



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF STEWARDS FOR

WEEK OF COMPASSION

Spring 2020

Submitted by Vy Nguyen

Mission: As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

Vision: A world where God's people transform suffering into hope

Core Values:

- *CONNECTION*
Partner with individuals, congregations, and organizations to serve the needs of the world
- *INTEGRITY*
Honor the commitment to faithful stewardship, ensuring gifts entrusted to Week of Compassion are making the most impact
- *ACCOMPANIMENT*
Embody God's grace by committing to a long-term presence with communities in need

Introductions

COVID-19 continues to have a profound impact on Week of Compassion's partners and the work they do around the world. This pandemic has already caused setbacks to this work. Some of the sustainable development projects that the board provided grants in the fall are either on hold or are being delayed because of restrictions that are in place in some of the countries. The current crisis and the continued rise in infection presents challenges in the areas of refugee, relief, and development as the work requires physical presence, such as delivering food and providing education to children in emergency places. Week of Compassion's partners have a core practice of "Do No Harm" and take this current emergency situation seriously as to not spread the virus when providing relief in vulnerable communities.

Many partners are expecting the infections and death toll to continue to grow as more cases are confirmed. The pandemic is expected to be worse this fall as many countries begin opening up their shelter-in-place restrictions in the near future. Many of Week of Compassion's global partners are preparing for this second wave of infection and are strategizing a long-term response. The ways in which Week of Compassion responds to disasters and provides relief will be different until a vaccine is found, and that will take anywhere from 16 to 18 months and possibly more. The current state that the world is in now, where many people are working from home and sheltering in place, will be the new norm for a while.

Over the last several months, Week of Compassion staff have been in daily contact with partners to develop a long-term strategy to respond to many of these communities that are impacted. None of the partners have ever been in a situation where an emergency would affect every corner of the globe, making the coordinated efforts and strategizing together even more crucial.

Week of Compassion responses have varied, both domestically and internationally. In coordination with NBA, Week of Compassion decided to focus allocated resources on providing economic relief to households that would fall through the cracks of federal assistance programs. Within 48 hours of making the application live, Week of Compassion approved over \$100,000 in Household Solidarity Grants for Income Loss. In total, 242 households from 41 congregations across 14 Regions received solidarity grants. The majority of these congregations are part of the racial ethnic ministries of the Disciples: 27 Obra Hispana, 10 NAPAD, and 2 Convocation. Additionally, Week of Compassion has provided limited solidarity grants for short-term congregational relief efforts while encouraging more established ministries to apply for NBA COVID-19 Relief Grants. Internationally, Week of Compassion has supported a few programs in the Middle East and Haiti as partners work with refugees to provide relief. Week of Compassion will provide a proposal to this board that will include a clearer response to the next phase of these efforts and will involve significant funds for domestic and international support.

Internally, Week of Compassion was already set up to work remotely from home, as the staff were deployed and working remotely even before this pandemic began. Staff continues to utilize Zoom and Skype for meetings, scheduling of which has seen a significant increase during this time. In some ways, many of these video meetings have allowed a greater sense of connectedness with global partners and churches. Since March, staff travel has been put on hold for the unforeseeable future. There is currently no timeline for when staff will be able to travel again, but Week of Compassion is in conversation with partners and is being very cautious in regard to making any decisions on when to travel again. Week of Compassion's priorities during this time are to continue to stay in contact with churches and regions when they are impacted by disasters and in communication with global partners to work together to respond to COVID-19 and other natural disasters.

