

# Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Wisconsin (CCIW) and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region (CCMR)

## Partnership Proposal---

03.04.21

### 1. Background

- a. Not a merger.
- b. Separate Identities, separate finances, separate camps, separate liability.
- c. This is not simply a business arrangement, but our attempt to be one in Christ for the benefit of both Regions, and to glorify God's name, and Jesus ministry.
- d. Committed to the work of Anti-racism.
- e. It will be a new way for Michigan Disciples to be a Region, drawing more upon congregations providing connections in covenant with one another with support of Regional Associates.

Common Vision: "To be radically welcoming regions of connected Disciples congregations, called to radiate the Creator's love, extend Christ's mission, and support one another as the Holy Spirit acts among us."

### 2. Proposal

- a. Regional Minister of CCIW will work with CCMR Regional "Associates" to provide pastoral care and guidance to the congregations in Michigan.
  - i. Regional Associates---Connection program
  - ii. Four deployed ministers geographically close to congregations.
  - iii. No more than 11 congregations plus pastors in a defined area of the state.
  - iv. Stipend plus travel expenses.
  - v. Regular meetings with the Regional Minister of CCIW for consultation and guidance.
  - vi. Training by Hope Partnership.
  - vii. Building a network of clergy support
  - viii. Congregational Leader training.
  - ix. Work with Church Growth and Vitality commission to strengthen congregations.
- b. Regional Minister of CCIW will do for CCMR:
  - i. Search and Call.
  - ii. Regional Minister will be available to clergy.
  - iii. Counsel and Advice for leadership.
  - iv. General Church meeting representation.
  - v. Ministry Committee work: standing, clergy misconduct, training.
  - vi. 2-3 times a year in person in CCMR for multiple events over a several days; otherwise working through the gift of technology with congregations and leaders.
- c. CCMR will remunerate CCIW---\$30,000.

- i. The funds will **not** be paid to CCIW's Regional Minister and President.
  - ii. CCIW will use the funds to compensate time of other staff in our region as they help CCMR or other mission opportunities.
- d. Mutual benefits:
  - i. Church Transformation; Spiritual, Congregational, Community
  - ii. Use of camp facilities and programs.
  - iii. Clergy retreat in Michigan in April.
  - iv. Fee based ministries open to everyone: School for Ministry; Disciple Women and Men events; Ministerial Boundaries/Anti-Racism training.
  - v. Networking our shared commitment to Anti-Racism.
  - vi. Mission opportunities through Rippling Hope---Gospel in Action.
  - vii. Possible consolidation of efforts, i.e., social media support, website.
  - viii. Sharing Policies and Procedures, i.e., Legacy Gifts, Permanent Fund, Committee on Ministry, Ministerial Ethics policy
  - ix. Possible new opportunities, i.e., Midwest Convocation, Great Lakes advocacy, Eco-Justice.
- e. Sustainability:
  - i. Vision focused.
  - ii. Leap of faith for the long term.
  - iii. Covenant Commitment.
  - iv. New model of regional ministry.
- f. Evaluation of Covenant:
  - i. Annual joint review with a re-commitment decision.