

A Memorandum of Understanding

Providing Regional Ministry Leadership to the Christian Church in Ohio (dba Ohio Disciples)

November 2018—December 2020

Responding to the request of the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Ohio, who met on October 6, 2018 in Columbus, the Regional Ministers of the Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, and West Virginia/Pennsylvania Regions, with authorization from the Boards of those Regions enter this covenant with Ohio Disciples to assist them in a time of transition.

The term of this agreement will be from November 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020.

Each adjoining Region will be assigned a set of congregations, organized into contiguous districts, and will provide oversight and care to those congregations and pastors, including:

- Coaching local congregations in Search and Call process, training committees, recommending interim candidates, and candidates for the called position, assisting with negotiating the call as needed, and installation.
- Writing references for ministers seeking to go into Search and Call.
- Responding to requests for consultations with congregations and crisis intervention.
- Working with the Regional Elders assigned to their Districts to respond to pastoral care needs of pastors and congregations.
- Working with the Commission on Ministry in the case of misconduct issues.

The Regional Ministers who are providing this service will be called “Visiting Regional Ministers.”

With respect to the Region as a whole the Visiting Regional Ministers will

- Provide documentation of their work to the Regional Council and to their own Regional Boards
- Represent the interests of Ohio Disciples and interpret the life of the Ohio Region to the larger church
- Provide counsel as needed to the leadership of the Regional Council and stay in regular communication with the Ohio Region’s Administrator.

Much of the required work can be done by phone, email, and video conference. Some travel for face to face meetings with Search Committees, congregations, and individuals will also be needed. The Ohio Disciples Region will reimburse travel expenses, including mileage at the current IRS rate (54.5 cents in 2018), and reasonable meal and lodging expenses if required. The Visiting Regional Ministers will turn in expense reimbursement requests monthly to the Ohio office administrator for processing. The reimbursement will be made directly to the individual. The total reimbursement for travel expenses could potentially exceed the \$10,000 that is budgeted for 2019. The Regional Council should monitor this with Treasury Services and make appropriate budget adjustments if needed for 2020.

The four Visiting Regional Ministers should be added to the Ohio Region’s insurance policy for liability purposes for their professional work.

This service represents a gift of staff time and expertise from the surrounding Regions. To compensate those Regions for this the Ohio Region will reimburse the supporting Regions a flat fee for their ministry based on a formula, in 2018 and 2019, of \$1 per church per day. The total reimbursement to the supporting Regions in 2019 will be \$57,760 which is within the \$60,000 allocated for this purpose in the 2019 Regional budget.

It is recommended that in 2020 the rate become \$1.50 per church per day. This would require that \$86,505 be budgeted in the 2020 budget for Regional support, and a revised amount, if necessary, for travel expense. It is hoped that this budget increase will assist the Ohio Region in potentially calling a new Ohio Regional Minister in January 2021 with a basic compensation of \$90,000.

Assignment and Reimbursement Schedule

Michigan Region---58 congregations in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 6

2018	\$ 3,538
2019	\$21,170*
2020	\$31,755*

West Virginia and Pennsylvania Regions---44 congregations in Districts 4, 7, 10, 11, and 15

2018	\$ 2,684
2019	\$16,060*
2020	\$24,090*

Kentucky Region---30 congregations in Districts 12, 13, and 14

2018	\$ 1,830
2019	\$10,950*
2020	\$16,425*

Indiana Region---26 congregations in Districts 5, 8, and 9

2018	\$ 1,586
2019	\$ 9,490*
2020	\$14,235*

Reimbursements on this schedule should be made by Treasury Services at the end of 2018 for the two months of that year, and then monthly beginning in January 2019.

*The above calculation has been made on the basis of 158 congregations as reported in the 2018 Yearbook. The calculation for 2019 and 2020 will be adjusted to reflect the actual number of congregations listed in the Yearbook for that year. Since the Yearbook is published mid-year, Treasury Services will be asked to make the needed adjustment in the month the Yearbook is published. The adjusted count will be used for the monthly calculation until the publication of the next Yearbook.

The Ohio Region may cancel this Memorandum of Understanding with any one of the supporting Regions or all of them collectively for any reason with 60 days' notice. Likewise, any one of the supporting Regions or all of them collectively may cancel this Memorandum of Understanding with the Ohio Region for any reason with 60 days' notice.

Approved by

Ohio Regional Council Chair

Date

Ohio Regional Council Treasurer

Date

Michigan Regional Minister

Date

Michigan Regional Moderator

Date

**West Virginia and Pennsylvania
Regional Minister**

Date

West Virginia Regional Moderator

Date

Pennsylvania Regional Moderator

Date

Kentucky General Minister

Date

Kentucky Regional Moderator

Date

Indiana Regional Minister

Date

Indiana Regional Moderator

Date

 MICHIGAN	 KENTUCKY
 INDIANA	 WEST VIRGINIA