This pandemic, in many ways, is helping Week of Compassion to rethink how it will do its work and how to support and accompany the partners as they walk alongside communities during this time. No doubt, things will be different for the next several months to 18 months, and beyond that timeline, things will not return to the way life was before this crisis. It is important that this ministry continues to be engaged with partners and listen to the issues as the nature of relief, refugee and development work is changing. By historical precedent, whenever there is a global conflict, vulnerable communities get impacted most and often do not survive. It is more important now for us to make sure Week of Compassion continues to lean on the long history of partnership to help lift up the voices of people who desperately need the world to hear. Week of Compassion's many partners are helping bring attention to the voices of young children, women, and refugees to help provide accompaniment for the long haul. The work of Week of Compassion is crucial, allowing the most vulnerable to tell their stories and be heard to promote a world of social, economic, cultural, and political opportunities where all can thrive. The work and decisions of this board will be especially important in this unique and weighty context.

Financial

Week of Compassion finished 2019 with 4.02% above the budget for undesignated income (totaling \$2.2 million in unrestricted gift) and 1.63% compared to prior year income. Designated giving was down by 7.5% (\$48,935) compared to prior year 2018 (a total of \$600k in restricted gift). The ministry added an additional \$343,443 into the reserve, totaling \$1.8 million at the end of 2019. Week of Compassion ended the year strong, and the increase to the reserve will enable this ministry to draw on the reserve to respond to COVID-19.

Year to date, at the end of April 2020, Week of Compassion is in line with the budget with a slight increase of 1.89% compared to budget and -.81% compared to prior year. At this time, it is difficult to fully know what the budget will look like for the rest of the year, but there is anticipation of finishing the

year with a slight decrease due to the current pandemic. At this time, Week of Compassion does not plan to reduce any of the program support to partners for 2020. Program expenses, especially in the area of staff travel, will see a significant decrease that, hopefully, will help Week of Compassion end the year with not too much loss. The biggest financial concern will be the 2021 budget, anticipating a bigger decrease in the overall unrestricted income. Most partners are preparing between 20-40% reduction in their 2021 budget and are anticipating ministries such as Week of Compassion to reduce their overall financial support because of the economic situation. The staff will monitor the income closely for the next few months and will plan accordingly.

At this meeting, Week of Compassion will have a proposal for the board to consider on a reserve policy. Currently, Week of Compassion has enough to operate for four years, and the current pandemic calls for us to respond with as many resources as possible while also maintaining a responsible balance in the reserve. Having this policy will help the board and staff to make good decisions and to protect this ministry for the next 18 months should there be a significant decrease in giving.

Refugee and Immigration

While COVID-19 poses a significant threat to everyone, refugees and migrants – both in the United States and around the world – are among the most vulnerable and at greatest risk of threats to life. The realities of migration and displacement mean that COVID-19 poses specific risks to the health, economic survival, and physical safety and well-being of those migrants and refugees living in the most vulnerable settings.

As of April 20, more than 48,000 mobility restrictions have been implemented worldwide since the pandemic began. These include full or partial closure of more than 2,400 border crossings, more than 1,100 new visa requirements, and nearly 300 nationality-based entry restrictions (per IOM statistics). Already, these have significantly narrowed paths to safety for persons fleeing violence and persecution, and have trapped migrants in situations where they have no way to support themselves and little or no access to essential services. Organized xenophobia increases the risk that new restrictions, in one form or another, last longer than the pandemic itself.

UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration issued a joint memo on March 17, 2020, informing the world of their decision to suspend refugee departure for resettlement destinations. Shortly thereafter, the State Department notified domestic agencies of their decision to operationalize the UNHCR/IOM memo and stop all but a few emergency cases from moving forward. As of April 15, 2020, 7,409 refugees (41% of 18,000) and 8,115 SIVs (62% of 13,000) have arrived through the USRAP in FY 2020. Currently, many resettlement agencies, including CWS, are keeping an eye out for the

reopening of airports and airlines coming back online with additional flights -- coinciding with the slowdown of new infections and additional screening available – before the arrivals continue.

