

# Nominating Committee Report Regional Assembly 2003

## Executive Committee (terms expire 2005)

Moderator	George Bennett	FCC Macon	WC
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Moderator	Bob Alvarez	Iglesia El Aposento Alto	NW
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Moderator	Jocelyn Wheaton	God's City of Refuge	NW
Treasurer	Roger Sizemore	Brooks Christian Church	NW
Secretary	Sam Nichols	FCC Athens	NE

## Regional Board

2006 Term	Byron Wells	Chestnut Ridge Marietta	NW
2006 Term	David Everton	FCC Glenville	SE
2006 Term	Susan Butts	Chattahoochee CC	NW
2006 Term	Kathy McDowell	First Atlanta, Tucker	NW
2005 Term	Ray Dotson	FCC Sandersville	EC
2005 Term	Hoyt Huff	FCC Lawrenceville	NE
2005 Term	Ann Brooks	St. Andrew CC Macon	WC
2005 Term	Ann Allen	Bethesda CC Tennille	EC
<b>2005 Term</b>	<b><i>Jim Stephens</i></b>	<b><i>Chapel CC Winder</i></b>	<b><i>NE</i></b>
<b>2004 Term</b>	<b><i>Rebecca Clark</i></b>	<b><i>Central Columbus</i></b>	<b><i>WC</i></b>
<b>2004 Term</b>	<b><i>Ed Cromartie</i></b>	<b><i>Mercy Seat Thomasville</i></b>	<b><i>SW</i></b>
<b>2004 Term</b>	<b><i>Willie Jo Minnifield</i></b>	<b><i>God's City of Refuge Atlanta</i></b>	<b><i>NW</i></b>

## Nominating Committee

2006 Term	Jim Brooks (chair)	FCC Winder	NE
2006 Term	Joe Kern	FCC Marietta	NW
2005 Term	Bob Raiford	FCC Sandersville	EC
2005 Term	Gloria Finch	FCC Glennville	SE
2004 Term	Jeannie May	Central CC Augusta	NE
<b>2004 Term</b>	<b><i>Cynthia Marshall</i></b>	<b><i>Ray of Hope Decatur</i></b>	<b><i>NW</i></b>

## Credentials Committee

2006 Term	Brent Reynolds	FCC Valdosta	SW
2005 Term	Darrell Vandervort	FCC Warner Robins	WC
<b>2004 Term</b>	<b><i>Frances Shumake</i></b>	<b><i>FCC Winder</i></b>	<b><i>NW</i></b>

***Bold italic: Denotes current members of boards/committees***

# Regional Minister's Assembly Report

Zena S. McAdams

November 2003

Back in the mid 70's, Loren Mead of the Alban Institute defined five primary tasks of an interim minister in his book: *Critical Moments of Ministry—A Change of Pastors*. These five tasks have been guiding principals for interim ministers.

1. Coming to Terms with History
2. Discovering a New Identity
3. Shifts of Power/Leadership Changes
4. Rethinking Denominational Linkages
5. Commitment to New Leadership and to a New Future

These are helpful guidelines, but in more recent years, Terry Foland (also with the Alban Institute) has added five additional tasks that are equally important. I think that these five additional tasks better define my work for the last nine months.

1. Reduce the Level of Anxiety—Fear of the Unknown
2. Rebuilding the Infrastructures
3. Attention to Stewardship/Financial Matters
4. Training in Leadership Skills
5. Focus on Spiritual Needs of Membership

My nine months with the Christian Church in Georgia has been a productive time in the life of the region. For me, it has been helpful to identify where we have been and what we have done, because it provides direction for what we need to do next in our time together.

