

Harmony In The Body Of Christ

I Corinthians 1:10

2019

Annual Regional Assembly

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region



I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. (I Corinthians 1:10—NIV)



Saturday, May 3, 2019 ~ 10:00 AM
Blaine Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
7018 Putney Rd, Arcadia, MI 49613

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Ron J. Allen

Professor of Preaching and Gospels and Letters
Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region

The priorities for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region are:

- ◆ Refresh, Renew, Revitalize, Transform our congregations: actively strengthening our leadership through the commissions of the region and Regional Elders.
- ◆ Resource congregations and pastors for Conflict Management.
- ◆ Endeavor to build unity while understanding and respecting our diversity.
- ◆ Resource congregations to be missional.
- ◆ Commit to training, mentorship and educational opportunities focused on our youth as our future and current church and denominational leaders.

Greetings from our Regional Minister



Welcome to the 2019 Regional Assembly! We are gathered as people of God to join in worship, share in fellowship, and be about the business of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region. We are grateful for your presence and participation, which makes this all possible.

Our theme, “Harmony in the Body of Christ” is most appropriate considering the division that plagues so many aspects of society today. As members of the Body of Christ, **we appeal the Apostle Paul made to the church at Corinth “that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought”, reaches out to us even now.** In order to be effective in ministry, to give credibility to our witness, and be respected by the world we must dwell together in harmony.

We are blessed to have as our guests Dr. Ron Allen who will be our keynote preacher, Rev. Sarah Renfro representing the Pension Fund, India Bobadilla representing Christian Church Foundation, and Rev. Tina Heck representing United Camps, Conferences, and Retreats. Please be sure to visit the displays to gather knowledge and welcome our guests.

I express our profound gratitude to Pastor Bob Larimer, Elder Terry Van Heyningen and Blaine Christian Church for the tremendous work they have done in preparation for the Regional Assembly and are doing as they serve as our hosts. God bless you!

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene James". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eugene James, Regional Minister

Our Keynote Speaker

Dr. Ronald J. Allen



Ronald Allen, a native of Poplar Bluff, Missouri and ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is Professor of Preaching and Gospels and Letters. He has been at CTS since 1982.

He received the PhD degree from Drew University (1977), the MDiv from Union Theological Seminary in New York (1974), and the AB from Phillips University (1971). From 1977 to 1982 he and his spouse, the Reverend Linda McKiernan-Allen, were co-ministers of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Grand Island, Nebraska. Rev. McKiernan-Allen is currently Minister at West Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tipton, Indiana. In addition to over 100 articles and chapters in books, Allen is the author of more than forty books.

Allen's most recent publication is *Sermon Treks: Pathways to Creative Preaching* (Abingdon Press, 2014) which proposes a variety of starting points for preparing the sermon from the Revised Common Lectionary, preaching continuously through the Bible, various kinds of sermon series, to free selection of topic or text. His *Acts* was the first volume published in the Fortress Biblical Commentaries for Preaching series (Fortress Press, 2013).

In 2013 he edited with O. Wesley Allen Jr., and John S. McClure, *Under the Oak Tree: The Church as Community of Conversation in a Pluralistic and Conflicted World* (Cascade), an anthology exploring how various aspects of the life of the church can have a conversational quality—preaching, worship, leadership, pastoral care, formation, mission, evangelism, and relationship with other religions.

In a forthcoming Abingdon publication, Allen and O. Wesley Allen, Jr., use the figure of different kinds of neighborhoods to describe different approaches to preaching—Hatfield and McCoys (evangelical), apartment house (liberal), gated community (postliberal), and multicultural community (conversational). Allen and Allen propose conversation as openness to others as a way forward for preaching. With the support of Christian Theological Seminary and Westminster John Knox Press, Allen and Allen are also the founding editors of the first academic monograph series in preaching in which scholars write explicitly for other scholars, *The Westminster Digital Homiletic Monograph Series*.

He authored the biblical materials in *From Bread and Wine to Faith and Giving*, a four sermon stewardship series sponsored by the Center for Faith and Giving of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (2014). He also wrote the biblical materials for a forthcoming stewardship approach for the Center that uses one lectionary text each month for a long term stewardship emphasis. Allen contrasts the typical four week campaign with the long-term emphasis as the difference between one shot and a slow intravenous drip (2015).

With Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm and Dale P. Andrews, he co-edited the three volume *Preaching God's Transforming Justice: A Commentary on the Lectionary, with 22 New Holy Days for Justice* (Westminster John Knox Press), which not only comments on every reading in the lectionary but also introduces 22 new Holy Days for Justice (e.g., Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Peace in the Home, Yom ha Shoa, Gifts of Sexuality and Gender, Sojourner Truth Day): 2011 (Year B), 2012 (Year C), and 2013 (Year A).

In 2012, **Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company** released Allen's *Reading the New Testament for the First Time*, a basic orientation to the Gospels and Letters. This book comes with discussion questions for small group use.

A Faith of Your Own: Naming What You Really Believe (Westminster John Knox Press, 2010) is being used in small groups in many congregations nationwide. He has also recently published *Preaching and the Other: Studies in Postmodern Insights* (Chalice Press, 2010), an exploration of the implications of key postmodern themes for preaching (otherness, deconstruction, social location, transgression, and diversity). Other relatively recent titles are *Thinking Theologically: The Preacher as Theologian* (Fortress Press, 2008) which describes eleven contemporary theological families and their outcome for preaching, and *The Life of Jesus for Today* (Westminster John Knox

Press, 2008), also in use as a study book in many congregations.

From 2000-2004, he directed one of the first studies of people who listen to sermons to determine the qualities in preaching that encourage people to pay attention to the sermon and qualities that discourage them from doing so. This project, funded by the Lilly Endowment, generated four books: *Listening to Listeners: Homiletic Case Studies*, jointly authored with Dale P. Andrews, L. Susan Bond, John S. McClure, Dan P. Moseley, and G. Lee. Ramsey, Jr., (2004), *Hearing the Sermon: Relationship, Content, Feeling* (2004), *Believing in Preaching: What Laity Think about Sermons*, coauthored with Mary Alice Mulligan, Diane Turner-Sharazz and Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm (2004) and, with Mary Alice Mulligan, *Make the Word Come Alive: Lessons from Laity* (2005). All are published by Chalice Press.

He and Clark M. Williamson have authored a three-volume commentary on the Revised Common Lectionary that identifies and proposes remedies for anti-Jewish tendencies in the lectionary. The series, published by Westminster John Knox Press, is called **“Preaching without Prejudice,”** with the individual volumes entitled *Preaching the Gospels without Blaming the Jews* (2004), *Preaching the Letters without Dismissing the Law* (2006), and *Preaching the Old Testament* (2007).

Allen and Williamson have also collaborated on *The Teaching Minister* (Westminster John Knox Press 1991); *A Credible and Timely Word: Process Theology and Preaching* (Chalice Press, 1991); *Adventures of the Spirit: A Guide to Worship from the Perspective of Process Theology* (University Press of America, 1997); *The Vital Church: Teaching, Worship, Community, Service* (Chalice Press, 1997); and *Interpreting Difficult Texts: Anti-Judaism and Christian Preaching* (Trinity Press International, 1989).

Other books are the Bible studies in *The Storyteller’s Companion to the Bible: The Parables of Jesus*, volume 11 (Abingdon Press, 2006), a contribution to *New Proclamation: Year B, 2006* (Fortress Press 2006), *Wholly Scripture: Preaching Themes from the Bible* (Chalice Press, 2004), along with *Preaching is Believing: The Sermon as Theological Reflection* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2002), as well as *Preaching: An Essential Guide* (Abingdon Press, 2002). With Joseph R. Jeter, Jr., he developed *One Gospel, Many Ears: Preaching and Different Listeners in the Congregation* (Chalice Press, 2002). *Preaching and Practical Ministry* is the first volume in the series *Preaching and Its Partners* (Chalice Press, 2001).

Allen is also the author or co-author of *Preaching Luke-Acts: Preaching Classic Texts* (Chalice Press, 2000), with David M. Greenhaw, *Preaching in the Context of Worship* (Chalice Press, 2000), and with Gilbert L. Bartholomew, *Preaching Verse by Verse* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1999).

Allen is also the author of a widely used textbook *Interpreting the Gospel: An Introduction to Preaching* and editor of its popular companion, *Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler* (both published by Chalice Press, 1998). He jointly authored with Scott Black Johnston and Barbara S. Blaisdell *Theology for Preaching: Authority, Truth, and Knowledge of God in a Postmodern Ethos* (Abingdon Press, 1997). He joined John C. Holbert in writing *Holy Root, Holy Branches: Christian Preaching from the Old Testament* (Abingdon Press, 1994).

Among other volumes are *The Teaching Sermon* (Abingdon Press, 1995), *Preaching the Topical Sermon* (Westminster John Knox Press 1992), *Contemporary Biblical Interpretation for Preaching* (Judson Press, 1984), *Preaching for Growth* (CBP Press, 1987), and *Our Eyes Can Be Opened: Preaching the Miracle Stories of the Synoptic Gospels Today* (University Press of America, 1983). He contributed to *Thankful Praise: A Guide to the Renewal of Worship in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* (CBP Press, 1987).

Allen also serves as Editor of *Encounter*, the Seminary’s journal of vital theological topics, published quarterly.

Allen and McKiernan-Allen have five adult children: Canaan, Genesis, Moriah, Barek, and Sabbath. He and his family spent summers in Zambia and in Jamaica, and have traveled in India, England, Canada, Belize, Israel, Mexico, Ireland, Scotland, South Korea, New Zealand, and Aruba.

India Bobadilla



India Bobadilla is vice president for the Great Lakes zone, which includes Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

India has had a long career serving the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Before joining the Foundation staff in 2017, she served as an area director at Pension Fund. Prior to her work there, she served the Division of Overseas Ministries. She has a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

India and her husband, José, are the parents of two active little boys and they are members of Geist Christian Church in Fishers, Indiana.

India can be reached at indiab@ccf.disciples.org or at (800) 668-8016.

Tina Heck



Tina Heck, Director of Reservations & Communications for United Camps, Conferences and Retreats, is an ordained Disciples Minister. She grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and felt her initial call to ministry while attending summer camps at the Community of the Great Commission, the Disciples camp in Northern California. Tina served 2 churches in California before coming to work for UCCR as a Site Director for a retreat center in 1996. Tina is also a visual artist and has provided art for Quadrennial and the General Assembly.

She says of her work with UCCR, “My work is twofold: helping get groups outside to these sacred and beautiful sites that inspire and renew; helping extend the church’s outreach of outdoor transformational experiences to the world.” Tina lives in the Sierra Nevada foothills and enjoys working on her mountain property, spending time in her art studio, and practicing and teaching Tai Chi.

Sarah Renfro



Rev. Sarah Renfro is an Area Director with Pension Fund of the Christian Church. She is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has served congregations in Kentucky and Indianapolis. As part of Pension Fund’s Client Relations team, Rev. Renfro is focused on the organization’s commitment to providing outstanding customer service as well as creating and establishing new employer relationships, promoting Pension Fund’s products and services, and helping members on *The Road to Financial Wellness*. She has participated in both Bethany Fellows and the Christian Church in Indiana region’s *FLOURISH!* program.

Rev. Renfro is based in Indiana and serves the Upper Midwest, Illinois/Wisconsin, Michigan, and Mid-America regions. Most recently, she keynoted the Clergy Retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center. She looks forward to meeting more of her Disciples brothers and sisters in the Michigan region.



Harmony In The Body Of Christ

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Opening Devotions

Gathering song “This Is the Day”

This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.

I will rejoice,
I will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

I will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. (I Corinthians 1:10—NIV)

Call to Worship

Leader: for we are not many, but one!

Response: Let us praise our God in harmony,

Leader: for we are not one, but many.

Response: Members are we, one of another: the body of Christ, the people of God.

EVERYONE: Let our melody rise as if from one voice, while the chorus swells from each mouth of creation.

Scripture

Prayer

Meditation Hymn **“I Surrender All”**

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.

I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit, truly know that Thou art mine.

I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power, let Thy blessing fall on me.

I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

Business Meeting

Lunch



Harmony In The Body Of Christ

BUSINESS
MEETING

Roll Call of Churches

Business Meeting

Review and approval of May 2018 Assembly Minutes

Reports

Moderator's Report—Mitzie Hall

Regional Minister's Report—Eugene James

Commissions

Church Growth and Vitality—Brenda Etheridge

Crystal—Russ Tiller

Ecumenism—Jerry McAllister

Gospel In Action

STEM

Ministry—Robert Cornwall

Personnel—Julie Drews

Stewardship and Finance—Sarah Beth Simonds

Constituencies

Women's Ministry—Diana Payton

Men's Ministry—Rial Hamann

Reconciliation—Richard Boyd

Communication—Neil Topliffe

Districts

North—Glen McIntyre

East—Rhonda Moore-Lewis

Representatives and Partners

General Ministry Partner—India Bobadilla

United Church of Christ Partnership—Campbell Lovett

Committee Reports

Crystal Camp & Conference Center Property Sale—Doug Morgan

Priorities for the Region—Neil Topliffe

Nominations Committee Report—Rhonda Moore-Lewis

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region
Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Regional Assembly
Triumphant Temple of Praise Christian Church (DOC)
May 5, 2018

Moderator: Mitzie Van Dongen called the Regional Assembly's business meeting to order at 10:05 am, with prayer

Roll Call of Churches: Rick Modglin-Green, Secretary

Ann Arbor, Journey of Faith Christian Church
Jon Lacey, Shirley Martinson, JoElla Coles,
Jerrolynn Hockenhull, Rosalie Karunas,
Alex McCauslin, Bennie Walls

Arcadia, Blaine Christian Church
Robert Larimer, Russ Tiller

Brideport Community Church
Ron Sinclair

Coral, Cowden Lake Christian Church
Julie Drews, Robert Oliveira

Detroit, Bethany Christian Church
Carole Enwright, Nora Shumake, Betty

Menifield

Detroit, United Christian Church
Greg Bryant, Claude Blackman, Scheryl
Blackman, Gloria Hall, Leon McKinzie,
Lunette Pace, Stonewall Pace, Lena Harvey
Vicki Kirby

Ferndale Christian
Susan Klepsch, Mitzie VanDongen, Jeffrey
Sherwood

Flint, Triumphant Temple of Praise
Rev. Frank Gilliard, Tonya Peterson

Flushing, New Covenant Christian Church
Clarence Courts, Jr., Rochell Courts,
James Jones, Peaches Jones, Angelete
Lakes, Arnold Lakes, Edna Perry, Teresa
Pegues

Grand Rapids, Cascade Christian Church
Stephen Carigon, Pamela Dykhuizen, Jill
Forton, Pat Howe, Tim Howe, Carl
Moushon, Susan Moushon, Susan Strobel,
Armand Aronson, Jane Aronson, Tim Mur-
taugh, Jennifer Murtaugh

Grand Rapids, Central Christian Church
Neil Topliffe

Hastings, Woodgrove Brethren Christian Parish
Randall Bertrand

Hazel Park, Serenity Christian Church
John Harvey

Ionia, First Christian Church
David Cook, Kevin Kinsinger

Kalamazoo, Christian Church
Barbara Hemphill, Suzanne Coleman

Lansing, First Christian Church
Dale Arnold, Rick Boyd, Jerry McAllister,
Doug Morgan

Saginaw, First Christian Church-West
Barbara Pratt, Holly Ott

Swartz Creek, Unity Christian Church
Rev. Brenda Etheridge, Richard Harmon,

Troy, Central Woodward Christian Church
Rev. Robert Cornwall, Brett Cornwall, Eu-
gene James, Anne McCauslin, John
McCauslin, Susan Menko, Russell Menko,
Maggie Mills, Rick Modglin-Green, Sarah
Beth Simonds

Staff

Rev. Eugene James, Regional Minister
Mike Lipsey, Bookkeeper
Geraldine Moore, Clerk
Beverly Peeler, Administrative Assistant

Guests

Rev. Teresa Hord Owen, General Minister
and President
Delphia Coleman
India Bobadilla
Rutha M. Boston-Smith
Kelsey Cameron
Jill Day
Kevin Greenwald
Michael Johnson
Enrique Ocasio
Broderick Smith

Review and approval of May 2017 Regional As-
sembly Minutes: Moved to accept as written—
Brenda Etheridge. Seconded and motion passed.