Sharon Stanley-Rea at Refugee and Immigration Ministries at Disciples Home Missions continues to advocate for refugees and works closely with many Week of Compassion partners, including CWS. Please read her detailed report and the important ways in which she is engaging with Disciples and refugee resettlement offices. At the last meeting of this board in Ft. Worth the board discussed and recommended that the Executive Director of WOC and the President of DHM continue an ongoing conversation about the possibility of moving the Refugee and Immigration Ministries office into Week of Compassion. This exploration happened, and it resulted in a halt in the conversation for now. Perhaps down the road both offices will explore this possibility again.

Week of Compassion has been supporting an Immigration Response Specialist working with Obra Hispana, RIM, and the College of Regional Minister in doing advocacy work and lifting up immigration policies, especially DACA, with Disciples churches. The program is different now due to COVID-19, but it continues to play an important role in educating and interacting with churches on various immigration issues. Earlier this year, Tana Liu-Beers, who had been serving as Legal Counsel for Immigration, left DHM. A new Legal Counsel, Natalie Teague, came on board earlier this year and continues to provide resources and counsel to many undocumented families, especially pastors.

Sustainable Development

Several programs Week of Compassion supported in 2019 for sustainable development projects, especially through CWS, have been slightly altered, delayed, or changed due to COVID-19. Week of Compassion is working with partners as they develop new plans or make changes to their original proposals so that the programs continue to have a positive impact on the communities they serve. In a few projects, partners have requested changing the program toward COVID-19 response to help with the current pandemic. At this point, Week of Compassion is suspending the sustainable development program for ecumenical partners during COVID-19. At this meeting, the board will receive proposals from DOM. The sustainable development program might resume for ecumenical partners this fall, depending on the situation with COVID-19 and what partners will be able to do. For the foreseeable future, most of Week of Compassion resources will go toward COVID-19 response.

Domestic Disaster Relief

COVID-19: While this pandemic presents unique challenges in scope, scale, and duration, Week of Compassion has been able to bring relevant relationships and experiences to bear in sharing information with the wider church, such as early briefings from FEMA and resources in trauma care. As part of a General Ministries Task Force convened by the General Minister and President, Week of Compassion

staff continue to promote collaboration across the church, lift up issues identified in staff interactions with local churches and partners, and to share information.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had an enormous impact on new and ongoing domestic disaster responses. In mid-March, Disciples Volunteering (in consultation with Week of Compassion) closed all active mission stations and discouraged all mission teams from traveling until further notice. Local partners have almost entirely ceased volunteer operations. LTRGs and other local agencies have been adapting processes to continue serving survivors insofar as they can do so safely (e.g. using small teams of contracted labor to complete exterior jobs or jobs in unoccupied houses). All grant deadlines for Week of Compassion LTRG Support and Unmet Needs grants have been extended accordingly.

Conversations are ongoing with DV and local partners about how to safely reopen mission sites for volunteers, with adaptations to group sizes, housing facilities, work site procedures, etc. In order to protect both volunteers and survivors, and because the households served are typically among the most vulnerable, Disciples Volunteering and Week of Compassion want to be especially cautious in resuming recovery work with volunteers. This work will resume in phases, beginning with local volunteers who will not require group housing.

Travel restrictions are preventing Caroline from making previously scheduled visits to ongoing recovery sites or to new response locations. Social distancing measures have also complicated the local relief efforts of Disciples congregations in disaster-affected areas, though churches are adapting to meet needs, such as New Covenant Christian Church in Nashville and FCC Chattanooga who responded to needs arising from spring tornadoes.

Ongoing Responses:

Hurricane Harvey (Aug. 2017): Long-term recovery is ongoing in Texas, though partnerships have shifted. Due to pastoral transition at FCC Texas City, Disciples Volunteering long-term volunteer availability, and operational changes at the local LTRG, Galveston County Recovers, the mission station in Texas City closed earlier this year. Week of Compassion continues to support recovery in Galveston County through a grant to Galveston County Recovers to extend the employment of their construction manager. Partnership also continues in Wharton County through a grant for the Wharton West End Initiative (see Fall 2019 report). A new partnership with the Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity has enabled support for home repairs and rebuilds in the Beaumont and Port Arthur areas.

