

THE NEW CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

www.gadisciples.org

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October 2006

157th Regional Assembly To Hear Dick Hamm

Under the theme "From a Divided World, to the Table, Transformed in Unity," the Regional Assembly for the Christian Church in Georgia will be held November 17 - 19 at Epworth By the Sea, St. Simon's Island, Georgia. The Assembly will feature worship, workshops, fellowship and renewal.

Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm, who is a congregational coach and consultant in transformation for the Columbia Partnership having previously served as a congregational pastor, Regional Minister and General Minister for the Disciples of Christ. In addition to the keynote addresses, Dr. Hamm will lead a workshop offered twice on Saturday afternoon entitled



"Great Expectations: the Assumptions That Are Killing Us."

Saturday morning Bible Study sessions will be lead by two ministers relatively new to Georgia: Rev. Katie Hayes from First Christian Church in Lawrenceville and Rev. Jim Crockett from First Christian Church in Glennville.

The Assembly is featuring a number of workshops. Workshops unless specified otherwise will be offered on Saturday afternoon and will have two time slots to enable people to attend as many as possible. Following our theme, the workshops are focused around a variety of areas of transformation in our lives.

Friday afternoon, Eugene Fischer from the Pension Fund of the Christian Church will offer a workshop for clergy.

Saturday workshops planned are: **Transforming Ourselves...**

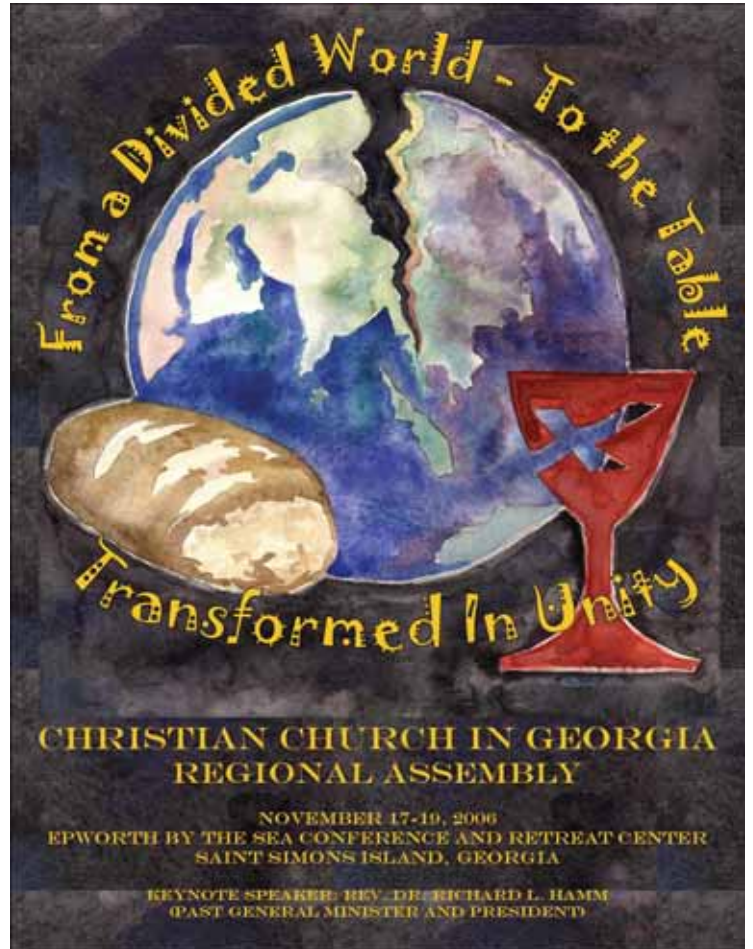
Personal Financial Planning

led by Lannie Jenkins, an elder and mortgage broker from Guyton

Spiritual Disciplines

led by Kathy McDowell, Associate Minister at First Christian Church of Atlanta in Tucker

— continued on page 3



IN THIS ISSUE:

Central Christian, Columbus	page 3
Regional Assembly Business.....	page 4
2007 Operational Budget.....	page 5
Church & Clergy News.....	page 6
Celebrating The Challenges	page 7

