

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

Partnership Proposal---

03.04.21 (Approved 9/11/2021 by Regional Assembly action)

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. Three contract ministers geographically close to congregations.
 - iii. No more than 18 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 with Regional Minister with focus on pastoring congregations/clergy and church growth.
 - 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 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, cross-region congregation's prayer partner links.
- e. Sustainability:
 - i. Vision focused.
 - ii. Leap of faith for the long term.
 - iii. Covenant Commitment.
 - iv. New model of regional ministry.
 - v. Joint Partnership Committee to continue exploration of shared opportunities of ministry.
- f. Evaluation of Covenant:
 - i. Annual joint review with a re-commitment decision.

NOTE: Notwithstanding any language to the contrary in this agreement, this agreement shall **not** be interpreted to create a partnership or joint venture of any kind or nature between the Christian Church Michigan Region on the one hand and the Christian Church Illinois-Wisconsin Region on the other.

Submitted by Regional Board (7/17/2021) to Regional Assembly 9/11/2021 for action

Regional Minister Search Committee: Julie Drews, chair; Jerrolynn Hockenull, Brenda Etheridge, Neil Topliffe

Vision 2021 & Beyond Task Group: Neil Topliffe, chair; Ann McCauslin, Tim Murtaugh, Bill Luse, Sarah Beth Simonds, Mitzi Hall, Greg Gladding

ACTION: The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region enter into a covenant agreement with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois

Region beginning January 1, 2022, as outlined in the “CCIW and CCMR Partnership Proposal”

And that

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region (CCMR) call Teresa Dulyea-Parker to be Regional Minister of the Michigan Region while serving also as Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois/Wisconsin (CCIW).