Hurricane Irma, Florida (Sept. 2017): The primary avenue of response is still VIND (Volusia Interfaiths Networking in Disaster), housed at FCC Daytona. Partnership with the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, is still in development.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria, Puerto Rico (Sept. 2017): Home repairs continue through the Programa Edificuemos of the Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo). Program leaders and the Cabinet of the ICDCPR identified a need to shift some focus from home repairs to the repair of church buildings. Jose Molina shifted his work to support congregations, while Rafael Rivera Bidot took over program direction and volunteer coordination for the home repair program. This reallocation of staff time has worked well.

The leadership of ICDCPR was working on a program of training for pastors and lay leaders to address trauma and mental health needs from the hurricanes.

Additional grant support to New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) provided move-in support and emergency cash assistance for evacuees. Week of Compassion was one of only two funders still working with the NYDIS Unmet Needs Roundtable, despite more than two-hundred open cases in the program.

Carr Fire, Shasta County, CA (July/Aug 2018): The primary partners in Shasta County continue to be FCC Redding and the Community Recovery Team, where Week of Compassion has provided consultation, support for mission teams, and grant support for home repairs.

Hurricane Florence (Sept. 2018): Camp Caroline continues to host volunteer work teams in collaboration with the Pamlico County Disaster Recovery Coalition. In December, Week of Compassion and Disciples Volunteering, on behalf of the PCDRC applied for and received a grant through Lowe's and National VOAD totaling \$29,250 -- \$25,000 in Lowe's credit for the purchase of building materials and \$4,250 to offset costs at PCDRC for grant administration. Week of Compassion has also provided unmet needs grants direct client service to long-term recovery groups in Craven and Pender Counties.

Hurricane Michael (Oct. 2018): Partnership continues with the Bay County LTRG (Long-term Recovery Group).

Camp Fire, Butte County, CA (Nov. 2018): A fruitful meeting in December enhanced collaboration with the Camp Fire LTRG, especially through the unmet needs roundtable. 6-month reports and anecdotal responses from participants reflected positive reception and valuable impact of the Resilience Resources program launched by the Chico Ministerial Alliance. Due to a lack of follow-up communication by the program director, however, Week of Compassion has not committed any additional funds. FCC Paradise has been able to resume services at their building, and they have become a hub for supply distribution. Clean water access continues to be a challenge, and FCCP was working in December to install a water filtration system at the church as a source for clean water for residents.

Taylorville, IL tornado (Dec. 2018): Week of Compassion continues to support Davis Memorial Christian Church and Missions for Taylorville with staff consultation and unmet needs grants for home repair materials.

Midwest flooding (March and June 2019): Week of Compassion continues to provide informational resources to the Nebraska Region through NE VOAD and to support home repairs through unmet needs grants to county LTRGs.

Missouri Tornadoes (May 2019): FCC Jefferson City approved a plan to support the expansion of affordable housing in tornado affected areas through collaboration with Habitat for Humanity and a new non-profit organization that focuses on affordable rental housing. Week of Compassion and Disciples Volunteering are supporting these efforts with staff consultation and possible funding.

Ohio Tornadoes (May 2019): Collaboration continues to develop between Week of Compassion, Disciples Volunteering, Brethren Disaster Ministries, UCC Disaster Ministries, the Miami Valley LTRG, and local organizations that support affordable housing.

Oklahoma Flooding and Tornadoes (May 2019): FCC El Reno is the primary point of connection for supporting recovery efforts through the Canadian County LTRG. They are ready to host volunteer teams at the church. Week of Compassion is providing staff consultation and possible unmet needs grants.

Tropical Storm Imelda, Southeast TX (Sept. 2019): Habitat for Humanity of Jefferson County is the primary partner for long-term recovery support. Habitat was able to leverage a grant provided by Week of Compassion grant early in the recovery process to expand their Harvey Response operations to include Imelda-affected households and access additional funds for Imelda recovery.

