

Disciples Home Missions Ministries



About DHM:

What is DHM?

Disciples Home Missions is a hands-on General Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). DHM lives into the Gospel of Jesus Christ by strengthening and developing partnerships, supporting congregational transformation, resourcing leadership development, sustaining faith formation, providing mission opportunities and advocating for justice, fairness, and equality for all of God's children and creation.

Mission Statement

Disciples Home Missions, in relationships with its partners, equips Disciples for Christ and connects people to the life-changing love of God while facilitating faithful and effective ministry.

Overview:

- Disciples Home Missions covers the arc of ministry as the breadbasket ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)!
- Disciples Home Missions priority is evangelism i.e. making the good news relevant to the context of ministry!

What follows are the areas of emphasis for 'DHM grounded in the priority of evangelistic engagement: i.e. connecting people with the life-changing love of God...

- ◇ Congregational Transformation -- Strengthening communities of faith
- ◇ Faith Formation -- Building people up
- ◇ Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism -- Bringing people together & challenging dehumanization
- ◇ Leader Development -- Equipping people for service
- ◇ Justice initiative -- Making it right
- ◇ Missions -- Hands on service through disaster recovery, short-term mission projects, Disciples Volunteering , Refugee and Immigration Ministries and more...

Association of Disciple Musicians -- To increase the effectiveness of church musicians as they participate in the mission of the Church. The term "church musician" shall be interpreted to include all persons who lead or otherwise participate in church music by vocation or avocation. Patty Jennings, President. Check out what Disciple Musicians are doing at www.adm-doc.org. Rev. Warren Lynn serves as DHM Liaison.



Black Ministries -- The first priority of the director of Black Ministries is the care and nurture of African-American clergy in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Annual Black Ministers Retreat is our largest responsibility. OBM is responsible for supporting Seminarians, soliciting funds, receiving applications and administering scholarships such as the Star Supporter Fund, which specifically supports those entering the ministry and the African-American Scholarship Fund for those engaged in undergraduate studies. Utilizing our Regional partners, we engage with pastors and congregations into the Search and Call process, striving to achieve matches that will endure. The OBM is also available to act as mediator in those few situations when pastors and congregations have different perspectives. The OBM represents and embodies the Church's intention to welcome "all" to Christ's table. Rev. Dr. William Lee, Director of Black Ministries. www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/black-ministries



Disciples Home Missions Ministries

Christian Education/Faith Formation -- Enables persons to participate in the life of the Christian community as informed worshipping and caring disciples of Christ. To be equipped and supported for living responsibly in the world as faith disciples of Christ. Equips persons to be effective leaders in the ministry of Christian education and to assist in the equipping of persons for leadership in other ministries of the church. Min. Sheila Spencer, Director Faith Formation/Christian Education, and Assistant to the President. www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/faith-formationchristian-education



Christian Vocations -- The Office of Christian Vocations is primarily focused on serving clergy who are working in vocational ministries roles. Whether clergy are serving in congregational or other institutional settings, as pastoral counselors or chaplains, or in some other setting – our office helps facilitate the clergy person’s connection to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We also offer resources to connect, strengthen and transform each clergy person’s ministry.



This is partially accomplished through our facilitation of the denominational Search and Call system, wherein clergy are facilitated to discern their current and next calls in ministry, as well as find connection to regions and congregations in which ministry possibilities are available. This includes helping clergy interpret denominational policies and criteria regarding ministry in the denomination. In such, we offer a relational listening ear to facilitate an individual’s vocational path within the denomination. We also maintain the official Ministers Directory database that lists all clergy, whether living or deceased, who currently have, or ever had, Standing within our denomination.*

Through the Chaplains Endorsement Office of our ministry, chaplains and counselors are also actively supported, as they gain and maintain proper endorsements, and other credentials for service beyond the parish setting. The Chaplains Office, as part of our vocational ministries team, facilitates connectivity within the community of chaplains and counselors through a bi-annual retreat before each General Assembly, and works to support various chaplains in their often-challenging and ongoing calls.

One other example of our support is by way of our online Website to provide wellness and spiritual practice resources for clergy: Well-Fed Spirit wellfedspirit.org. Well-Fed Spirit offers a broad spectrum of diverse spiritual resources that can be used for the spiritual growth and transformation of clergy, as well as used by clergy to facilitate the deepening spirituality of the communities they serve.

