



Christian Church in Indiana quest Program Director Position Description

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana is seeking a full time Program Director for **quest: A Journey of Faith** to begin work as soon as November 2023. Primary responsibilities for the **quest** program will be working with the regional staff, the Faith Formation Commission, congregations, and families participating in the program.

Joining the current regional staff, the Program Director will lead **quest**, which is a faith formation initiative to support parents, caregivers, and congregations in home-based faith formation funded by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. **quest** is based on the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians and will give families the tools to share their faith, beginning with concepts that can be observed and practiced in everyday life. Additionally, congregations will be supplied with materials to use within the life of the church that will serve to connect with families participating in **quest**.

A successful candidate 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

- Bachelor's Degree required, Masters Degree preferred but not required.
- Background in education preferred.
- Comprehensive understanding of childhood development stages
- Prior experience working with children in a lay or ministerial capacity.
- Passion for children and families
- Ability to work well with teams of people to accomplish ministry goals.
- Ability to recruit and communicate effectively with congregations and families.
- Experience working with people of diverse backgrounds.
- Residing in Indiana or willingness to relocate to Indiana.
- Willingness and ability to travel.
- Understanding of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) required
- Understanding of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana preferred.

Job Duties

- Identifying, recruiting, and collaborating with professionals to write and develop curriculum and programming for **quest: A Journey of Faith Program**.
- Acquiring, organizing, and sharing supplemental materials that support the curriculum.
- Overseeing technology associated with **quest**.
- Providing support to local churches, parents and children participating in **quest**.
- Coordinating the **quest** program and collaborating with Regional Staff, local churches, and participating parents and children.
- Performing other duties as assigned by the Regional ministers.

Skills Required

- Highly organized.
- Technologically adept with an ability to work across a 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. The Region will supply technology to equip the **quest** Program Director 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 September 15, 2023.

Send by e-mail to Krista Hunter, Ministry Associate (krista@indianadisciples.org)

Christian Church in Indiana Regional Profile



Founded in 1839, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana today is composed of 130 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 offered 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 2023 we had 255 campers. In 2024 we are reimagining what camp looks like by moving to one location: Bedford Camp and Conference Center.

The Regional Staff consists of a new Regional Minister, likely to begin in fall 2023. Associate Regional Minister Carolyn Reed, Associate Regional Minister Cheryl Russell Kunkel and Ministry Associates Sarah Riester, Candace Boyd Simmons, and Krista Hunter. 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. We offer a hybrid working model with staff working both in the office and from wherever is convenient for them.

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.