Reports:

Moderator's report: Rev. Mitzie Van-
Dongen—Written report.

Regional Minister: Rev. Eugene James.
Written report.

Eugene announced the retirement of the region's bookkeeper Mike Lipsey. He also announced that beginning in 2019 our docket and reports will go digital in order to be more environmentally friendly and cost effective. He also pointed out the Festival of Faith with the UCC will be a day of service this year with three worksites around the state.

Rev. James also announced that he returned to full time status on February 1, 2018.

Commissions:

Church Growth and Vitality: Rev. Brenda Etheridge. Written report. Brenda also pointed out a need for the commission to post helpful information on the website for congregations and leadership.

Crystal: Russ Tiller. Written Report. Russ pointed out information about United Camps, Conferences and Retreats (UCCR) and the desire for UCCR to begin working with our camp. See report for detailed information. Russ, Neil and Jill spoke about different aspects of using UCCR and took questions.

The commission submitted two action items for the assembly to consider.

The Crystal Commission recommends: Entering into a Facilities Management Agreement with United Camps, Conferences and Retreats to assume management of Crystal Conference Center beginning in 2019. MOTION PASSED!

The Crystal Commission recommends: Drawing \$28,000.00 from the Oakland Endowment Fund of Camp Crystal as operating capital for UCCR for cash flow purposes to operate Crystal Conference Center. MOTION PASSED!

Ecumenism: Jerry McAllister. Written report. Jerry also pointed out the Festival of Faith workday with UCC.

STEM—Classes are scheduled see report by Anne McCauslin for de-

tails.

Ministry: Rev. Robert Cornwall. Written report. Bob pointed out that many of our clergy are in need of renewing their boundary training. The commission is planning on offering it in the West, North and Eastern parts of the state. The first session will be held at Central Woodward Christian Church, in Troy on May 19, 2018. The commission is also considering requiring retired clergy to have boundary training every five years in order to maintain standing as many continue in ministry to varying degrees.

Regional Elders: Rev. Barbara Pratt. Written report. Rev. Shirley Martinson and Rev. Barbara Pratt have retired as regional elders. Our current Regional Elders are: John McCauslin, Rev. Robert Oliveira, Rev. Wayne Ten Roberts and Rev. Terry VanHeyningen.

Personnel: Rev. Julie Drews. Written report.

Stewardship & Finance: Sarah Beth Simonds, Written report. Sarah Beth pointed out the need to contract our accounting duties out. She also presented a year to date dashboard and balance sheet to aid our non-financial people better understand where the Region stands financially.

Constituencies:

Reconciliation: Rick Boyd. Written report. The commission requested that the Region Endorse the Raise the Age Campaign, which would support raising the age from 17 to 18 for juvenile incarceration in that State of Michigan.

The motion was ruled out of order due to lack of prior notification. The motion is referred to the business committee for a determination if it can be brought as an emergency resolution to this Regional Assembly.

Strategic Ministry Planning Task Force:

Neil Toplife. Written report. A revised powerpoint presentation was shown and discussed. Neil also pointed out that the kickstart 18 has over 30 pledges and it will be rolled out soon to the entire region.

Crystal Camp and Conference Center Property Sale Task Force: Doug Morgan, Written Report. Information provided about different parcels, no recommendations at this time.

Women's Ministry: Sarah Beth Simonds, Consultant. Diana Payton. No written report.

Men's Ministry: Rial Hammon. Written report. Rial pointed out the 2017 retreat was successful and work on the 2018 retreat is underway.

Historian: Rev. Nora Shumake. Archives Survey is printed in the docket.

Representatives & Partners:

Representative to the General Board: Dr. Barbara Hemphill. No written report.

General Ministry Partner: Rev. Enrique Ocasio. Written report on Region's invest-

ment and account balances.

Representative from the United Church of Christ: Campbell Lovett, Conference Minister, Michigan Conference. No written report.

Old Business: None

New Business: The Business committee voted to allow the Raise the Age motion to be presented to the Assembly as an emergency item.

Moved for the Region to Endorse the Raise the Age Campaign, which would support raising the age from 17 to 18 for juvenile incarceration in that State of Michigan. Motion Passed!

Nomination Committee:

Members At Large:

Patricia Howe, Glen McIntyre

Motion to accept slate as presented, seconded. Passed Unanimously.

Installation of Officers: Rev. Eugene James.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.



Moderator's Report—Rev. Mitzie Hall

Finally! My last name is now "Hall." We are close to spring and prayerfully the weather will cooperate. As the buds on the trees begin to bloom, I pray that our lives will bear holy fruit for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. SPRING IS HERE! Your fruit is evident in your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and, yes, even self-control.

Items approved at our Regional Board Meeting in March to be brought to this assembly are:

- That the Land Contract with New Life Full Gospel Church for the former Saginaw Christian Church East property be forgiven and the property be deeded to the church

- That the complimentary use of Mission House for one week by the Regional Minister as well as use of Pioneer, which has been granted traditionally over the years, become policy
- That the complimentary use of Pioneer by the **Administrative Assistant during the Women's Retreat**, which has been granted traditionally, become policy
- That the west end of the Crystal Conference Center beach front be available for Michigan Disciples to reserve with the appropriate documents signed

Regional Minister's Report—Rev. Eugene James

The lamp of faith must be filled with the oil of charity.

Thomas Watson

The love of many multiplies joys and diminishes sorrows. We have seen this made manifest in the response of the Regional Church to the tremendous loss experienced by First Christian Church Battle Creek because of an egregious betrayal of trust. The "We Are Family" endeavor easily surpassed the goal of \$10,000.00 for which I rejoice and am truly grateful. God is glorified, Pastor Clingenpeel and the congregation have been encouraged, and the Regional Church was unified in its response. Praise the Lord!

The Crystal Conference Center 100th Anniversary Celebration was a resounding success. This is a result of the able leadership of Pastor Tim Murtaugh and the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in bringing everything together for a joyous time of celebration, sharing, remembrance, and worship. Thanks to everyone for a job well done.

A new era has begun for the Outdoor Ministry of the Regional Church. United Camps, Conferences, and Retreats is now managing the Crystal Conference Center, bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge in the management and promotion of camping programs. This is a major course of action toward our becoming better stewards of this

sacred ground with which God has blessed us. Rev. Tina Heck, Director of Marketing, is available at the UCCR table to respond to your inquiries. We are very appreciative of the efforts put forth by Russ Tiller, Pastor Jill Forton, Sarah Beth Simond, Neil Topliffe, the Crystal Commission and other volunteers in bringing this transition to pass smoothly.

After our Bookkeeper, Mike Lipsey, stepped down from his position, the Stewardship and Finance Commission reviewed options for replacing him and the recommendation was made that we contract with Treasury Services of the Office of the General Minister and President. Treasury Services provides comprehensive services which include detailed financial reporting and the annual audit.

We remember Rev. Paul Holland, former pastor of First Christian Church, Traverse City, who passed away in December. A memorial service was held at the church on January 5, 2019. His wife Debbie Holland was very grateful for the support she received. Special thanks to Pastor Bob Larimer being a comforting presence for them during that period.

The Clergy Retreat was again a meaningful experience for all who were in attendance. There were

great discussions and wonderful fellowship. The St. Francis Retreat Center is a beautiful facility with an atmosphere that enables rest and relaxation. We received timely information regarding preparing for retirement from Rev. Sarah Renfro of the Pension Fund. We continue to encourage participation in the Pension Fund by our clergy. There are other benefits that are available to participants and their families. Please stop by the Pension Fund table, Rev. Renfro will be glad to speak with you.

There have been instances of violence at churches and mosques around the country that have increased concern about security at places of worship. The Church Growth and Vitality Commission will be developing a workshop to bring practical information on this crucial issue to our congregations in clusters around the Region.

During one of our discussions at the Clergy Retreat, Pastor Clingenpeel shared insight into the need for specificity in policies and procedures he learned about that most of us had no awareness. The Commission has begun discussion on developing a workshop to address strengthening financial policies and procedures in our churches. Dates, times, and locations will be announced when they are determined.

In July of 2018 during the meeting of the College of

Regional Ministers, the Interim Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Ohio made a request that the Regional Ministers of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and West Virginia/Pennsylvania provide support to Ohio when his time there ended. We agreed. A Memorandum of Understanding was approved by the boards of each Region involved and signed by the Moderator and Regional Minister of each Region. We began our work in Ohio in November of 2018. The Visiting Regional Ministers work closely with the Regional Elders for each District and share in Zoom meetings on a monthly basis when our schedules permit.

Sadly, I received a letter from Pastor Viola Greene, True Foundation Christian Church, Flint indicating that she is withdrawing her congregation from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). When I spoke with her, she gave no explanation for this action. We wish the best for her and the congregation.

We give thanks to God for the way He continues to bless the ministry of the Regional Church, for the volunteers who work faithfully and are so vital to moving the ministry forward. There are challenges before us and by His grace we will continue moving forward.



Commissions

Church Growth and Vitality—Rev. Brenda Etheridge

Commission members: JoElla Coles, Rev. Rick Modglin-Green, Rev. Dr. Francis Gilliard

our Commission:

- Supported a pastor/church developer to attend training with Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation
- Partnered with Central Woodward Christian Church and Commission on Ministry for 2018 Perry Gresham Bible Lectures with Dr. Thomas Jay Oord, October 26-28, 2018. (Scholarship support was given to one student.)
- On August 29, 2018 chair met with Pastor Terrell L. McTyer, Minister of New Church Strategies, of HOPE Partnership for Missional Transformation, the regional moderator and regional minister about how to support strategies for New Church development in the Michigan region.
- Have begun to have a conversation about new church development
- Rev. Dr. Francis Gilliard, Rev. Dr. Arnold Lakes, and Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Pettway are

being asked to give mentorship to two church planners who have approached our regional minister

The CG&V Commission is concerned that scholarships are available to attend training, but few leaders are taking advantage of the opportunity.

We have no actions or recommendation to bring to the Assembly at this time.

Our future plan is the establishment of a New Church committee that would offer a workshop for church treasurers and financial secretaries. We welcome any suggestions from the regional church or congregational members.

And to provide scholarships to training related to church growth and vitality.

Crystal—Russ Tiller, Jr.

Commission Members: Dave Cook, Jill Forton, Brady Larimer, Jennifer Murtaugh, Eric

Strommer, Vickie Wright, Neil Topliffe and Sarah Beth Simonds

- The UCCR > CCMR Crystal Conference Center Management Agreement has been completed and UCCR (United Camps, Conferences and Retreats) has taken over Management as of April 1, 2019. Mr. Kent Shelby, COO of UCCR was onsite as of April 13 with Site Director Eric Strommer.
- Inventory of all Buildings and content has been completed as per the UCCR Agreement and submitted to UCCR personnel for input into their recording system.
- **Exhibit “C” of the UCCR Agreement (time lines)** has been completed with opening and closing dates suggested for 2019.
- Two CCMR members have been nominated and approved by the Crystal Commission to

be UCCR representatives from the Michigan Region to serve on the UCCR Owners Council.

- Dates for DOC camps have been established and rate fees updated and simplified. We have also worked with UCCR to develop rates for Non-Disciple camps (included in Registration Packets).
- Publicity pieces are printed and information on 2019 Camps at Crystal Conference Center is being distributed. This information is also available on the CCMR website.
- Online registration has been activated and this new process is available for all CCMR DOC Camps.
- A Property subcommittee of the Crystal Commission has been established. The primary responsibility will be on maintenance and upkeep of the Crystal facilities/property.

- Meetings with our CBCA neighbors have occurred with good interaction and communication.

Concerns of your group at this time:

- With change comes concern. Operating Crystal Conference Center and Camp Crystal under circumstances that differ from what we are used to brings some anxiety. Please know that the Crystal Commission has the utmost confidence in the UCCR Management Group. We **feel we have done our “homework”** and this management group has the personnel, experience, track record and marketing ability to help Crystal Conference Center grow and be viable for the future. Please encourage your church and church members to be a part of this beautiful camp experience.
- There is a need for volunteers to work in the Regional Office in early May to process and do data entry for camp registrations (not everyone registers on-line). Perhaps 1-2 hours a week. Please let Sarah Beth Simonds -CCMR Treasurer know if you can help.
- Opening of the camp is weather dependent and will be determined by the arrival of spring.

Actions/recommendations your group is bringing to the Assembly

- (Preface: There will be no alcohol use at Crystal Conference Center or Camp Crystal when underage youth are on the grounds). We would however recommend that outside groups be allowed to have limited use of beer or wine, subject to the approval and control of the Site Director. Furthermore, that this would occur during a small win-

dow of time closely monitored and controlled by the Site Director. *This was presented at the Regional Board Meeting of March 2nd. It was recommended that assigned Representatives of the Region (Eugene, Neil and Sarah Beth) contact our Insurance Company on this and explore liabilities associated with it. They will present their recommendations back to the Regional Board when completed.