Rev. Warren Lynn, Executive Minister for Christian Vocations. www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/search-call

Rev. Tom Yates, Chaplains Endorsement Officer. www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/chaplains-specialized-ministries

**This database is limited to clergy who have held Standing at any point since the time our denomination went to a digital format for the directory database. Clergy who held credentials only prior to that time should be located within the records of the Disciples Historical Society.*

Chaplaincy -- Disciples Endorsed Chaplains are ordained or commissioned denominational clergy serving in specialized ministries typically outside the walls of a local congregation. There are two categories: Federal (military and VA) OR Institutional. Chaplains may be found on military installations at home or abroad and in every branch and component of service—Army, Navy (including Marines and Coast Guard), Air Force (including Civil Air Patrol), Reserve, and National Guard. Federal Chaplains also serve in the VA Medical System and Federal prison systems. Institutional chaplains may be employed by hospitals, hospice, retirement and nursing facilities, state prison systems, law



Disciples Home Missions Ministries

enforcement and fire departments, counseling centers, workplaces, and a variety of other ministry settings. Chaplains are pastors especially gifted, skilled, trained, and experienced to minister with those who are in stressful or crisis situations. Training includes addressing spiritual issues that impact life and health, relationships, building coping skills and resiliency, issues related to dying, death and grief, and many other areas of special need. Chaplains work with couples, individuals, and groups to provide emotional and spiritual support. Thomas Yates, Chaplains Endorsement Officer. www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/chaplains-specialized-ministries

Congregational Transformation -- The intentional spiritual journey that a congregation undertakes systemically in order to realize what God has called it to be as church and to do in mission in today's world. Transformation is a fundamental change in the congregation's conception and implementation of ministry. A transforming congregation will be oriented around mission to the unchurched, nurturing them into the loving caring fellowship of Christ. It will be notably different from one oriented primarily around ministering to members alone. The needs of members will still be met. In the context of a church in mission, everyone is important, church or yet-to-be church. Rev. Dr. R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr., Executive for Evangelism & Congregational Transformation. www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/evangelism



Creation Justice Ministries -- Represents the creation care and environmental justice policies of major Christian denominations throughout the United States. We work in cooperation with 38 national faith bodies including Protestant denominations and Orthodox communions as well as regional faith groups, and congregants to protect and restore God's Creation. Rev. Shantha Ready Alonso, Executive Director for Creation Justice Ministries. www.creationjustice.org



Disciples Advocate -- A publication which is published three times a year by Disciples Home Missions. The editors of the Disciples' Advocate welcome letters to the editor and advertisements from organizations listed in the Yearbook and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. www.discipleshomemissions.org/about-us/disciples-advocate



Disciples Farm Worker Ministry -- A historical emphasis of the church to promote more-just working and living conditions and wages for farm workers. Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director of Refugee & Immigration Ministries.



www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/farm-workers

Disciples Men -- The General Conference of Disciples Men is the formal organization of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Disciples Men ministers to the unique needs of men in the church enabling them to fulfill their potential as servants of God. This work ultimately strengthens the total ministry of the church. Rev. Gregory (Greg) Alexander, Director of Disciples Men and Rev. Alexander (Alex) Ruth, Associate Director of Disciples Men. www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/disciples-men



Disciples Volunteering -- Supports and enhances servant missions and ministries of congregations. To this end, Disciples Volunteering continues to Call, Connect, Equip, and Send Servants and the Church for Service with the Community. By focusing its ministry on supporting local mission interests, developing servant leaders, and sending teams in mission, Disciples Volunteering is promoting a fundamental shift toward service and missions that are more sustainable,



Disciples Home Missions Ministries

flexible, effective, and, ultimately, a better witness to our faith in action. Disciples serving community become better neighbors as we Get Dirty for Jesus. Josh Baird, Director of Disciples Volunteering. www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/disciples-volunteering

Disciples Women -- Disciples Women's Ministries is a conduit for diverse connections empowering each woman to find her voice and live out her call. As part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Disciples Women (DW) welcomes all to the table as Christ has welcomed us. The ministries of DW are part of the movement for wholeness in a fragmented world by providing opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education and creative ministries to enable women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of the church of Jesus Christ.



