



Christian Church in Indiana Associate Regional Minister Position Description

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana is seeking a new, full-time, Associate Regional Minister to begin work as soon as January 2022. Primary responsibilities will be staffing the Region's Faith Formation Commission and Indiana Women's Council, working with children, youth and adults to increase their faith and leadership development.

Joining the current regional staff, this new staff person will be called to share in the spiritual, pastoral and administrative care of the church in the Region. They will be called to serve with a servant's heart in varied ways as they proclaim the Word of God. They will be valued for the ways in which they enhance the mission of the Church through embracing the vision and mission of the Indiana Region (see the accompanying page of regional profile). They will embody a commitment to the Region's Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism identity and be able to work with the diverse population of leaders and members of the Christian Church in Indiana.

Qualifications

- Ordained minister with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
- Passion for children, youth, and outdoor ministries
- Ability to work well with teams of people to accomplish ministry goals
- Prior experience working with children and youth in a lay or ministerial capacity
- Ability to promote and recruit for children, youth and outdoor ministries programs
- Experience with coaching/mentoring
- Experience working with people of diverse backgrounds.
- Residing in Indiana or willingness to relocate to Indiana.
- Willingness and ability to travel

Job Duties

- Staffing the Faith Formation Commission
- Resourcing for Children and Youth activities and programs, coordinating and providing support to adult and youth volunteers for all their Regional events and for Indiana Youth Council
- Coordinating and working with each camp and all outdoor ministries, including on-site attendance and support of each summer camp

- Staffing the Indiana Women's Council, which serves all women of the Region aligning them with the purpose of International Disciples Women's Ministries
- Administrating Barbee Grant Funds

Skills Required

- Highly organized
- Ability to work across the variety of social media
- Ability to listen, clarify, and convey information in an accessible way
- Basic knowledge of and ability to use conflict management skills
- Comfort in communicating across theological perspectives
- Ability to communicate in person, through online platforms and in writing

This position offers a competitive salary
paid pension plan,
paid holidays and vacation.

The Region reimburses mileage at the current IRS rate and will cover moving expenses. The Region will supply technology to equip the Associate Regional Minister to work from the Indiana Interchurch Center and remotely as needed.

Applicants should send a letter of interest, resume and contact information for four references by October 25, 2021.

Send by e-mail to Richard L. Spleth, Regional Minister (rick@indianadisciples.org)

Christian Church in Indiana Regional Profile



Founded in 1839, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana today is composed of 140 congregations located throughout the state. Our congregations are found near county courthouses, adjacent to rural fields, in urban centers, and in suburban neighborhoods. We celebrate the diversity in our Region provided by 9 African American congregations, 5 Hispanic congregations, one Korean congregation and one Congolese congregation. With about 15,000 persons on the rolls of our churches, we count nearly 7,500 gathering for worship in any given week. We claim our identity as a diverse community of congregations called by God to act together in love

The Region's life is governed by a 15-person Regional Board elected at the Regional Assembly held in the fall of even numbered years. The work of the Board is divided among four Commissions—Ministry, Faith Formation, Unity and Witness, and Stewardship. In addition, we accomplish our work through five specialized committees—Pastoral/Personnel Relations, Finance, Nominating, Bylaws, and Regional Assembly Program.

A significant program ministry of the Region is summer camp and conferences for children and youth. We offer 12 camps divided between two locations—the Geneva Camp and Conference Center and the Bedford Camp and Conference Center. In 2019, pre-COVID, we had 327 campers. In 2021 we had 174 campers.

The Regional Staff consists of Regional Minister Rick Spleth, Associate Regional Minister Carolyn Reed, and Ministry Associates Sarah Riester, Candace Boyd Wylie, and Sandy Kincaid. Sarah is also the Administrator of our ongoing FLOURISH! program, a partnership with the Lilly Endowment (providing stewardship and financial education, and over \$1 million in debt relief grants to our pastors). A group of 10 Regional Elders assist with care for pastors and congregations.

The Region has an office suite, shared with the United Church of Christ, in the Indiana Interchurch Center in Indianapolis, though staff have been deployed since March 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic.

In 2012 our Region declared that sexual orientation is not a criterion to be considered for purposes of ordination or commissioning ministers. An increasing number of our congregations are identifying themselves as Open and Affirming, including nine now listed on the Disciples Alliance Q website. We are beginning to experience youth registering for camp as non-binary or transgender and have extended them welcome.

In 2014 our Regional Assembly mandated that our clergy participate in regular Anti-Racism training. In 2020, responding to the death of George Floyd, our Regional Board strengthened our commitment to expand the Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism training and resourcing to our congregations.

We have been blessed by the generous support of our congregations to Disciples Mission Fund which has provided us with sufficient resources to fund our ministries without incurring debt.

In 2018 we sold the Barbee Christian Camp in northern Indiana for \$1.5 million. We set aside \$1 million in a permanent fund to annually assist the two camps we use with capital improvements, and we have designated \$500,000 to be used to assist our congregations in faith formation projects and activities.