- We recommend confirmation by the Regional Board that the Reverend Jill Forton and the Reverend Neil Topliffe be appointed as the two people to be the CCMR Representatives to the Owners Council of the UCCR. * Action was taken and approved at the Regional Board Meeting of March 2, 2019.

Future projects under consideration:

- A “Volunteer Group” is currently being formed to assist in Crystal Conference Center related projects for maintenance and property. A priority list has been developed and related maintenance items will be addressed as weather permits. Please contact russh-tiller@gmail.com if you would be willing to help or would like more information about planned projects.
- An Open house will take place at Crystal Conference Center the 1st Saturday of June for the local Chamber of Commerce introducing them to the camp and UCCR Management.
- Plans are also underway to have an outdoor “picnic” with the CBCA on July 28th.
- We will also be representing and promoting Crystal Conference Center at the Frankfort Art Fair, August 16 and 17.



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Michigan Region
2820 Covington Ct., Lansing, MI 48912-4810
Phone: (517) 372-3220
www.michigandisciples.org

NEWS CONTACT:

Neil E. Topliffe
(317) 727-9310 (mobile & text)

February 15, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eric Strommer named Site Director of Crystal Conference Center

“It is with great delight that we announce the hiring of Eric Strommer as our Site Director at Crystal Conference Center,” stated Stewart Halstead, Director of Human Resources of United Camps Conferences

and Retreats (UCCR). Strommer, as new site director in the inaugural season of UCCR operating Crystal Conference Center, comes with extended experience at the conference center.



Strommer's relationship with Crystal dates back more than 15 years as a camp counselor and medical officer. He became a member of the summer staff in 2011, as an Assistant Maintenance and Adventure Course Director for the COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) ropes course and climbing tower, moving up to being Director in the following years.

Strommer will be responsible for the day-to-day management of Crystal Conference Center during the summer months, hosting nine Michigan Disciples camps and retreats, as well as yoga retreats, family reunions, group conferences and meetings, weddings and other groups looking for an inviting event venue along the shores of Crystal Lake.

"We are doubly blessed with the selection of one of our own as Site Director at Crystal and beginning our new working relationship with UCCR as our property managers," noted Eugene James, Michigan Disciples

Regional Minister. "Eric comes with a breadth of knowledge and experience in the operation of the conference center and is well known by leaders and campers alike. We commend UCCR for this selection and look forward to the growth of our summer program and ministry on Crystal Lake," he added.



Eric has been one of the Michigan Disciples volunteers who provided many weekends over the years to help maintain the conference center for the camp and outdoor ministry program, traveling from his home in Flint. And he has been a part of the group (Benzie Boys) who open up camp in late April and shut it down in October, as dictated by Northern Michigan weather.

"On my first visit as a college student I fell in love with Crystal," Strommer explained, "and I've looked forward ever since to be a part of the camps and groups making use of this beautiful location. I knew, when I joined the summer staff, that I wanted to be part of Crystal and to make it a successful and dynamic place because it is such an amazing place. I'm excited to be working with UCCR who have high expectations and experience in making all their properties successful."

Strommer has been an elementary school teacher and currently is part of the middle school STEM program of the Flint Community Schools. He was a Boy Scout leader for more than 20 years and has volunteered at various summer camps in Michigan and Massachusetts.

A native of The Berkshires region of Massachusetts, Eric earned a BA at Bethany College in West Virginia and an MS at Eastern Michigan University. He is married to Jennifer who is employed with the Grand Blanc Schools, and the father of two sons, Samuel (16) and Jack (13). The Strommers are members of Unity Christian Church, Swartz Creek, Michigan.

Crystal Conference Center is a well-appointed camp, conference and retreat center on Crystal Lake, Michigan, for non-profit groups of 10-150. It is owned by the [Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) Michigan Region](#) and operated by [United Camps Conferences and Retreats](#) from May through September. Crystal Conference Center has more than 2,000 feet of sandy beach frontage and multi-use buildings among the 128 acres of fir and oak forest.

United Camps Conferences and Retreats is a not-for-profit organization managing 15 properties across the USA, providing on-site management and staff, planning, reservations, financial and regulatory compliance, and marketing services. Their headquarters is located in Petaluma, CA.

"It is with great delight that we announce the hiring of Eric Strommer as our Site Director at Crystal Conference Center," stated Stewart Halstead, Director of Human Resources of United Camps Conferences and Retreats (UCCR). Strommer, as new site director in the inaugural season of UCCR operating Crystal Conference Center, comes with extended experience at the conference center.

Strommer's relationship with Crystal dates back more than 15 years as a camp counselor and medical officer. He became a member of the summer staff in 2011, as an Assistant Maintenance person.



Crystal Conference Center Report

Greetings to the Michigan Disciples from United Camps, Conferences & Retreats (UCCR)!

We at UCCR are excited to partner with you to care for Crystal Conference Center. As we host the Disciples camps and retreats as well as other non-profits groups and families, know that we at UCCR look forward to acting as stewards of the property, working with the Michigan Disciples of Christ at this beautiful conference center.

Mike Carr, UCCR President

Rev. Tina Heck, Director of Reservations & Communications

From the Crystal Conference Center Site Director

Currently, Crystal Conference Center (affectionately known as Camp Crystal) is being opened from its winter's rest. **The grounds and buildings weathered the winter just fine.**

This will be the first year of site management by United Camps, Conferences and Retreats (UCCR).

Eric Strommer was hired as the newest Site Director after 30+ years of service by Brenda Murphy.

Eric has been involved at Crystal since 95 and 96 as part of site staff in college. He has volunteered as counselor, camp nurse, and opening and closing volunteer. **The last 7 years he's been on-site** staff as head of maintenance, as Adventure Course Eric, and assisting Brenda with whatever she directed.

On site to get work started on its opening is Eric Strommer, Richard Boomer, and Kent Shelby.

Richard Boomer is not a stranger to Crystal as he attended camp as a youth and as an adult with his family. He has been brought onboard as the new head of maintenance.

Kent Shelby is the Chief Operations Officer for UCCR. He is getting to know Crystal and working with Eric to **make the transition from the region overseeing camp operations to UCCR's care.**

Cedar Lodge has been opened with water and heat turned on.

Lane Plumbing and Mechanical came in and has turned on the water pump and water is flowing.

The Benzie Boys came in the weekend of April 26-28 to get water on to the buildings and get all the buildings' **water working and closer for guests to be staying here.**

As of this weekend Oaks, Cedars, Missions House, Pioneer are open for guests.

The dorms (Pines, Beeches, and Birches) are being readied for guests as well.

The volunteer work weekend will take place on the Memorial Day weekend. If you have the time please join us in helping getting the finishing touches at Crystal for a wonderful and amazing summer.

Eric Strommer, Crystal Conference Center

2019 Crystal Conference Center Prices

UCCR Reservations—800-678-5102

All rates are based on per person/night. Package rates include 1 Night + 3 meals

ADULTS		
Adult Pkg (1 Night + 3 meals)	General	MI Disciples
Dorms	\$ 68.00	\$ 59.85
Adult Lodging	Per Person	
Dorms	\$ 38.00	\$ 29.85*
	Flat Rate	
Cedar	\$ 300/Night	\$ 300/Night
Oaks	\$ 250/Night	\$ 250/Night
Missions House	\$ 500/Night	\$ 375/Night
	\$ 2900/Week	\$ 2100/Week
Adult Meals		
Breakfast	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00
Lunch	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Dinner	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
Food Totals	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00

CHILDREN Ages 4-11 when attending with a parent (Family Camp). No charge for 3 years and under.

Child Pkg (1 Night + 3 meals)		
Dorms	\$ 45.50	\$ 40.05
Child Lodging		
Dorms	\$ 23.75	\$ 18.30
Child Meals		
Breakfast	\$ 5.75	\$ 5.75
Lunch	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.50
Dinner	\$ 8.50	\$ 8.50
Food Totals	\$ 21.75	\$ 21.75

RV Sites (2 available with electric + water), \$25/Night. Please inquire about tent camping rates.

DAY USE

Adult	\$ 20.00	\$ 12.00
Child	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00

Additional Meeting Facility Day Use Rates may apply

*Summer camp lodging rates for Disciple Adult volunteers (counselors, deans, etc) is \$15.00/Night
 *Summer camp lodging rates for Disciple campers is \$24.85

(See next page for reserving Pioneer Lodge)

Revised TSH 4.11.19

Pioneer Lodge Prices —Michigan Region 2019

All rates are based on per person/night. **NO** meals nor linens included
 One's stay is limited to 6 nights in a row. Weekly use is Sunday—Saturday
 Pastors are required to clean Pioneer after their stay.
 Cleaning instructions will be provided.

Priority is given to Michigan Disciples pastors. If Michigan pastors are in crisis, at discretion of the Michigan Regional Minister, different arrangements for other clergy or non-clergy would be made.

Lodging Rate

Michigan Disciples Pastors	\$25.00 per night
Non-Clergy Crystal & Regional Volunteers	\$45.00 per night
Michigan Disciples members	\$65.00 per night
Other Bookings (as available)	\$100;.00 per night

BOOKINGS for PIONEER LODGE are made through

Christian Church Michigan Region
 2820 Covington Ct.
 Lansing, MI 48912

517-372-3220
ccmr@michigandisciples.org

ALL OTHER BOOKINGS for CRYSTAL CONFERENCE CENTER LODGING & FACILITIES CONTACT:

UCCR RESERVATIONS—800-678-5102

Revised NET 4.11.19

Ecumenism—Jerry McAllister

Activities:

For the Disciples of Christ in Michigan, Ecumenism means respecting and valuing other peoples and traditions and working together with others toward Christ-Centered goals. The Michigan Region partners with other church traditions and community groups to work in ecumenical ways.

Gospel In Action:

Gospel In Action is a program of the Region which helps coordinate active mission work within the Region. It functions by creating local committee groups to identify and respond to needs in their areas. The local groups develop projects in partnership with other local churches and community groups and invites volunteer groups and individuals as well as agencies and businesses to contribute work and resources for addressing the needs that have been lifted up.

In Detroit, Gospel In Action partners especially with Rippling Hope, a non-profit organization based in Detroit, but also with other Detroit based groups to work in blighted areas of Detroit.

Carole Enwright has submitted a flyer with pictures which serves as a summary report from the Detroit Gospel In Action and Rippling Hope. I refer your attention to this report.

STEM:

STEM is in hiatus at this time. Anne McCauslin, who has been the 'Dean' for STEM has stepped down to begin training as a Hospice chaplain. There are currently only two students enrolled in STEM and they are nearly finished with their programs. Recently only persons following the Licensed/Commissioned ministry track have inquired about beginning programs with STEM. There have not been requests for Core track programs. Other agencies such as seminaries and multi conference/region programs have been forming and offering some of these include online studies. Both the Disciples (DOC) and the United Church of Christ (UCC) have been working on new defi-

nitions of requirements for ministry which leaves the STEM Board needing study for Conference and Region needs and how STEM can address them. The STEM Board has decided to work to understand if STEM is continuing to fill a need or if that need is now being addressed by other resources available to people in the Region.

Festival of Faith:

The Festival of Faith has become "Festival of Service." Projects were worked on by volunteers coordinated by UCC and DOC leaders.

Relations with the UCC:

Relations with the UCC in Michigan continue to be active. Joint planning between Eugene James, our Regional Minister and Campbell Lovett, the UCC Conference Minister is a highlight.

Here is an excerpt, quoted from comments made by Campbell Lovett, the UCC Conference Minister in a recent UCC Conference newsletter that expresses the value such ecumenical work has for the two denominations. "We have been special denominational partners with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for over twenty-five years. The Michigan Conference (UCC) and the Michigan Region (DOC) have marked that partnership in many ways over the years. We have had Joint Annual Meeting/Regional Assembly (JAMRA), We hosted Love of Leadership, and more recently, Festival of Faith. Beginning last year, Festival of Faith was transformed into a "Day Of Service." This Day of Service is an opportunity to observe our relationship with the Disciples of Christ as a mission partnership ..."

Needs:

The main need for each of these programs is always for local leaders and pastors to bring these activities and events to the attention of their congregations and encourage, even assist people to participate.

Of course material and funding support is always needed, but volunteers and participants are the most important need.

Rippling Hope is beginning its 9th year in Detroit and has been a Regional Gospel in Action/Detroit program since its inception.

A great deal of work has been done by volunteers in those years, (see statistics below.) but the most important work has been in the nature and depth of the relationships that have been formed.

For 2019 there are several new initiatives :

- Training Classes for Homeowners: With neighborhood partners a series of Home Maintenance/Repair Classes began in February.
- Tool Library for Neighborhood Partners: Homeowners from the neighborhood partners will come to check out tools to complete home or neighborhood projects.
- Lawn Maintenance Crew: Rippling Hope is exploring the creation of a Lawn Maintenance

Crew to provide low cost yard service to the neighborhood partners. This is part of a larger work force development project that is being planned.

- Long Range Strategic Plan: As Rippling Hope moves towards the 10th Anniversary, a diverse group is working on a Long Range Strategic Plan to chart a course into the future. Rippling Hope is in the process of applying for several grants to help expand its mission and want. We thank the Michigan Region for its Reconciliation Grant.
- The Festival of Faith Service Day was at Rippling Hope on Saturday, April 13, 2019. There are always opportunities to volunteer doing a variety of jobs. Go to the website for more information. www.ripplinghope.org This year we really need groups of any size that can volunteer for a week or for a day.

By the Numbers	2018	8 yr. Total
Neighborhoods served	60	68
Households served	260	2500
Home Repairs completed	550	5293
Volunteers Hosted	465	5844
Volunteer Hours	7224	104,241
Value of Time Donated	178,360	2,404,135

STEM – Systematic Training for Effective Ministries – Anne McCauslin, Dean

Advisory Board Members: Rev. Shirley Martinson, Rev. Deborah Glazier, Barbara Hemphill (Chairperson), Jerry McAllister, Linda Gawlik

After many months of deliberation and discernment, it was decided that STEM courses will be discontinued until further notice. The present STEM students will continue as members of dis-

cernment within their associations and commissions on ministry with the board chair maintaining their records. The STEM board will meet quarterly, March, September and December.

Commission on Ministry – Robert Cornwall

Commission Members: John Harvey, Maggie Mills, Chuck Dykhuizen, Terry Van Heyningen

We have been working to create a more efficient system for clergy and commissioned ministers to prepare and submit their annual report form. Maggie Mills prepared a new form, which Sarah Beth Simonds will be reworking to better work for the Regional Office. We are also preparing to meet with several possible candidates for ordained and commissioned ministry, along with one person seeking dual standing.

We have discussed and received support from the Regional Board to require active retired clergy, pursuing standing, to remain current on their boundary training. The Commission will also be discussing whether to make anti-racism training renewable, as we do with boundary training. This is the practice of a number of regions.