1. Stabilized regional staff. Our staff was caught in the middle of a “lot of stuff” last year. Morale was low. Distrust was high. Work performance was impaired. Today, there is a good attitude, cheerfulness, tolerance, laughter, and high work performance.
2. Improved regional office facilities. The regional office needed some tender, loving care. We have cleaned and fixed up the building—significant renovation on a minimal budget to the downstairs. We have identified more work that needs to be done. A well-cared for facility promotes a healthy working environment.
3. Improved communications. The regional staff and executive committee have committed themselves to make communications a high priority. Bill Thompson was asked to chair the Communications Commission. The *New Christian Messenger* has emerged as a result of that priority through the work of Bill and the members of his commission. The members of the region have shown their approval of this effort through the response of financial support for the newsletter (\$4000 plus). We continue to enhance and expand our website: [www.gadisciples.org](http://www.gadisciples.org). We extend many thanks to our webmaster, Buddy Ray. In the near future, we plan to update our signage in front of the building. We are working on a video about the region. Our staff is seeking to be prompt and helpful in communicating with our clergy and congregations.
4. Increased financial support. Our financial support is solid right now even though we are in the time of year where our receipts are their lowest. Our books are in good shape. We had an excellent report from our auditors. We have a new Financial Secretary, Brooke Ostberg, who is gifted with strong accounting skills in non-profit organizations. We have been blessed with the gift of time and energy that Jerrie Bason has provided us as a transitional business administrator. We are deeply indebted to her commitment to helping the region be “financially responsible” in our daily lives.
5. Improved regional relationships. Michael and I have worked very hard to rebuild relationships within the region—seeking to bridge some of the hard feelings and distrust experienced during the last year. We are committed to a ministry of presence.

6. Increased use of Camp Christian. Through Michael's ministry, our camp and conference attendance was up significantly this summer. Michael is giving over-and-above to provide adult educational events—using our new Conference Center.
7. Facilitated search committees. We are blessed that Georgia is a place where people want to relocate—providing us with good names for our congregations searching for new pastors. In the last six months, we have welcomed these new pastors: Karl Hunter, New Hope Christian Church; Liz DeWeese, Friendship Christian Church; Joe Falcouner, Kirk of the Corners Christian Church; and Chris Michael, Cherry Log Christian Church. Patrick Chandler has been called to First Athens—beginning in mid-November. Sandy Springs Christian Church has called Bill Mackie of Baton Rouge, LA—beginning in mid-January. We are currently working with search committees at St. Andrews, Macon; First Christian Church, Macon; First Christian Church, Watkinsville; First Christian Church, Savannah; and First Christian Church, Valdosta.
8. Committed regional leadership. The regional board, executive committee, and regional staff are committed to exploring new ways to live out our regional life together with a focus on mission. We don't know what that is going to look like, but we believe that God's Spirit is working through us to unite this region in ministry and mission.

I am encouraged about our ministry together in the Christian Church in Georgia. The human and financial resources in this region are vast. The possibilities of ministry in this region are endless.

I think that the challenge for this region is to identify the focus of ministry and mission for the next 5, 10, and 20 years.

A common mission is essential to the health and well being of this region. A common mission might represent several different initiatives—allowing congregations in different places to own different parts of the mission. For example:

- ? We have several churches in this region that are doing great ministry with limited funds, who have some significant needs in their physical plants.
- ? As members of the Christian Church, we have been challenged in the 2020 Vision that we need to establish 1000 new churches by 2020. We need to start more new churches in Georgia!
- ? Camp Christian is no longer a camp for children and youth; it is a place of ministry for adults. We need to start thinking about expanding that ministry.

Structurally, the Christian Church in Georgia needs to move toward a more task-oriented approach that supports a mission-based ministry. We need to identify congregations who are willing to take the risks to become re-energized communities of faith, and we need to provide the resources and nurture to help in transformational ministries. We need to network our congregations relationally to be agents of grace in a pluralistic society that is struggling in a terror-filled world.

I am honored to be serving as your interim regional minister. I look forward to 2004 as we work together to do ministry and mission together.

