



**REPORT
Overview**

Since the last COMI meeting in 2024, Personnel changes and challenges in the Regional Office have pulled focus from development of COMI ministries. The Office Manager, Jessica Lopez, resigned at the beginning of December. Regional Minister, Rev. Bill Rose-Heim, retired at the end of December. Finance Officer, Paula Diehl, resigned at the end of December. Interim Regional Minister, Rev. Ron Routledge didn't begin work until Feb 1, 2025. Kylie Graham, Camp & Conference Coordinator, expanded her work to include some Administration duties. She and I worked together in January to execute required tasks for Ordination and Standing, Search and Call, and End of Year Giving Reports.

As my attention more fully focuses on COMI ministry projects, I have many exciting updates to share!

Methodology

Collectives, Communities, and Movements need leaders - and the leaders in the KC Region tend to be either effective and overworked, or dedicated and underdeveloped. Because the needs of ministry today are an orbiting constellation of challenges, there is not a universal method that everyone can implement. COMI can make the biggest impact if we focus our support around leaders and leadership teams. Each leader's needs are different and there are major gaps in their networks of care.

By focusing on meeting the needs of the people, we will meet the needs of the institution. Traditionally, it has been the other way around.

Updates

Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice & LeAundra Boyice - Whosoever Community of F.A.I.T.H.

Dionne and LeAundra continue to do powerful, healing ministry. Their congregation worships together on the first and second Sunday mornings of the month. Third Wednesdays are a Power Hour prayer service, with no Sunday service. Fourth Sundays are a day of service, often with Free Hot Soup. Fifth Sundays are Freedom Sundays, interdisciplinary gatherings of art, worship, and fellowship.

Rev. Dr. Jose Martinez, Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice, & Board of Directors - Storywagen

Jose and Dionne are currently Co-Directing the Storywagen nonprofit organization. Following a soft re-launch at the GKC Regional Assembly, the Board has been focused on strategic development, grant writing, podcast production, and improvements to the Storywagen VW bus. Storywagen is set to relaunch the Storywagen Podcast this spring.

Rev. Dayson Marar - Chuukese Congregations

Dayson continues to serve the Chuukese population of Kansas City. He also helped to plan the global gathering of Micronesian Disciples in the Fall of 2024. Most recently, focus has shifted to anxieties about Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities, working directly with the embassy in Washington, DC to ensure proper documentation of all of his congregations.

Pastor Juan Jose Escudero - New Ministry to Hispanic Community, North KC

Since launching in December, Pastor Escudero and his family have initiated a growing hispanic spiritual community centered around a weekly worship service in spanish. They regularly have 30 people in worship. March 16, Pastor Escudero's ministry and three other groups converged on First Christian Church of North KC to worship and fellowship together. It was a resounding success with nearly 100 people in attendance.

According to Rev. Tammy Eaton, Senior Minister of FCCNKC, Pastor Escudero and his family have become an integral part of congregational life. The next step is to determine whether Pastor Escudero's ministry will become an outreach of FCCNKC or if he will start his own congregation from those regularly attending the weekly worship service.

Rev. Mindy Fugarino - Intersect KC, Independence Boulevard Christian Church

Mindy, the Intersect KC board and staff have been hard at work establishing the corporate entity for Intersect KC and finalizing a service contract with Independence Boulevard Christian Church. Paperwork was filed in February to gain 501(c)3 status. The board intends to soft launch Intersect KC at the Films for A Cause event at IBCC on May 7th. In partnership with HouseKC, they are expecting several hundred people to attend a screening of the award-winning documentary Under The Bridge: The Criminalization of Homelessness.

Shawnee Community Christian Church

Pastor Terrell and I continue to lead the congregation through the Vitality Planning process in monthly work sessions.

Smithville First Christian Church

Work with Smithville FCC is in flux as Rev. Laura Guy transitions into the role of Senior Minister.

GKC Regional Assembly Ministry Projects

I continue to work with the Regional Board to oversee the fulfillment of ministry priorities, projects, and objectives that came out of the Regional Assembly in October of 2024. These include: Increased collaboration and resource sharing among Congregations, Support for Clergy, Updates to the Search and Call process, and Leadership Development initiatives.

In Development

Pastor Trini - Friend and Colleague of Pastor Escudero - Ministerio Evangelistico Renacer - The congregation would like to become Affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Kisha Montgomery, M.Div. - An online community focused on spiritual healing that also provides affordable spiritual direction and healing to Clergy. Conversation has stalled due to a critical illness requiring acute care.

Rapid Response Team - in partnership with Becoming Beloved Community - a contact list of KC Disciples who can participate in urgent and emergent needs for justice action and mutual aid.

New Church Stipends - Top priority for 2025 is supporting Dionne and Dayson to become financially independent of COMI's stipends. This includes reviewing finance reports, development plans, and fundraising campaigns on a monthly basis.