this proposal would ask the General Board and General Assembly to consider a different approach to dealing with the major issues of our time (moral, ethical and theological).

The Committee’s discussion focused on how to tie the action of a General Assembly into engagement with the Church. While there appeared to be agreement amongst the members of the Committee about the need to amend the process so that a divisive “yes or no” vote does not conclude the Assembly’s engagement of an issue, there was a concern expressed that the initial proposal presented may soften or dilute the voice of justice and passion in our Church. The discussion also included comments on how General Ministry reports are presented and what changes may be made in that area.

The Committee asked that Moderator Glen Miles form a subgroup of the Administrative Committee to work on the resolution process with a possible proposal being ready to present to the 2014 General Board.

Executive Session - Minutes provided by Bill Bailey, Parliamentarian

AC-13-2190 Housing Allowance Reporting

VOTED to receive report

AC-13-2202 General Minister and President Compensation

VOTED to approve

A motion was made by Second Vice Moderator Tony Rodriguez which was subsequently approved.

AC-13-2205 Salary Process Review

VOTED to create a subcommittee of the Administrative Committee to: 1) review the process by which the General Minister and President (GMP) salary is established; 2) a comparison of the GMP salary with that of other denominational heads of communion as well as with that of executives within our own denomination; 3) a review of salary ranges of staff within OGMP.
Christian Church Services, Inc., functions as the holding company for the Disciples Center managing the lease, common mail services, insurance, phone systems, building receptionist and other matters related to the operations of the Disciples Center. In 2011, CCS contracted with the Office of the General Minister and President to provide these services. December of 2013, the contract was extended for three years from April 1, 2014-to March 31, 2017.

The Disciples Center building in Indianapolis is leased space and the lease which began in 1995 is up for renewal in 2016. Currently, CCS has a Property Committee that is examining future space and lease negotiations. CCS addresses items such as employee safety. Recently, CCS purchased two AED machines for the building. Twenty employees will be certified to operate the machines.

The financials for CCS are managed through OGMP Treasury Services. Therefore the audited financials are part of the OGMP Audit.

Todd Adams serves as the OGMP Staff person carrying out the contractual duties. Sharon E. Watkins, ex-officio serves as President. Gary Kidwell will serve as Board Chair through December 2014. Voting members of the board include each ministry signing on the lease: Ron Degges (DHM), Julia Brown Karimu (DOM), Robert Welsh (CCU), Rick Reisinger (DCEF), Sharon Watkins (GMP), Jim Hamlett (PF), Gary Kidwell (CCF), Jinsuk Chun (NAPAD) and Huberto Pimentel (CPOHM). Bob McLaughlin, representing Disciples Data attends as a non-voting guest.
Report to the Administrative Committee
And General Board
Spring 2014
Center for Faith and Giving

**Director:** Bruce A. Barkhauer

**Standing Committee:** Sam Colson [Chair], Robin Hedgemen, Erin Wathen, Yolanda Marquez-Lucar, Dennis Williams, Sharon Watkins, Gary Kidwell, Ron Deggs

**Vision:** To create a culture of generosity across the life of the whole church.

**Mission:** To create and provide resources which teach stewardship as a spiritual discipline and a whole-life response to the abundance of God.

**Recent Governing Activity & Modifications:**

The Standing Committee said good-bye to four year member Katie Hays. She has been a tremendous asset to this ministry and we are grateful for her faithful service and the generous way that she has shared her wisdom and energy. We now welcome three new members to our team as 2014 begins. Erin Wathen joins this committee even as she begins a new ministry at St. Andrews CC in Kansas City. Erin has provided leadership and resources to the Center and we are grateful that she will now participate in this important way. Our two additional members come to us Ex-officio (by virtue of office): Gary Kidwell, who is the President of the Christian Church Foundation; and, Ron Deggs, who is the President of Disciples Home Missions.

As a part of our on-going evaluation and reformation, we requested (and the Administrative Committee subsequently approved) the addition of two additional Ex-officio members joining Sharon Watkins who also serves in this ex-officio capacity. The action was requested to bring additional voices to the Center for Faith and Giving as we continue to shape the direction of this ministry that serves the whole church. The specific offices of Foundation and Home Missions represent natural partnerships that already exist and that are being further developed. The Foundation representative brings a financial ministry partner and the Home Mission representative brings an educational program partner into our conversations. The existing Standing Committee believes this will strengthen our mutual ministries and help to prevent duplication of services. This change also provides advocacy and presence for the Center in a unique way at the Cabinet level. We will continue to keep the Administrative Committee informed regarding this change and its progress toward our established goals.

Another governing change has been made (and approved by the Administrative Committee) that relates to the selection process and terms of a Chair and the creation of a Vice Chair for the leadership of the Standing Committee. A nomination process has also been defined and is included within this amendment to our Standing Rules.

**The Ministry:**
We continue to serve the church in a variety of ways. The Director teaches stewardship at Lexington Theological Seminary twice a year as a part of the school’s core curriculum within the M-Div. on-line degree program. Every two years, he also teaches a course on Evangelism (to be offered again in May of 2014). New educational partnerships have developed for 2014. The Director will teach stewardship and finance (on-line) at PSR @ Claremont, CA, during the spring semester. The Center has also created on-line curriculum for Christian College (Atlanta, GA) and Transforming the Church.org (on-line learning academy affiliated with the Columbia Partnership). In the spring of 2014, Director Barkhauer will teach a one-day event at Divinity House at Vanderbilt. During the fall of 2013 the Director visited Phillips Theological Seminary and provided resources to the faculty that will be teaching a stewardship elective in the coming academic year. Rev Barkhauer also partnered with Dr. Rick Lowery in the summer of 2013 in a course offering at Christian Theological Seminary. The Center is committed to the education of clergy and lay licensed ministers and we believe this is bearing abundant fruit. It should also be noted that most of these partnership produce revenue streams for the Center.

The Website continues to grow in both the resources it provides and in the number of persons utilizing the site. Since its creation (11/1/2011), the site has hosted 43,808 visitors (12/18/13) with 135,216 page views. (In the six week period from 11/1-12/18 2013, we 3,857 visits and 11,080 page views.) The site is popular and widely used within and beyond our Disciples family. If you have not visited it, please take the time to do so: www.centerforfaithandgiving.org

During the course of a year, our Director visits and resources congregations, Regions, and other ministries of the church providing education, coaching and consultation. Whether is it keynoting an event, preaching in a congregation on a Sunday morning, or leading in workshops and seminars, the Center is a growing and welcome presence across the Church.