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 21

Camp Ministry Advisory Team
Camp Christian Conference
Center

November 4

Refugee Resettlement Project
Atlanta First Christian Church,
Tucker

November 12 & 19

Thanksgiving Special Day Offering

November 17

Regional Board Meeting
Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons

November 17-19

Regional Assembly
Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons

November 20, 23, 24

Regional Office Closed

December 17 & 24

Christmas Special Day Offering

December 22-January 2

Christmas Holiday-Regional Office
Closed

January 6

Youth Activity Council Meeting
Camp Christian Conference
Center

January 12-14

Youth-A-Palooza
Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons

January 15

MLK Day - Regional Office Closed

February 17

Regional Board Meeting
Regional Office, Macon

March 16-18



Michael's Memo *by Rev. Michael Weeks*

This will be my 6th regional assembly serving as your Associate Regional Minister. During the past six years our congregations and region have embraced much change as we have endeavored to follow God's mission. We live in the midst of a changing world—a world in which God needs strong ministries and congregations to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and reconcile the world. I believe, as do many of you, that the home of God's mission to the 21st century world should be among the many varied congregations and ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia.

God is calling our congregations to Bible study, reflection, conversation, discernment and partnership as we find new ways to participate in the great commission in a changing world. The way we have gone about our ministries in the past served us well, but many of the ways we have done church are outdated and in need of transformation so that we can share the gospel with new generations of seekers.

The theme for the 157th Regional Assembly of Georgia Disciples centers on transformation. I approach this gathering with enthusiasm and excitement. We have much to be proud of as a region. Many congregations are growing spiritually and numerically in our region, but we can be more. I know we can do more to heal our broken world. I hope you will join me in participating in our Regional Assembly.

Youth-A-Palooza
January 12-14, 2007
St. Simons Island, GA



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia
Regional Youth Assembly for Chi Rho & CYF youth
Registration details available online
or in your congregation

Women's Ministry News *by Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert*

Women's Gathering at Regional Assembly

You're invited to start your Saturday at Epworth with morning prayer and an inspirational message. Our pre-breakfast gathering will be at 7:30 a.m. (place to be announced); afterwards, we'll adjourn to breakfast together. Coffee and sweet rolls will be on hand to give you a boost!

Rev. Kathy McDowell, Associate Pastor at First Christian Church of Atlanta in Tucker GA, will bring the message. Rev. McDowell's ministry at First Christian includes worship, Christian education, pastoral care, and outreach. She also serves on the Regional Board and co-chairs the region's Reconciliation Commission. "Women are of special interest in my ministry," she says, "because all of the gifts of the people of God - including women's gifts - are needed by the church and the world. Too often, women are held back - or hold themselves back - from sharing these gifts." If you have met Rev. McDowell, you know she has many gifts for ministry; and her message will give us a good start to the day!

Rev. McDowell is a "second-career" minister, having been ordained in September 2003 after completing a Master of Divinity at Candler School of Theology. Prior to that she worked in non-profit public relations. Kathy and her husband, Dave, have been married for 27 years and have three sons. The older two, Matt and Andrew, are students at Georgia Tech; and the youngest, James, is a freshman in high school.

Wake up, get up, and show up, sisters! You'll be glad you did!

Annual Retreat at Norman Park

Check the website for a report and pictures, www.gadisciples.org.

Keep in Touch

Does the regional office have current information for your women's ministry president or contact person? Please send her name/address/phone/email to pam@gadisciples.org and betty@gadisciples.org!

CHURCH FOCUS:

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH, COLUMBUS

Going Where Christ Leads

7775 Moon Road
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by Rev. Byron Wells

Located in Columbus, Georgia, Central Christian Church has ministered to Disciples in Southwest Georgia for nearly 100 years. Established in 1909, the church has constantly sought to proclaim the Gospel of Christ while at the same time striving to be an active part of its community. The richness of its ministry has been hosted in a variety of buildings, including its current structure which was built in 1995.



Under the leadership of Rev. Tom Stephenson for the past 14 years, Central Christian has a calendar that is full and vibrant. On Sunday mornings the congregation gathers to worship and hear the Word of God proclaimed. Wednesday evenings find the members of Central Christian gathering for "Mid-Week Manna" which offers a smorgasbord of activities like studies, youth fellowship, and a hearty meal to meet the various spiritual needs of the church. The congregation is also beginning an informal worship service on the first Saturday of the month to broaden the worship opportunities for its members and guests. Recognizing a strong need for healing in our world, the congregation has implemented a series of healing worship services which many other congregations across our Region have used as a model for their own services. Seeking a deep relationship with God, the congregation is developing a mile-long Prayer Walk through the forests on its property as well.



