



Mission Report

2025-2026



Our Mission

Disciples Home Missions (DHM) equips and empowers Disciples to strengthen communities and transform lives. We do this by engaging in coordinated ministries, advocating for justice and mercy, and providing innovative programs and resources for congregations, regions, clergy, and laity.

DHM continues a legacy of courage and conviction that began in 1849. Generation after generation, we have answered God's call to nurture leaders, strengthen congregations, and champion justice and mercy in every place we serve.



Each year, we empower congregations, regions, clergy, and lay leaders with resources that spark renewal and open doors to ministry. We invest in future leaders and faithful congregations through grants and scholarships, and we provide training that inspires confidence, resilience, and bold imagination.

Together, we are writing the next chapter of a mission that began long before us and will continue to make an impact long after. Your partnership lights the path forward.

From the President



A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world is how we often refer to ourselves as Disciples. We trace a big part of our history as a movement to the Great Awakening, and more specifically the camp meeting known as the Cane Ridge Revival, August 6-13, 1801. This year marks the 225th anniversary of Cane Ridge and it is a time for commemoration and reflection. Joel Brown, president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, says: “This anniversary not only provides an occasion to celebrate and remember, which we plan to do, but also to think critically and carefully—historically and theologically—about Cane Ridge, Barton W. Stone, *The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery* (1804), and how they shaped the movement, and continue to do so.”

At DHM, we affirm and participate in this kind of honest and hopeful reflection. Our own history as a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been profoundly shaped by the events of Cane Ridge, and all the complexities of the leaders and participants who gathered there. Cane Ridge helped set in motion over 225 years of gathering in worship, advancing God’s mission, caring for others, yearning for unity, making mistakes along the way, and relying on the love of Christ to keep us moving toward wholeness.

The Great Awakening, of which Cane Ridge was a pivotal moment in, was not just about religious fervor, confession of faith, and church growth. It was about societal progress and the ambitions that nineteenth-century Christians had of working with God to transform the world toward greater justice and mercy. To care for family, neighbors, and foreigners alike. That legacy is alive and well at DHM. We are grateful for the chance to serve alongside congregations, regions, and other general ministries as we do our important work. We celebrate the historical legacy of Cane Ridge, and we commit ourselves to the continued work of mission and the renewal of all creation.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Dorsey'.

Chris Dorsey
President & CEO

2025 Year in Review



DHM hired Jonathan Fisher as the new Director for Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries in 2025. There are currently 356 members of the Disciples Chaplains Association. Ten new chaplains were endorsed in 2025.



Fifty-five Disciples Interims participants were trained in the Interim Ministry Basics and Family Systems Theory sessions.

2025 was an exciting year for Children Worship & Wonder as it officially made its transition to Children Worship Wonder & Welcome. The Director, Rev. Laura Ann Phillips, began in June 2025. A new hybrid model of training was developed and implemented for 36 additional storytellers, and new video modules were filmed of trainers for use on Disciples Leadership Network. Consultations with 18 trainers, 12 additional DOC leaders, and partners with Western Theological Seminary have produced an exciting vision for this ministry in 2026.



In 2025, DHM hosted 126 attendees at the Black Ministers Retreat in Charleston, S.C. around the theme, "You, Stand!" From music to yoga, food security to ancestral history, and preaching to praise, it was fantastic!



In 2025, Disciples Home Missions Youth & Young Adults (YAYA) expanded its impact through resources and gatherings designed to center belonging, wellness, and real-life formation for young people on the margins. This included curriculum for congregations, webinars for young adults, and a General Assembly Youth Pre-Conference.

The 2025 General Assembly was held in Memphis, Tennessee in July. The Disciples Mission HUB launch was the main attraction at the DHM booth, along with the rebranding of Disciples Advocate and Children Worship Wonder and Welcome. DHM welcomed meaningful conversations in the booth space, hosted several workshops, engaged in the Moral Monday event, and of course many laughs were had at the 360 photo booth!