New Responses:

Wildfires; CA (Oct/Nov 2019): Wildfires across California prompted extended power outages and caused damage in several communities. Week of Compassion provided solidarity grants for affected households. Several LTRGs with which Week of Compassion has relationship serve areas affected by new fires, and Week of Compassion has had conversations with those groups about extending their services to survivors of the 2019 fires.

Earthquakes; Puerto Rico (Dec./Jan. 2019-20): From late December 2019 through January 2020, the southwest part of Puerto Rico experienced a series of earthquakes of varying strength and severity. Among the most damaging were a 4.7 quake on Dec. 28, a 6.4 shock on Jan. 7, and a 5.2 quake on Jan. 15, with many, smaller tremors between. Working through Global Ministries and directly with the ICDCPR, Week of Compassion provided a grant to assist Disciples congregations in Ponce and Guayanilla that were offering shelter, food, basic medical services, and emotional and mental health services to displaced neighbors. Conversations are ongoing about how to incorporate the emotional, spiritual, and mental health needs arising from the earthquakes into the training and care being planned as part of the hurricane recovery program.

Flooding; Southeast and Mid-Atlantic (Feb. 2020): Severe storms and heavy rainfall caused flash flooding in multiple states. Richlands, VA was especially hard-hit, and Week of Compassion provided solidarity grants through First Christian Church. FCCR continues to be the point of contact for long-term recovery, supporting primarily through staff consultation.

Flooding; OR and WA (Feb. 2020): Heavy rains caused river flooding in northern Oregon and Southern Washington in early February. The worst impact for Disciples was in Pendleton, OR, where several members of First Christian Church had damage to their homes. Week of Compassion provided solidarity grants, helped connect the congregation with long-term recovery efforts, and will support long-term recovery through FCCP and Oregon VOAD.

Tornado, Nashville Metro (March 2020): On March 3, an outbreak of severe storms and tornadoes, including one EF3 tornado, caused damage across 3 counties in the Nashville area. Week of Compassion

provided solidarity grants to members at Community Christian Church and New Covenant Christian Church and connected with Woodmont Christian Church and the Nashville Food Project, as they provided early relief. Primary support has been through New Covenant Christian Church, who, though they had damage to the sanctuary, became a distribution hub for food and other supplies. Leaders in the congregation are connecting with community coalitions for long-term recovery, especially focusing on housing justice, affordable housing, and combating post-disaster gentrification. Week of Compassion will continue to work with NCCC, TN VOAD, other Disciples congregations for long-term recovery.

Flooding and Tornadoes; OH, PA, WV (March/April 2020): Week of Compassion provided solidarity grants for several congregations affected by severe storms in March and April. Long-term recovery involvement seems unlikely, as the damage is spread across many municipalities and unmet needs are being addressed locally.

Tornadoes/Severe Storms; LA, MS, TN (April 2020): Over Easter weekend severe storms across the Southeast spawned over 3 dozen tornadoes. The greatest impact to Disciples was in the Chattanooga, TN area. Week of Compassion has provided solidarity grants to households at First Christian Church and helped connect Ashland Terrace Christian Church with needed supplies immediately following the storms. Long-term recovery plans are still developing.

LONG-RANGE PROJECTS:

Disaster Recovery Support Initiative: Last fall, operation of DRSI shifted to the Domestic Disaster Program of Church World Service; integration of DRSI into the DDP has been fraught, and outside fundraising less successful than is necessary for the sustainability of the program.

Disaster Preparedness: This spring, Caroline has begun drafting a grant program for Regions and Racial-Ethnic Ministries to incentivize disaster preparedness. Timeline for rollout is uncertain, due to COVID-19. Additionally, two training workshops (scheduled to take place at the Sessions and It's Real events) have been cancelled. Staff have begun discussing other formats for promoting preparedness and offering training, specifically helping congregations build on lessons learned from social distancing and other COVID-19 responses.

