



Regional Pastor and President Job Description Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Regional Pastor and President provides executive and visionary leadership for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio. The Regional Pastor and President will enhance congregational vitality and mission through a ministry of: **authentic connection**, presence, process development and **creative leadership; spiritual development** and practice in personal and communal life; pastoral care and nurture of the congregations and ministers within the Region through **quality communication** and wise, prayerful counsel; and attention to the **development of community** by encouraging networking, collaboration and cooperation of congregations and leadership. The Regional Pastor will be **affirming and inclusive**, creating a space where all Disciples in Ohio are welcome at the Table.

QUALIFICATIONS

- An ordained minister with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- Thorough understanding and commitment to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including its history, polity and values.
- Completed Pro-Reconciling, Anti-Racism training within the last five years.
- Understand and be committed to the Ministerial Code of Ethics.
- Ministry experience in congregational settings.
- Demonstrated ability and experience in creative and/or collaborative leadership: particularly in the innovation and creation of new models of ministry and service within existing churches and/or new church starts.
- Strong administrative skills, including financial and resource management, direction of personnel, and the ability to delegate duties.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Regional Pastor and President is expected to attend to **Congregational Vitality and Development**, **Ministerial Growth & Excellence**, **Administrative Leadership**, and Participation in **Wider Church ministries** through these essential responsibilities:

- Honor and promote commitments of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including peace, diversity, inclusion and welcome within and among our congregations.
- Embody a reconciling and healing presence in the Ohio Region and beyond.

- Model practices of self-care, attention to spiritual growth, and sabbath-keeping.
- Encourage and support leadership development and the pursuit of excellence in all ministry opportunities.
- Foster communication and collaborative connections between congregations and with other settings of the Church.
- Attend to the needs of local congregations and leadership in such areas as programming, conflict resolution and pastoral care through appropriate staffing and a peer networking approach.
- Facilitate and oversee Search and Call.
- Encourage faith formation, supporting youth, young adult, and family ministries in our local congregations and at Camp Christian.
- Encourage development of new church starts and renewal of existing congregations.
- Maintain administrative responsibility for the operations and ministries of the Christian Church in Ohio, as defined in its constitution and bylaws.
- Develop and direct a process for fostering and inspiring stewardship growth in the Region.

Interested persons should send a letter of interest by November 30, 2020 to
Debbie Saxe, Regional Search Committee Co-Chair
230 Stow Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Candidates should also have current Disciples Search and Call papers on file with the
Office of Search and Call in Disciples Home Missions.



Regional Profile Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio

The Ohio Region includes the full territory of the great state of Ohio whose motto is “With God all things are possible”. This great state begins at the Ohio River and runs 220 miles north to Lake Erie. It is again the same spread from east to west.

The Ohio Region is composed of 145 Disciples of Christ churches which represents nearly 25,000 Disciples. There are also 6 churches (2019 data) in formation. These churches represent many views and worship styles. Church memberships range from less than 20 to over 4,000. Large concentrations of churches are in the larger cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus (nearly 30%). Yet there are relatively large memberships in numerous smaller towns. Our churches represent the demographics of our state, with 86% of our congregations being predominantly white, 11% predominantly black, 2% Hispanic and <1% Korean. Eight of our congregations are officially Open and Affirming. 11 are Green Chalice congregations.

Camp Christian is a strong tie that binds the Ohio Region. It covers nearly 100 acres and is located in picturesque Union county less than an hour northwest of Columbus. It has capacity for 240 campers in cabins and a lodge with accommodation for 40. Additional buildings include the dining hall, kitchen, and a gymnasium. Camp Christian has provided spiritual experiences for youth and adults for many years. It is located in the middle of the state which makes it equally accessible to the entire region.

Ohio has a solid Christian Women's Organization, along with a strong Spiritual Life committee and vibrant Advance Conference (our Young Adult Ministry). All of these groups utilize Camp Christian in various activities including yearly retreats.

Until 2017, Ohio Regional operations were administered by a full-time Regional Pastor with the assistance of office administrators and one Associate Regional Pastor. Since 2017, the Ohio Region has been led by volunteers including the Moderator, the Regional Council, the Regional Transition Team, and paid support from adjacent Regional ministers, a part-time Regional Program Director, with consistent and strong leadership assistance from the full-time Regional Administrator. Camp Christian also employs minimal camp staff for events and maintenance.

Historically, the Ohio Region has been a robust, unified region. However, connection between congregations (and thus trust and buy-in) has become less solid over the past decade. Our next Regional Pastor and President will succeed by focusing early on building relationships and trust, listening to the stories of our past while encouraging us toward a life-giving future that is well within our reach. Within the last year, even with economic uncertainty due to the pandemic, the Ohio region has successfully raised more than \$100,000 above and beyond our regular offerings to support our Camp, undergird this Regional Pastor position and sustain our

ministries. We are committed, faithful, and creative, and believe that with collaborative and inspired leadership, we are poised to rebuild a dynamic Regional Church!

Conversations from our Regional Assembly helped our Region identify five **objectives** of the Ohio Region: Worship, Service, Education, Fellowship and Evangelism. Additionally, we identified four **core values**: Help & Services, Quality Communication, Authentic Connection and Community and Spiritual Development. Our **greatest hope** for the future was expressed as “Transformation toward authentic, compassionate, respectful relationships”. We hope these values will lead us forward and bring spiritual unity and lasting fellowship to all.