

GB-22-1200

Name of ministry:	FLORIDA DISCIPLES (AKA Christian Church in Florida)
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Ministry Executive/Regional Minister name:	Rev Dr Betsy Goehrig
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Ministry Executive/Regional Minister email:	betsy@fldisciples.org
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**In what ways is your
region/ministry thriving?**

Over the past five years, we have continued to strengthen and stabilize our region spiritually, relationally, and financially, as well as living into our Strategic Plan. The coming year will be a good time to re-envision the future with a new Regional Minister and new plans.

Our Regional Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team has been actively developing our training, in cooperation with our Commission on Ministry. The first part of training was held in November with a second part scheduled for February. Additional trainings will be held throughout the year in order to implement the requirement of clergy AR/PR training to maintain standing.

The Commission on Ministry has been meeting virtually and has been especially active with 10 ordinations in 2021 through January 2022, with several others still in studies and preparation. As challenging as ministry can be in such unpredictable times, it is exciting and encouraging to see many who are still willing commit their lives to serving Jesus Christ through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Region held a Clergy Care Retreat at Daytona which was a welcomed time of relief and renewal for 43 clergy and spouses. The Region has provided thousands of dollars of emergency grants for congregations,

mission/transformational grants for congregations, and emergency assistance for pastors this past year.

Even amidst the challenges of COVID, the Region has continued to operate debt free for the past four years (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020), and is anticipated for the fifth year as well (2021).

2020 Total Revenue \$354,400

Total Expenses \$245,881

Net Income \$136,019

What are the biggest challenges facing your region/ministry this year?

The pandemic has impacted a number of congregations who had already experience some decline and others who had previously been stable who are now struggling. The political polarity of the nation, and of Florida which is split down the middle, has already created some polarity and tensions in congregations. These challenges are opportunities to reimagine the church, review our facilities/needs/options, and reexamine how we are called to serve in mission in our communities.

What is something you hope to accomplish in the next year?

The Region is at a good place of new hope and possibilities. They have had some painful endings in the past and have come through much healing. They have solid and faithful leaders to guide them forward. They are looking forward with anticipation to a new Regional Minister and a time of revisioning who we are as Church.

What is something you would like the General Board to know about your region/ministry?

Our 2022 Regional Assembly will be held both virtually and in person, with online workshops Jan. 24-27 and in person/online at Daytona Beach Drive-In Christian Church Saturday, Feb. 5, 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM, where people can gather safely in their vehicles or sit in a lawn chair by their car. There will also be a sermon provided for congregations by Rev. Mary Beth Harper for Sunday, Feb. 6. Celebration of Dr. Goehrig's retirement will be at the Regional Assembly; she will retire February 28, 2022, with 40+ years of service through Disciples of Christ. The search team has been diligently going through the process for the calling of a new Regional Minister.

How can we pray for your region/ministry?

Please pray for the Florida Region in this season of transition and for all of our clergy and congregations

Please continue to keep our family in prayer, as my husband and I move to the Crawfordville community to help our daughter Christy and her husband with our 5 grandchildren--which is also the community in which my daughter Brittany was murdered and where the murderer's family lives. We will begin the court proceedings soon, and it is yet to be determined how long the trial will take, whether it will be in coming months or drag out of several years.

All of you have been incredible blessings to our Region and to our family. Love always to my Disciples of Christ family of faith!!

Blessings, Betsy G