New partnerships are being forged with the United Church of Christ as we look to share our resources and energy in a mutual commitment to bring stewardship to the forefront in our faith communions. Our Director has met with Dr. Ben Guess who will be overseeing the transition that is taking place within the UCC and their finance ministries. This is a strategic time for our action as they prepare to create a new position and hire an individual who will become their Director of Stewardship Ministries. We are exploring at the very least, the co-development of theme resources for congregational annual campaigns. This can become an additional income stream for the Center.

With the receipt of an Oreon E. Scott Grant in 2013 now in hand, the Center will embark on producing a graded stewardship camp curriculum (elementary, middle school, and high school) during this calendar year that will be available to Regions in the spring of 2015. The material will introduce age appropriate themes in creation care, self-care, gospel care, and resource care, along with a personal finance component. The material will also be multi-use in design so that it can be utilized as retreat or small group curriculum. We are currently recruiting a design team and curriculum writers.

May 21-23 of 2014 will bring a special event to Brite Divinity School as the Center presents “Holy Conversations: Stewardship, Church, and people under 40”. Nathan
Dungan, creator of “Share, Save, Spend” will be our featured presenter and Rev. Dr. Katie Hays will be our preacher.

Our commitment to supporting the diverse ways in which we express what it means to be church will be lived out by participating in the Black Ministers Retreat and the National Convocation in 2014. We have also approached NAPAD and Obra Hispana about resourcing their national gatherings. The Center will be an exhibitor at Quadrennial.

The Center is also making itself and the resource of its Director available for Regional Assemblies in 2014. At this point, only the Region of West Virginia has availed itself to this opportunity.

We continue to explore how we might create a deeper relationship with the Hope Partnership and we have been gratified to be a part of both the Antioch Project and the Leadership Academy that are rooted in this ministry of our church.

Our gratitude is offered for the choice of the Cabinet (Counsel of General Ministries) decision to increase the share of the Easter Offering Allotment received into our budget beginning in 2014. Naturally, this is viewed as an affirmation of this ministry and its work. The additional resource will help us continue to expand our reach.

**Looking Forward**

When the Center for Faith and Giving was created out of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Finance, it was understood that after five years it should stand for evaluation regarding its effectiveness and impact across the life of the church. We welcome and embrace this decision, however unusual it may seem with regard to how other ministries have been established in the past. It is an act of faithful stewardship to be certain, in an intentional and meaningful way, that the allocation of resources for any ministry or mission that belongs to the whole church are being well utilized. We continue the process of self-evaluation and reflection upon not only the work of the Director, but also the Center as an entity in service to the people of God. Our blessings are many, including the gift of Dr. Susan Chaison, who is providing us with qualitative measurements of our activity and reporting to us regularly on her findings. This has been critical to our efforts to adjust and modify our material to be certain that it is genuinely fulfilling our mission. We are pleased to report these initial results are positive, and in one year’s time, it will be our privilege to present this material to you, including how we have modified our approach as we have learned what is working well and what would benefit from further adaptation. We offer this for the benefit of the Administrative Committee as it plans its future work and agenda, so that there will be adequate time for us to report in the spring of 2015.

In the end, we see our work touching most every thread in the web of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). When we are successful, the seeds of generosity are sown and they bear the fruit of resources, energy, commitment and understanding of our common witness and ministry. We hope that a book will make its way to publication this year through Chalice Press, further extending our touch and accessibility. We covet your prayers and await the invitation to join with your mission.
“The College of Regional Ministers was formed in response to the theological and ecclesiological imperatives attendant to the office of regional minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).”… the office of regional minister is "one of the clearest areas where the ministry of oversight (episcope) finds expression within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)." – Preamble of the Constitution of the College of Regional Ministers

The College of Regional Ministers (CRM) meets annually for study and discernment to address items of fundamental importance for the church’s mission, faith, order and practice. The College shall also meets for a working meeting on issues that are urgent and important in the life of the church and the world.

Most recently, through spiritual discernment and guided dialogue, the College has reached consensus that journeying together into a deeper spiritual and intentional collaborative partnership, is the most important way in which we can be more effective in our calling, and more supportive of one another as colleagues in strengthen our congregations. In light of that direction, the College has shaped its meetings with the intentional practicing of spiritual disciplines in our work together.

As a part of our commitment to collaborative partnership, the College will be scheduling time in 2014 to meet with the General Cabinet and Representatives from Disciples Educational Intuitions to discuss whole church issues.

In 2014, CRM will meet in conjunction with the meeting of the Forum of Regional Moderators (FORM), August 21-22, 2014. FORM will meet in Indianapolis for sharing and networking of common concerns of Regional Ministry.

The College continues to work closely with the General Commission on Ministry (GCOM), to coordinate the implementation of the Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of the Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) approved by the General Assembly in 2009. In the CRM 2013 meetings, the College provided feedback and support to GCOM’s work on revising the Search and Call Ministerial Profile.

The College continues to work with our general ministry partners in the mission priorities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to establish 1,000 new congregations by 2020; to transform existing congregations for future ministry; to develop leaders; and be an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church. We continue prayerfully, to lead our regions and the church toward being a community of faith that welcomes all persons to the table of our Lord.
The **Disciples Center for Public Witness** is a shared ministry of the Christian Church Capital Area, the congregations of the District of Columbia, and supporting congregations throughout the United States and Canada. We are also a recognized organization of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the Office of the General Minister and President.

The mission of the Center is to inform, connect, and empower Disciples and other people of faith for ecumenical and interfaith justice advocacy in the United States and Canada. This we do by means of workshops, conferences, internet activism, internships, meetings with policy makers, and active participation in events and activities that draw attention to important public policy issues and concerns.

We are blessed to report that the Center is in very good shape: We have strong partnerships with general, regional and congregational ministries; important new programs as part of our overall ministry; and an effective advocacy team composed of full-time staff, contractors, advocacy team partners, and committed volunteers. We are successfully raising the money needed to fund our work. And we are, in line with our mission, actively reaching out in new ecumenical and interfaith directions.

