

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) MICHIGAN REGION
PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROPOSAL
REGIONAL ASSOCIATE MINISTER

As the Michigan Region moves to a new model of leadership with our Regional Minister shared by more than one region, Michigan will be calling Pastoral leaders to a **Regional Associate Ministry Team**. This Team will serve as an extension of our Regional Minister by providing regular contact on behalf of the region to Michigan churches and acting as a resource for the care, encouragement, and strengthening of Michigan congregations and pastors, both serving and retired.

Regional Associate Ministers will be called by the Regional Minister to a ministry with a minimal 2 year term. After the initial 2 years, service may continue subject to yearly renewals. Regional Associates will be overseen by, and work closely with, the Regional Minister, in consultation with the Commission on Ministry.

Qualities of a Regional Associate Minister:

- Have the time and ability to be present in congregations and with ministers on behalf of the Region – Sundays and Special Events, Clergy meetings and Clergy visits
- Possess the ability to build trusting relationships with pastors and church members
- Possess the ability to hold confidential information confidential.
- Possess strong communication skills
- Possess strong listening skills
- Possess the ability to work as a Team Player
- Is an ordained or commissioned, retired or part-time, clergy with standing in the Michigan Region

Responsibilities of a Regional Associate Minister will include, but not be limited by, the following:

- Be active in the Region, which will include staying abreast of Regional programs and ministries
- Visit at least 3 of the assigned congregations each month, preferably on Sundays or for worship/full church gatherings, special events
- Make phone/email contact with each church and minister assigned at least one time each month
- Provide Pastoral care to assigned clergy and their families
- Make monthly reports of contacts to the Regional Minister
- Attend monthly virtual meetings with other Regional Associates as called by the Regional Minister
- Encourage and support area clergy peer colleague groups in collaboration with the Regional Minister
- Encourage and/or facilitate communications between and among the assigned church communities
- Work with Growth and Vitality Commission in building programs for strengthening the churches
- Facilitate the flow of information between congregations and the Region.
- Encourage clergy and lay leaders to participate in training opportunities
- Participate in an annual overnight retreat with the Regional Minister and other Regional Associates

Training of Regional Associate Ministers

Hope Partnership Leadership Training course will be required. First session for training available in the first quarter of 2022. Continuing education may be supported or required by recommendation of the Regional Minister.

Reimbursement

Regional Associates will be paid a stipend and reimbursed for travel and meal expenses.

Regional Associates are not the Regional Minister. They are not responsible for search and call, clergy misconduct, crisis/conflict management within congregations.

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