Our ongoing concern is with making sure that clergy return their standing forms. We were delayed a couple of weeks this past year due to the work on the new form. Making sure forms are complete and returned promptly is important. Keeping up with requirements is as well. We're trying to make it easier for the office to keep up to date on these so we can keep our clergy accountable.

We ask that the Regional Assembly affirm the decision of the Regional Board to require active retired clergy to remain current with their boundary training (renewing every five years).

We understand that the College of Regional Ministers is working on new policies on sexual harassment and possibly a universal standing form.

Personnel Commission – Julie Drews

Commission Members: Richard Boomer, Jerrolynn Hockenhull

our Commission has met via teleconference a few times to discuss remaining staff of the Region, changes in responsibility for our Regional Minister, Pastor Eugene James, and going over job description of both him and also Beverly Peeler. Dis-

cussed how much responsibility is on both, also that they are all the staff that our Commission is now responsible for. Jerrolynn has met with Beverly to go over responsibilities and concerns to be able to bring back to the commission. Will be compiling information for us to meet again.

Finance and Stewardship—Sarah Beth Simonds

Commission Members: Mike Lipsey, Ray Cross, Rick Boyd, Bonnie Simerly

Treasurer’s Report

2018 Financial Reports

Attached is the December 2018 Dashboard that summarizes the financial results of the major funds that we have in the region. In addition, there is a complete set of financial statement for all funds.

Summary

The Regional Church and Crystal Conference Center funds incurred operating deficits of (\$46,516) and (\$5,912) respectively for 2018. Excluding unrealized losses, all other funds were self-sustaining. The Regional Church fund was favorable to budget by \$3,000. Crystal Conference Center was unfavorable to budget by (\$18,000).

Variances to budget are detailed below: (Excluding unrealized losses)

Christian Church - Michigan Region			
Income & Expense Variance Summary			
2018			
Regional Church			
Income			
DMF	(10,000)	Unfavorable (less than budgeted)	
Christmas	7,000	Favorable	
Designated Operating	1,000	Favorable	
Ohio Services	3,000	Favorable	
Total Income Variance	1,000	Favorable	
Expense			
Salaries & Benefits	(13,000)	Favorable (OM alloc to Crystal)	
Office Expenses	17,000	Unfavorable (depreciation)	
Professional Services	(4,000)	Favorable	
Other Expenses	(2,000)	Favorable	
Total Expense Variance	(2,000)	Favorable	
Regional Church	3,000	Favorable	

Christian Church - Michigan Region
Income & Expense Variance Summary
2018

Crystal Conference Center			
<u>Income</u>			
	100th Anniversary	13,000	Favorable
	Camp Income	<u>4,000</u>	Favorable
	Total Income Variance	<u>17,000</u>	Favorable
<u>Expense</u>			
	Salaries & Benefits	13,000	Unfavorable (OM allocation)
	Facilities	2,000	Unfavorable
	100th Anniversary	8,000	Unfavorable
	Publicity	(4,000)	Favorable
	Non-Food	7,000	Unfavorable
	Other Expenses	<u>9,000</u>	Unfavorable
	Total Expense Variance	<u>35,000</u>	
	Crystal Conference Center	<u>(18,000)</u>	Unfavorable

Budget 2019

The budget for Crystal for 2019 has been reviewed and modified by the Crystal Commission. It projects a deficit of (\$16,000) for the year.

The 2019 budget for the regional church projects a deficit of (\$37,405). The 2019 budget is basically just a repeat of 2018, with three exceptions. Depreciation expense is included at \$8,000. Liability insurance is up \$7,000. Service income from Ohio is \$21,000,

March 2019 Financials

The dashboard for March is included in this report. A complete set of financial statements is available to anyone who is interested. Please let me know if you would like a complete set of financials for March 2019. Regional Church is favorable to budget by \$4,000. Crystal Conference Center is on budget.

Net Assets/Balance Sheet

Net Asset Activity (page 2 of financials) The Unrealized Gain/Loss is the difference in market value of our investments held at CCF from Dec 31, 2017 to Dec 31, 2018. The stock market lost a lot of value in December, so our investments at CCF took a

large hit. Some of the unrealized loss has been recovered by now, but not the full amount.

At the end of 2017, our cash balance available to the Regional Church was \$145,008. At the end of 2018, our cash balance available to the Regional Church is \$108,819. The balance sheet shows cash of \$184,985m, but \$76,166 belongs to constituent groups (East District Assembly, STEM, Seminarian Scholarship Fund, etc.). The cash that we have that belongs to constituent groups/funds is listed on the Net Asset Activity Report (2nd column from the right).

Concerns:

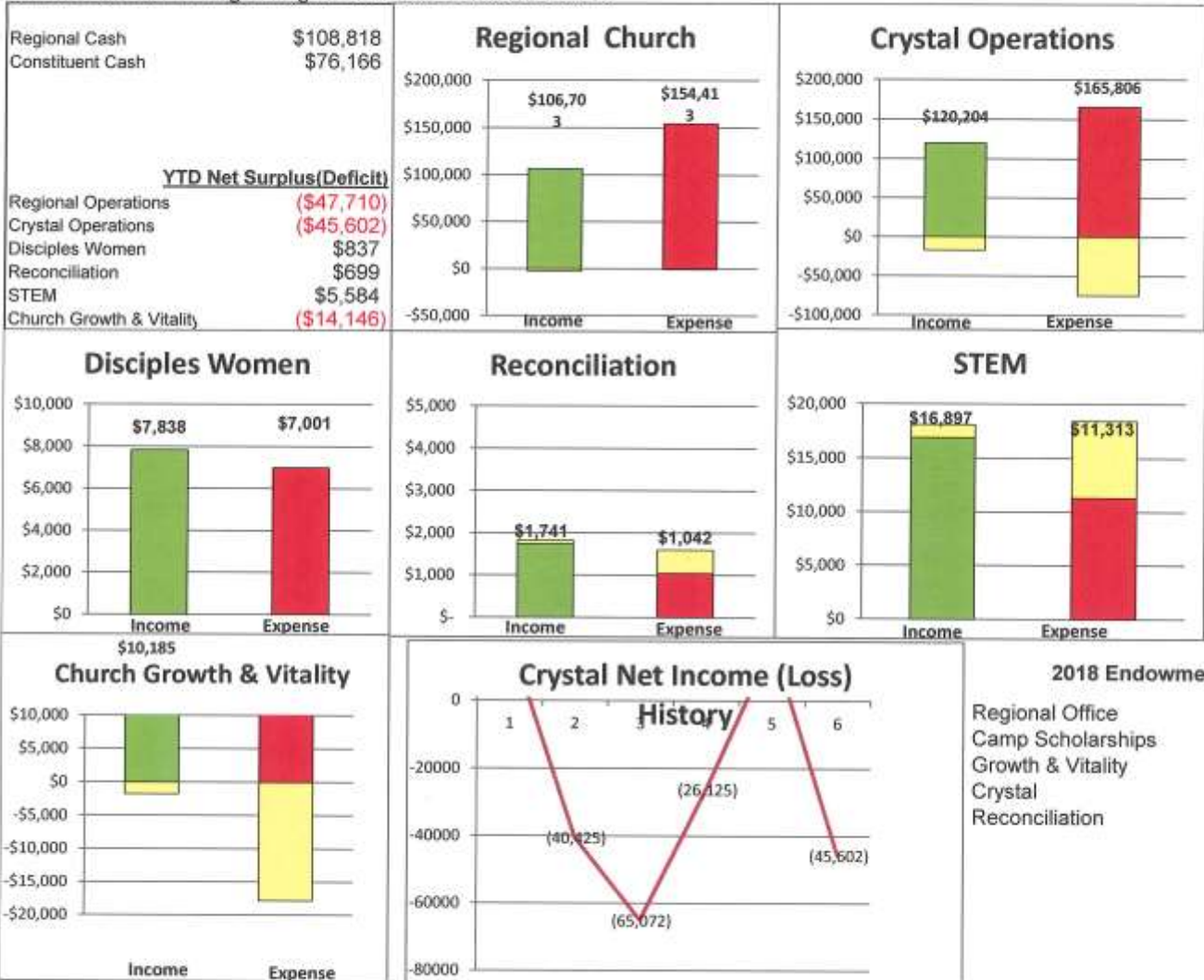
In spite of Strategic Planning Committee presentations, and receiving monthly gifts from a number of people, there has not been a dramatic change in the income of the Michigan regional church. We currently have 31 giving units that contribute monthly to the regional church. They give generously. They support the regional church and its ministries with approximately \$24,000 per year. These gifts are sustaining our ministries even **when resources are strained. But it's not enough** to sustain us long term.

Budgeted expenses are as low as we can get them.

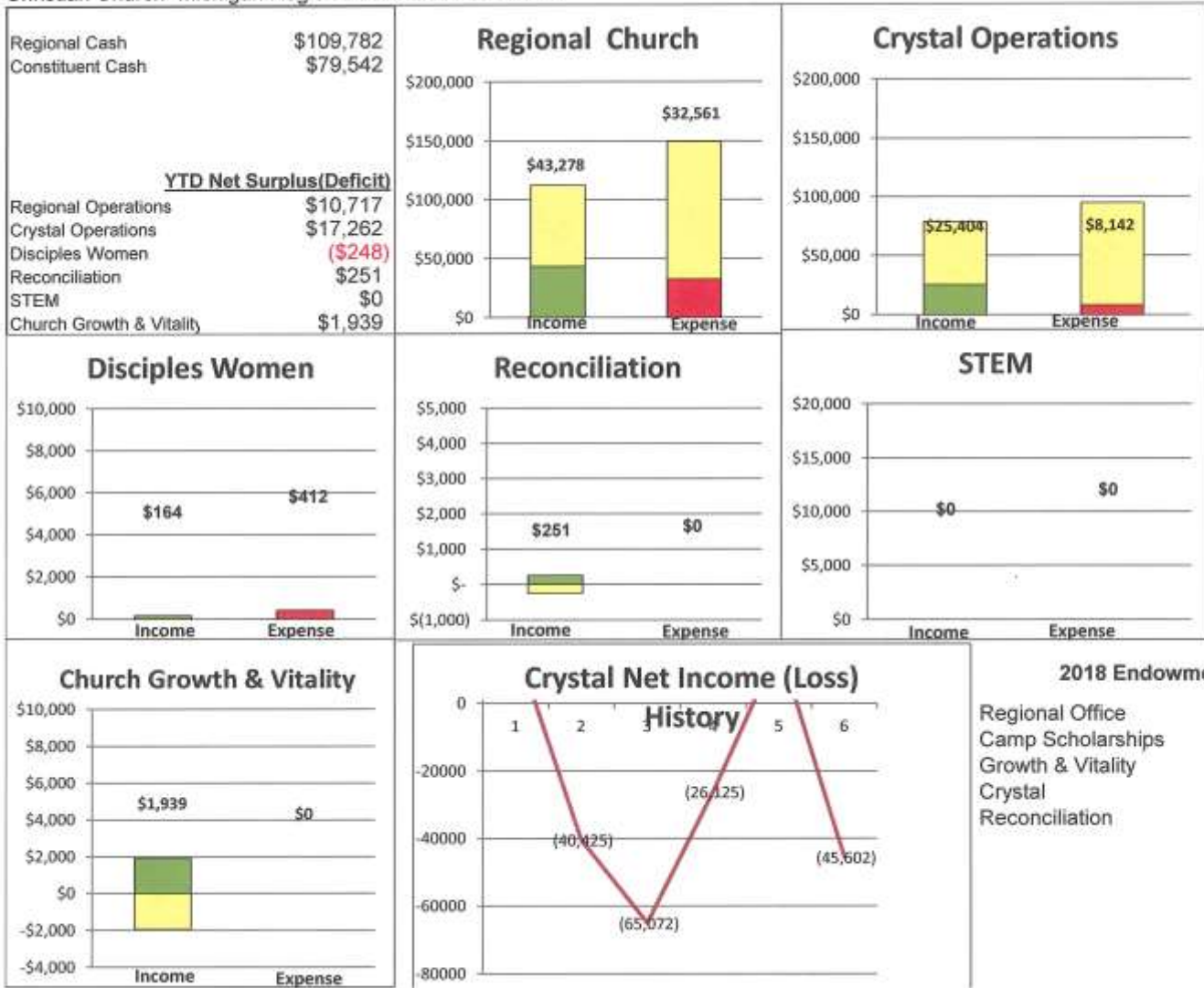
Pastor James tried to save us some money in 2017 by going to half-time. The results of that were unacceptable. There haven't been any salary increases for staff. There is no profligate spending. There is work (ministry) to do, but evidently not the mass necessary to support the regional church in doing this work.

Unless there are dramatic changes, we can probably function as regional church for 3-4 more years. Then there will simply be no funds to pay our staff.

