



November 9, 2017

TO: Greater Kansas City Regional Board
FR: Regional Minister and President
RE: Report

1. Overall, the mood in our Region seems to be upbeat. Several congregations report increased missional outreach. Shawnee Community Christian Church is setting the bar high on the percentage of budget going to outreach. Two of our fastest growing congregations were begun within the last 10 years: Breakthrough Community and Multi-Nation.
2. Tall Oaks Director Martha Pierce and her staff are booking more business, strengthening relationships with partners and making continuous improvements. The Tall Oaks Commission will be reporting on promising developments.
3. The New and Transforming Church Commission is doing excellent work to prepare strategic plans and develop a proposal for staffing.
4. Interim Regional Minister for New Church Tim Mabbot has lately been working with the Elijah Rock congregation which conducted a summer youth program. He preached during the month of October at Powershift Worship Center and continues to work on an evangelism training program that he calls CO2 God.
5. Regional Minister for Hispanic Churches, Edith Mendoza is helping with organizing the Obra Hispana Thanksgiving service and has assisted one of the Obra congregations to implement weekly communion – a big development for a congregation whose pastor was not raised as a Disciple of Christ. Edith is also attending the Obra Hispana Nacional Board meeting in Indianapolis in December. This is a gathering of Hispanic congregational clusters throughout the denomination. They anticipate calling a new National Pastor.
6. Administrative Assistant, Jessica Lopez and Finance Manager Gwen Brown are working well together. Both take initiative and express that they are glad to be serving our Region. The learning curve is still steep, but they are both quick learners.
7. Staff is now using Workplace for Facebook to share plans and projects for closer collaboration and mutual accountability.
8. Merriam Christian Church has been a gracious host. We are grateful for their hospitality and accommodation. Several Regional groups are choosing to meet there for its being easy to reach by I-35.

9. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Robin, Lisa and Raymond – all of whom have been great to help the new staff members get started. Robin in particular left behind a well-organized workroom and filing system, working an extra month to make that happen.
10. A Strategic Stewardship and Development plan for our Region will be reviewed by a team of professional fundraisers and financial planners on November 21. Once they have had a chance to make suggestions, I will send that along to the Executive Team for their recommendations prior to composing an Annual Fund letter that will go out during the first week of December to raise additional income for Regional ministry.
11. Our Anti-Racism efforts are getting a boost with new clergy training in anti-racism and community organizing with the Gamaliel Foundation. Making use of accumulated Regional Reconciliation funds, the plan now is to train an additional six lay or clergy leaders in 2018, to begin work with groups of six in seven congregations, and to host Rev. Sandhya Jha for a workshop in Faith Rooted Organizing on March 17 in Kansas City. Community organizing has emerged as a key element in moving from concern to effective action.
12. We are exploring, with help from Rev, Dr. Doug Smith, a Global Ministries partnership with Mexico. There are many GKC Disciples with connections to other Disciples among our neighbors to the south. (In the Mid-America Region, we had a lot of success bringing up pairs of summer church camp counselors – young adult, bi-lingual Mexican Disciples – who helped to expand camper awareness that the world that God created is intentionally multi-cultural.)
13. College of Regional Ministers meets November 14-17 in Indianapolis. Twelve of us are meeting with HOPE Partnership and Church Extension Fund to discuss trends, challenges and opportunities.
14. I will be taking vacation November 30-December 7 and plan to be out of town throughout.
15. Blue Springs Christian Church leaders have invited me to visit a mission project with them in Guatemala, January 29 – February 1, 2018. I will be doing some promotional work for their school project.
16. In closing, it has been my pleasure to interview a Haitian-American member of Multi-Nation Christian Church - a Nursing Supervisor in Liberty, MO, who will be applying to come under care of our Region for ordination. Her courage and openness to sacrifice is inspiring. She reminds us that we Disciples have something important to offer those who have been denied opportunity for ministry on the basis of gender.