Currently, there are four main programs associated in different ways with the Center: Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Human Rights Ministries, Interfaith Internships, and the Ecumenical Poverty Initiative (a former program of the National Council of Churches that is now an ecumenical ministry of the Center). Two more programs are in development: an ecumenical Public Education Network and an interfaith project called IDEA (Interfaith Dialogue, Education, and Advocacy). The main partners in these ministries include the Christian Church Capital Area, National City Christian Church, Disciples Home Missions, Week of Compassion, and the Council on Christian Unity. We also work very closely with the Office of the General Minister and President.
Our main priorities are set by the Justice Table of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), an informal gathering of ministries working on issues and concerns related to justice advocacy. These priorities are immigration, creation care, women and children, and poverty/hunger. Our additional priorities, which are set by our Board of Governors, are racial justice, criminal justice reform, worker justice and religious liberty. When the situation requires it, we also work on other issues and concerns that the General Assembly has specifically identified as areas for Disciples education and advocacy.

In 2013, the Center was involved in a number of issues, events, activities, and projects, including:

* **Ecumenical Advocacy Days**: Our conference coordinator took the lead in helping us plan this conference which had as its theme, "At God's Table: Food Justice for a Hungry World". Over 700 Christians gathered in northern Virginia to worship together, pray, sing, share information, network within and across denominations and states, and visit their elected officials. Among these committed Christian advocates were 42 Disciples, including 16 young adults. As part of the conference, the Center and the Washington office of the United Church of Christ co-sponsored a special dinner program dealing with food security issues.

* **Criminal Justice Reform Conference**: Human Rights Ministries, a shared ministry of Disciples Home Missions and the Center, took the lead in organizing a conference on criminal justice reform that focused on returning citizens. The conference, the theme of which was "Beyond the Bars and Barriers," brought together about 150 people for presentations, discussion, and strategizing. Participants included ministers, prison officials, leaders of prison ministries, leaders of ministries to returning citizens, and, of course, returning citizens.

* **Immigration Reform Conference and Rally**: Refugee and Immigration Ministries, a ministry of Disciples Home Missions in partnership with the Disciples Center and the Christian Church Capital Area, took a lead role in organizing and promoting a Global Summit on Immigration Reform. Held at National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C., the conference included speakers, panels, workshops, and visits to Capitol Hill. Leaders of various faith communities, immigration reform organizations, and immigrant communities participated in this event, including General Minister and President Sharon Watkins, citizens, and returning citizens.

* **Faithful Filibuster**: The Center's Minister for Economic Justice joined the leaders of Sojourners, Bread for the World, and various denominations and faith-based organizations to read Scripture every day until the government shut-down ended. The Scriptures were chosen from among the over 2000 verses dealing with poverty and justice.

* **Pilgrimage for Courage and the Common Good**: The Center's Minister for Economic Justice joined with our Minister for Health and Wholeness and the co-
convener of the Disciples Advocacy and Witness Network of the Christian Church Capital Area to participate in an interfaith activity led by Nuns on the Bus and the Washington Interreligious Staff Community. This activity, aimed at ending the government shutdown, included visiting Congressional offices, singing and praying while there, and leaving Congressional staff with copies of a letter signed by the leaders of faith communities and faith-based organizations.

* Fast4Families: At the invitation of and encouragement by Refugee and Immigration Ministries, several members of the leadership and advocacy teams of the Center actively participated in this event in a tent on the Capitol Mall, fasting and praying for progress in the efforts to achieve comprehensive immigration reform. The executive director of the Center joined the Director of Refugee and Immigration Ministries to fast on site and off; the director of the Center's Ecumenical Poverty Initiative and a member of the executive committee of the Center's Board of Governors prayed and preached at a service where fasters watched a taped message of encouragement from our General Minister and President; and many Disciples fasted off site, including both our General Minister and President and our President of Disciples Home Missions.

* Worker Justice: As a member of the planning committee of the Board of Directors of Interfaith Worker Justice, the Center helped organize an event honoring labor, business and community leaders for their work on behalf of worker justice. The executive director of the Center also joined the director of Refugee and Immigration Ministries and our special advisor on farm worker justice at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Farm Worker Ministry.

* Ecumenical Poverty Initiative: As part of its overall restructure, the National Council of Churches moved away from programmatic work and instead established tables where representatives of the member communions could come together, share information and resources, and strategize about more effective ways to work together. During this period of transition, responsibility for the Council's Poverty Initiative was transferred to the Center, which intends to maintain and expand the ecumenical nature of this important ministry. Working alongside the ministry's new director as advisors are two former directors of the program and the former director of the Council's Washington Office. Visioning and programmatic guidance will be provided by a working group composed of representatives from the denominations and various faith-based organizations, as well as leaders and activists from state and local council of churches. This group will also include persons experiencing poverty and/or working closely with persons who are struggling economically.

* Creation Justice Ministries: As a member of the Board of Directors, the Center helped guide the transition of this ministry from its former status as a program of the National Council of Churches to its new status as an independent ecumenical organization. Communions that were part of the National Council of Churches Eco-justice Working Group will be invited to join Creation Justice Ministries and send representatives to its Board meetings.
* **Environmental Racism:** In partnership with Green Chalice, Creation Justice Ministries, the United Church of Christ, Global Ministries, and various regional and local organizations in the Southeastern United States, the Center has been exploring and continues to explore possibilities in the near future for holding in Atlanta an interfaith conference on environmental racism.

* **Ecumenical Public Education Network:** Drawing upon the excellent work done by the now defunct Public Education and Literacy Committee of the National Council of Churches, the Center is in the process of developing a network that will continue to connect people of faith and inform them about issues and concerns related to public education, with the goal of moving them from concern to action. The former chair of the Council's committee now serves as a special advisor to the Center, both providing us with important information and guiding us in our approach to key issues in this important area of faith-based justice advocacy.

* **Gender Justice:** The Center draws upon four main resources here: the leadership of Disciples for Choice; a Disciples intern working out of the Washington office of the United Church of Christ; our Minister for Health and Wholeness who participates in groups dealing with reproductive health; and a special advisor to the Center who provides a Disciples presence at various gatherings, including those of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. We are also currently working in partnership with Disciples Women to obtain a Disciples Peace Intern who can promote greater awareness about human trafficking and other issues affecting the health and well-being of women.