The C.A.R.E. team designed two new resources for children and their leaders: *C.A.R.E. Sundays* and *"Hey, Imago Dei!"*

Justice and Advocacy Ministries *Let's Talk About* series continued and other vital resources were shared about refugees and immigration concerns.



In 2025, two new initiatives were launched at DHM: The Disciples Mission HUB and Disciples Advocate. Disciples Leadership Network will be launched in 2026.



Disciples Men launched a newsletter, *The Voice*, and shared new Bible Studies, Discussion Guides and other resources.

DHM's Christian Education and Faith Formation shared Advent, Lent, and Week of Laity resources.



Congregational Vitality & Innovation provided resources on *Mission, Vision, and Values: Sharing Your Congregational Identity Through Your Guiding Statements and Community Engagement: Research Methods and Strategies for Local Congregations.*

Bi-monthly Virtual Conversation Cafés for Congregations were launched with over 35 congregations attending sessions in 2025.



Celebrated All Peoples Community Center's 83rd anniversary and our long-standing partnership!



Celebrated Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries' 40th anniversary and our shared mission!



DHM partnered with Silver Chalice to add new resources for Older Adult Ministries on the DHM website!

In 2025, the Thriving Congregations Initiative provided resources, workshops, and support for 15 participating congregations and monthly pastoral peer groups to the 15 participating pastors in partnership with Lexington Theological Seminary. The Cohort II of the Thriving Congregations Initiative will begin in 2026.

Disciples Mission HUB

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) spans more than 2,800 congregations across the United States and Canada, each with its own heart for service. For years, these congregations have flourished in their communities—feeding neighbors, sheltering families, tending creation—yet often doing so in isolation. In 2024, Disciples Home Missions sought to explore the state of volunteering across the church through conducting surveys, hosting focus groups, reviewing past partnerships, and learning from other denominations. One message came through clearly: congregations want deeper connection and collaboration.

In 2025, DHM launched the Disciples Mission HUB to re-envision mission, outreach, and connection across the entire church. The HUB is where congregations and individuals can engage, network, and learn about mission and outreach opportunities in three key areas:

- 1. HELPING** — A portal where congregations and ministry partners post volunteer opportunities, and individuals can find ways to serve that fit their gifts and location.



2. **UNDERSTANDING** — A learning space focused on justice issues, beginning with four key areas: food insecurity, chronically unhoused, healthcare inequities, and disability equity. Through multimedia resources, users can deepen their knowledge of root causes and community impact.
3. **BEING** — A networking space where congregations doing creative, meaningful outreach can connect, learn, and inspire one another.

In just the first six months since launching the HUB, DHM has engaged over 170 users, posted over 50 volunteer opportunities, hosted seven Mission Pop-Ups, and highlighted four Disciples experts in our mission focus areas!

The HUB is more than a website. It is a growing, living story of Disciples who believe that helping, understanding, and being the body of Christ can transform the world.



The HUB is where congregations and individuals can:

- H** HELP by engaging in volunteer opportunities
- U** UNDERSTAND by seeking out and sharing resources and educational opportunities
- B** BE in community with one another



Scan now to join the HUB!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Market Glean Team
Society of St. Andrew
Birmingham, Alabama
disciplesmissionhub.org

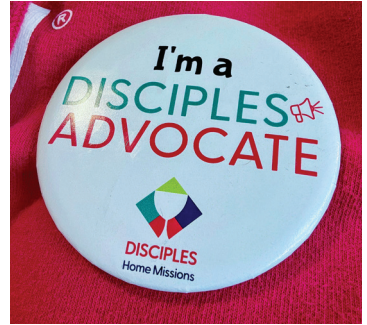
Disciples Advocate

Welcome to the *Disciples Advocate* Platform!

DHM relaunched its historic print magazine, *Disciples Advocate*, as a distribution channel and a connection space that empowers Disciples Home Missions to bring a coordinated approach to promoting greater justice and mercy in the world.

