

**The Division of Overseas Ministries Report
to
THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

December 6, 2018

The Division of Overseas Ministries continues to work in partnership with Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries, a common witness in mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Global Ministries has 290 partner churches located in 90 countries. Global ministries continue to appoint mission co-workers to serve with partner churches and church organizations in response to specific requests and financial capacity. Mission co-workers' appointments are made through the lens of Critical Presence, "that is meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest needs; spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically." The Global Ministries Board of Directors officially adopted mission co-worker as the way to refer to persons in mission rather than missionary at the April 2018 meeting. This change is related to the core value of mutuality found in the strategic plan and represents how we are co-workers with God and our brothers and sisters through-out the world in God's mission. One-hundred and nine individuals served as mission co-workers in 2017. This number included 33 fully supported mission co-workers; 23 long-term volunteers; 12 global mission interns; and 40 international associates. In addition, 25 individuals served as short-term volunteers. Currently, we have 3 mission co-worker units that are participating in the personalize fund raising model.

Caribbean Initiative

The Caribbean Initiative was launched at the 2017 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. It includes the following countries: Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. The purpose of this initiative is to enable members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ to focus on a particular region for an 18-month period in order to better understand the religious, social, and political realities of partners in a particular region and to provide opportunities for mutual exchanges.

The next regional initiative will relate to Southern Asia and will be launched at the 2019 General Assembly. The key overseas partners involved in this initiative are Indonesia, East Timor, Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh.

College of Mission Intern

Two College of Mission Interns served this summer with DOM. Abimael Betacourt, a student at Claremont School of Theology and Fiyori Kidanea, a student at Texas Christian University.

The Division of Overseas Ministries sponsored a People to people Pilgrimage to Ghana and South Africa from August 12 to August 27 for five regional ministers and one associate regional minister. The pilgrimage included Nadine Burton, Great River Region; LaTaunya Bynum, California, Northern-Nevada; Penney Ross Corona, The Christian Church of Mid America; Jen Garbin, Canada; Bill Rose Heim, Greater Kansas City; and Dale Braxton, Alabama-Northwest Florida. The goal is for every regional minister to have the opportunity to visit with overseas church partners in order that they may have more tools to interpret global Ministries to congregations.

Collaborative Efforts with other General Ministries

The Division of Homeland Ministries and Disciples women continue to collaborate with Global Ministries on a number of issues, including the Caribbean Initiative. In addition, Global Ministries facilitated a Woman-to-Woman pilgrimage to India in 2017 and a Woman-to-Woman pilgrimage to Cuba in 2018. The Division of Overseas Ministries collaborated with the Disciples Peace Fellowship in recruiting 1 young adult from the United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico to serve as a Disciples Peace Intern during the summer of 2018. The 2017 General Assembly Planning Committee chose the Global Ministries' Vacation Bible School Middle East Curriculum for the Children's program. Global Ministries is collaborating with DHM, NBA, and DPF to assess programs serving young adults to determine better outreach to that constituency.