Zena S. McAdams

## **Report to the November 14, 2003 Regional Assembly Associate Regional Minister, Michael Weeks**

I am pleased to report to the board that our ministry in Georgia continues to move forward in many positive ways. I have worked with Zena McAdams and the other regional staff facilitating ministry with congregations, pastors, and individuals this year. Much of my work this year has centered on our summer camping ministry, development of Camp Christian Conference Center and new responsibilities that came with the transition in regional staff. I continued to be involved in ministry to youth and young adults, but added the search and call process in local congregations, work with the Commission on Ministry, nurture and care for our pastors, and new conference and retreat initiative for adults. I continue to work with the Youth Activity Council, the Young Adult Disciples Association, Christian College of Georgia, and the Atlanta United Divinity Center. I was privileged to be guest preacher at several congregations, to participate in one ordination, and have the opportunity to speak to constituency groups across the region.

The last three months have seen a lot of plans come together for regional programming at **Camp Christian Conference Center**. We have built a wonderful conference center and now it is time to use it. We have enlisted leadership from across the region for new programming initiatives for Adults. This ministry will be known as **Campfire Ministries** and will include retreats and conferences for individuals and for congregations. There are 6 retreats and conferences scheduled for Adults this year and other opportunities for congregations and individuals.

The Youth Activity Council plans an annual **Youth Assembly** for Chi Rho and CYF Youth of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia. The new name for this event **Youth-A-Palooza** was chosen by the Youth Activity Council to represent their vision of a group of teens coming together from different congregations to form one community of faith. If you are familiar with the Lollapalooza Music festival, you know that it features many different styles of music all coming together so that people can learn to appreciate variety. This was behind their decision to give our assembly a name change and I think we can all appreciate what they are saying about Christ's Church.

The Theme for the **January 16-18, 2004** Assembly at **Epworth by the Sea** on St. Simons Island will be **Get Loud!** Our students want to learn how to live their faith out loud in a world that is moving Christianity toward the margins. Youth and adults attending will leave with new ideas about how to follow Christ and share their faith in God with others. We hope all youth will be encouraged to attend this event. We are expecting over 400 youth.

I was happy to be a participant in the General Assembly in Charlotte and helped to host the Georgia reception. I participated in the National Evangelism Workshop and was inspired by many of the speakers and educators I heard. I was inspired by the fellowship and worship of General Assembly. I also assisted with the Association of Disciples in Outdoor Ministries display, and met with regional staff persons who work with youth about the future of youth ministries in the General Church. I want to thank the region for the opportunity to represent the Christian Church in Georgia as a delegate.

### Concerns for 2004

- I want to share my concerns with you about the 2004 Camp budget. We are experiencing excellent growth and usage at the camp. We have projected an increase in usage by new groups next year, but we will not be able to pay our mortgage payments just with fees raised from camp usage. We will not have monthly Sowing Seeds gifts next year, since the campaign is coming to a close. The camp will need \$50,000 in gifts for the operating budget in order to sustain our ministry. We are gearing up with publicity and promotion to increase camp usage, but I know that these gifts will be needed.
- The youth of our region have asked for a new pavilion at camp. We are in need of a special gift of \$65,000 for the construction of this structure.
- We are also in need of a gift of about \$45,000 to construct a new maintenance building. We have much equipment housed in tents that needs a permanent home out of the weather.

En Agape',  
Rev. Michael Weeks  
Associate Regional Minister

# CAMP CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

2003 has been a breakout year for our camp and conference facilities. Financially we have been able to do well, even with our debt service, because of the sale of timber and because of the Sowing Seeds for Christ's Church Capital Campaign.

Consider our numbers from the summer of 2002. In the camping program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia we served 272 campers and staff. In 2003 we served 414 persons. We have a growing program and we should be proud of this accomplishment. Take a look at these figures for summer and retreat business.

August 1, 2002 to July 31, 2003	People Served	Camper Days	Meals Served
Fall & Spring Retreats	542	906	1071
CCINGA Summer Camps	414	1600	4404
Other Summer Camps and Retreats	539	778	777
<b>Totals for one year of operation:</b>	<b>1495</b>	<b>3284</b>	<b>6252</b>

## 2004 Retreats Conferences and Camps at Camp Christian Conference Center

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia Regional Board priorities included revitalizing congregations and we have put together retreats conferences and camps to assist congregations and individuals in this important ministry.