Any woman who participates in any way within the DOC is considered a part of DW. We seek to be a network of women committed to the justice-seeking, compassion-focused mission of Jesus Christ with no membership requirement or condition.

Disciples women are invited to share the Good News through

- **Worship** for spiritual growth and renewed discipleship
- **Bible Study** for greater knowledge, understanding and service
- **Issue Study** for action and advocacy
- **Mission Study** for knowledge, understanding and acceptance of others
- **Service/Action** for hands-on/personal involvement
- **Fellowship/Networking** for building a faith community with other women
- **Leadership Training** for service to God in the church, the community and the world
- **Stewardship** of time, talent and resources for the mission of the Church

Rev. Dr. Patricia Donahoo, Executive Director, Disciples Women. www.discipleswomen.org

Evangelism -- A 21st century context is still the telling and sharing of the gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ to those who have not encountered it yet. Evangelism means transitioning from "being saved" to "being transformed." Evangelism is not about church membership anymore, but helping people come into discipleship. Outreach has now transformed into personal and congregational mission. For this reason, membership in a church no longer constitutes the goal. Effective sharing of our faith means our behavior as Christians and our beliefs as Christians must merge. Rev. Dr. R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr., Executive for Evangelism & Congregational Transformation. www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/evangelism



Family & Children's Ministries -- Mission is to curate relevant, authentic and effective tools and resources for children, families, and church leaders within all covenanted ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



- To bring together all generations in the worship, leadership, and work of God to create a strong foundation for children, families, and church.
- To establish and maintain a network of mutually beneficial covenant relationships.
- To respond through relationships, technology, advocacy, and other communication tools to the ever changing needs of children, families, and church leaders in our increasingly racially, culturally, sexually diverse congregations and communities.
- To advocate for and nurture children, families, and church leaders in our congregations so that they are spiritually formed and biblically and theologically informed.



Disciples Home Missions Ministries

- To facilitate appropriate care and oversight at various church gatherings.
- To facilitate training and certification of volunteers.

Vision is to encourage cross-generational and multi-cultural relationships that support vital, dynamic ministries that enhance the faith of all God's children.

- Sacred Space
 - Sacred Story
 - Sacred Meal
 - Sacred Steps
 - Sacred Conversation
- ♦ **Interfaith Disabilities Coalition** -- The mission of the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (IDAC) is to mobilize the religious community to speak out and take action on disability policy issues with Congress, the President and Administration, and society at large. IDAC is a diverse, nonpartisan coalition of religious and religiously affiliated organizations whose core spiritual values affirm the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. www.aapd.com

Rev. Dr. Olivia Bryan Updegrave, Minister of Family & Children's Ministries; Rev. Dr. Kate Epperly, Minister of Justice & Advocacy Program; and Rev. Lisa Engelken, Coordinator of Children Worship & Wonder.

www.docfamiliesandchildren.org

General Youth Council -- The General Youth Council helps to plan, implement, and evaluate the total general youth ministry program for the Christian Church (DOC). The council has identified seven major benchmarks to guide its work over the next few years. These include:

1. Hosting one major youth event, moving towards yearly events in the future 2. Helping each regional cluster have a representative on GYC 3. Help set up regional youth councils where none currently exist 4. Hosting a denomination-wide mission day led by youth 5. Increase number of applicants for the council 6. Produce leadership curriculum/ leadership events 7. Actively maintain all social media accounts for networking, information sharing and planning.



Rev. Trayce Potter, Liaison. www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/youth

Green Chalice -- Our mission is to connect Christian faith, spiritual practice and creation consciousness in order to demonstrate the fullness of God's shalom. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Out of our call to "do justice" (Micah 6:8), we strive to demonstrate the fullness of God's shalom through living out our faith by caring for God's creation. From Hawaii and Washington to Ontario and Florida, and everywhere in between, Disciples congregations are caring for creation in unique and inspiring ways. Rev. Carol Devine & Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri, Ministers of Green Chalice. www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice



- ♦ **Creation Care Partners** -- Green Chalice is a partnership ministry between DHM and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky and joins with ecumenical partners all over the world to care for God's good earth.
- ♦ **Blessed Tomorrow** -- One such partner, offers valuable resources for clergy, organization leaders, and lay leaders to communicate, led by example, and get started on a path to a positive future. <http://blessedtommorrow.org>



Disciples Home Missions Ministries

Immigration Legal Counsel -- **Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel** – This ministry serves the whole church by providing legal consultations and updates on immigration issues to churches, regions, and general ministries. The part-time immigration attorney provides full representation before the Department of Homeland Security to Disciples pastors seeking to minister in the United States. Tana Liu-Beers, Legal Counsel. disciplesimmigration.org



Leadership Initiative Team (LIT) -- The goal of LIT is to provide support, resources and speakers to compliment the training and development of Disciples leaders throughout the recognized organizations of the church: Regions, Districts, Fellowships and/or congregations among other bodies!



The objectives of LIT are to:

- ◆ Listen to leaders of recognized ministries
- ◆ Listen in community with connected partners for mutual understanding regarding your ministry context
- ◆ Listen to God's Spirit in initiating and/or responding to God's activity in your ministry context
- ◆ Design resources fit for a specific ministry context

Lonnie Graves, Ministry Liaison of Leadership Initiative Team. www.dhm.disciples.org

Mission Centers -- These mission centers are popular destinations for individual and group work trips. They provide a broad range of social services and spiritual resources to support and transform their local communities, bringing hope and hospitality, healing and peace, justice and compassion.

- All Peoples Christian Center -- Sandra Bryant, Director. allpeoplescc.org
- Blue Theology Mission Station -- Daniel (Dan) Paul, Director. www.bluetheology.com
- Disciples Appalachian Scholarship Ministry -- Lon Oliver, Administrator.
- Inman Christian Mission Center -- Amber Aquino, Director. www.inmancenter.org
- Kansas Christian Home -- Karen Sturchio, CEO. www.kschristianhome.org
- Oakland Peace Center Mission Center -- Sandhya Jha, Executive Director. www.oaklandpeacecenter.org
- Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries -- Feliberto Pereira, Founder and Executive Director. www.swgsm.org
- Urban Spirit -- Deborah Conrad, Founder and Chief Program Facilitator. www.urbanspirit.org
- Yakama Christian Mission -- David Bell, Minister for Yakama Christian Mission and Indigenous Peoples Concerns. yakamamission.org

Refugee and Immigration Ministries -- Equips Disciples to respond to Jesus' call to welcome the stranger through refugee resettlement, immigrant rights advocacy, newcomer welcoming, and farm worker justice. We provide resources for your congregation, and connections to hands-on refugee work, advocacy campaigns, and immigrant and farm worker linkages. Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director of Refugee & Immigration Ministries. www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries



Scholarship -- Programs of DHM provide direct financial gifts to seminarians preparing for ministry, and clergy already in ministry seeking continuing education experiences that strengthen their ongoing vocational gifts. For more information about seminarian scholarship and clergy continuing educational grant programs. Rev. Warren Lynn, Executive Minister for Christian Vocations. www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/scholarships



Disciples Home Missions Ministries

Youth Ministry Commission -- Empowers and assists adult lay youth ministry volunteers across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. This commission is made of people who are dedicated to youth ministry and have several years of experience in this area and, as such, are willing to offer useful and creative ways to minister to the youth of our church.



Ministry To Youth Serving Agencies -- To encourage and support Disciples churches and groups who sponsor Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, and Campfire Boys and Girls. We seek to recruit Disciples churches to start new Scout and Campfire groups as a part of their ministry to youth and outreach to the community. The Minister to Youth Serving Agencies serves as the official Disciples representative to organizations such as the National Religious Relationships Committee of the Boy Scouts, SFE (Scouts for Equality) and P.R.A.Y. (Programs of Religious Activities for Youth). We encourage all of our Disciples youth to earn religion emblems from P.R.A.Y. and it is our desire to send certificates of recognition to all youth who earn those emblems. The Minister to Youth Serving Agencies also offers leadership and guidance to the National Association of Boy Scout, Girl Scout and Campfire Leaders. Scott Thayer, Minister of Agencies Serving Youth.