Disciples Advocate is intended for congregations, regions, clergy and laypeople, General Ministries, and our partners. By amplifying the work of scholars, activists, community organizers, and church members at work on the frontlines of justice, we are deepening our connections, elevating opportunities, and serving God in new and exciting ways.

Learn more and become a Disciples Advocate at disciplesadvocate.org.



Bus ride to DHM & DOM General Assembly event at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN



Immigration Court Prayer Vigil in Memphis, TN



Disciples Advocate at the PSWR Regional Gathering

What is a Disciples Advocate?

- Someone who cares deeply about justice issues and making the world a more compassionate place.
- Someone who engages in advocacy through voice and actions to promote lasting change in policy and practice.
- Someone committed to educating themselves and others around a variety of justice issues.
- Someone willing to be in solidarity with the oppressed and committed to amplifying the voices of marginalized communities.

Connecting Disciples Advocates through:

- Monthly email updates with articles from partners, invitations to events, and advocacy toolkits.
- The *Disciples Advocate* WhatsApp community with five distinct groups.
- *Disciples Advocate Digest*, weekly videos amplifying resources.
- A gathering space on the Disciples Leadership Network.
- Sharing something with the community via the integrated form on our website.



Environmental Justice Clergy Retreat at Christmount

**Support
Disciples
Advocate!**



Public march and rally in Minneapolis, MN

Celebrating DHM's Impact



In 2025, DHM distributed 66 scholarships and grants totaling over \$102,000 through: Justice & Creation Summer Fellowship Grants, the Seminary Scholarship Program, Clergy Continuing Education Grants, & Black Leadership Grants.



Across 14 states, 23 congregations that are members of the Disciples Mission HUB each received a \$1,000 grant! These funds will enhance their mission and outreach ministries focused on providing healthy food to those experiencing food insecurity in their communities.



"This summer, I experienced God's presence in many ways. Working alongside Montagnard families in the garden showed me God's love through community and service. Caring for creation through composting and gardening reminded me of God's renewal in the earth. I also saw God in cultural traditions like dance, language, and storytelling, which carry strength and resilience through generations."

—Natalie Siu, Green Chalice Justice and Creation Fellow, St. Paul's Christian Church, NC

"One surprise has been the willingness to accept the change and movement that is happening as a whole. There has also been the surprise of how the prayers this congregation was engaged in well before even knowing about the Thriving Congregations Project or the direction we were going to go has connected to where we are now."

—Thriving Congregations Participant, Rev. Alicia Speidel, Hood River Valley Christian Church in Hood River, OR

Thriving CONGREGATIONS

lexington
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

in partnership with



There are 242 Green Chalice congregations and 25 Certified Green Chalice congregations, with 14 new congregations added in 2025. Two Green Chalice Ambassadors, serving Obra Hispana and National Convocation, began in 2025.

**Who makes this impact possible?
YOU! Thank you! Click here to
continue your impact in 2026!**



“I am grateful for the Clergy Continuing Education Grants program for financially supporting my doctoral studies. It has provided an excellent opportunity to continue my education and better prepare for my ministry. I encourage other ministers who wish to further their education to apply. I pray these grants may continue to be offered.”

—Rev. Selena Reyes, Florida Regional Support Pastor
- Hispanic Ministry

“I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Disciples Home Missions for the generous Black Leadership Grant awarded to me. My time in England was absolutely amazing, and your support played a crucial role in my work there!”

—Dr. Jeffery A. Murdock, Professor and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Arkansas, who volunteered with CB Mentoring in Cambridge to mentor Black school children through academics, music, and empowerment.



“Children Worship & Wonder was already making Jesus’ stories accessible to children, so expanding the trainings and adapting the structure to Children Worship Wonder & Welcome fits the story itself and following in the footsteps of Jesus.”



—Rev. Robyn Bles, Senior Minister at Wakonda Christian Church in Des Moines, IA



“Thank you so much for the Food Insecurity Grant. On behalf of the congregation, we are honored to accept the Disciples Mission HUB grant to undergird our feeding ministries. What a blessing this will be as we continue to answer Christ’s call to “feed God’s sheep” and care for our hungry neighbors, especially low-income seniors in downtown Portland and friends who sleep outside. THANK YOU for supporting food insecurity relief across the U.S. and Canada by supporting the amazing work already being done by so many Disciples near and far.”