Come to the Camp Christian Conference Center display at the assembly for more information on any of these events, log onto our website [www.gadisciples.org](http://www.gadisciples.org), or get more information and registration forms at your church.

2004 Campfire Ministries for Adults		Summer Camp 2004 for Children/Youth	
1/23-1/25	Spirituality for Real People	6/18-6/20	Genesis
1/30-2/1	The Leadership Edge	6/21-6/25	Junior I
2/10-2/11	VOICES: Clergy Retreat	6/25-6/27	Chrysalis I
2/27-2/28	Camp for Big Kids Winter Retreat	6/28-7/3	CYF
3/19-3/21	CHOICES: Adult Career Retreat	7/3-7/4	YADA
4/26-4/28	Seniors Retreat	7/6-7/10	Chi Rho
		7/12-7/17	Mid Hi
<b>Retreat Kits Schedule for your congregation</b>		7/19-7/23	Junior II
Multi-generational Retreat		7/23-7/25	Chrysalis II
Work Retreat		7/25-7/29	Camp Balaam
<b>Individual Retreats Schedule yours today!</b>			
Clergy and Personal Retreats			

## SPECIAL GIFTS ARE NEEDED

There will be a need for additional funds for our Camp and Conference Center operating budget in 2004. The Sowing Seeds for Christ's Church campaign has assisted us in paying our mortgage payment during 2003. The 2004 budget reflects a need for \$50,000 in special gifts for our camps operating budget since the campaign is ending this year. Please consider making a gift to Camp Christian Conference Center at the end of this year or sometime in 2004.



## Georgia YOUTH ACTIVITY COUNCIL Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia

### What is Georgia's Youth Activity Council?

The Youth Activity Council creates and implements youth ministries, including the annual youth assembly—Youth-A-Palooza, and fosters and supports programs to develop the full potential of youth as they participate in the congregational, district, regional and general levels of the church. The council additionally helps to nurture connections between congregations sharing ideas and fostering cooperation on a variety of youth ministries across our region.

The Council is composed of Adults and Youth selected to represent their congregations in the planning and leading of Regional Youth Events of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia. One youth representative is selected by each congregation that wishes to participate. Adults are appointed by the Christian Education Commission. The adults and youth serve as participants in the planning and implementing of regional youth ministries.

Please make sure that your congregation is represented by this important group of youth leaders in 2004. Information on selection of your representative is available on the website [www.gadisciples.org](http://www.gadisciples.org). The council has planned Youth-A-Palooza for January 16-18, 2004 at St. Simon's Island, Georgia, Epworth by the Sea. We hope your congregation will participate. Registration forms have already been mailed to congregations. Registration information is available on the web or at the displays here at the assembly.

Now we want to say thanks to these leaders from congregations across the state. Thanks for your hard work and good luck with the assembly in January.

### 2003-2004 YOUTH ACTIVITY COUNCIL

Caitlyn Garner (Columbus, Central)  
Chris Von Almen (Warner Robins, First)  
Claire Abernathy (Marietta, Chestnut Ridge)  
Dianna Gill (Lawrenceville, New Hope)  
Andrew Darby (Decatur, First)  
Josh Witkowski (Duluth, Chattahoochee)  
Katharine Phlegar (Athens, First)  
Emily Maxey (Watkinsville, Union)  
Sarah Barton (Marietta, First)  
Amanda Roberts (Norcross, Kirk)  
Hannah Gunter (Watkinsville, First)  
Trey Hodges (Loganville)  
Corey Conrad (Charleston, First)  
Daniel Evans (Snellville, Shiloh)  
Samuel Veal (Sandersville, First)  
Brooke Willis (Valdosta, First)  
Sarah McClelland (Atlanta, Brookhaven)  
Joseph Highsmith (Atlanta, Peachtree)  
Joey Baker (Lawrenceville, First)  
Carol Cook (Savannah, First)  
Sara Witherington (Winder, First)  
Patricia Willis (Tucker, First of Atlanta)  
Hattie Burchardt (Atlanta, Sandy Springs)