* **Religious Liberty:** The Center continues to participate actively in the Committee on Religious Liberty (now a project of the First Amendment Center) and the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination. We also receive information and guidance from our special advisor, a Disciples minister working at Americans United for Separation of Church and State.
The history of The European Evangelistic Society (EES) in Tübingen traces back before WWII. Early in his studies, German professor Ludwig von Gerdtell, a Prussian nobleman and New Testament scholar had come to some conclusions about reforming the church according to the New Testament. He came in contact with the Disciples of Christ in America, and his advocacy of New Testament Christianity impressed those who heard him speak. Within a year a group of ministers and teachers met in the home of Dean E. Walker and formed an association for the purpose of endorsing von Gerdtell's efforts. Just prior to the war, when von Gerdtell had to flee Germany, Dean E. Walker was able to arrange his passage to America and a teaching post at Butler School of Religion in Indianapolis.

After the war, the European Evangelistic Society was formed from the original association organized by Walker and others. Professor Walker became the president of the EES, and in this capacity recruited Butler graduates Earl and Ottie Mearl Stuckenbruck to come to Germany. After a period of study in England and of exploration of possible sites on the Continent, in the fall of 1949 the Stuckenbrucks moved to Tübingen.

The mission of EES in its 68 years of history has not changed. It remains: To develop leaders through higher learning to have a global impact by more effectively influencing their churches, cultures, and countries for Christ. This vision reflects the common mission priorities of the Disciples of Christ as a movement for wholeness that welcomes all to the Table and shares the Good News of Jesus Christ from “our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.”

The mission of EES is focused on this concern of leadership development necessary to realize the Four Priorities of the Church as outlined in the 2020 Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). EES exists to develop international leaders for significant service. This includes leaders from Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, and beyond. In addition to the work of mentoring, conducting research, and teaching in Germany, EES is now sponsoring 15 ministry students from Europe and Central Asia. In faithfulness to the historic mission of EES, these students are actively involved in preaching, church planting, and/or international mission ministry.

Through the Institute for the Study of Christian Origins at the University of Tübingen, Germany, EES is actively involved in research supervision and publication. In conjunction with the Protestant faculty, a doctoral colloquium is offered in which
international doctoral students have the opportunity for research supervision at a major European University. This mission expresses itself in three primary areas of ministry:

- To develop international leaders through advanced studies
- To assist emerging leaders in researching and publication of relevant national articles, books, and other materials
- To help encourage the establishment and development of churches, colleges, and agencies focused on evangelism and disciple making.

At the present time, the educational ministry at The Institute for the Study of Christian Origins, led by Interim Director Dr. Beth Langstaff, continues to function alongside of Eberhard Karls University, in Tübingen, Germany. The Institute has a long and productive relationship with the prestigious and influential University. The influence of this ministry has been felt all over the world, as international students have come to the University for academic purposes and have been a part of the Institute. It pursues basic New Testament research, offers colloquia through the academic year, and engages in continuing dialogue with professors and students from around the world.

Several doctoral students from Eastern Europe have been assisted through the Colloquium this year. Soon others will participate that are enrolled in advanced study programs throughout Europe. For East Europeans, the opportunity to take advantage of the colloquium, mentoring, and research opportunities through EES in Germany will greatly enhance their advanced preparation for ministry.

Here is where EES plays a key role. In order to more effectively serve as Bible college professors, presidents, mission directors, and in other high capacity positions, many from these networks will need the type of advanced preparation that EES can provide. The Institute for the Study of Christian Origins is being positioned to help develop these dedicated leaders for significant service throughout Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Middle East.

Although EES does not work specifically in any one congregation, it seeks to promote the cause of reconciliation throughout the world by developing leaders who will demonstrate our commitment to the idea of a faithful, growing church that exhibits true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice. The work of EES in Germany at the University of Tübingen is truly a multi-cultural community. Since 2000, doctoral colloquium presentations have been given by visiting professors and doctoral students from Australia, Canada, Germany, Finland, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, South Africa, The United Kingdom, and the United States. EES seeks to be an international witness for the Christian gospel in one of the most significant theological settings in the world. Students who are recipients of the EES scholarships this year are from Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Central Asia, Czech Republic, Moldova, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. In keeping with the original vision of the European Evangelistic Society, the goal is to see churches thriving and flourishing throughout the world by equipping capable leaders to serve.
EES is characterized by a deep and abiding interest in the oneness of the Body of Christ. That interest has not changed with the passing of over sixty-five years of ministry. The European Evangelistic Society is one of the few ministries among Stone-Campbell churches that has historically sought to work among all three streams of the American expression of this ideal. For over half a century, the dream of a united Church, bound by its commitment to the New Testament as the revelation of God about the person of Jesus Christ, has been the unchanging focus of its mission.
The General Commission on Ministry (Disciples of Christ) is composed of up to sixteen members appointed by the General Minister & President in consultation with various constituencies across the life of the church. In odd-numbered years, the General Minister and President may present a slate of members to the General Board for confirmation.

In 2013, the following persons served on the General Commission on Ministry: Howard Bowers, Office of General Minister & President, staff; Dani Loving Cartwright, Regional Minister, Christian Church in the Southwest; Jinsuk Chun, Executive Pastor of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples; Jorge Cotto, pastor, Central Christian Church, Coral Gables, FL; Ron Degges, DHM President; Ann Dotson, Pastor, First Christian Church, Rowlett, TX; Bill Edwards, Regional Minister, Christian Church in Ohio; Jacque Foster, pastor, Compton Heights Christian Church, St. Louis, MO; Richard Guentert, Retired Regional Minister, Iowa; John M. Imbler, Seminary Representative, Phillips Theological Seminary; Timothy James, Associate General Minister & Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation; Paxton Jones, Regional Minister, Christian Church in Kansas; Sotello Long, Regional Minister, Christian Church in South Carolina; Sandy Messick, Regional Minister, Northwest Regional Christian Church; Saundra Michael-Bowers, Pension Fund Representative; Holly MillerShank, UCC Representative; Huberto Pimentel, National Hispanic Pastor, Central Pastoral Office of Hispanic Ministries; Rossy Ricart, laywoman, Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana, Indianapolis; Sharon Watkins, General Minister & President, serves as an ex-officio member and Howard Bowers has been the Commission’s administrative staff person. In addition, Warren Lynn, Director, Office of Christian Vocation, was added to serve on the Search & Call Committee to share information directly from his work.

Dani Loving Cartwright, Richard Guentert, and Sotello Long completed their terms of service at the end of the year. Joining GCOM in 2014 are Barbara Jones, Executive Regional Minister, Great River Region; Belva Brown Jordan, Assistant Dean for Claremont School of Theology and Assistant Provost for Claremont Lincoln University; and Glen Stewart, Regional Minister, Christian Church in Tennessee.

