

GB-22-1221

Name of ministry: Christian Church in the Southwest

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In what ways is your region/ministry thriving?

The Regional staff of the Christian Church in the Southwest recently met in a retreat setting and committed ourselves to manifest oneness in Christ with diverse gifts serving the common good. We affirmed that By the strength Christ provides and in our oneness in Christ's ministry we move into vulnerability toward transformation together.

We have seen a renewal of clergy connections in some parts of our region.

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

Financial uncertainty and challenges of finding people willing to serve in Regional Leadership.

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

Increased participation in Regional Events.

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

CCSW is continuing the work of restructuring itself from a 50 year history of fairly autonomous Area system to being the One Region that manifest Christian unity for the sake of the Gospel. Some of the obstacles come from our own attitudes about letting go of familiar structures and stepping into the

unknown. However, there is a willingness to search for the best path forward. Where we have made significant moves toward restructure, we have also found significant logistical hurdles to overcome--Area funding and stewardship particularly of donor designated funds, Area ownership of property, long-term ministry partner relationships. These must also be navigated individually.

How can we pray for your region/ministry?

Like so many others, we have had a two year pause in our normal work. We are returning to the complicated process of restructuring the Region. It isn't easy.