### Adults

Michelle Weeks (Sandersville, First)  
Gregg Runnion (Columbus, Central)  
LaTonya Whitaker (Duluth, Chattahoochee)  
Ginger Pepper (Atlanta, Sandy Springs)  
Julie Runnion (Central, Columbus)  
Courtney Montgomery (Winder, First)  
David Whitaker (Duluth, Chattahoochee)  
Brent Reynolds (Valdosta, First)  
Darlene Reynolds (Barney, Welcome Hope)  
Lisa Griffin (Central, Augusta)

## **Christian Education Commission Annual Report 2003**

Change is such a hard thing many times and it is no different in our camping program. Changes were made this year in procedures for recruiting counselors for our camping program at Camp Christian Conference Center and more will be in store next year. Counselors had to send their applications to the regional office and arrange to have recommendations from their minister and one other person sent to the office. Thanks to the persistence of our regional office administrative assistant, Pam Mikovitz, we were able to begin making this change. We want to make sure we have the people who are best suited to work with our children and youth.

Evaluations from Camp Christian this summer again gave high praises to our facilities. Our attendance was up from 2002. This summer we had more than 400 in attendance. Included in the number were campers, Balaam counselors, counselors in training, counselors, keynoters and directors. Several counselors and directors volunteered time for more than one camp.

Camp Balaam had another great summer with 18 of our youth from across the region serving as counselors. AIM Camp was held at the Camp Christian Conference Center. They reported having successful camp again this summer.

We will be adding a new camp to our camp schedule next summer. It will be called Genesis Camp and will be for children who have completed Kindergarten. This will be a weekend camp, beginning on Friday evening and ending Sunday morning. Campers will be accompanied to camp by a parent, grandparent or other relative. This camp will give the children a taste of what they can expect when they come to Chrysalis.

Chrysalis Camp had a record breaking number of campers and we will add another Chrysalis Camp next summer. Both camps will be held on Friday night through Sunday morning. We hope that by having these camps on a weekend those who might not have been able to counsel before will find these times more compatible to their schedules.

During the next year there will be opportunities for adults to attend events at Camp Christian Conference Center. Woodland Lodge accommodations are winterized and comfortable.

We want to thank all the ministers and laity who gave their time to counsel or direct camp at Camp Kicklighter and Camp Christian Conference Center. Without the tireless efforts of these people we could not operate our programs.

The camping programs at Camp Kicklighter and Camp Christian Conference Center offer experiences for our youth they will remember for a lifetime. Consider spending time volunteering for a camp at one of these locations. Both camps had successful summers and we want to continue increasing the number of youth and adults participating at both camps.

A breakdown of the number of campers/conferees sent by churches and the number of counselor/directors/keynoters who volunteered at Camp Christian Conference Center in 2003.

Report submitted by Marilyn Parks, Chair

<b>CAMPERS</b>	<b>Chrysalis</b>	<b>Junior 1</b>	<b>Junior 2</b>	<b>Chi Rho</b>	<b>Mid Hi</b>	<b>CYF</b>	<b>Balaam</b>	<b>Total</b>
Albany, First			1	1	1			3
Athens, First	3	5	1	5		4	1	19
Atlanta, Brookhaven	1	5		1	1			8
Atlanta, God's City		1						1
Atlanta, Peachtree	8	8	2	5	4	6	1	34
Atlanta, Sandy Springs	1	2	2	7	5	9	8	34
Augusta, Central	1	6			6	2	2	17
Charleston, First					1	4	1	6
Cherry Log, Cherry Log	1		3	1				5
Columbus, Central	3	2		3	4			12
Decatur, First				1	1			2
Dublin, United	2		1	1	2			6
Duluth, Chattahoochee			5		2	2		9
Fayetteville, Community			2				2	
Flowery Branch, Spirit of Joy				1				1
Forest Park, Iglesia El Aposento Alto			3	7				10
Griffin, First	2	3			1			6
Lawrenceville, First	1		1	1	1			4
Lawrenceville, New Hope	4	1			1			6
Loganville, Loganville			3	3				6
Macon, First	2	2						4
Marietta, Chestnut Ridge				3		3	7	1
Marietta, First				3	1	2		6
Norcross, Kirk of the Corners	3	4	2	1		2		12
Rome, First			1			1		2
Sandersville, First	2	5	1	4	5	4	1	22
Snellville, Shiloh						4	2	6
Tucker, First Atlanta	4	3	4	1	3	3		18
Valdosta, First				2		1		3
Warner Robins, First					1			1
Watkinsville, First	1		10		5	2		18
Watkinsville, Union	2	1	1	3		2	1	10
Winder, First	2			1		5		8