GCOM meets twice per year at the Disciples Center in Indianapolis. During its last meeting in 2013 (August 19-21), GCOM:

- Clarified the process of exchanging ministerial profiles between the UCC and the DOC and forwarded the information to the Partnership Committee (UCC & DOC) – but the process is effective now.

- Recommended to the Partnership Committee a new section in our Partnership Document which would stipulate the Standing for National/General Church officers in the other's denomination.

- Addressed the issue of Commissioning for work outside a Disciples congregation, determining after much discussion that a person can be
commissioned for such work as long as there is a Disciples Congregation in the chain to whom a pastor has accountability. However, subsequent questions arose which caused this issue to be put back on GCOM’s agenda in January for further clarification.

- **Embraced an opportunity for innovation** in which GCOM and Disciples Home Missions approved a **two-day meeting of persons who do Search and Call work across the life of Disciples** to gather to discuss best practices and render feedback regarding Search and Call and credentialing/endorsement practices.

- **Approved committee job descriptions** to generate some formal understanding of how the different GCOM committees function and the issues with which they form their work.

- **Continued to work on several projects:**
  
  a. Revising “Ordination Guidelines and Services”—projected completion in January 2014
  
  b. Revising “Closing a Pastoral Ministry” booklet—projected completion in January 2014
  
  c. Redesigning the Pension Fund’s “When A Minister Dies” brochure for broader use

GCOM is pleased that the new (and long anticipated) **Ministerial Profile forms** went ‘live’ online on December 1, 2013. A new **Congregational Profile** also is ready and pdf versions have been provided to Regional Ministers for distribution until this, too, goes ‘live’ online in the near future. As with nearly all upgrades, there remain a few ‘bugs’ in the system; the Office of Church Vocation is working closely with SURAN to see these are remedied soon.

These are always productive, intense, hard-working meetings! For instance, our January 2014 meeting considers the Standing requests from all of the clergy whose Standing is lodged with the General Commission on the Ministry. Last year that number amounted to 162!

As always, we welcome your input, comments, questions, ideas, and concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Paxton Jones, Chair
National City Christian Church was created to live out Alexander Campbell’s vision: to uphold a momentous church facility in the city known for its national and world leaders so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ might be proclaimed. National City Christian Church Foundation is honored to be one of the recognized organizations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. The Foundation holds in trust the ownership of the church property and its facilities on behalf of the wider church. It is led by a national Board of Trustees and reports to the General Assembly. The Foundation is yoked in partnership with the congregation of National City Christian Church to provide a national facility for worship, study, ministry, and mission in the U.S. capital.

National City Christian Church Foundation exists for the purpose of maintaining the financial and physical assets of the Foundation so that the congregation(s) and/or wider ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may pursue mission at 5 Thomas Circle. In order to accomplish this, the Foundation shall: preserve and grow the endowment; manage its facilities and property to maximize its use by tenants whose purposes are consistent with the values of the Foundation and its donors; and maintain the facilities in a manner that protects the Foundation’s assets and honors perpetual care agreements.

Richard L. Hamm leads the Foundation as the chairperson of the Board of Trustees. For Dr. Hamm's invaluable knowledge and bold leadership, the Foundation is very grateful. National City Christian Church is appreciative and truly humbled by the tremendous leadership and generous support of its Foundation trustees, congregational leadership, and Disciples support from around the world. The Foundation is grateful to Senior Minister Stephen W. Gentle, the staff, and congregational leadership that continue to work tirelessly in ministry and mission in the Washington, D.C. area, and beyond.

National City Christian Church Foundation celebrates with the congregation as it has completed its third year in a five-year strategic plan. Sixty-two new members have joined the congregation since 2011. Over three hundred new individuals have come to one of the worship services for the very first time, with a majority of those guests returning. A Disciples 101 class was launched for new members, along with the classes called Spiritual Practices 101 and Disciples Church History 101. Significant connections were made each and every week with young professionals, persons within the LGBT communities, and multicultural families, the congregation’s three top demographics for outreach. The new congregational bylaws are in place as it right-sized the
congregational governance board and established the ministry partnership for coordinated congregational program planning. Over a hundred lay persons have invested themselves wholly in the volunteerism of the congregation. There are volunteers giving significant portions of their time to the staffing of the front desk, the food pantry, yard work and gardening, cleaning the sanctuary, counting money and maintaining financial records, development work, and hospitality at music events, to name just a few areas.

In addition, the facilities of National City Christian Church continue to be a gathering place in the U.S. capital for Disciples of Christ and ecumenical partners. Some of the gatherings and events have included:

- Hundreds of young people “bunked” down at National City to experience a life-changing trip to Washington, D.C., including First Christian Church, Edmond, Oklahoma; First Christian Church, Rockwood, Tennessee; First Christian Church, Troy, Michigan; Florence Christian Church, Florence, Georgia; Ohio Valley Teen Group; Disciples Men of Tennessee; Dalton State College; Calvary Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado; Cascade Christian Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan; guest organists from France; Barton College; Bethany College; Trinity DC Encounters; YSOP, Augusta, Georgia; Community Christian Church, Canton Ohio; Hillyer Memorial Christian Church, Raleigh, North Carolina; Hiram College; and Trinity United Methodist Church, Hackettstown, New Jersey.

- Bethany College was hosted during a Heritage Sunday with President Scott D. Miller and Chaplain Scott C. Thayer speaking. Professor Emeritus Larry Grimes spoke at a lecture regarding the Wilfley Wayside Chapel, patterned after Alexander Campbell’s study. Peter M. Morgan, Bethanian and Disciples of Christ Historical Society President Emeritus, was the lead organizer.

- Partnering with Regional Minister Lari Grubbs and the Christian Church Capital Area, National City held a special Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., memorial worship service, with Minister of Reconciliation April Johnson preaching. The worship service was held in conjunction with the regional leadership event Salt and Light.

- The Foundation created liturgical and prayer materials for the occasion of the U.S. elections and shared them with congregations in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States.

- Church Historian Peter M. Morgan and John Scott Williams created a four-part educational DVD on the history of National City Christian Church in the context of the Stone-Campbell movement. Copies of the DVD may be obtained for Disciples of Christ education events by contacting Program Manager Colleen Walsh at National City Christian Church.
- Free Friday organ concerts welcomed hundreds of music lovers with recitalists coming from Israel, Germany, France, New York City, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Florida.