Domestic Disaster Partnerships:

NVOAD: Caroline continues to serve as the chair of the Community Preparedness Committee for National VOAD. Membership in the network had tangible benefits (in addition to the relational capital involvement provides), with the Lowe's/National VOAD grant mentioned above.

CWS DHA Advisory Group: Caroline also continued to provide leadership to the DHA AG as Vice Chair and to the Domestic Disaster Program as part of the Steering Committee for the DRSI program.

Green Chalice: In December, Week of Compassion entered into a partnership with Green Chalice, including providing funding for the Minister for Green Chalice and working with Green Chalice to integrate Climate and Disaster Preparedness education and training. The shape of that partnership is changing, as many of the planned collaborations involved in-person trainings. Green Chalice is preparing

an application for the Lilly Foundation Vital Congregations Grant to extend the partnership and provide more one-on-one coaching for interested congregations to become Green (ideally Carbon Neutral) and Disaster Prepared.

Fundraising and Development

Since the end of 2019, 5 congregations have joined the Circle of Compassion. This includes 4 active churches and 1 legacy congregation that gifted part of the sale of their building. This brings the total number of churches in the Circle to 58. Week of Compassion also added several new individual/family endowments in the last two quarters, and received a significant end-of-life gift to establish a new fund. Since November 2019 Week of Compassion has received close to \$3 million toward endowment gifts to CCF, making that period one of the best in recent history for the Week of Compassion endowment.

For 2020 Week of Compassion had a goal of adding 10 new Circle of Compassion churches by July. While on track to meet that goal with several more churches in progress, much of development work is now on hold --or at least changing shape-- as congregations face new challenges of social distancing. The added financial burdens of this season may make it difficult for many churches to commit to such a significant gift right now. On a recent call, the development committee discussed using this season instead as an opportunity for relationship building, 'planting seeds' for future endowments and other kinds of engagement. Many pastors have recently commented that their congregations remain committed to supporting Week of Compassion, even as they face new challenges in their local community.

In addition to connecting with pastors of congregations, Week of Compassion is also maintaining contact with recurring donors and endowment supporters, sending thank you notes and keeping up on donor recognition. The staff want Week of Compassion's biggest supporters, especially endowment supporters, to know that their gifts mean more than ever during challenging times, and that their generosity enables Week of Compassion to plan ahead for the future while also meeting critical needs right now.

Looking ahead to next year's offering, Week of Compassion recognizes that churches may still be facing difficulties in February of 2021. In partnership with the One Great Hour of Sharing ecumenical group, Erin is developing next year's materials. The theme is "Let Love Flow," and will focus on global sustainable development projects, particularly related to WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene). The table discussed the need to possibly shift focus, knowing that COVID-19 will likely still be affecting communities at the time of the special offerings. However, the group ultimately decided to keep the theme that was already in progress-- maintaining a global focus, while also pointing to the ways in which that sustainable development work helps communities be more prepared for a crisis like this. Week of Compassion staff are also discussing how to make more of the materials easily accessible in digital form; moving more promotions online; and improving the ease of online giving, among other things. Having these conversations now while materials are in process will help the overall success of Week of Compassion in 2021, regardless of the circumstances.

The limitations on churches being able to physically meet will have an impact on how Week of Compassion does fundraising and outreach. Week of Compassion is exploring new digital platforms for donor engagement, including reviewing the online donation mechanism to make sure it's extremely

user-friendly and engaging and exploring revisiting text-to-give to help churches feel connected when they receive offerings for Week of Compassion in the context of online or hybrid worship. Churches won't be the same after this, and finding new ways to stay engaged with congregations is crucial to Week of Compassion's ability to raise funds and carry out the mission.