		<b>Counselors</b>		<b>Directors</b>	
Athens, First		1			
Atlanta, Peachtree		2		1	
Atlanta, Sandy Springs		6		1	
Augusta, Central		2			
Decatur, First				1	
Dublin, United		2			
Duluth, Chattahoochee		1			
Fayetteville, Community		2			
Flowery Branch, Spirit of Joy				1	
Griffin, First		1			
Lawrenceville, First		3		1	
Lawrenceville, New Hope		1		1	
Loganville, Loganville		1			
Marietta, Chestnut Ridge		1			
Norcross, Kirk of the Corners		1			
Sandersville, First		1			
Snellville, Shiloh		5			
Tucker, First Atlanta		2		1	
Valdosta, First		1			
Warner Robins, First		1		1	
Watkinsville, First		2		1	
Watkinsville, Union		1		1	
Winder, First		2		2	
Guyton, Guyton				1	
Athens, Friendship		1			
Winder, Chapel		1			
Other Churches		1			

## Communications Commission Annual Report November, 2003

The Communications Commission has held three meetings during 2003. Members of the Commission are: Bill Thompson (Chair), Buddy Ray, Linda Whitmire, Sean Barnave, Kris Jensen, and Keith Weekley, and Interim Regional Minister, Dr. Zena McAdams (ex-officio). Additionally, the regional moderator and associate regional minister are always invited to attend our meetings.

Our three major emphases in 2003 have been:

1. A redesign of the Christian Messenger to enhance its appeal and effectiveness. Along with this, we examined ways to reduce mailing costs, increase the number of issues, and set a publishing schedule for 2003: July, October and December.
2. An examination of all communications efforts in the region (a systems view) to insure full information reaches the most members of our churches.
3. Plans to provide videography support for the 2004 Christmas special day offering.

A sub-committee composed of Keith Weekley, Linda Whitmire, and Kris Jensen has worked on the New Christian Messenger. We have successfully transitioned from the old newspaper style format, to a new offset format which is smaller, but includes a second color. We have updated the mailing list and increased the list by more than 800 families. While the new format has resulted in lower postage costs, the two color format and different printing method resulted in a higher cost per issue for printing. With a planned December issue (4 pp.); we will complete four issues for 2003. In 2004, we plan 3 – 8 pp. issues, and 2 – 4 pp. issues. We are always looking for ways to increase coverage at reasonable cost. The 2004 budget includes are full asking, which assumes a summer Messenger offering of \$4000 from recipients. The few persons who responded to our survey (less than 40) indicated they preferred the budget with offering approach over a subscription model. The committee maintains an open mind on the financing issue, but for now prefers to pay for the Messenger with the budget/offering method. The current mailing list totals 7292, an increase of 819. The Messenger offering has generated \$3922.

A second sub-committee, composed of Linda Whitmire, Zena McAdams, James Brewer-Calvert, and Sean Barnave, has been working on an interpretive video on the Christian Church in Georgia for congregations to use in interpreting the Christmas offering and for other occasions.

Bill and Kris also worked on the design for a pamphlet on the region that was used at the Georgia reception at General Assembly.

Our work with the Messenger has been all-consuming for the committee this year. We are working on getting a process nailed down so that the load is shared and the process flows smoothly. I'd like to express my appreciation to Keith, Linda and Kris for their hard work on the New Christian Messenger. I'm always appreciative of the fine work

that Buddy Ray, our webmaster, puts into the regional website. In my opinion, we have the best website of any regional in the Disciples of Christ!!! Thanks to Sean Barnave for his hard work on the video, and to Ray of Hope Christian Church for hosting our committee meetings.

