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Executive for Evangelism & Congregational Transformation
Merger Staff
Disciples Home Missions

December 3 & 4, 2020

Annual Report to the Board of Trustees, National Convocation of the Christian Church

Beginning my 18th year in the Office of Evangelism & Congregational Transformation and Merger Staff

October 1st of this year began my eighteenth year of service to DHM and the General Church as the Executive for Evangelism, Congregational Transformation, and Merger Staff of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I often remember so well the excitement and feeling I had seventeen years ago when I arrived at DHM to begin a new season in my life and ministry to this community of faith I have been a part of for sixty-three years. I remember how excited I was to be able to have the opportunity to help this church rediscover one of the core values, which propelled the Stone-Campbell Movement onto the landscape of the American frontier as it was then in 1801 with Barton Warren Stone in Kentucky at Cane Ridge. The excitement Barton Stone created at Cane Ridge is the same excitement I felt in August of 2003 when DHM extended me the offer to be the evangelist of the denomination.

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

In the fall of 2019, the Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation unveiled a “new process” for doing “evangelism” in local congregations in a 21st-century context. Helping Disciples congregations to **“Reclaim the Great Commission: A New Evangelism”** is the goal and mantra of this office for my remaining tenure in this position. As the world around us has transitioned from a 20th-century context to a 21st-century context, the church must also come into a 21st-century context. About three years ago, I began to reflect on my time in ministry and devoting time thinking critically about how Disciple congregations approach evangelism. In a “nutshell,” I would like to see congregations **“Reclaim**

the Great Commission.” The time has come for Disciples of Christ congregations to recognize that Transformation and Evangelism are dependent on each other. In other words, “evangelism” will become a core value for Disciples congregations again. 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!* (NRSV)

Report on the third initiative of the 2020 Vision, Congregational Transformation

In 1996 the Disciples embarked on a goal of transforming 1,000 existing congregations the end of 2020. This office was directed to lead the charge of congregational transformation, which is the third initiative of our 2020 Vision. Through the combined efforts of DHM, Hope Partnership, Regions and transformational consultants working with individual Disciples congregations we will have successfully reached our goal of 1,000 established congregations who are intentionally and actively working on being transforming congregations. At this juncture in our journey, we have over 900 congregations in transformation. The number listed above is based on combined numbers from all the partners listed in this report. Although the goal was 1,000 congregations in transformation by January 2021, the reality is all our congregations in the United States and Canada needs to be congregations in transformation.

The Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation does offer and have in place a very effective congregational transformational process that it offers to congregations. DHM’s CT process has worked well for many of the congregations that have engaged it. The bottom line is, if Disciples congregations in the 21st century are going to be relevant in their mission and ministry context, they will need to be committed to a transformational process as they move into being transformational bodies in the world, which they now find themselves doing mission and ministry.

Hope for the Future

My hope and prayer moving forward for this ministry of the church charged with doing mission and ministry is that DHM will continue to anticipate the challenges and obstacles local congregations encountered face trying to figure out what God is calling them to do as it relates to doing mission and ministry in a 21st century context.

As the Executive for the OECT, I humbly submit this report for your review.

Gracefully submitted,



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Executive for Evangelism and Congregational Transformation