Christian Church -Michigan Region Dashboard December 2018



Christian Church -Michigan Region Dashboard March 2019



**Christian Church Michigan Region
Statement of Financial Position**

	As of		Increase (Decrease)	As of
	12/31/2018	12/31/2017		12/31/2016
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash	184,985	195,551	(10,566)	98,512
CCF Distributions in Transit	2,340		2,340	
Accounts Receivable	3,964	10,864	(6,899)	
Prepaid Expenses	3,064	4,957	(1,893)	
Total Current Assets	194,353	211,371	(17,018)	98,512
Investments				
Investments held at Church Extension				130,000
Investments held at CCF	600,347	666,480	(66,132)	667,103
Total Investments	600,347	666,480	(66,132)	797,103
Fixed Assets				
Land	144,247	144,247		144,247
Buildings	624,546	620,675	3,871	620,675
Furniture & Equipment	182,698	182,698		182,698
Accumulated Depreciation	(611,696)	(595,504)	(16,192)	(583,904)
Total Fixed Assets	339,795	352,116	(12,321)	363,716
Total Assets	1,134,495	1,229,967	(95,471)	1,259,331
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	2,035		2,035	
Accrued Expense		1,694	(1,694)	
Note Payable				80,000
Total Liabilities	2,035	1,694	341	80,000
Net Assets				
Net Assets	1,132,460	1,228,272	(95,812)	1,179,331
Total Net Assets	1,132,460	1,228,272	(95,812)	1,179,331
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,134,495	1,229,967	(95,471)	1,259,331

Christian Church Michigan Region

	Detailed Net Asset Activity					Assets less Liabilities representing Fund Balances					
	Beginning of year	Income	Expenses	Unrealized Gain(Loss)	As of 12/31/2018	Total Liabilities	Total Assets	Fixed Assets	Accts Rec/ Prepaids	Cash	CCF
NET ASSETS											
Regional Operating Fund	559,960	106,703	(153,220)	(1,194)	512,249	(2,035)	514,284	339,795	9,368	154,540	10,581
STEM Fund	1,943	16,897	(11,313)	-	7,527		7,527			7,527	
Jubilee/Fuller Scholarships for	29,545	1,252	-	(2,745)	28,052		28,052			3,722	24,330
CTS Seminarian Scholarship Fund	21,258	5,298	-	-	26,556		26,556			26,556	
Cong Transformation & Developmt	236,752	10,185	(2,000)	(22,331)	222,606		222,606			24,695	197,911
Gospel in Action Flint Fund	3,115	-	-	-	3,115		3,115			3,115	
Reconciliation Fund	12,406	1,741	(488)	(554)	13,105		13,105			8,155	4,950
Women's Ministries Fund	300	7,838	(7,001)	-	1,137		1,137			1,137	
East District Assembly	720	1,089	(550)	-	1,259		1,259			1,259	
Crystal Conference Center Fund	362,273	120,204	(126,116)		316,853		316,853			(45,722)	362,575
CCF Investment activity		14,527	(14,345)	(39,690)							
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,228,272	285,734	(315,033)	(66,514)	1,132,460	(2,035)	1,134,495	339,795	9,368	184,986	600,347

**Christian Church Michigan Region
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ending Dec. 31, 2018**

	<u>Actual</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR PERIOD	(95,812)
ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE NET INCOME TO NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Increase in CCF Distribution in Transit	(2,340)
Decrease in Accounts Receivable	6,899
Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	2,143
Increase in Prepaid Postage	(250)
Increase in Buildings	(3,871)
Decrease in Accumulated Depreciation	16,192
Increase in Accounts Payable	2,035
Decrease in Accrued Expenses	(1,694)
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(76,698)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
CCF 0361 Regional Office Operating Investment Fund	1,194
CCF 1452 Jubilee/Fuller Scholarships for Camp	2,745
CCF 1453 Cong Transformation & Development Fund	22,331
CCF 3075 Reconciliation	354
CCF 1827 Crystal Conference Center Maintenance Fund	39,508
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	66,132
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH	(10,566)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AS OF 1/1/2018	195,551
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AS OF 12/31/2018	184,985

Christian Church Michigan Region Budget Report & Prior Year Comparison

	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2018</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2018</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Over</u> <u>(Under)</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2017</u> <u>Actual</u>
Income				
Disciples Mission Fund	34,411	44,378	(9,966)	39,365
Pentecost	932	1,486	(554)	1,532
Christmas	26,729	19,790	6,939	58,216
DMF via CCF Endowments	5,101	4,824	277	6,814
Designated Operating	23,952	22,981	970	20,889
Distribution from non-owned endowments	666		666	
Clergy Emergency Contributions	1,303	3,656	(2,353)	2,341
Interest Income	224		224	1,998
Joint Investment Trust Income	436		436	
Services Income - Ohio	3,538		3,538	
New Life Full Gospel	850		850	3,400
Miscellaneous Income	10		10	300
Total Income	<u>98,153</u>	<u>97,116</u>	<u>1,038</u>	<u>134,856</u>
Expenses				
Salaries & Benefits				
Regional Minister Salary	53,696	53,580	116	41,984
Office Mgr & Custodial Services Salary	14,708	29,964	(15,256)	14,866
RM Pension Fund	6,857	3,924	2,933	5,878
Payroll Taxes	2,189	8,880	(6,691)	2,335
Health Insurance	13,922	7,800	6,122	12,366
Workers Compensation Insurance	471	300	171	291
Staff Training		250	(250)	
OM Pension Fund	3,725	4,212	(487)	4,207
Total	<u>95,568</u>	<u>108,910</u>	<u>(13,342)</u>	<u>81,926</u>
Travel				
RM Travel	1,412	1,500	(88)	2,937
RM Meals & Entertainment	361	500	(139)	316
RM Lodging	746		746	
Office Staff Travel	211	305	(94)	359
Total	<u>2,729</u>	<u>2,305</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>3,612</u>
Facilities				
Utilities	2,454	2,170	284	2,178
Building Maintenance	2,413	1,500	913	3,226
RO Building & Liability Insurance	1,830	1,708	122	1,282
Total	<u>6,697</u>	<u>5,378</u>	<u>1,319</u>	<u>6,686</u>

**Christian Church Michigan Region
Budget Report & Prior Year Comparison**

	<u>As of</u>		<u>Over</u>	<u>As of</u>
	<u>12/31/2018</u>	<u>12/31/2018</u>	<u>(Under)</u>	<u>12/31/2017</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Office Expenses				
Postage & Shipping	824	2,050	(1,226)	2,988
Website Development and Maintenance	56	240	(184)	241
Depreciation Expense	16,192		16,192	11,600
Office Supplies	6,172	6,305	(133)	6,550
RM Library		150	(150)	416
Copier Maintenance & Supplies	1,640	2,796	(1,156)	3,124
CLPOC Fees	1,522		1,522	1,451
Hospitality				67
Yearbook Assessment	500		500	
Bank Fees	175	125	50	186
Online Credit Card Fees	1,522	600	922	719
College of Regional Ministers Dues	622	600	22	1,625
Miscellaneous Expense	869		869	1,556
Telephone, Internet, Conference Calls	2,909	3,200	(291)	4,605
Total	<u>33,003</u>	<u>16,066</u>	<u>16,937</u>	<u>35,127</u>
Board & Committee Expenses				
Board/Committee Expenses	321	450	(129)	193
Stewardship & Finance Commission	57		57	577
Total	<u>378</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>(72)</u>	<u>770</u>
Professional Services				
Accounting Services	6,400	5,100	1,300	850
Accounting/Auditor/Payroll Service Fees	527	6,395	(5,868)	6,934
Total	<u>6,927</u>	<u>11,495</u>	<u>(4,568)</u>	<u>7,784</u>
Program Support				
Clergy/Cong Emergency	75	1,500	(1,425)	200
Total	<u>75</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>(1,425)</u>	<u>200</u>
Total Expenses	<u>145,378</u>	<u>146,104</u>	<u>(726)</u>	<u>136,104</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	<u>(47,224)</u>	<u>(48,988)</u>	<u>1,764</u>	<u>(1,248)</u>

**Christian Church Michigan Region
Budget Report & Prior Year Comparison - Regional Office
Events**

	As of	As of	Over	As of
	12/31/2018	12/31/2018	(Under)	12/31/2017
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual
From Previous Page	(47,224)	(48,988)	1,764	(1,248)
	Revenue	1,500	1,500	675
	Expense	(694)	(294)	(396)
Net Commission on Ministry	806	(400)	1,206	279
	Revenue	2,160	(550)	3,135
	Expense	(1,966)	3,034	(2,256)
Net Clergy Retreat	194	(2,290)	2,484	879
	Revenue	1,550	(925)	2,030
	Expense	(1,739)	(839)	(2,473)
Net DM Retreat	(189)	1,575	(1,764)	(443)
	Revenue	2,540	766	2,040
	Expense	(1,326)	(526)	(715)
Net Regional Assembly	1,214	974	240	1,325
	Revenue	800	800	
	Expense	(2,117)	(1,437)	(2,035)
Net Preaching Camp	(1,317)	(680)	(637)	(2,035)
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(46,516)	(49,809)	3,293	(1,243)

**Christian Church Michigan Region - Crystal Conference Center
Budget Report & Prior Year Comparison**

	<u>As of</u>		<u>Over</u>	<u>As of</u>
	<u>12/31/2018</u>	<u>12/31/2018</u>	<u>(Under)</u>	<u>12/31/2017</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Income				
Facilities Use Fees	27,036	28,584	(1,548)	22,547
Elementary Camp Income	20,890	19,064	1,826	17,360
July Day Camp 1 Income				338
Chi Rho Camp Income	12,117	9,050	3,067	8,180
CYF Camp Income	5,283	5,424	(140)	7,520
July Family of God Camp Income	19,229	18,017	1,212	17,052
Independence Retreat Income	560	2,400	(1,840)	100
Vacation Bible School	300	300		247
100th Anniversary Pig Roast Registration	9,103		9,103	375
100th Anniversary Housing	4,323		4,323	
Camp Offering Income	788		788	456
CCC Scholarship Income	100	2,480	(2,380)	225
Designated Camp	1,497	1,073	424	783
Distribution from N Oakland Endowment	14,345	14,000	345	16,189
T-shirt sales, etc.	4,635	2,652	1,983	3,326
Total Income	120,204	103,044	17,160	94,698
Expenses				
Salaries & Benefits				
Camp Director Salary	13,512	13,512		13,512
CCC Office Manager Allocation	13,171	13,090	81	13,337
Payroll Taxes	2,038	1,948	90	1,965
CCC Workers Compensation Ins	1,886	1,216	670	1,163
CCC Bookkeeper Salary Allocation				128
CCC Office Manager Allocation	13,860		13,860	14,015
Total	44,467	29,766	14,701	44,120
Travel				
Dean/Crystal Staff Travel	1,871	200	1,671	2,148
Total	1,871	200	1,671	2,148
Facilities				
CCC Utilities	9,194	7,896	1,298	8,380
Crystal Annual Planned Maintenance	2,244	1,690	554	2,329
Crystal Expense Roads, Gravel, Excavation	2,386	2,500	(114)	2,464
Crystal Ad Hoc Repairs and Maintenance	3,583	2,538	1,045	3,584
Crystal Tree expenses	3,435	4,500	(1,065)	6,000
CCC Insurance (bldg, liability)	13,045	12,400	645	9,081
Total	33,888	31,524	2,364	31,837
Office Expenses				
CCC Postage	250		250	10
CCC Equipment Maintenance	112		112	
CCC Equipment Fuel	174		174	

**Christian Church Michigan Region - Crystal Conference Center
Budget Report & Prior Year Comparison**

	<u>As of</u>		<u>Over</u>	<u>As of</u>
	<u>12/31/2018 Actual</u>	<u>12/31/2018 Budget</u>	<u>(Under) Budget</u>	<u>12/31/2017 Actual</u>
CCC Office Supplies	54	150	(96)	171
CCC Telephone	1,561	840	721	1,111
Total	<u>2,151</u>	<u>990</u>	<u>1,161</u>	<u>1,292</u>
Camp Expenses				
CCC Current Projects	564		564	1,300
CCC Security	500		500	
CCC Publicity/Advertising	441	4,000	(3,559)	549
100th Anniversary Pig Roast Expenses	2,109		2,109	
100th Anniversary Other Expenses	6,014		6,014	
Camp Program Expenses	462	250	212	251
CCC General Supplies	1,418	600	818	4,059
T-Shirt Expense	3,945		3,945	
CCC Inspections/Water Samples	2,685	5,050	(2,365)	8,157
CCC Dean/Counselor/Staff Training	664	300	364	300
CCC Food	14,076	14,550	(474)	15,344
CCC Non-food	10,817	3,700	7,117	3,696
Volunteer Food Expense				
Elementary Camp Expense	23		23	
Vacation Bible School Expenses	23		23	
CYF Camp Expense				
July Family of God Camp Expense				
Indepence Retreat Expense				
CCC Management Fee to UCCR				
Total	<u>43,740</u>	<u>28,450</u>	<u>15,290</u>	<u>33,656</u>
Total Expenses	<u>126,116</u>	<u>90,930</u>	<u>35,186</u>	<u>113,052</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	<u>(5,912)</u>	<u>12,114</u>	<u>(18,026)</u>	<u>(18,354)</u>

**Christian Church Michigan Region
Income/Expense Activity of Other Funds**

	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2018</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2017</u> <u>Actual</u>
1610 - MI STEM		
Income		
Comstock Grant	5.000	3.459
MC-UCC Share	8.000	8.135
Tuition - LCMP/Lansing	3.465	6.070
Tuition Core - Lansing	60	120
Receipts of Student Pass Through Money	372	330
Total Income	<u>16.897</u>	<u>18.114</u>
Expenses		
Dean - Consulting (fronted by Disciples)	8.438	11.250
LCMP Honorarium	870	2.310
Core Instructor Honorarium - Lansing	140	
LCMP Instructor Expenses	532	1.671
Core Instructor Expense - Lansing	192	
Miscellaneous Expense	1.142	940
Total	<u>11.313</u>	<u>16.171</u>
Total	<u>11.313</u>	<u>16.171</u>
Total Expenses	<u>11.313</u>	<u>16.171</u>
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	1.943	10.223
ADJUSTMENTS TO NET ASSETS	0	(10.223)
TOTAL ADJUSTED NET ASSETS	1.943	0
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	5.584	1.943
ENDING NET ASSETS	<u>7.527</u>	<u>1.943</u>

**Christian Church Michigan Region
Income/Expense Activity of Other Funds**

	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2018</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2017</u> <u>Actual</u>
1620 - MI Jubilee/Fuller Scholarships for Camp		
Income		
Fuller Camp Scholarship JIT (CCF 1452)	1,252	968
Total Income	<u>1,252</u>	<u>968</u>
Investment Activity		
Unrealized Gain or Loss on Investments	(2,745)	2,241
Total	<u>(2,745)</u>	<u>2,241</u>
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	29,545	26,336
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1,493)	3,209
ENDING NET ASSETS	<u><u>28,052</u></u>	<u><u>29,545</u></u>

**Christian Church Michigan Region
Income/Expense Activity of Other Funds**

	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2018</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2017</u> <u>Actual</u>
1625 - MI CTS Seminarian Scholarship		
Income		
CTS Seminarian Scholarships	5,298	4,897
Total Income	<u>5,298</u>	<u>4,897</u>
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	21,258	10,204
ADJUSTMENTS TO NET ASSETS	0	6,157
TOTAL ADJUSTED NET ASSETS	21,258	16,361
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	5,298	4,897
ENDING NET ASSETS	<u><u>26,556</u></u>	<u><u>21,258</u></u>

**Christian Church Michigan Region
Income/Expense Activity of Other Funds**

	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2018</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2017</u> <u>Actual</u>
1630 - MI Cong Trans & Development		
Income		
Church Growth & Vitality General Income		120
CG&V JIT (CCF 1453)	10,185	7,875
Total Income	<u>10,185</u>	<u>7,995</u>
Expenses		
CG&V	2,000	2,609
Total	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,609</u>
Total	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,609</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,609</u>
Investment Activity		
Unrealized Gain or Loss on Investments	(22,331)	18,229
Total	<u>(22,331)</u>	<u>18,229</u>
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	236,752	213,137
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(14,145)	23,615
ENDING NET ASSETS	<u>222,607</u>	<u>236,752</u>

