

**What we really want you to focus on is your vision for DHM, specifically as they relate to those three ministries that WOC supports (DV, RIM, and Legal Counsel).**

## **Vision**

**Disciples Home Missions (DHM)** is a collective of ministries working out of their particular passion giving witness to the life-changing love of God! **DHM** develops and strengthens partnerships as the “hands-on” General Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). DHM lives into the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all of God’s children and creation through (1) evangelism & congregational transformation; (2) Christian education & faith formation; (3) leadership development; (4) justice; and, (5) missions opportunities.

The vision of DHM is to connect people with the life-changing love of God. We live into the Gospel of Jesus Christ by accompanying and working with congregations, Regions and partners in strengthening and developing partnerships in core areas of (1) supporting congregational transformation; (2) resourcing leader development; (3) sustaining faith formation; (4) providing mission opportunities; and (5) advocating for justice for all of God’s children and creation. We are tagged as the “hands-on” general ministry and it is an awesome privilege to be in leadership with a collective of ministries integral to the life and witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada!

DHM is about ministry that draws on Christ-like Compassion to make Courageous Connections! We are committed to the Great Commandment to love God and neighbor as we love ourselves; and, the Great Commission to do our part to “go and teach all nations.”

**Let me emphasize that Disciples Home Missions (DHM) is a collective of ministries! These ministries** work out of their particular gifts, graces, passions and skills giving witness to the life-changing love of God in relationship with partners!

DV lives into the vision through its mission of shaping, supporting and sending Disciples volunteers. We are well positioned to continue and expand the work through collaborative ecumenical, Regional and congregational partnerships.

DV, led by Josh Baird, prepares and sends volunteers for disaster recovery. It continues to shape leaders through the Summer Intern program. DV plans to expand in efforts to support local volunteer efforts in collaboration with Regions. Josh excels in coordinating our volunteer witness efforts!

RIM lives into the vision through its mission of advocacy and witness for refugees and immigrants, which is particularly urgent in the face of the current governmental political climate. Case in point, I received this email in response to our October 16 staff meeting notice from Sharon Stanley Rea:

Hi, All—101419

I'll do my best to join in the end of this meeting, as the US Refugee Program is in a fight for its existence this week, as Congress returns to WA. and the Congressional Consultation will be held. We have an action and civil disobedience tomorrow (Tuesday), and then another airport action at National Airport on Wed. a.m. I'll call in if we hopefully get finished in time!

Needless to say, but I will say it for the record, she's very passionate!

Finally, Immigration Legal Counsel, in the person of Tana Liu-Beers, lives into the vision through the mission of offering a connection for Disciples to have representation to accompany immigrants through the challenging process to gain legal status in the United States. Its demanding work as it is; and, even more so, given the state of governmental affairs around refugees and immigration.

Please be advised that Tana is currently taking temporary partial medical leave from September 26 through November 7. She is recovering from a blood disorder. This time of rest and attention to her health will allow her to regain the strong

vitality needed for the passion she brings to her work. Immigration Legal Counsel has temporarily stopped the intake of new cases and among other things all non-essential work. Never the less, she is continuing to handle all current full representation casework.

God's compassion for people is at the heart of each of these integral ministries that through their mission connects people with the life-changing love of God. I am grateful that they are an integral part our witness as Christ's church through Disciples Home Missions!

**One of the things I would like for you to share is what does it mean for DHM to continue to do its work in the continued yearly decreased funding of DMF?**

DHM will have to be strategically collaborative in the conduct of its collective ministries with respect to our core areas of evangelism & congregational transformation; Christian Education and faith formation; leader development; justice; and missions.

**Does this mean some positions will get changed, reduced, or eliminated?**

Currently there are no plans in 2020 for changing, reducing, or eliminating positions as DHM has already gone through a right sizing through the previous administration. We are deliberative in making strategic partnerships and looking at ways to take corrective action to hone the ministries of DHM around its core areas: evangelism & congregational transformation; Christian Education and faith formation; leader development; justice; and missions.

**What are the priorities for those three programs moving forward?**

The three programs moving forward are integral to DHM and unique in what they offer – volunteerism; legal services and advocacy. We are creatively exploring expanding to collaborate in an effort to provide a greater witness around Climate Change and Creation Care while continuing vital partnerships and support

How do you envision the relationship between WoC and DHM in the future?

As integral partners among others in ministry aligned with the core values of leader development; evangelism & congregational transformation; faith formation and justice. WoC is a mission fund that seeks to fund work aligned with its vision and mission. DHM is a general ministry that with sufficient funding support provides the staff and coordinates the leaders engaged in ministries aligned the its core values. Woc is a mission fund. DHM is general ministry – distinct in that it operates/host a collective of ministries covering the arc of ministry. (Here is a summary listing of ministries for the record: children, men, women, youth, young adults, clergy, chaplains, evangelism, congregational transformation, Christian education and faith formation, Search and Call, Black Ministers Retreat, Disciples Farm Worker, Disciples Peace Fellowship, Leadership Initiative Team, Ministries Across Generations among the ones referenced being Green Chalice, RIM, DV and Immigration Legal Counsel

### **How can WOC best support you and DHM?**

Be in dialogue with me and seek the collective wisdom of the partners on ministry initiatives aligned with the core values of WoC and DHM

DHM will have to be strategically collaborative in the conduct of its collective ministries in the face of continued yearly decreased funding of DMF with respect to our core values of leader development; evangelism & congregational transformation; faith formation and justice.

There are no plans for eliminating positions as DHM has already gone through a right sizing through the previous administration. There is innovative thinking and visioning around working smarter as we are deliberative in making strategic partnerships in accomplishing our work.

What are the priorities for those three programs moving forward?

The three programs moving forward are integral to DHM and we are expanding to collaborate in an effort to provide a greater witness around Climate Change and Creation Care.

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A focus with developing momentum is supporting congregations and their leaders who have discerned their need to transform congregational life and find their future by:

Identifying congregations and their leaders who are committed to the care of creation and assist them to become Green Chalice congregations in partnership with Eco America and Blessed Tomorrow.

Green Chalice in collaboration with Eco-America's Blessed Tomorrow led a pre-assembly Clergy Retreat - Resilient Hearts Leaders and Communities for 40 clergy giving impetus around our commitment as a denomination to achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2030.