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**Merger Staff**  
**Disciples Home Missions**

**March 20-22, 2019**

**Report and Updates of the Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation, Disciples Home Missions**

The Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation is working on unveil a “new process” for accomplishing “evangelism” in local congregations in a 21<sup>st</sup> century context. We first unveiled this process in mid-year in 2018 at the African-American Institute of Faith and Life during the 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of National Convocation this summer in Birmingham, Alabama. As the world around us has transitioned from a 20<sup>th</sup> century context to a 21<sup>st</sup> century context, the church must also come into a 21<sup>st</sup> century context. Disciples’ congregations must also transform from a 20<sup>th</sup> century context to a 21<sup>st</sup> century context. Helping Disciples congregations to “**Reclaim the Great Commission: A New Evangelism**” will be the goal and mantra of this office for the next six to seven years moving forward.

My hope and goal is to aid in helping Disciples congregations regain the excitement and rediscover one of the core values, which propelled the Stone-Campbell Movement unto the landscape of the American frontier as it was then in 1801 with Barton Warren Stone in Kentucky at the Cane Ridge Meeting House and the Campbells in western Pennsylvania. Evangelism was that “core value” and evangelism will be the same core value, which will propel this community of faith into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Since August of 2018, OECT has had several opportunities to consult, make contact and advise pastors, congregational leaders and congregations. To date OECT has had the opportunity to make thirty-five plus contacts. These points of contacts have range from one on one consultations with pastors and congregational leaders, to consultations with congregational leaders, to transformational work with congregations.

The biggest and most significant impact the OECT has had on NCCC congregations is there has been a significant uptick in inquiries from African-American Disciples congregations about interest in congregational transformation. This is major because since the denomination officially began this journey in transforming existing congregations in 2003, the interest from NCCC congregations was very low for the first ten years. In 2013, the interest in NCCC congregations committing to doing a “transformational” journey has increased five-fold. In the first ten years of the congregational transformational initiative there were an estimated fifty congregations. Today, there are an estimated 250 NCCC congregations involved in a “transformational” journey.

Moving forward in 2019 I would like to see this church “**Reclaim the Great Commission.**” Therefore, for the next six to seven years of my tenure in this office, my goal will be helping Disciples congregation to “Reclaim the Great Commission.” The time and season have come again that Disciples of Christ congregations need to “Reclaim the Great Commission,” in other words, “evangelism” will become a core value again. As Jesus instructed his disciples in the latter part of Chapter 28 in the Gospel of Matthew, *Go! And make disciples! And baptize! And teach the world! About this Savior name Jesus who transforms lives!*

Here is the goal moving forward, if Disciples congregations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are going to be relevant in their mission and ministry context, they will need to be committed to a transformational process and they will need to have evangelism as a core value of the congregation as they move into being transformational bodies in the context, which they now find themselves doing mission and ministry.

Therefore, my hope is that the NCCC Board of Trustees will continue to pray with me as this office continues to help Disciples congregations “Reclaim the Great Commission” in a 21<sup>st</sup> century context.

Gracefully submitted,



Rev. Dr. R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr.  
Executive for Evangelism and Congregational Transformation