**Christian Church Michigan Region
Income/Expense Activity of Other Funds**

	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2018</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2017</u> <u>Actual</u>
1650 - MI Reconciliation		
Income		
Reconciliation Offering	1,041	1,669
Anti-Racism Workshop	500	
Joint Investment Trust Income	200	
Total Income	<u>1,741</u>	<u>1,669</u>
Expenses		
Designated Expense	272	
Anti-Racism Workshop Expenses	216	
Total	<u>488</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>488</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	<u>488</u>	<u>0</u>
Investment Activity		
Unrealized Gain or Loss on Investments	(554)	617
Total	<u>(554)</u>	<u>617</u>
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	12,406	20,120
ADJUSTMENTS TO NET ASSETS	0	(10,000)
TOTAL ADJUSTED NET ASSETS	12,406	10,120
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	698	2,286
ENDING NET ASSETS	<u>13,104</u>	<u>12,406</u>

**Christian Church Michigan Region
Income/Expense Activity of Other Funds**

	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2018</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2017</u> <u>Actual</u>
1681 - MI Women's Ministries		
Income		
Blessing Boxes	426	422
WM/CWF Scholarship Income	1,005	100
WM/CWF WIFHL Income		250
WM/CWF Retreat Income	6,407	4,810
Total Income	<u>7,838</u>	<u>5,582</u>
Expenses		
WM/CWF Travel Pool Dues		234
DW/CWF Consultant	1,000	1,000
WM/CWF WIFHL Expenses		138
WM/CWF Retreat Expenses	6,001	5,480
Total	<u>7,001</u>	<u>6,851</u>
Total	<u>7,001</u>	<u>6,851</u>
Total Expenses	<u>7,001</u>	<u>6,851</u>
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	300	22,038
ADJUSTMENTS TO NET ASSETS	0	(20,468)
TOTAL ADJUSTED NET ASSETS	300	1,570
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	837	(1,270)
ENDING NET ASSETS	<u>1,137</u>	<u>300</u>

**Christian Church Michigan Region
Income/Expense Activity of Other Funds**

	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2018</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>As of</u> <u>12/31/2017</u> <u>Actual</u>
1687 - MI East District Assembly		
Income		
East District Assembly Income	1,089	1,948
Total Income	<u>1,089</u>	<u>1,948</u>
Expenses		
East District Assembly Expenditures	550	1,228
Total	<u>550</u>	<u>1,228</u>
Total	<u>550</u>	<u>1,228</u>
Total Expenses	<u>550</u>	<u>1,228</u>
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	720	0
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	539	720
ENDING NET ASSETS	<u><u>1,259</u></u>	<u><u>720</u></u>

Constituencies

Disciples Women’s Ministry—Diana Payton

Our 2019 Annual Retreat at Crystal Conference Center –June 21-23, 2019 with the theme: Women of Purpose. planning team led by Rhonda Moore-Lewis. Keynote speaker is Rev Jackie Compton Bunch from Ohio. Registration available online and forms mailed in April to churches & women who’ve attended previously. “Marketplace tables available for rent” and women’s groups are encouraged to bring “Baskets of goods” for a raffle.

Women’s Ministries table will be set up at the Regional Assembly so ALL women may check in and register to win a ‘prize’!!! How are women active in the life of their church?

We have been able to fill most commission positions and met in August 2018 & January 2019 &

March 2019. We still need North & West District Representatives.

Finding a ‘contact person’ for Women’s Ministries in each congregation is a challenge. Whether or not there is an active Women’s Ministries, we would like a contact name from each church.

As the ‘job descriptions’ of commission members are outdated, we are working on updating these descriptions for presentation at the annual meeting during the Women’s Retreat in June at Crystal.

We are hoping to have WIFHL (Womens Institute for Higher Living) event in fall – still working on schedule.

We have no recommendations to bring to the Assembly. We have no future projects under consid-

Regional Staff	Sarah Beth Simonds		Study/Worship	Rhonda Moore-Lewis
President	Diana Payton		Social Action	Carole Enwright
Vice President	Cindy Redman		East District Rep	Carolyn Hill
Secretary	Kathy Linville		North District Rep	Vacant
Treasurer	Lynette Pace		West District Rep	vacant
Communications	Vicki Kirby, Tina Turner			
Nominating	BJ Essen			

Disciples Men’s Ministry—Rial Hamann

The men’s retreat at Crystal of 2018 happened and 14 men were present year. Our facilitator this year was Carl Zerweck of Rippling Hope whose program was titled “Your Mission, a Mission Possible”. The titles for the 3 sessions were: “Holy Works”, “Hammers”, and “Hallelujahs”. The program was well received.

It was recommended that the retreat happen 1 week sooner to facilitate non hunters and young men to attend. This recommendation was approved. It was also approved that there be physical work projects blended in with the scriptural material. It is good to exercise both Brain and Brawn in the worship of our Lord. The planning of those projects and blending with worship is being worked on. Russ Tiller and I shall be in dis-

Reconciliation—Richard Boyd

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I need to step down as Reconciliation chair. As much as I feel passionately about this ministry, I am retiring this June from First Christian Church in Lansing, and I need time to restore some balance to my family life before considering another volunteer position.

And so, I am calling all volunteers! This is a good time for people to step up and lead this region in this important work. Bless you all.

I am pleased to report that the CCMR board, at its March meeting, approved a request to grant **\$2700 from the region's Reconciliation fund to Rippling Hope in Detroit.** This grant funds three summer positions for 2019 through the GDYT (**Growing Detroit's Young Talent**) program.

The three individuals who were chosen have **served as part of Rippling Hope's summer leadership team** for the past three years. In the words of Director Carl E. Zerweck III:

"Through GDYT these young adults work 120 hours over a six-week period for which they receive a stipend half of which is provided by the city and half of which is provided by Rippling Hope. Because of our experience with Chris, Arielle and Miranda, we have employed them full time beyond their GDYT hours for 12 weeks. I cannot say enough about how many ways the ministry of Rippling Hope has been blessed by having these young adults serve with us, and the impact upon our volunteers of having the opportunity to serve and form relationships with them."

Here is a little more background information from Carl:

"Rippling Hope is an 8-year-old Detroit based ecumenical ministry, with widespread support by Disciples churches in Michigan. Rippling Hope offers home repair/maintenance projects to Detroit residents who live in one of the 68 partner neighborhoods in northwest Detroit. All the projects are done by volunteers."

This grant is a good use of CCMR Reconciliation funds. For centuries, it has been part of the Disciples tradition to raise up future preachers with our congregations. Rippling Hope follows a similar plan: to raise up future African-American church leaders within their own neighborhood rebuilding efforts.

Reconciliation efforts within the Michigan region **connect us to our denomination's roots in the Black Church experience in America.** To reflect on that legacy for a moment, let us begin with the family of churches started by African-Americans, going back four hundred years and thriving today.

Speaking generally, these colonial era congregations arose as a response to African-American loneliness. Why were black people lonely? Because of enslavement. Because of the oceanic Middle Passage. Because of the systematic devastation of all inherited African religions among the people who were brought here in chains. Because of the **Plantation system's assault upon African-American life.** These things were the cause of African-American loneliness. To be ripped from your homeland, and your culture, and your language, and your family. That would make a person lonely. Consequently, Black church gatherings in America were a spiritual response to loneliness, a way of gathering as a family to be a little bit free **in each other's company.** A **distinctive religion** developed among these people, involving a vision of a God and a universe in which Black people could survive and become free, at least inside.

In colonial times, each black person, free or slave, had to wonder: What makes a person free? Does it happen in solitude, or in community? They decided: Who am I? What have I gone through? What could I become? Nobody knows but Jesus. A soul that knows Jesus knows it is not good to be alone. **You can't be free to be yourself unless you can be around other people who love you.**

Out of Black loneliness came a Black church that addressed the needs of Black people in America. It saw the Bible as a manual for survival. It saw its

own mission as the journey from survival to liberation. It developed its sermons and its prayers and **its music to meet its audience's needs.**

And, to paraphrase W.E.B. Du Bois, what is the soul of Black folks? The church came up with an answer. **The soul is “the little me in side the big me.” Inside of every living thing is another thing.** In every man or woman, there is a little man or woman. This soul was not born here. It came down from heaven to be in each one of us. This soul was never born, and does not die, and so is not part of Nature. Inside each person, there is a **“me,” the true me, the real me, that can be caught up and transported to the heavenly regions. “There was a time when the people could fly.”**

In African-American theology, this spirit is the best and oldest part of you. This spirit can live and be free no matter what happens to you in the outside world. It is beyond the power of all matter to hurt you. It is beyond the power of the senses to tempt you. It is beyond all history, and beyond your own experience. It is the part of you that can respond to the saving presence of an inner Jesus who can come and be with you. No matter what happens to you, you can get free and be with Jesus. The soul is beyond anything that might try to enslave it. You can be with Jesus when you are alone. You can be with Jesus when you are with others. You can be free in church. You can be free in the world.

Communication—Neil Topliffe

our Commission/Committee reports the following:

1. Electronic Michigan Disciples eNews: In the past 12 months 31 Michigan Disciple eNews were delivered via email to a mailing list of 410. Approximately 35-40% of emails delivered are opened at any one time. The open rate is above average even if the percentage is somewhat of a discouraging reality. To receive these eNews via email send request to [in-fo@michigandisciples.org](mailto:info@michigandisciples.org).
2. Michigan Disciples Web Updates (www.michigandisciples.org): 25 email updates were delivered to 130 inboxes, updating recipients of all calendar events, news items

This is where our own denomination came from. This spontaneous and spirit-led form of worship is in our spiritual DNA.

Specifically, the Disciples of Christ arose out of the Cane Ridge experience of 1801, when a large gathering of white people got a taste of this kind of freedom. The African-American Churches are our roots.

“What was born at Cane Ridge was a fundamental but scarcely ever avowed principle of the American Religion: Creedlessness, the doctrine of experience. “This new form of American worship celebrated an orgiastic individualism, the outward mark of an inward grace that traumatically put away frontier loneliness and instead put on the doctrine of experience that exalted such loneliness into a being alone with Jesus. The American Jesus was born at Cane Ridge,” heavily influenced by the form of worship that had been taking place in Black slave churches since many years previous (Harold Bloom, *The American Religion*).

That's right. At Cane Ridge, white people started experiencing worship in the African-American style. The Holy Spirit came to America, and are called to carry on this high calling today through our emphasis on Reconciliation.

and Regional Minister blogs posted on the Michigan Disciples website. Approximately 25-30% of these emails are opened. To subscribe to these updates, go to web page and at top click on “Subscribe to Email updates.”

3. Michigan Regional Office Emails: Email information of events, personnel news etc. also is delivered to ministers and local church leaders on a regular basis.
4. MichiganDisciples.org Website: The website is now 8 years old with minimal updating and, therefore, very dated. Finding a church location remains the most active web page.

The website does provide for online registra-

tion of the various Michigan Disciples events including retreats, assemblies and special events, providing efficient 24/7 access and convenience for those needing to register. It also lessens staff time in the Regional Office.

Posting events, news, and blogs provide regular updates. However, the format, style and dated content has impacted activity, with a noticeable drop in use. Most active visitors to the web pages (77%) are under 45 years in age, with half accessing it from mobile/tablet devices. Our site is not designed for these new formats.

5. CrystalConferenceCenter.org Website: With the transition of Crystal Conference center being managed by UCCR, our Crystal website will need to be redesigned as the Michigan Disciples outdoor ministries website, focused on our particular camps, conferences and retreats. **We have begun using “Camp Crystal” to focus on our specific Crystal ministries programs.** This means more changes will need to be made to our website, so it lessens confusion with the uccr.org/crystal website. 67% of users are under 45 years

The greatest use of crystalconferencecenter.org web pages continue to be to gain information about our camps and to register online. **More than half the site traffic goes to the “Schedule & Forms | Online Registration” page.**

This site also suffers from even more age and design limitations

6. Facebook – Michigan Disciples (www.facebook.com/michigandisciples or [@michigandisciples](https://www.facebook.com/michigandisciples)): The Facebook page, launched in November 2017, continues to see steady growth, with an 81% increase of those who “Like” (154 vs 85 in 2018) and “Follow” (159) the page, receiving all new posts. However, we reach a much higher viewership with the posts being shared and by “ad” promotions. In the past year we have added 146 new posts, including 2-3 encouraging support to the **Battle Creek #WeAreFamilyFund.”** Those posts helped generate strong support from Disciples members, churches and even outside friends of the Michigan Region.

The announcement of Eric Strommer becoming the new Site Director of Crystal reached 2,200 Facebook readers and our promotion of the Regional Assembly reached 700 users. Facebook ads in the past year (\$110 paid by an anonymous donor) have boosted seven of our promotions, reaching a total of 6,986 viewers with our Michigan Disciples message.

7. Facebook – Camp Crystal: Michael Dirksen oversees this Facebook page with more than 600 followers, maintaining conversations between past Crystal campers.
8. Mailings: The Regional Office has continued to send event brochures and other print information to our congregations, ministers and leaders.

Concerns at this time:

1. We need to build a process that engages our congregations in sharing the significant events, mission, education and stories with one another for all to share
2. We need YOU to suggest members of YOUR congregation who have a sense and/or experience as communicators, especially with social media skills. Send your suggestions to ntopliffe@comcast.net.
3. For the fourth year we note that the two websites need to be redesigned and updated if we are going to successfully build a stronger Communications Big Rock.

Recommendation to the Assembly:

Call on the board to include in the 2019 and 2020 budget, \$10,000 for the rebuilding of the Michigan Disciples and Camp Crystal websites.

Future project under consideration:

Form committee to redesign and rebuild websites in 2020.

North District—Glen McIntyre

I was pleased to see that our North District churches were well represented at our 100th Birthday Party for Crystal in July and our District Picnic in September. Both events were held at Camp Crystal and we had beautiful weather and great fellowship and worship. We are blessed to have our Crystal Conference Center in the North District. I believe UCCR will do a fine job operating our beloved camp and property. I was also pleased that Eric Strommer was named the new Site Director.

We would appreciate your prayers as several of our Northern churches are in Interim Ministry status at this time.

Last August the Burt Lake Christian Church celebrated its 98th Annual Chicken Bar-B-Que and corn roast. **It was standing room only, again. It's our biggest fundraiser and party of the year.** We frequently get guests and helpers all the way from L.A. (Lansing area). The rest of the Region is invited to join us on Thursday, August 15th from 3:00 – 7:00 PM for our 99th Annual Celebration.