- National City hosted five two-day Heritage Festival USA choral adjudication events with hundreds of high school groups traveling from across the United States to sing in the sanctuary.

- Music groups from around the District also performed in the sanctuary, including the 120-voice Congressional Chorus, The Washington Sinfonietta, Fessenden Chamber Ensemble, The Heritage Signature Chorale, Thomas Circle Singers, and the Children’s Chorus of Washington, D.C.

- The annual interdenominational worship service of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was in the sanctuary as law enforcement officers and officers’ families from around the country were honored.

- National City opened its doors to share with many of its neighbors: over 10,000 bags of food were distributed to those who were hungry, over 100 persons were welcomed with hospitality and face-painting at the church booth at Capital Pride, and many neighborhood pet owners and their canine companions joined in the annual blessing of the animals on the portico steps.

- Several of the unique ministries of National City continued to thrive, including the Hispanic congregation led by Rev. Noemi P. Mena, the young adult ministry (Yada) led by Rev. Beau Underwood, the LGBT Fellowship led by Moderator Steven Baines, the Disciples Men study led by Rev. Beverly Goines, the Disciples Women meetings led by President Kathleen Swihart, the community children’s playgroup led by Rev. Alyssa May, and the music ministries led by Gospel Music Director Valeria Foster and former Minister of Music Charles Miller.

As a multiracial, multicultural, bilingual, open and affirming congregation, National City Christian Church enjoys greeting and worshiping with Disciples from all around the world each and every Sunday. National City is your church in the U.S. capital. Tours of these facilities are available during the week upon request. All are invited to learn more about this unique Disciples witness by browsing to www.nationalcitycc.org or visiting in person your Disciples facility in the U.S. capital.
Mission Statement –
Reconciliation Ministry advances the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)’s journey toward wholeness by empowering each expression of the Church to implement structural change to address historic fractures caused by racism and the systems that perpetuate it.

By its very nature, becoming a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist church is our mission priority that beckons the Church toward fundamental identity change. In our efforts to embrace this identity, we are making significant progress by engaging the necessary self-examination of our practices, policies and processes toward the eradication of systemic racism. Please accept the following ministry highlights which exemplify these efforts.

Ministry Highlights:

Leader Development – The Women of Color Leadership Institute cohort completed their first year with meaningful interaction with ministry mentors, coaching, and goal planning. In addition, the Reconciliation Commission continued grant funding to HELM to incorporate Disciples Leadership Institute as a local gathering in order to reach more Young Adults in their specific contexts. General Ministry partnerships that create opportunities and access to historically underrepresented congregations and leaders are increasing as indicated further in this report.

New Church – The Reconciliation Ministry Commission also continued grant funding to HOPE Partnership supporting participation for congregations of color in the Journey of HOPE missional transformation program. Funds from this grant will enable access to this critical accompaniment program that has traditionally been out of reach for our racial/ethnic congregations. Church Extension and HOPE Partnership strengthen the Church’s witness to pro-reconciliation and anti-racism through their consistent commitment to training and application of the analysis of systemic racism to their operations as well as awareness-building in their monthly staff meetings. This partnership continues to give witness to the efficacy of commitment and intentionality that promotes positive structural change.

Transformation - We continue our shared ministry with Disciples Home Missions through support and resourcing of their bi-annual board training program as well as their monthly Anti-Racism Team meetings and team events. One aspect of transformation for our congregations is preparing our membership and leaders with the tools to address an increasingly diverse mission field. We are pleased to be charged through the General Board adoption of the Executive Search Model to provide training for several search
committees since April 2013. Training continues to be a core component in the portfolio of Reconciliation Ministry as a vehicle for equipping our membership for transformation.

Submitted by.

April G. Johnson  
Minister of Reconciliation  
December 2013

Christian Theological Seminary New Student Orientation Anti-Racism Training
Rev. Dr. Dawn Weaks, Raytown Christian Church culminating a weekend-long focus on Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racism for Powershift CC (New Church) and Raytown CC.
The United Christian Missionary Society (Society) continued to furnish financial support for the Division of Homeland Ministries, dba Disciples Home Missions (DHM), and the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM), by investing and managing its endowment and permanent funds for the benefit of the two Divisions.

As of September 2013, there were 2 gift annuities and no life income agreement released for a total of $56,860 of residual value distributed. When gift annuities or life income agreements are released, the funds are either distributed outright to DHM and DOM or added to the permanent endowments of the Society depending on the beneficiary designation. The Society did not receive any restricted bequests.

The Society continued to be involved with ethical issues which related to its investments and was active with the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR). ICCR is an ecumenical organization of 17 Protestant denominations and approximately 200 Roman Catholic orders which cooperate concerning ethical and social concerns as expressed by actions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Society, which has eight trustees and four officers, has no active employees. Beginning in 1993, the Society contracted with the Christian Church Foundation, Inc. to perform the treasury services for the Society. The current officers of the Society are as follows: Julia Brown Karimu, President; Ronald J. Degges, Vice President; Kathy Watts, Corporate Secretary, and Lonna Owens, Corporate Treasurer. Four trustees are nominated by each of the two Divisions served by the Society. They are elected by the General Board of the church and serve a term of four years. Their responsibilities are to oversee and determine policies concerning the investments of assets owned by the Society. The protection as well as the income realized from these assets is of paramount concern for the trustees. Their invaluable service is recognized and this report is submitted on their behalf.

The Society distributed the following from the investment pool in 2013: DHM - $624,062; DOM - $848,705; and other entities - $49,326.
For nearly seven decades WoC has demonstrated compassion’s power, challenging the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to respond compassionately to human need and suffering as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ from all corners of North America to the ends of the earth. Compassion: *con passio*, from the Latin root, “to suffer together with” is indeed what drives our work and witness. WoC has been offering the opportunity to respond with compassion to a church that could have otherwise felt overwhelmed by all the needs of our world. WoC will never be at a loss for understanding our mission, just as Paul described it in 1 Corinthians 12: “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” Our mission is not only pertinent, it is significant. As the church shifts and adapts to a 21st Century world, our mission of compassion and solidarity is as clear as ever.