William L. Thompson, Chair

## **Commission on Ministry Report to the Regional Assembly**

The Commission on Ministry has been working the past six months to restructure its internal operations to address the ongoing problems of organization and communication, to facilitate task completion and to streamline the implementation of procedures. The Commission has established four subcommittees to handle specific tasks: 1, Approval of candidates for ordination, 2, Transfer of Ordination from other denominations to the Disciples, 3, Licensing laypersons for specific ministries, and 4, establishing ethical guidelines and procedures. The chairs of each subcommittee also meet to discuss and establish specific policies of the Commission. Another change is in the membership of the Commission's subcommittees. The membership of each subcommittee includes Commission members and nonmembers who are approved for the task by the Commission. Subcommittees are also free to meet apart from the established meetings of the total Commission. While the majority of the current tasks are now relegated to different subcommittees, any significant decisions, such as final approval of a candidate or any policy change, are still taken to the whole Commission for approval.

Approval of persons for the tasks of ministry is a difficult and challenging work. Those brave enough to enter the ministry need nurture and support, attentiveness and guidance. Churches served by these ministers want to know that their chosen servant is dedicated, trustworthy, knowledgeable and spiritual. The goal of the Commission's members is to act on behalf of the church to prepare its present and future leadership and to make the process equitable and professional.

Tim Browning  
Chair  
browningt@ctsnet.edu

**Sowing Seeds For Christ's Church**  
**The Regional Asset Building Program**  
**November, 2000 – December, 2003**  
**Update**

- The three-year Regional Asset Building program is drawing to a close, December 31, 2003.
- The focus of this Regional Capital Campaign was upon: (1) Resources for New Church Starts (50%); (2) Camp and Conference Facilities/Programs (20%) with the remaining smaller percentages (one to five percent each) being distributed to: (3) All programs and entities within the Region of Georgia (i.e. Campbell-Stone, The Atlanta United Divinity Center, Columbia Community Connection), and to the (4) The General Church entities, most of which are geared to support and identify the recruiting of new clergy into the ministry (i.e. Board of Church Extension, Division of Overseas Ministries, The Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Christmount Christian Assembly, Lexington Theological Seminary and National City Christian Church).
- As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003, we have raised \$759,117.12 in gifts and pledges in an original goal to secure \$2 million.
- With concerted effort by congregations and individuals who will finish up their pledges successfully, we should be able to attain a goal of \$1 million.
- As a result of the Regional Capital Campaign emphasis upon new church starts, the Sowing Seeds Foundation was created and continues its mission, separate from the region, but with interlocking board members, as a means of assisting in the establishment of new churches. Ralph Smith is their chair.
- Although this is not the desired total we had hoped for, \$2 million, if the \$1 million is secured, it would be a significant success, given all that has happened with the general economy and the transition of key personnel in the region.
- Roger Sizemore, is now coordinating the efforts to successfully complete the campaign. He can be reached by calling the regional office, 1-800-755-0485 and at: 404-290-5090 (cell), 404-332-9186 (office), or by e-mail at [rogeras@earthlink.net](mailto:rogeras@earthlink.net).
- You may send your gifts and pledges, to: "Sowing Seeds for Christ's Church," The Regional Capital Campaign, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia, to either Campbell Stone North or to the Regional Office. Campbell Stone North has been utilized during this Regional Campaign since they have more sophisticated software for donor tracking and recognition. Their address is: 350 Carpenter Drive, N.E, Atlanta, GA 30328-3357.
- With concerted effort and your positive response, we can move forward with the region's mission: "Growing, Building and Equipping Vital Faith Communities."

**Report for Regional Assembly, November, 2003**  
**Christian College of Georgia**  
**Robert L. Harris, Ph. D., President**

The ministry of the Christian College of Georgia is to nurture, educate, and prepare Disciples clergy and lay persons for ministry and service. This is accomplished through the work of three program committees of the College: Ministries in Higher Education, Christian Vocation Education, and Education for Ministry.