East District Executive Board

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

TO: Regional Assembly
FROM: East District Moderator,
DATE: May, 4th, 2019
SUBJECT: Eastern District Action Plan

ATTACHMENTS: List of Churches in the East District
Draft Letter to Congregations

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In addition to the Annual East District Assembly the newly elected Executive Board wish to sponsor at least 2 major events during our tenure. One this year and one next year that will serve to spiritually unify and strengthen the District. The goal is to craft a powerful and engaging communal worship experience for our area to the glory of God that facilitates a steady gaze upon His greatness. Every church needs to grow warmer through fellowship, deeper through discipleship, stronger through worship, broader through ministry, and larger through evangelism as described in prayer for the church in the book of John chapter 17.

We have begun to take the necessary steps to achieve these goals by:

- Meeting with the Regional Director and Moderator to review job descriptions and expectations on 4/6/19
- We examined the current by-laws dated 1986 and recommend revisions to be presented and ratified at the next East District Assembly.
- Identifying the churches within the East District Boundaries
- Preparing a letter requesting 2 members from each congregation to serve on the ED Board
- Re-organize and re-establish a viable working East District Board and appoint committee chairs
- Developing each committee needed to carry out the work of the district
- Created email address to better communicate through
- Our theme for our tenure will be one of "Committed to Christ" with the guiding scriptures- Gal 6:7-10 ⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. ⁹And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. ¹⁰As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Recommendation:

- To establish the communications committee asap
- To get the letters out to all participating congregation to establish the ED Board asap
- Set date for first meeting of the ED board



Michigan Disciples

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) MICHIGAN REGION

MODERATOR
RHONDA LEWIS

VICE MODERATOR
DIANE PEYTON

TREASURER
SARA BETH SIMONDS

SECRETARY
VERNA ADAMS

East District Executive Board

Recognized Congregations of the Eastern District

- **Adrian First Christian Church**
2667 Bent Oak Highway
Adrian, MI 49221
Phone: (517) 265-6852
- **Ann Arbor Journey of Faith Christian Church**
<http://www.a2disciples.org>
1900 Manchester Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Phone: (313) 662-4245
- **Detroit - United Christian Church of Detroit**
<http://www.unitedchristianchurchdoc.org>
19510 West Chicago Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48228
Phone: (313) 273-3201
- **Detroit Bethany Christian Church**
5901 Cadieux Rd.
Detroit, MI 48228
Phone: (313) 885-0909
- **Detroit Full Gospel Christian Church**
18101 James Couzens Fwy
Detroit, MI 48235-2649
- **Detroit Northwestern Christian Church**
www.northwesternchristianchurch.org
13650 Ilene
Detroit, MI 48238
Phone: (313) 933-5496

- **Detroit The Word Christian Church**

9489 East Outer Dr.

Detroit, MI 48213

Phone: (313) 526-4889

- **Ferndale Christian Church**

<http://ferndalechristianchurch.com>

3201 Hilton Rd.

Ferndale, MI 48220

Phone: (810) 543-7814 (Use: (810) 334-2820)

- **Hazel Park Serenity Christian Church**

<http://www.serenitychristianchurch.org>

24120 N. Chrysler Dr.

Hazel Park, MI 48030

Phone: (313) 892-3550

- **Troy Central Woodward Christian Church**

<http://centralwoodward.org>

3955 W. Big Beaver Rd.

Troy, MI 48084

Phone: (810) 644-0512

Awaiting confirmation

- **First Christian Church West**
[First Christian Church West \(Disciples of Christ\) on Facebook](#)
5545 McCarty Road
Saginaw, MI 48603
- **Flint Triumphant Temple of Praise**
<http://www.triumphanttempleofpraise.com>
3500 W Pasadena Ave
Flint, MI 48503
- **Flint True Foundation**
646 Stewart Avenue
Flint, MI 48505-5324
- **Flint Vermont Christian Church**
<http://www.vermontchristianchurchflint.org>
1201 Lippincott Blvd.
Flint, MI 48503
- **Flushing New Covenant Christian Church**
<http://www.ncccdoc.org>
5360 Bangor Ave.
Flushing, MI 48433
- **Saginaw First Christian Church - West**
5545 McCarty Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603
- **Swartz Creek, Unity Christian Church**
<http://www.uccswartzcreek.com> 5255 S Linden Rd
Swartz Creek, MI 48473



Michigan Disciples

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) MICHIGAN REGION

MODERATOR
RHONDA LEWIS

VICE MODERATOR
DIANE PEYTON

TREASURER
SARA BETH SIMONDS

SECRETARY
VERNA ADAMS

East District Executive Board

"And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

May 4, 2019

Northwestern Christian Church
19650 Ilene Ave.
Detroit MI 48238

Draft

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We the Executive Board of the East District is re-organizing the Eastern District Board of Directors in an effort to address all business issues that affect us as a whole. It is also our desire to educate, inform and restore our intermittent fellowship. In order to properly address these issues, we need representation from your congregation.

We are requesting that you identify 2 members in good standing to serve on the East District Board of Directors. We assure you the commitment to serve on this board is only a marginal demand of their time. Please provide the requested contact information (below) for these appointed individuals by email to eastdistrictdoc@gmail.com

Our first meeting is scheduled for mid May to early June 2019 and will be held via conference call. Further information and details for joining conference call will be forwarded to your selected representatives. Please respond no later than 5/15/2019.

Thank you,

Rhonda Moore Lewis,
ED Moderator

Name	Address	Telephone (Text)	E-mail

*Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

Christian Church in Michigan Region

Account # 361



Investment began on 9/8/1989

Years	Deposits	Withdrawals	Period End Market Value	Effective Distribution Rate	Common Balanced Return by Year
1989	\$ 125,000.00	\$ (25,000.00)	\$ 100,000.00		21.51%
1990	\$ 115,000.00	\$ (10,381.93)	\$ 217,560.33	10.4%	3.44%
1991	\$ -	\$ (11,872.02)	\$ 253,431.56	5.5%	21.67%
1992	\$ -	\$ (11,199.28)	\$ 261,884.68	4.4%	7.86%
1993	\$ -	\$ (3,660.05)	\$ 273,648.46	1.4%	10.95%
1994	\$ 10,576.89	\$ (10,157.86)	\$ 266,240.16	3.7%	-2.63%
1995	\$ 505.17	\$ (11,537.21)	\$ 305,688.87	4.3%	18.74%
1996	\$ -	\$ (11,874.44)	\$ 327,805.85	3.9%	11.08%
1997	\$ 51,579.00	\$ (16,725.76)	\$ 351,423.25	5.1%	11.50%
1998	\$ 1,693.55	\$ (21,645.81)	\$ 444,426.62	6.2%	15.40%
1999	\$ 1,385.79	\$ (22,084.38)	\$ 463,719.27	5.0%	9.34%
2000	\$ 1,300.16	\$ (22,335.36)	\$ 433,063.83	4.8%	-2.08%
2001	\$ -	\$ (20,684.86)	\$ 403,818.53	4.8%	-1.95%
2002	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (18,639.37)	\$ 357,359.89	4.6%	-10.50%
2003	\$ -	\$ (18,551.61)	\$ 411,870.87	5.2%	22.57%
2004	\$ -	\$ (16,546.70)	\$ 437,935.45	4.0%	10.77%
2005	\$ -	\$ (17,311.04)	\$ 440,816.30	4.0%	4.63%
2006	\$ -	\$ (17,876.30)	\$ 463,015.24	4.1%	9.30%
2007	\$ -	\$ (18,842.95)	\$ 468,082.10	4.1%	5.21%
2008	\$ -	\$ (16,796.65)	\$ 332,112.26	3.6%	-26.07%
2009	\$ -	\$ (109,709.61)	\$ 275,296.21	33.0%	23.37%
2010	\$ -	\$ (91,847.64)	\$ 213,350.13	33.4%	13.56%
2011	\$ -	\$ (26,325.46)	\$ 184,714.11	12.3%	-1.47%
2012	\$ -	\$ (77,901.67)	\$ 126,654.43	42.2%	12.19%
2013	\$ -	\$ (74,460.67)	\$ 66,071.64	58.8%	13.72%
2014	\$ -	\$ (42,087.10)	\$ 26,995.36	63.7%	3.52%
2015	\$ -	\$ (10,858.67)	\$ 15,215.96	40.2%	-5.75%
2016	\$ -	\$ (5,419.61)	\$ 10,800.58	35.6%	10.01%
2017	\$ -	\$ (422.18)	\$ 11,775.19	3.9%	13.15%
2018	\$ -	\$ (436.11)	\$ 10,581.28	3.7%	-6.68%
Mar. 31, 2019	\$ -	\$ (103.66)	\$ 11,444.73	1.0%	9.15%
	<u>\$ 317,040.56</u>	<u>\$ (763,295.96)</u>			

Total Value Added \$ 457,700.13 ¹

¹Total Value Added is the gain due to investment results in the markets since the inception of the fund.

**Christian Church in Michigan Region
Russell & Barbara Fuller Camp Scholarship Fund**



Account # 1452

Investment began on 1/25/1999

Years	Deposits	Withdrawals	Period End Market Value	Effective Distribution Rate	Common Balanced Return by Year
1999	\$ 24,830.01	\$ (686.45)	\$ 26,336.09		9.34%
2000 ¹	\$ -	\$ (5,001.73)	\$ 20,805.30	19.0%	-2.08%
2001	\$ 250.00	\$ (1,005.12)	\$ 19,627.03	4.8%	-1.95%
2002	\$ -	\$ (894.34)	\$ 16,905.95	4.6%	-10.50%
2003	\$ -	\$ (877.65)	\$ 19,484.75	5.2%	22.57%
2004	\$ -	\$ (782.80)	\$ 20,717.81	4.0%	10.77%
2005	\$ -	\$ (818.93)	\$ 20,854.10	4.0%	4.63%
2006	\$ 4,082.42	\$ (976.16)	\$ 26,138.77	4.7%	9.30%
2007	\$ -	\$ (1,063.74)	\$ 26,424.81	4.1%	5.21%
2008	\$ -	\$ (948.22)	\$ 18,748.86	3.6%	-26.07%
2009	\$ -	\$ (784.31)	\$ 22,237.04	4.2%	23.37%
2010	\$ -	\$ (1,703.54)	\$ 23,385.12	7.7%	13.56%
2011	\$ -	\$ (934.68)	\$ 22,134.44	4.0%	-1.47%
2012	\$ -	\$ (931.47)	\$ 23,865.90	4.2%	12.19%
2013	\$ -	\$ (994.51)	\$ 26,085.75	4.2%	13.72%
2014	\$ -	\$ (1,057.27)	\$ 25,946.49	4.1%	3.52%
2015	\$ -	\$ (1,009.92)	\$ 23,490.01	3.9%	-5.75%
2016	\$ -	\$ (964.82)	\$ 24,834.23	4.1%	10.01%
2017	\$ -	\$ (970.78)	\$ 27,075.18	3.9%	13.15%
2018	\$ -	\$ (1,002.66)	\$ 24,329.99	3.7%	-6.68%
Mar. 31, 2019	\$ -	\$ (238.32)	\$ 26,315.34	1.0%	9.15%
	<u>\$ 29,162.43</u>	<u>\$ (23,647.42)</u>			

Total Value Added \$ 20,800.33 ²

¹ Withdrawals include a transfer of \$3,830.01 to account #1827-North Oakland Endowment Fund for Crystal.

² Total Value Added is the gain due to investment results in the markets since the inception of the fund.

**Christian Church in Michigan Region
Congregational Transformation & Development Fund**



Account # 1453

Investment began on 1/25/1999

Years	Deposits	Withdrawals	Period End Market Value	Effective Distribution Rate	Common Balanced Return by Year
1999	\$ 54,480.84	\$ (2,489.33)	\$ 57,132.66		9.34%
2000	\$ 4,083.27	\$ (2,781.08)	\$ 57,186.52	4.9%	-2.08%
2001	\$ 19,551.92	\$ (3,356.50)	\$ 71,869.86	5.9%	-1.95%
2002	\$ -	\$ (3,274.92)	\$ 61,905.85	4.6%	-10.50%
2003	\$ 11,073.15	\$ (3,673.10)	\$ 84,622.61	5.9%	22.57%
2004	\$ -	\$ (3,399.67)	\$ 89,977.82	4.0%	10.77%
2005	\$ -	\$ (3,556.71)	\$ 90,569.71	4.0%	4.63%
2006	\$ -	\$ (3,672.85)	\$ 95,130.69	4.1%	9.30%
2007 ¹	\$ 128,827.53	\$ (4,506.51)	\$ 224,423.18	4.7%	5.21%
2008	\$ -	\$ (8,055.86)	\$ 159,230.13	3.6%	-26.07%
2009	\$ -	\$ (6,660.83)	\$ 188,854.56	4.2%	23.37%
2010	\$ -	\$ (22,144.13)	\$ 190,224.66	11.7%	13.56%
2011	\$ -	\$ (7,603.14)	\$ 180,051.08	4.0%	-1.47%
2012	\$ -	\$ (7,577.13)	\$ 194,135.54	4.2%	12.19%
2013	\$ -	\$ (8,089.98)	\$ 212,192.79	4.2%	13.72%
2014	\$ -	\$ (8,600.39)	\$ 211,059.92	4.1%	3.52%
2015	\$ -	\$ (8,214.77)	\$ 191,077.90	3.9%	-5.75%
2016	\$ -	\$ (7,848.16)	\$ 202,012.35	4.1%	10.01%
2017	\$ -	\$ (7,896.47)	\$ 220,241.24	3.9%	13.15%
2018	\$ -	\$ (8,156.16)	\$ 197,910.60	3.7%	-6.68%
Mar. 31, 2019	\$ -	\$ (1,938.64)	\$ 214,060.34	1.0%	9.15%
	<u>\$ 218,016.71</u>	<u>\$ (133,496.33)</u>			

Total Value Added \$ 129,539.96 ²

¹ Deposits include a transfer of \$84.54 from account #1454 (closed - 12/31/2007).

² Total Value Added is the gain due to investment results in the markets since the inception of the fund.

