



August 27, 2019

Dear Colleagues in Christ,

We pray that this letter finds you well, hopeful, and at peace in Christ.

According to the document which governs our standing as ministers in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):

Responsibility for certification of Standing of ministers and for annual review of that Standing within the Order of Ministry is lodged with the Region where the minister is currently engaged in the practice of ministry. Nothing in the Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry is intended to preclude a Region from developing additional appropriate statements or procedures pertaining to Standing within that Region as long as such statements are consistent with the Order of Ministry.

Theological Foundations and Revised Policies and Criteria approved Indianapolis
General Assembly 2009 II.Policies and Criteria For The Ordering Of Ministry, F.901 c

The time has come for those of us among the clergy in the Greater Kansas City Region to apply for renewal of our standing with the Regional Commission on Ordination and Standing. We have made several changes that we hope will make this a much simpler, easier process for making your application.

1. Every minister for whom we have a mailing address is receiving this letter, and, additionally those with email addresses will also get an email. Contents of this letter and all relevant information is available 24/7 at kcdisciples.org/Clergy
2. The list of ministers who are exempt from applying for renewal of standing has grown. If you are one of them, and you are reading this on hard copy, we have indicated that here. *__(if you were exempt last year, you are still exempt. You do NOT need to do anything further. Your standing is automatically renewed.)*
3. Every minister in our Region has their own information page on line. Save and use this link:
<https://c0acv725.caspio.com/dp/D4986000b85220f3ed404916a045>.
You can update that at any time. Unless contact or employment information has changed, updating your page with information about your continuing education, boundaries and anti-racism workshops will mean that you can complete your application for renewal of standing in fewer than five minutes!
4. Jessica Lopez, is available weekdays to answer questions or assist anyone having difficulty recording their information. You may reach her at 913.432.1414 or office@kcdisciples.org
5. A paper copy of the renewal application will be mailed to those who are still active in ministry but not yet comfortable with online recording.
6. We will be reaching out personally to some of our still active retired ministers and ministers whose first language is not English.

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Our Greater Kansas City Disciples clergy are becoming more adept at navigating the changes that challenge us. There is not enough space to recognize every pastor, chaplain or leader in a wider church or nonprofit ministry. Here are just a few of dozens of our colleagues who are being recognized for their extra-mile work that improves the image of all Disciples clergy:

- Rev. Lois Kelley represented Blue valley Christian Church at Mission Fest this summer. Blue Valley and First Christian Church, Blue Springs (Rev. Cliff Cayton Jr.—pastor) were invited to showcase their missions at General Assembly 2019.
- Rev. Dr. Jose Martinez is the recipient of a National Benevolent Association grant for his innovative [Story Wagen](#) podcasts and a recent appointee as Associate Director of New Church Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His Story Wagen was on the exhibit hall floor of the General Assembly for people to record their stories.
- Rev. Mindy Fugarino wrote a successful Reconciliation Ministry grant application that resulted in our Region’s receipt of \$4,080 towards the August 22-23 workshops: Bridging Trauma Awareness Toward Healing and Reconciliation which attracted over 75 participants from a variety of professions across the KC Metro.
- Rev. Dr. Kevin Harris is pastor of New Vision Christian Church which was selected for a visit by the National Benevolent Association XPLOR program—in part for New Vision’s Community Development Corporation, Adopt-a-Block Program and creating a community center for health and financial wellness in south Kanas City.
- Rev. Dr. Rodney E. Williams, Senior Minister of Swope Parkway United Christian Church and President of the KC chapter of the NAACP headlined the MORE2 annual gathering and, with Rev, Fugarino co-chairs Becoming Beloved Community team that strategizes our Regional Reconciliation Ministries.
- Rev. Dr. Bob Hill, serving with the Kauffman Foundation, has been busy in retirement organizing Faith Leaders in Education and bringing a Courageous Conversations Global Foundation team to Kansas City
- Our Regional Moderator, Rev. Mary Lou Kegler, in addition to overseeing efforts to improve Regional ministry, also serves as Secretary of the National Benevolent Association Board of Trustees
- Rev. Dr. George Flanagan, retired chaplain and CPE supervisor, teaches a class on ethics at Rockhurst University and Phillips Theological Seminary MTP program. He will offer a course to clergy in our Region on September 28th. (Details at <https://www.kcdisciples.org/workshops-and-retreats.html>)

Our application for renewal of standing is an opportunity to renew our commitment to honor those who carefully and sacrificially supported our spiritual and ministerial formation and call us to service and leadership in the Church.

I’m giving you this commission in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is coming to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearance and his kingdom. Preach the word. Be ready to do it whether it is convenient or inconvenient. Correct, confront, and encourage with patience and instruction. There will come a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. They will collect teachers who say what they want to hear because they are self-centered. They will turn their back on the truth and turn to myths. But you must keep control of yourself in all circumstances. Endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the good news, and carry out your service fully.” 2 Timothy 4:1-5

I, too, renew my commitment to you; congregational ministers, chaplains, and ministers in non-traditional settings, active and retired, and to the lay leadership in our congregations, the College of Regional Ministers and the work of the whole Church. Like you, I have to work at all this. It does not come easily or naturally and certainly not perfectly for me. Still, my hope is strong—stronger because I get to serve with and serve you and Christ.

Our Regional and General Commissions on the Order of the Ministry are exploring better ways to support our shared ministries and missions. Delesslyn, Shandra, Veronica, Jessica and Gwen are giving their all for you and those you serve and you can already see some of the fruits of their labors as well as those of Martha, Lanette, Barb, Steve, Heather and the Tall Oaks staff.

Thank you in advance for joining me in renewing our covenants with Christ and one another.

*Bill Rose-Heim
Regional Minister and President*