—Rev. Cynthia McBride, Senior Pastor at First Christian Church in Portland, OR

Programs

Green Chalice accompanies and equips clergy, congregations, regions, and communities as we weave Christian faith, spiritual practice, creation care, and love of neighbor to demonstrate the fullness of God's Shalom. Out of the call to "do justice" (Micah 6:8) and "love our neighbors" (Mark 12:31), the ministry of Green Chalice encourages congregations and individuals to live out their faith by caring for God's creation and loving all of our neighbors.



Justice and Advocacy Ministries empowers Disciples to use their voices and actions to promote greater justice and mercy in the world. Disciples Home Missions seeks to bring a coordinated approach to influencing the church's work for justice, with a focus on three key areas: Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Racial Justice, and Environmental Justice.

Disciples Interims, in partnership with Disciples Home Missions and The College of Regional Ministers, equips clergy and congregational leaders for faithful seasons of transition. Through Interim Ministry Basics and Family Systems Theory training, we cultivate grounded, adaptive leaders who can navigate complexity, strengthen congregational health, and guide churches through change with theological depth and practical skill.



Disciples Men cultivates Christ-centered community, spiritual growth, and faithful leadership among men across the church. Through resources, relationships, and collaborative ministry, Disciples Men supports congregations and regions in forming men for lives of service, justice, and discipleship. This work is shared through a partnership between DHM and the Men's Discipleship Council.



Disciples Home Missions Youth and Young Adults (YAYA) continues to offer vital programming that strengthens the connections between faith formation, life skills, and emotional and spiritual wellness. We are focused on equipping congregations, supporting emerging leaders, and creating spaces where young people can grow, discern, and thrive.

Disciples Women's Ministries creates avenues for clergy and lay women to seek renewal and ministry opportunities by and for women worldwide. The Disciples Women's Ministries is a collaborative effort between the Office of Disciples Women and the International Disciples Women's Ministries (IDWM).



Programs



The Office of Christian Vocations (OCV) serves ministers, congregations, and regions by implementing the **Search and Call** process to place ministers in a variety of positions across the Christian Church (Disciples

of Christ). OCV also administers the **Ministers Directory**, the official repository of denominational clergy data. OCV works in collaboration with the General Commission on the Order of Ministry (GCOM), the College of Regional Ministers, and regional offices.

Powered by Disciples Home Missions

Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries endorses and supports ordained and commissioned Disciples clergy serving in specialized ministries typically outside the walls of a local congregation. Chaplains are pastors who are gifted, skilled, trained, and experienced to minister with those who are in stressful or crisis situations.



DHM designs resources and experiences for **Christian Education and Faith Formation** in congregational and regional contexts, and in the personal lives of Disciples. In doing so, DHM seeks to grow the capacity of learners and teachers in the Christian Church to strengthen one another spiritually and communally, with Jesus as our guide.

EN worship
& Welcome



DISCIPLES
INTERIMS



DHM's **Children's Art, Recreation, and Education Ministry Team (C.A.R.E.)** designs online learning tools, downloadable resources, and in-person trainings for caregivers and congregational leaders ministering with children. *C.A.R.E. Sundays* and *"Hey, Imago Dei!"* are two resources launched in 2025, with more resources coming in 2026. Yoli Barragan, Miseon Choi, Kanessa Miller Doss, and Kristin Jack lead the C.A.R.E. team.

Through its work in **Congregational Vitality and Innovation**, DHM staff develop impactful resources and creative learning experiences for pastors and congregations to assist in congregational self-reflection, lay leader development, community partnership, and outreach ministries. DHM collaborates with other Disciples general ministries, regions, and higher education institutions to enhance engagement with and support of congregations.