Ministries in Higher Education include the Disciples on Campus Ministry at the University of Georgia, and the Atlanta United Divinity Center serving seminarians in the Greater Atlanta area. Over fifty seminarians are identified as constituents of the Divinity Center. New students are assigned a Mentor from the Board of Directors of the Center, and periodic gatherings help to shape the identity of students who are members of minority denominations in denominational seminaries and schools of theology. The Disciples on Campus is in its fourth year of ministry at the University of Georgia, and includes more than two dozen Disciples students (and others) in weekly fellowship dinners, Bible Study, and other events. This group is a solid community of interaction and sharing; a retreat toward the end of the semester and a leadership role in Young Adult Ministry in the Region help to keep young adults connected with the Church during their college careers. This year a student is serving as an intern to further advance the ministry with young adults throughout the Region. Patrick Chandler is the Committee Chair.

In the Christian Vocation Education Committee, we are convinced that God is still speaking! And people are still hearing! Believing this, the Christian Vocation Education Committee of the Christian College of Georgia is sponsoring "Voices" plus two other events next Winter. With the vision and leadership of Landa Simmons, this Committee is presenting an expanded event for youth and a new event for adults! These events are clear examples of the priority the Christian College of Georgia places on partnerships with and within the Region. Camp Christian Conference Center provides a valuable resource for Georgia Disciples, and Christian College leaders want to take full advantage of this resource as a partner with the Regional Ministry.

"Voices" is the new title for the clergy retreat, February 10-11. The keynote speaker will be the Reverend Douglas B. Skinner, Senior Minister, Northway Christian Church, Dallas, Texas. Doug, a new Vice-Moderator for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is a regular contributor to "Disciples World." His message you will not want to miss! And Steve Burton will once again lead us as we join our voices in singing and worship. Participants may register by mail or on-line, on or before January 15, 2004, for \$50.

"Directions" is a weekend retreat for High School Juniors and Seniors. Dave Seeley and Kelly Ingersoll will return from Kentucky to lead this event on March 12-14. Many youth already have this opportunity on their calendars; encouragement of youth (and those who influence them) to take advantage of this ministry can make a significant difference in the life of a young person and in the future of the Church.

"Choices" is a weekend retreat -- March 19-21 -- for adults who desire to explore answers to questions about careers, about their gifts, about challenges and opportunities for their future. This event will be directed and facilitated by Jim Brooks and Lynn Robinson. This is a new event -- timely and personal.

Education for Ministry continues its partnership with the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ in promoting the Theology Among the People curriculum for laity. This committee has recently conducted (and continues to conduct) surveys of clergy and congregation in order to assess the needs of churches in their adult education beyond Sunday School or Church School. The Committee has also reflected on conversation and resources within the General Church in order to determine methods by which Christian College of Georgia can be more involved in the preparation and nurture and education of clergy, both licensed and ordained. The College continues its financial support of the CPE Resident at Campbell Stone Christian Centers, and continues to provide necessary financial support of the Atlanta United Divinity Center. Janice Johnson Hume is the Chair of this Committee.

Finally, the Christian College of Georgia leadership continues to seek and discover ways in which clergy, laity, leaders and congregations in the Region can benefit from its ministry of education, through both active programming and consulting, and passive availability of resources and referrals. Through the sound stewardship of its financial resources and the motivation and mobilization of leadership in the Church, Christian College of Georgia occupies a unique role among Disciples institutions and is a valuable resource for Disciples in Georgia.

Funding of all programs, personnel and activities of the Christian College of Georgia is from interest (Interest Only) on an Endowment which is invested through the Christian Church Foundation, Salomon Smith Barney, and a Note financing a ministry of Campbell-Stone Christian Centers. In addition, the college benefits from occasional gifts of individuals within the Region. The approximate value of the endowment is \$2.2 Million, providing for an operating budget of approximately \$160,000 per year..

The Trustees Nominated for Service for the next four years, beginning January 1, 2004, are as follows:

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