WoC is there when disaster strikes, poised to respond, uniquely positioned to respond not only through our own Disciples networks but also through our ecumenical structures. Whether or not Disciples are personally affected, we will respond to anyone in need. Furthermore, we are there to respond to the chronic “disasters” of poverty, displacement, disease, systemic injustice, ignorance, and increasingly, the results of climate change. Not merely the “natural disaster” responder, WoC funds the work of Disciples Volunteering and Refugee Immigration Ministries within DHM, including contributing to the work of our denominational immigration attorney, as well as the Global Mission Intern and Capacity Building Programs of DOM. WoC also directs funds to long-term sustainable development projects and programs through DOM Area Offices and through our ecumenical partners across the globe.

As has historically been true, WoC is only as successful as our donors are generous. Our task thus, continues to remain, that of inspiring sharing. Sharing our compassion by sharing our resources so that the whole world might have what they need. Our ministry of sharing compassion builds up the Realm of God, bringing it ever closer to shalom, wholeness, and everlasting peace. What we do through WoC makes a difference because when we transform our compassion into action, things change; lives change; lives are actually saved.
Yet our world, our church, and our culture are rapidly shifting. WoC has been impacted by these economic, ecclesial, ecological and cultural shifts, specifically: climate change; a changing geopolitical and economic landscape worldwide; ever-changing technological and communications; a shrinking political space for civil discourse; and ongoing challenges of an interreligious world where, most ironically, many Americans are now identifying themselves as “spiritual” but “not religious.” From the global perspective of WoC based on a myriad of experiences with communities in need across the world, it is clear that we as the Church are transforming. Mainline Protestantism is changing, and we seem to be moving ever faster toward a radically different world. Nonetheless, if we stay true to our mission to serve God, to put compassion in action, to live out our Gospel faith in the One who is the Alpha, the Omega and the Beginning and the End, we will continue to do exactly what we have been called to do, and to do what we do best.

Internationally, WoC immediately responded to the horrific humanitarian crisis after Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Channeling grants through Global Ministries to our partner the United Church of Christ in the Philippines as well as through the ACT Alliance and CWS, WoC has also worked with our historic Disciples congregation, the Filipino Christian Church in LA to respond to the overwhelming needs in the Philippines. WoC has also been consistently responding to the crises in the Middle East, notably Syria. Through the Middle East and Europe Area Office of Global Ministries, the ACT Alliance, and CWS, WoC has directed significant funding to this humanitarian plight. Our work in post-earthquake Haiti also continues, where we were instrumental in training thousands of pastors and laypeople in trauma resilience and recovery through the “Wozo” Trauma Awareness and Resilience Program of Eastern Mennonite University’s Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. WoC also supports the on-going recovery and development work of Agricultural Missions, Inc., Church World Service and the ACT Alliance in Haiti in the form of food security, agricultural assistance, children’s education and protection, and support for people with disabilities.

Through our primary health and medical partner organization, IMA World Health, WoC has helped make possible major advances in cervical cancer prevention in Tanzania and other parts of East Africa. We have also been major funders in helping us bring an end to Burkitt’s lymphoma, a childhood cancer found only in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. WoC has also helped make possible the strengthening (and, in some areas, the creation) of health systems and medical structures in some of the most challenging places on earth: Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We have also been a founding member of the We Will Speak Out campaign of IMA, a U.S. Coalition of faith-based organizations working together to end sexual and gender-based violence. The Women’s Empowerment Fund of WoC has been yet another channel of funds for the education and training of girls and women to become self-sufficient, safe, and
equipped to make a difference in their own lives, the lives of their families, and their communities. WEF grants in 2013 were made to women across Africa, the Balkans, and Latin America.

WoC remains faithful to our commitment to the World Council of Churches Roundtable as one of the “Specialized Ministries” involved in relief, refugee and development operations where we represent the denomination each year. Thanks to WoC gifts, Disciples are still one of the highest contributors to the WCC and thus visibly committed to the ecumenical movement. We were also pleased to support the WCC Assembly in Busan, South Korea, with financial support.

WoC’s domestic impact was also significant in 2013. We continued to support congregational engagement with Week of Compassion partnerships in new, creative ways. Tornados struck areas of Texas, Illinois, Indiana, and Oklahoma, and widespread flooding caused significant damage across Northern Colorado. These natural disasters affected not only Disciples congregations and church members, but the wider communities as well. In conjunction with Disciples Volunteering, Week of Compassion staff made pastoral visits to these impacted areas and began exploring opportunities for long-term recovery in the Oklahoma City area (in partnership with the Disaster Ministries of the United Church of Christ) and in Northern Colorado. The mission station in Tuscaloosa, AL, responding to tornado damage, completed its work in the fall of 2013, and the mission station housed at First Christian Church, Lake Charles, LA, closed its doors, marking the end of its ministry as part of the Disciples Hurricane Recovery Initiative. South Joplin Christian Church continued to host UCC and Disciples volunteers working to respond to the 2011 tornado at its mission station as well.

Week of Compassion, Disciples Home Missions, and the National Benevolent Association also launched a new partnership with Children’s Disaster Services, a pastoral care response for children impacted by disasters, and Week of Compassion staff completed a manuscript for congregations affected by disaster, set for publication by Chalice Press in 2014 entitled Help and Hope: Disaster Preparedness and Response Tools for Congregations.

WoC’s longstanding partnership with Church World Service also provided a means for the delivery of material goods such as blankets, hygiene kits and clean up buckets to communities struck by disasters. Likewise, this partnership provided long term recovery training in communities interested in mounting community-based and volunteer responses.

Through WoC’s partnerships with Equal Exchange, Prosperity Candle, and Foods Resource Bank, Disciples congregations had new opportunities to support food security,
fair trade, microcredit, and economic opportunities for vulnerable populations including smallholder farmers and recently resettled women refugees.

Through November 2013, undesignated giving to WoC totaled $1,666,647—a decrease of 5.5% from the prior fiscal year. Designated giving remained strong at $878,414. Income from WoC’s endowment program and other funds in the Christian Church Foundation equaled $59,490 through November 2013, an increase from $42,740 in 2012.

Executive Director Amy Gopp announced her leave-taking in October of 2013 after eight and a half years on staff with Week of Compassion. As she stated, “It has truly been the greatest honor and privilege of my life thus far to serve with you through Week of Compassion.” Rev. Gopp begins a new position with Church World Service in January 2014.

