The Florida Disciples of Christ Regional Church
Regional Minister Candidate Profile and Position Overview

**FLORIDA DISCIPLES** are seeking an inspirational and charismatic Regional Minister to guide us into the future by providing leadership, wisdom, and resource management in the following areas:

- Offering pastoral care to all of our region’s ministers, chaplains, program directors, as well as our 76 congregations.
- Encouraging revitalization in congregations (spiritual growth as well as growth in ministry outreach and numbers of people) and planting new church starts.
- Facilitating communication within the region.
- Encouraging congregations to collaborate and share resources in a variety of ways.
- Working with congregations to enable and/or extend their digital ministry presence beyond the current congregational engagement.
- Continuing and expanding education in Boundaries Training, Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Training, and engaging in new Cultural/Individual Diversity Training for both ministers and lay-leaders.
- Continuing to build relationships among the beautiful diversity of African-American, Anglo, Haitian and Hispanic congregations that exist in our region.
  - Culturally, politically, and economically diverse congregations are one of our region’s greatest strengths—and one of our greatest challenges.
- Providing oversight to the regional office, staff, and finances.
- Bringing public awareness to the Florida Region, Disciples of Christ and its member congregations by addressing both public and digital media.

We are committed to following an imaginative leader who will help us find ways to be faithful to God’s call in today’s world. This individual will assist us in identifying new and creative ways to carry out regional ministry in the midst of familiar challenges such as declining membership, finances and concerns about denominational loyalty.

**While we, like most Disciples of Christ regions, have struggled to adapt to the well-documented challenges facing mainline churches, we also have much to celebrate. Thanks be to God for:**

- Our profitable Retreat at Silver Springs *(The Retreat is our brand for the Disciples Camp and Conference Center in Silver Springs, FL).*
  - *The Retreat* provides outstanding and affordable facilities for Disciples events, summer youth camps, and other non-Disciples activities.
o Rev. Mary Beth Harper is the Director of *The Retreat*, and lives on the property.
o To create a more mobile Regional Ministry, the Regional Office is also located at *The Retreat*.

- Florida Disciples are strong in lay leadership, with a dedicated core of people committed to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- As an example of the rich faith life that comes through celebrating God’s diversity, our congregations represent the full diversity of God’s creation. We have congregations that are predominantly African-American, Anglo, Haitian, and Hispanic. We also are blessed to have some that are multi-cultural and bi-lingual.
- Our vision for the Florida Region includes persons not afraid to worship God as they are; leaders who can sit at the table with persons with differing opinions and ideals and stay at the table. Our deepest desire for the church is her unity. That is our desire for church beyond the Christian Church (DOC) in Florida, but Florida is a good place to begin.

The Florida Disciples Regional Church is excited about exploring what God is calling us to be and do today and in the future. We are committed to supporting a Regional Minister who will call us into that conversation and encourage us to seek transformational change as we together envision plans for the future. We are dedicated to spiritual growth so that we can truly become a contributor in the “movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.” We know that this will be challenging, but we are committed to doing the difficult work our faith requires and Christ commands.