Communications and Marketing

With the recent evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, Week of Compassion communications took on new focus. The primary goal in the early days of the crisis was to distill and share accurate information that would be useful for congregations in responding to the new challenges. In partnership with other General Ministries and the Office of the General Minister and President, staff worked to cultivate a general information and resource landing page that would house clear and concise information. This page is continually monitored and updated.

As the situation evolves, Week of Compassion remains committed to maintaining focus on the primary mission. Erin has worked to plan and develop social media content and regular email updates that continue to highlight the scope of Week of Compassion's work while also acknowledging the new challenges to that work created by the pandemic. Public communications have also shared the ways in which Week of Compassion is responding to needs emerging from the pandemic, and making sure that congregations know what resources are available to them.

While resourcing local congregations, we also want to make it clear that Week of Compassion is committed to a global presence and response to this emergency, as well as other disasters that continue to occur. To that end, Erin has worked to learn and share the ways in which partners are adapting to the current challenges, while continuing ongoing projects. Maintaining this focus helps keep the mission strong, while also reminding congregations that they are part of a wider presence in the world that is active and changing lives on a global scale, beyond the current crisis. This hopeful message will potentially generate even more support for Week of Compassion in the long run.

Current social media reach is as follows:

Platform Followers Increase since fall 2019:

Platform	Total followers	Increase since fall 2019
Instagram	372	171
Twitter	2091	126
Facebook	7,630	431

The increase in Instagram followers is near Erin's goal for the year, which was to double the following in 2020. Growth of Facebook and Twitter audiences reflect goals met: the aim was to reach 2000 on Twitter, and 7500 on Facebook in 2020. Moving forward, social media benchmarks may center around

factors other than just number of followers, using Key Performance Indicators to measure overall reach and engagement.

Posts related to domestic disaster response continue to get the highest engagement. Top performing Facebook posts from the past 6 months include:

- October 29: post about California wildfires, with 86 shares; 825 post engagements; and a total reach of 5,347
- January 6: post about earthquakes in Puerto Rico, with 182 shares; 2504 post engagements; and a total reach of 10,662.
- February 10: post about flooding in Oregon, with 105 shares; 1,124 engagements; and a total post reach of 8,660.
- March 3: two separate posts about the tornadoes in Nashville, with a combined reach of nearly 13,000.

While posts about natural disasters drive much of the traffic, it is important to share posts that reflect the full scope of the mission of Week of Compassion. Erin continues to grow the overall platform and audience so that even smaller posts will reach a significant representation of the wider church.

A fall survey of Disciples, conducted by the Communicator's Forum (communications personnel from other general ministries) reflected similar engagement-- resources and updates from Week of Compassion related to natural disasters received the most positive responses. Multiple respondents indicated that they enjoy video materials and would like to see Week of Compassion produce more videos throughout the year. A recent email update containing a video greeting from the ED was also well received by church leaders on the Week of Compassion email list. With this feedback, staff is exploring other ways to produce and share video messages, especially now that churches have moved to online platforms for worship and anticipate online or hybrid forms of worship for many months to come.

Recent travels, before social distancing took effect, were mostly related to preaching for special offering. Between late January and early March, Erin visited and preached in 6 congregations--1 current and 5 potential Circle of Compassion congregations. These visits also included engagement with key donors as well as leaders from Circle of Compassion churches that were nearby. After Erin's visit to one Circle of Compassion congregation, individual donors from that church established a new family endowment. Erin also represented Week of Compassion at the Black Ministers Retreat.

Several events and speaking engagements have been canceled, including keynoting the Spring Disciples Women's conference for the Kentucky region. Erin is planning a clergywomen's delegation to Guatemala in September, pending safety of travel.

The challenges of COVID-19 have pushed Week of Compassion to be more innovative in finding new ways to communicate and connect. The staff are exploring how to make more resources digital for next year's special offering and continue to improve the reach across all platforms. Approaches that staff are learning and improving upon during this season will benefit the mission later, regardless of how long social distancing is in effect.