**Christian Church in Michigan Region
North Oakland Endowment Fund for Crystal**



Account # 1827

Investment began on 6/28/2000

Years	Deposits	Withdrawals	Period End Market Value	Effective Distribution Rate	Common Balanced Return by Year
2000 ¹	\$ 137,846.48	\$ -	\$ 137,758.56		-2.08%
2001	\$ 19,089.55	\$ (2,514.21)	\$ 152,508.63	1.8%	-1.95%
2002	\$ -	\$ (4,063.78)	\$ 130,087.12	2.7%	-10.50%
2003	\$ 24,849.32	\$ (6,450.71)	\$ 181,893.61	5.0%	22.57%
2004	\$ -	\$ (7,842.80)	\$ 192,241.98	4.3%	10.77%
2005	\$ -	\$ (7,139.61)	\$ 193,722.47	3.7%	4.63%
2006	\$ -	\$ (7,436.46)	\$ 203,394.54	3.8%	9.30%
2007	\$ 513,180.19	\$ (7,705.44)	\$ 717,958.29	3.8%	5.21%
2008	\$ -	\$ (14,748.11)	\$ 522,420.30	2.1%	-26.07%
2009	\$ -	\$ (23,350.74)	\$ 613,881.06	4.5%	23.37%
2010	\$ -	\$ (85,649.13)	\$ 600,839.18	14.0%	13.56%
2011	\$ -	\$ (47,446.99)	\$ 546,912.00	7.9%	-1.47%
2012	\$ -	\$ (42,951.30)	\$ 567,560.85	7.9%	12.19%
2013	\$ -	\$ (47,253.13)	\$ 592,221.30	8.3%	13.72%
2014	\$ -	\$ (52,616.14)	\$ 560,101.17	8.9%	3.52%
2015	\$ -	\$ (72,865.53)	\$ 459,944.11	13.0%	-5.75%
2016	\$ -	\$ (73,568.60)	\$ 424,767.92	16.0%	10.01%
2017	\$ -	\$ (71,188.91)	\$ 402,083.24	16.8%	13.15%
2018	\$ -	\$ (14,344.93)	\$ 362,575.02	3.6%	-6.68%
Mar. 31, 2019	\$ -	\$ (14,268.19)	\$ 380,464.95	3.9%	9.15%
	<u>\$ 694,965.54</u>	<u>\$ (603,404.71)</u>			

Total Value Added \$ 288,904.12 ²

¹ Deposits include a transfer of \$3,830.01 from account #1452-Russell and Barbara Fuller Camp Scholarship Fund.

² Total Value Added is the gain due to investment results in the markets since the inception of the fund.

**Christian Church in Michigan Region
Reconciliation Fund
Account # 3075**



Investment began on 10/29/2007

Years	Deposits	Withdrawals	Period End Market Value	Effective Distribution Rate	Common Balanced Return by Year
2007	\$ 12,223.18	\$ -	\$ 11,876.86		5.21%
2008	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,780.74	0.0%	-26.07%
2009	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,832.92	0.0%	23.37%
2010	\$ -	\$ (618.00)	\$ 11,627.11	5.7%	13.56%
2011	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,455.99	0.0%	-1.47%
2012	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,852.43	0.0%	12.19%
2013	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,616.14	0.0%	13.72%
2014	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,130.85	0.0%	3.52%
2015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,261.47	0.0%	-5.75%
2016	\$ -	\$ (10,000.00)	\$ 4,688.08	70.1%	10.01%
2017	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,304.68	0.0%	13.15%
2018	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,950.39	0.0%	-6.68%
Mar. 31, 2019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,403.38	0.0%	9.15%
	<u>\$ 12,223.18</u>	<u>\$ (10,618.00)</u>			

Total Value Added \$ 3,798.20 ¹

¹ Total Value Added is the gain due to investment results in the markets since the inception of the fund.

Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ—Campbell Lovett, Conference Minister

The Michigan Region and the Michigan Conference continue to observe the long partnership between our two denominations. In the past year, the main emphases of the partnership have been the STEM program and the Festival of Faith – Day of Service.

We give thanks for Dean Anne McCauslin and her many years of service to STEM. A number of graduates from the program serve our two denominations in a variety of significant ministries. With **Anne's resignation, the STEM Board has undertaken** a period of reflection and visioning. The program is “on-hold” for now, but I continue to hope for revamped offerings in the coming year.

Festival of Faith – Day of Service took place in April at mission sites in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Traverse City. This has been an opportunity for an increasing number of younger people to participate in our partnership and support outreach efforts in a day of service. In Grand Rapids, over thirty young people and adults volunteered at three different service sites. At one Grand Rapids site, twelve youth prepared a community garden for spring planting. Rippling Hope continues to be a valuable resource for people experiencing mission work and building relationships in Detroit.

In addition to STEM and Festival of Faith, the Region and Conference collaborate on racial justice training and boundary awareness training.

I appreciate the collegiality of Regional Minister, Rev. Eugene James. His ecumenical spirit has been a blessing to me and I look forward to our ongoing partnership and the ensuing programs and projects.



Committee Reports

Crystal Camp and Conference Center Property Sale Task Force—Doug Morgan

The 2018 Regional Assembly approved the Task force to proceed with the sale of property at Crystal Camp and Conference Center based on the recommendations of the previous task force chaired by Russ Fuller. The task force consists of Douglas Morgan, Chair, Dale Arnold, Russ Fuller, Russ Tiller, and Sarah Beth Simmons.

The recommended sale was for Parcel B, the 40 acres south of the center campground the Lobb Road crosses. We met with and listed this parcel with RE/MAX Bayshore Properties of Frankfort Michigan, Randy and Carol Dye Realtors.

We received legal opinion on the cottagers "Right of First Refusal" from John VanderVeen of Gray, Seaman, Shumar & VanderVeen, PC. That the right of first refusal pertains to all Crystal Property, not just that property adjacent to the Cottagers.

We have received an offer of \$30,000 for the 5 acres of parcel B south of Lobb Road. This offer was rejected as too low. Recommended price \$50,000.

We also received an offer of \$150,000 for parcel B, the entire 40 acres, but rejected the offer as too low. List price \$299,900.

We received an unsolicited offer of \$50,000 for a 5 acre triangular parcel at the intersection of Lobb and Morro Roads which included property on both sides of Lobb Road. This offer was rejected as it was not listed for sale. After discussion by the task force, this 5 acre triangular parcel was listed for sale with RE/MAX Bayshore Properties of Frankfort Michigan, Randy and Carol Dye Realtors, but not including any property on the north-east side of Morro Road. The listed price is \$65,000. A deed restriction was prepared by John VanderVeen of Gray, Seaman, Shumar & VanderVeen, PC. for preventing driveway access to Morro Road without permission and annual **maintenance fee**. A **20' x 40' drainage retention** area is also retained for future road and drainage

improvements.

This 5.79 acre parcel has been surveyed and legal description provided by Crystal Surveying, L.L.C. of Beulah.

On April 23, 2019 we received a rewritten offer from the same individual for this parcel for \$65,000, but included several addendum items which we are investigating. This proposal is being submitted to the Crystal Beach Cottagers Association as required for their Right of First Refusal.

This proposal cannot be submitted to the Regional Board approval until all issues are resolved.

JAN 29, 2019 CRYSTAL PROPERTY SALE TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Rev Eugene James, Dale Arnold and Doug Morgan took part from the Regional Office. Sara Beth Simmons and Russ Tiller took part by telephone. Russ Fuller not present.

Eugene opened with prayer.

Doug reviewed the proposed boundaries 5 acre parcel bordered by Morro and Lobb roads with respect to Morro Road control issues and probable future road and drainage improvements. By **selling up to the Morro Road 66' right of way and including deed restrictions on access and control of Morro Road**, these issues should be resolved. The buyer would not have Morro Road driveway access nor pay for any portion of the maintenance for Morro Road. If in the future the buyer wants access to Morro Road, permission from the CCMR would be required and a portion of the annual maintenance fee would be assessed, just as a cottage owner in the Road Maintenance Agreement. These deed restrictions should be drawn up by an attorney.

All Task Force members present were in agreement with the above criteria.

I will inform the realtor Randy Dye of the above restrictions for him to inform any prospective buyers.

We need a boundary survey and legal description of the parcel for the sale (so the township can get it on their tax roles, as it is now part of the tax exempt church property).

Once a purchase proposal is received , the Cottagers Association must be offered right of first refusal. CCMR has informed them that they will have 10 days to respond.

If our task force approves of the proposal, we then make our recommendation to the Regional Board. Regional Board Meets on March 2. The recommendation would then go to Regional Assembly which meets May 4 at the Blaine Church.

Please let me know if I have any errors or omissions

Thank you for your participation.

2018—2020 Priorities for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region

The Priorities Committee recommends that we continue the 2016—2018 priorities for the next biennium of 2018—2020.

The proposed priorities for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region are:

- ◆ Refresh, Renew, Revitalize, Transform our congregations: actively strengthening our leadership through the commissions of the region and Regional Elders.
- ◆ Resource congregations and pastors for Conflict Management.
- ◆ Endeavor to build unity while understanding and respecting our diversity.
- ◆ Resource congregations to be missional.
- ◆ Commit to training, mentorship and educational opportunities focused on our youth as our future and current church and denominational leaders.

2019—2020 Priorities & Beyond for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

1. Approve a minor amendment to the 2018 Vision Statement, adding the words in red noted below
2. Approve continuation of the current Goal, Vision, Priorities and Strategies through May 2020
3. Establish a **“Vision 2021 & Beyond Priorities Task Group,”** naming a chair and calling on a group of 6-8 representatives from CCMR leadership and churches to be formed within one month following Regional Assembly, with the task to carry out over the next 12-18 months:
 - a. Engage the region in a process evaluating the financial viability and staff needs in the coming 2-5 years
 - b. Call upon Commissions and regional groups to identify how they have served Michigan Disciples churches and members in the past 12 months and identify 1-2 visions/dreams they have in the coming 2-3 years that will impact the faith journey of congregations and the larger Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 - c. Activate a process for engaging ministers serving our churches, local church leaders and members in identifying their personal faith visions and desires that a community of Michigan Disciples might support and serve in the future
 - d. Bring a progress report to the 2020 Regional Assembly with a one-year Interim Vision and Priorities for 2020-21, along with projections toward a proposed 2021 & Beyond Michigan Region Vision and Priorities.

2019-2020 Goal - Vision – Priorities – Strategy

GOAL: Re-energize Christian Church Michigan Region in 2019 and beyond

VISION: As Disciples of Christ in Michigan, following the example of Jesus, we are **called to be** a Christian Community living in the love of God, supporting one another as the Holy Spirit acts among us.”

PRIORITIES:

- Refresh, Renew, Revitalize, Transform our congregations: actively strengthening our leadership through the commissions of the region and Regional Elders.
- Resource congregations and pastors for Conflict Management.
- Endeavor to build unity while understanding and respecting our diversity.
- Resource congregations to be missional.
- Commit to training, mentorship and educational opportunities focused on our youth as our future and current church and denominational leaders.

STRATEGY: Focus on “Three Big Rocks”:

1. **Communications**

Engage our congregations, members, and Region in a partnership by strengthening our communication and connection with each other, building upon a sense of wholeness in a fragmented world.

2. **Caring Missions and Ministries**

Create and build on our encounters with Christ in our Regional efforts to grow spiritually, engage in mission and witness, and proclaim the power of Christ with our events, programs, and regional pastoral care so that we, together, might improve lives and congregations

3. **Crystal Conference Center**

Create events and opportunities at our Conference Center on Crystal Lake that impacts the spiritual faith and depth of children, youth, and adults, that they might experience and demonstrate the Koinonia of Christian life and the blessing of life together.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate for regional offices, chairpersons of standing commissions, and members-at-large of the Regional Board. **First term nominations are in red.**

Moderator—**Mitzie Hall (on 2019)**
Vice-Moderator—**Arnold Lakes, Sr. (on 2019)**
Secretary— **Rick Modglin Green (on 2019)**
Treasurer—**Sarah Beth Simonds (on 2019)**

COMMISSIONS

Finance and Stewardship—Sarah Beth Simonds (on 2017)
Commission on Ministry—Robert Cornwall (on 2016)
Crystal Commission—**Tim and Jennifer Murtaugh (on 2019)**
Personnel—Julie Drews (on 2014)
Church Growth and Vitality—**Maggie Mills (on 2019)**
Ecumenism—Jerry McAllister (on 2014)

CONSTITUENCIES AND COMMITTEES

Women's Ministry—Diana Payton (on 2015)
Men's Ministry—Rial Hamann (on 2015)
YACF—
East District—**Rhonda Moore-Lewis (on 2019)**
West District—
North District—Glen McIntyre (on 2014)
Reconciliation Committee—Rev. Richard Boyd (on 2017)

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Randall Bertrand (on 2013) Patricia Howe (on 2018)
Yvonne Christopher (on 2017) Glen McIntyre (on 2018)
Richard Harmon (on 2016)

GENERAL MINISTRY PARTNER

India Bobadilla

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GENERAL BOARD

Barbara J. Hemphill (on 2019)

REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE United Church of Christ

Campbell Lovett

If you would like to be considered for future positions, please notify the chair of the nominating committee or the regional minister, Rev. Eugene James.



Harmony In The Body Of Christ

CLOSING
WORSHIP
SERVICE

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. (I Corinthians 1:10—NIV)

Call To Worship Pastor Mitzie Hall

Invocation

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Chalice Hymnal #86

Recognition of Anne McCauslin . Retired Dean of STEM Program

Words of Expression Pastor Kingery Clingenpeel
First Christian Church, Battle Creek

Installation of Officers

“One Bread, One Body” Chalice Hymnal #393

Scripture I Corinthians 1:1-10

Sermon Dr. Ron J. Allen

Invitation

Offering

Communion

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Upcoming Events

Within Our Denomination

May 27—Memorial Day (OFFICE CLOSED)

June 9—Pentecost Sunday

July 4 – Independence Day (OFFICE CLOSED)

July 21—24—General Assembly—Des Moines, Iowa

September 2 – Labor Day (OFFICE CLOSED)

Within Our Region

May 4 – Regional Assembly at Blaine Christian Church (DOC), Arcadia with Dr. Ronald J. Allen as Key-note speaker

May 12—**Mother's Day**

May 27—Memorial Day (OFFICE CLOSED)

June 16 – 21 – Camp Crystal – Elementary Camp

June 21 – 23 – Disciples Women Retreat at Camp Crystal

June 28 – July 1 – Young Families Retreat at Camp Crystal

July 7 – 12 – Independence Camp at Camp Crystal

July 8 – 11 – Vacation Bible School at Camp Crystal

July 12– 14 - Young Families Retreat

July 14 – 20 – July Family of God Camp at Camp Crystal

July 21 – 27 – Chi Rho Camp at Camp Crystal

July 21 – 27 – CYF Camp at Camp Crystal

September 2 – Labor Day (OFFICE CLOSED)

September 13 – 15 – Disciples Men Retreat at Camp Crystal

October 19—Regional Board Meeting at the Regional Office

December 24 & 25—Christmas Eve & Christmas Day (OFFICE CLOSED)

Within Our Congregations

August 15 – Burt Lake Chicken Roast



Harmony In The Body Of Christ

2019
REGIONAL
ASSEMBLY

Regional Assembly Schedule

9:00 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:20	Opening Devotions
10:20- 11:50	Business Session
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	<u>Guest Presentations</u> Christian Church Foundation Pension Fund United Camps, Conferences and Retreats
2:00 – 3:00	Closing Worship Dr. Ron Allen

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Corinthians 1:10—NIV)

