



CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

*A covenant network of congregations in mission:
We are the Body of Christ gifted and called in covenant together as Disciples of Christ
to be centers of transformation on the new mission frontier of our own communities*

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Dear Friends,

Since March, our lives and daily routines have been disrupted in ways that none of us have anticipated. I'm sure you've gone through your own upheaval in response to the coronavirus pandemic. It has impacted nearly every aspect of our lives – our families, our employment, our finances, and even the way we worship and join in fellowship.

As you probably know, The Christian Church in Ohio and Camp Christian had to make the tough but necessary decision to not hold in-person Summer Camp, as well as postponing all Regional events for the Spring, Summer, and now into the Fall. It is clear that these sad but needed decisions have left a void in the lives of many people, especially those who were eager to spend time at Camp this summer. This situation has also caused a real, tangible financial hardship for the Region and Camp Christian. Registration fees and donations made in conjunction with those events help pay for our staff, operations, buildings and grounds, and general upkeep of the Camp.

As with many of your Congregations, we have and will continue to offer online alternatives and seek out creative ways to connect with each other. Over the summer we were able to hold week long Virtual Camps for our youth and young adults. Adult Conference and Ohio Women's Ministries have gathered online for prayer and fellowship. The Commission on Ministry has started meeting with their teams and candidates via Zoom. And while we are excited about these alternatives and the new opportunities they bring, we like many of you and your congregations, are looking forward to when we can welcome everyone back to Camp Christian and Regional events in person.

To that end, we are now launching a Renewal Initiative which will help raise funds not just to offset financial losses from the impact of the coronavirus, but to sustain the mission of the Ohio Region and Camp Christian in the future. By the end of this year, we hope to be able to call a new Regional Minister who will help to focus our vision and leadership. In 2021 we aim to embark in creative new ministry pathways, and as a part of that, we want to create long-term planning and funding for Camp Christian so that we can ensure the longevity of this faithful ministry of the Christian Church in Ohio.

This process of renewal has, in many ways, already begun. Earlier in July, the Free Store, which is housed at Camp Christian, applied for and received generous grants from Week of Compassion and the Dairy Farmers of America so that we could continue our work serving and feeding the broader community around Camp Christian, which is needed now more than ever. This is just one example of the movement we're making towards finding new and thriving partnerships, exploring alternative funding sources, and ensuring the future and sustainability of Camp Christian and Regional Ministry.

We count you among those who care deeply about the ministry of the Christian Church in Ohio and Camp Christian, and invite you to join us in reaching our initial goal of \$75,000. These funds will be used to open Camp Christian next summer, to extend an offer to a Regional Minister, and to move into new ministry opportunities that have been gathered through the work of the Regional Transition Team. We want to renew the church not just in this moment, but with each new day, new season, which God calls us toward. Through the years, the ministries of the Christian Church in Ohio and Camp Christian have thrived because of the continued generosity and active participation from people like you. We ask that you please review the enclosed brochure and prayerfully consider a donation. Gifts of any amount will help us to reach our goal and continue the work of Camp Christian and the church in Ohio and beyond.

Peace and Blessings,

Candis Wilson

Jennie Stoddart Bernard

Rev. Alan Dicken

Ted Nelson

Wendy Taylor

The Staff and Leadership of the Christian Church in Ohio and Camp Christian

An Anti-Racist/Pro-Reconciling Church
Strengthening Relationships and Building Networks; Leadership Development; Congregational Transformation and Evangelism