

Kansas City Area Regional Profile

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Greater Kansas City

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Greater Kansas City is a historically rooted Region, established as a formal regional body in 1988 facing a unique set of challenges and opportunities. With 62 congregations across two states and seven counties, we serve approximately 4,000 participants in the metropolitan Kansas City area. This region spans urban neighborhoods, suburban communities, and rural congregations, encompassing a full spectrum of ministry contexts. The Kansas City metropolitan area is currently facing new challenges and political friction and we are seeking a Regional Minister to help us navigate these unknown waters.

Our regional ministries reflect our mission to nurture the body of Christ by seeking deep relationships among congregations, supporting our pastors, nurturing our youth, and proclaiming a bold witness of inclusion, justice, and spiritual growth. We are shaped by a commitment to leadership development and clergy support, a strong legacy of camp ministry through Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center, and a historical commitment for new church ministry and antiracism pro-reconciliation ministries.

Who are we seeking

The Greater Kansas City Region includes historic and newer congregations affiliated with National Convocation, Obra Hispana, and North American Pacific/Asian(NAPAD), and is home to a committed core of clergy and lay leaders who seek to grow in covenant. The Greater Kansas City Church is also involved in the Tri-Regional Partnership with Nebraska and Kansas Regions. This partnership allows our Region to seek out cooperation and collaboration with neighboring regions.

Recent regional surveys and feedback sessions revealed several urgent needs and aspirations for our next season of ministry, not listed in any particular order.

- Clearer regional identity, vision, and communication.
- Stronger relationships and collaboration between individual congregations and regional ministries.
- A commitment to strengthen and develop our Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Ministries.
- Greater support for clergy and congregational vitality.
- Commitment to Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation and social justice issues.
- More intentional engagement with youth and young families.

Our churches are eager to move toward greater connection, health, and innovation, and we are seeking a leader who will walk with us toward that future.

Demographics and Realities of our Region

Population & Age

- Metropolitan Kansas City: **1.9 million people**
- Median age: **37.6 years**
- School-age population (5-17): ~318,000

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Racial and Ethnic Diversity

- White: 66%
- Black: 13%
- Hispanic/Latino: 8%
- Asian: 2.5%
- Other: 10%

Education

- 70% of adults have some college education or higher

Household Income

- Median: **\$58,599**
- Notable disparity: Median Black household income is **\$32,148**, vs. White median of **\$65,079**

Religiosity

- 37% identify as Evangelical Christian
- 47% identify as “spiritual but not religious”
- 20% believe attending worship regularly is important

Our Region is staffed by 2 full time and 2 part time leaders.

Basic Budgetary Information for Region

Greater Kansas City CC(DOC) Region Budgetary Information

2024	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under
Income	\$165,400	\$178,359	(\$12,959)
Expense	\$284,800	\$290,487	(\$5,687)

2025

Income	\$187,900	(\$20,934) YTD
Expense	\$294,800	(\$31,512) YTD

2026

Income	\$154,100 EST
Expense	\$274,800 EST (2026 Budget being put together this fall)

*Additional budgetary information for New Church/Transformational Ministry and Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center not included here.

These trends challenge the church to reimagine how we live the Gospel in a culturally diverse, increasingly secular, and economically divided region.

Challenges

- Effective communication with all of our ministries, churches, and participants across our region.
- There is a feeling the Region is deeply disconnected with little feeling of unity or cohesion.

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Challenges - Continued

- The Region lacks a clear and concise communication of identity, mission/vision.
- A continued commitment to connect and support with all of our regional churches, especially new member churches and all minority churches.
- The ongoing political environment within our country and within the metropolitan area has deeply impacted and affected most of our congregations.
- Similar to other main line denominational organizations, our region and our regional churches need to explore new revenue streams and increased budget viability.
- Our churches are experiencing declining participation especially among younger generations.
- There is a need to balance an appreciation of our DOC tradition while also seeking a fresh and innovative vision of ministry and mission that is appealing to new generations.

Ministries and Regional Assets

- Tall Oaks Conference Center- A 236-acre retreat center offering camps, leadership formation, and year-round programming.
- Geographic proximity that allows for greater connection and cooperation among regional churches.
- Ministry with Young Disciples- Youth and children's ministries including camps, engagement, and faith formation.
- MOKAN Fellowship of the National Convocation
- Convención Central- Representation in our region for Obra Hispana that supports hispanic churches in our region.
- The Commission on Ministry Innovation- Exploring accessible and sustainable models of launching new ministries and new congregations.
- Disciples Women's Ministries- a committed and dedicated community of believers whose purpose is service, worship, and connection.
- TriRegional Partnership- a cooperative partnership between the Greater Kansas City, Kansas, and Nebraska regions which includes access to the Kansas Leadership Center.
- Regional office and resources centralized at Merriam Christian Church.
- Regional Youth Cabinet- a dedicated group of high school juniors and seniors from regional churches who gather monthly to plan, organize, and implement camps and activities for youth.
- Financial resources- A number of endowments and trusts that our Region manages.
- Ordination and Standing- providing ongoing care and support for clergy.
- Becoming Beloved Community-(Pro-Reconciliation & Anti-Racism)- focuses on justice, anti-racism, and reconciliation issues across our region.
- Micah Ministries - urban, ecumenical outreach mission of Independence Boulevard Christian Church that is widely supported by our region
- Regional Staff support from churches and volunteers
- Several Open and Affirming Congregations in the Region