Children Worship Wonder & Welcome (formerly Children Worship & Wonder) is a child-attentive worship encounter, in which children hear Bible stories, and form responses out of their own life experiences. Children learn the meaning of church traditions and participate in worship practices while cultivating their own relationship with God through play and imagination.

Disciples Home Missions



YOUTH and
YOUNG ADULTS

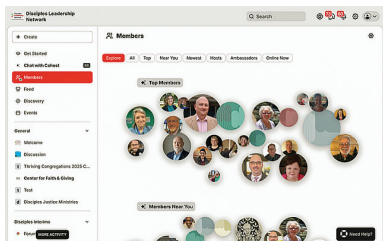
Disciples Leadership Network

To help form and equip Christians to change the world, we are excited to announce the Disciples Leadership Network (DLN), an educational platform with a powerful learning community. Designed as a platform for the entire church, DLN will provide impactful and sustainable ways of distributing content.

DHM is building DLN as a place for education and faith formation, leadership development, and supportive community across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). DHM programs, regions, and additional Disciples ministries alike will have the support to interact in new ways for trainings, meetings, cohort gatherings, and more. DLN will allow Disciples to move seamlessly from one educational opportunity to another and connect with cohorts and colleagues in various supportive communities. Participants will use a single email login to access programming across the entire platform and learn in new and compelling ways!



Powered by Disciples Home Missions



Disciples Leadership Network presents an exciting opportunity to connect Disciples with the wider church like never before. Rev. Chris Dorsey believes, “When Christians learn more deeply what their faith in Jesus Christ calls them to be and do, they are more compelled to work together to build and strengthen community, create a more just and equitable society, and be a faithful part of God’s mission to renew creation.” Through DLN, Disciples Home Missions will further its call to continue helping Disciples change the world.



Youth & Young Adults

At DHM, our ministries for youth and young adults continues to offer vital programming that strengthens the connections between faith formation, life skills, and emotional and spiritual wellness. We are focused on equipping congregations, supporting emerging leaders, and creating spaces where young people can grow, discern, and thrive.



Some of our most recent and compelling offerings have included:

- An innovative curriculum, *SELF*, that is being used by churches engaging youth in diverse and dynamic ministry settings.
- An *Adulting 101* webinar for young people to help them navigate real-life transitions and develop balanced life skills along with faith formation.
- A *Faith and Modern Dating* webinar on relational wellness that offers space to explore dating and how to maintain healthy relationships.
- A dynamic training paradigm called *Blooming to Plant* that helps those who work with youth develop the skills and approaches to engage today's youth and young adults.



**YOUTH and
YOUNG ADULTS**
Disciples Home Missions

There's more on the horizon!

We continue to prioritize:

- Building and supporting ecosystems of support for young people;
- Nurturing faithful leaders who accompany young people in local communities;
- Promoting pathways for lifelong discipleship and service.

In the coming months, you will hear more about new cohort models, expansion of our life-skills faith formation offerings, and innovative partnerships aimed at wellness, vocational discernment, and spiritual growth.



Youth



Young Adults

Staff Directory



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SAVE THE DATE!

Disciples Mission Week 2026

September 8-13

To celebrate mission work across the life of the church, educate and create awareness, inspire volunteer action, and worship together, Disciples Home Missions is excited to announce **Disciples Mission Week 2026!**

This week-long event will include:

Guest Speakers to Educate and Create Awareness: DHM will host webinars each night of the week featuring experts in food insecurity, disability equity, chronically unhoused, and health equity.

Tuesday, September 8
Wednesday, September 9
Thursday, September 10
Friday, September 11

Speakers, times, and more information coming soon!

A Day of Volunteering to Inspire Action: On **Saturday, September 12**, congregations will be encouraged to organize volunteers for one-day projects in churches, communities, regions, with a local partner, and/or with other local congregations.

Celebrate and Worship: On **Sunday, September 13**, celebrate Disciples Mission Week 2026 in worship with resources provided by DHM and commit to continued engagement in your local communities!

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information!



**Stay up to date
on this event and
visit the HUB!**