Week of Compassion remains a profound expression of what it means to be whole church—an integral part of the movement for wholeness in a fragmented, suffering, fragile world. Even more importantly, WoC offers a mechanism for the whole church to respond to the overwhelming suffering and needs of that world by living out the Gospel, putting faith into action, and serving Christ through serving those in need. WoC is a concrete way for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to make a difference in the world—from our own doorsteps to the very ends of the earth.
2013 REPORT

The Preamble to the World Convention Constitution gives the mission of the organization:

The World Convention of Churches of Christ exists to build up fellowship, understanding, and common purpose within the Christian-Churches of Christ-Disciples of Christ global family, and to relate the global family to the whole Church of Jesus Christ for the sake of the unity of the church.

World Convention is the only entity working to connect all streams of the Stone-Campbell movement worldwide, and also the only one that gives our entire movement a seat at the table with other communions globally.

A reminder that although our Global Gatherings are times of excitement and great blessing, the World Convention is a ministry that serves in the name of Jesus every day.

How does World Convention work to connect these churches worldwide? Through our website <worldconvention.org>, through our monthly email newsletter, ChristiaNet, through Facebook and other social media, through informative mailings each year, and by personal visits. In 2013, we made the following visits.

Promoting visible unity among Christian Churches, Disciples of Christ, and Churches of Christ in the United States:

- January 17-21, Gary Holloway was at the Keiser Church of Christ in Oregon, promoting World Convention there and with supporters from the Oregon Christian Convention.

- Gary Holloway was honored to give the Henry Webb Lectures at Milligan College in Tennessee, February 25-28, also meeting with a group of local ministers and speaking in chapel at Emmanuel Christian Seminary and met with the faculty there.

- Julia Keith attended Come before Winter on Keats Island, British Columbia, Canada, March 11-15. This renewal retreat for women in mission or ministry originated with the a cappella Church of Christ and now serves a larger Restoration Movement family.
In May, Gary Holloway presented at the Pepperdine University Bible lectures in California.

World Convention organized two sessions at the Christian Scholars Conference at Lipscomb University in May, presenting a panel of Robert Welsh, John Mark Hicks, and Mark Weedman discussing *Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry*.

June 30-July 2 was the Lipscomb University Summer Celebration in Nashville, a time when several hundred from Churches of Christ meet. Gary Holloway and board member Doug Foster taught two classes that focused on our worldwide movement—past, present, and future. In those classes, we were able to share the new global history of our movement and the ministry of World Convention with many.

July 9-12 brought Gary Holloway to Louisville, Kentucky to the meeting of thousands at the North American Christian Convention to teach a class on the work of World Convention. We also had very encouraging meeting with board member Ajai Lall and his son Abhijeet on the possibility of our World Convention Global Gathering coming to India in the future. If you do not know of the amazing ministry of the Lalls, please see indiamission.org. At the plenary session on the last night of the Convention, Gary was able to briefly introduce the video clip promoting our 2016 Gathering in Seoul. See http://www.worldconvention.org/gatherings/global-gathering-19-seoul-south-korea-october-2016/.

July 13-17 Julia Keith and Gary Holloway attended the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Orlando, Florida.

One way we try to spread the word about our worldwide movement is through writing. Board members Doug Foster, Gary Holloway, David Thompson, and several others in the United States, were contributors to an issue of Christian History Magazine on the Stone-Campbell Movement, published in August 2013. One article focused on the global nature of our movement and the work of World Convention. For a free download see https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/issue/church-to-end-all-churches/.

September 15-18, Gary Holloway and Board member Doug Foster presented two classes on the Worldwide Stone-Campbell Movement and on our ecumenical work, including discussion of World Convention at Summit, the Lectures at Abilene Christian University.

Julia Keith represented World Convention and Global Women Connecting at the International Conference on Missions in Kansas City, Missouri, November 14-16, including meeting several women responsible for the 2014 ICOM women’s track during their preliminary planning discussion. Julia was afforded an opportunity to
offer a WCCC/GWC discovery opportunity to those attending the Common Ground event. Many women with Christian Church/Churches of Christ backgrounds have been unfamiliar with the World Convention/Global Women Connecting ministry.

**Promoting Unity with other Christians:**
- January 29-February 1, Gary Holloway was in Austin, Texas along with board members Dick Hamm, Robert Welsh, and Doug Foster, attending the annual meeting of Christian Churches Together in the USA.
- Doug Foster and Gary Holloway represented World Convention at the World Council of Churches meeting in Busan, Korea from October 29-November 9. Several from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were there, including board members Robert Welsh and David Thompson. Ian Smith from Australian Churches of Christ, representing the Victorian Council of Churches was also there.
- Gary Holloway and Doug Foster represented World Convention at the Secretaries of Christian World Communions meeting in Geneva Switzerland, November 18-22.

**Looking Toward 2014**

Also in 2013, we began an online discussion among the board about the future direction of this ministry. How can World Convention serve our churches worldwide in our contemporary culture? That discussion will lead into our next board meeting, April 1-3, 2014 in Nashville.
The Year Book and Directory provides the annual listing of ministries recognized as part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Year Book also maintains a listing of those congregations, regions, general ministries, and Disciples’ related organizations and institutions and certifies to the Internal Revenue Service that they are capable of receiving tax deductible contributions.

Each year, the Disciples are augmented by new congregations recognized by their respective regions. In 2013, 23 (5 congregations are listed as “emerging” (not yet Year Book Listed) new congregations were officially recognized. The following are the number of new congregations per region:

- Arizona 1
- Capital Area 1
- Florida 1
- Georgia 4 (3 emerging)
- Great River 1
- Illinois-Wisconsin 1
- Indiana 2 (2 emerging)
- Nebraska 1
- North Carolina 1
- Northeastern 2
- Northwest 1
- Pacific Southwest 2
- South Carolina 1
- Southwest 3
- Tennessee 1

The Year Book also works with regions to maintain an accurate listing of congregations by acknowledging congregational losses in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). During 2013, 100 congregations were removed from the official list of congregations: one was a duplication of a new congregation, 52 congregations were closed (26 in formation), 43 congregations withdrew, 4 congregations had the region withdraw recognition of their status, 1 congregation was removed through the process outlined in GA 9516.

Of those congregational losses, 19 were formation congregations: 12 closed, 4 withdrew, 3 were removed from regional under care status.

The Year Book also lists ministers with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This listing is provided by the Office of Search and Call in Disciples Home Missions. 6,901 ministers were listed with denominational standing. Of that number, 2,135 (31%) were listed as retired (1,185 active retired) and 2,264 (slightly less than 1/3) are listed as pastors of the more than 3,500 congregations.