



February 10, 2018

TO: Regional Board Members
FROM: Regional Minister and President
REGARDING: February Report to the Board

1. Office Manager Jessica Lopez is completing annual reports to the denomination. Clergy cards will be sent this coming week to those who requested them. Nearly everything about Regional life is new but she is catching on. Already she has developed a better system of tracking clergy information which should be easier to update, report and share in a more useful form.
2. Finance Manager Gwen Brown has completed endo-of-year reports. Donor letters were sent on February 1. Now that Gwen has a better handle on that process, plans are in place to expedite reporting.
3. As of this date, Financial Reports from Disciples Treasury Services is still unavailable. Treasurer Vertreese is investigating other accounting options
4. The search for the Regional Minister for New and Transforming Churches is on. The regional website is being updated this weekend to reflect that. Resumes and ministerial profiles will be accepted until March 23rd. The Search team consists of Casey Sigmon (chairing), Mary Lou Kegler, Travis Smith McKee, Dave Arnold, Laura Phillips, and Mark Harmon. A that video promotion that can also help with the 2018 Pentecost Offering is being produced by Gary Arnold SeEVERS. Contacts are being made in several new church networks around the nation.
5. I met with the Personnel Committee January 25th to review my major goals for the coming year (beyond the administrative, pastoral, general church and ecumenical and interfaith work). Detailed copies are available upon request. In essence they are:
 - a. Peer group quarterly training events (already underway)
 - b. With help from the Stewardship and Development Commission conduct an Annual Campaign to raise a minimum of \$22,000 and increase mid-year giving by 5%
 - c. Increase communications traffic by 25%
 - d. Organize Circles of Trust to facilitate clergy discernment regarding roles and co-vocational options in a changing church environment
 - e. Help a newly formed Community Outreach Commission to organize an initiative worthy of consideration for an NBA Incubate partnership
 - f. Grow a community of GKC Disciples who are equipped and engaged in community organizing and training around anti-racism/pro-reconciliation

6. Donna and I have named the Greater Kansas City Region to be the beneficiary of a large gift in our will. We would like to invite Regional Board members to consider doing the same. Amounts are not nearly as important to any fund-raising effort as the high percentage of Board members who name the Region as one of the beneficiaries of a planned gift.
7. During a recent visit to Guatemala with the pastor and a deacon of the First Christian Church, Blue Springs I was able to arrange a visit by the General Secretary of the Guatemala Ecumenical Council of Churches to the Kairos school project in Antigua that has been visited and supported by 40 members of the First Christian Church in Blue Springs over the past ten years. Our hope is that the Council will see fit to become better acquainted with the project and give its blessing so that the partnership will be expanded in Guatemala and North America. The school is performing way above the national average in the number of students attending college and has as its mission raising Christian leaders to serve and improve their communities and nation. Obra Hispana pastors are assisting with translating video interviews for English subtitles. These will be put together into a promotional media piece for use in our Region and in Guatemala.
8. After consultation with the Regional Personnel Committee, I have accepted an invitation from Rev. Dr. Patricia Brown Karimu to participate in a Regional Ministers visit to Global Ministry partners in Ghana and South Africa. A significant part of this trip for me is to make connections with individuals in Ghana with an eye toward helping to arrange pilgrimages in the future to coastal forts from whence slaves were shipped by the British. Pastor Daniel Kimani is identifying contacts in Ghana. Costs for travel, lodging and meals is provided by Global Ministries. Dates are August 12-25 inclusive of travel days.
9. GKC Hispanic congregation pastors met on February 7. National Hispanic Interim Pastor Lori Tapia participated by phone and assisted with translation. Pastors from Alfa y Omega (Liberty), La Gloria de Dios (Kansas City) and El Santo de Israel (Independence) are planning a Marriage Enrichment course with Dr. Greg Hunt (Central Baptist Theological Seminary) and Priscilla Hunt (Executive Director, [Better Marriages](#)).
 - a. Rev Lori Tapia will come to Kansas City March 2-4 to help with the formal recognition of the Greater Kansas City Convencion (organization of Disciples Hispanic congregations in our Region), assisting with the creation of bylaws and goal setting
 - b. Additionally, these pastors are welcoming Rev. Edith Mendoza as a member of the Convencion in a voluntary role.
 - c. Rodolfo Acosta (Alfa y Omega and member of the GKC Regional Board) is President of the GKC Convencion
 - d. Convencion pastors are very interested in helping to establish and/or welcome new Disciples Hispanic congregations in the KC Metro
 - e. Rev. Doug Smith, retired Global Ministries partner with many years of service in Mexico and the Pacific Southwest Region, is providing additional leadership and translation and is exploring a formal Global Ministries regional partner relationship with the Conjunta (DOC & UCC) in Mexico
10. Thank you for your prayers. Our family appreciates the expressions of support we have received as my mother begins hospice care at John Knox.