Fellowship is also important at Central. The women have a strong CWF program and they are active in our Region's CWF as well, recently hosting one of the Spring Garden Parties. Besides participating in Christian under the leadership of Gladys Stephenson have undertaken mission trips for the last five years, many of which were coordinated with the Disciples Homeland Ministries Office of Disciples Volunteering. The latest mission trip took the youth to Nova Scotia. Lastly, the men of Central gather in a new group called, "Real Men," and they are looking forward to becoming more involved in activities in the Region.

Not being content to sit and accept the status quo of its ministry, the congregation of Central Christian is about to undergo a futuring of the church process. The congregation will be closely examining and defining its mission, ministries and methods and will seek to make recommendations to further strengthen its ministry as it approaches its centennial celebration. Blessed with such a rich history, Central is continuing to seek to go where their faith in Christ leads them.

157th Regional Assembly (cont'd from pg. 1)

Transforming Our Relationships...

Building Marriages

led by Brad and Carolynn Miller. Brad, our regional moderator, is senior minister at Brookhaven Christian Church and Carolynn is an ordained minister working at Emory University.

Transforming Our Churches...

Church Transformation by Dick Hamm

Creating the Environment for Joyful Stewardship

by Randy Johnson, Vice President of Christian Church Foundation

Technology in the Church

by Buddy Ray, lay leader at First Christian Church of Atlanta in Tucker and Regional Webmaster.

Transforming Our Communities...

Wellness Ministries

Jocelyn Wheaton & Gladys Stephenson. Jocelyn works for the Center for Disease Control in violence prevention and Gladys has a background in nursing and is active in leadership at Central Christian Church in Columbus.

Additionally, there are activities planned for Saturday afternoon for youth who are present. Registration information is available from your congregation or from the regional church website www.gadisciples.org. We look forward to seeing you at Regional Assembly.

Lay Ministry Training To Begin!

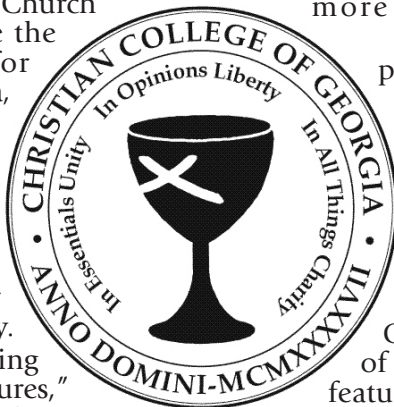
By Dr. Bob Harris

Christian College of Georgia, in cooperation with the Regional Commission on Ministry, has established the new "Institute for Christian Ministry" for licensed, lay and commissioned ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia. While the Institute is not the exclusive center for education for Licensed Ministers in Georgia, it offers a denomination-specific curriculum which, upon completion by the student, meets the standard requirements for the Order of the Ministry as affirmed by the Commission. The course of study is based on the recommendations of the "Nazareth Consensus," a document currently under consideration by the General Assembly.

The first course which is presently being offered is "Overview of the Hebrew Scriptures," taught by Dr. Burdett Wantland. Eight students are enrolled in this course. Dr. Bob Harris is scheduled to teach "Educational Ministry" later this Fall. Future courses include "Christian Spirituality and Spiritual Formation" with the Reverend Kathy McDowell, "Overview of the New Testament" with Dr. Wantland, and "Preaching: How to Prepare, Write, and Preach" with Dr. Fred Craddock. A total of fourteen courses, including "Clergy Ethics" with Bob Harris, comprise the curriculum; instructors are currently

being recruited, and courses are in the design phase. Most courses will be offered on Saturdays – three class days per course; some will require overnight stay for more intensive learning experiences.

Christian College is fortunate to be in partnership with Peachtree Christian Church, which provides excellent facilities and convenience for instruction. The Institute provides a three-year course of study, which will be repeated each three-year-cycle, in order that a student may enroll at any time. The standard cost for each course is only \$90.00 plus text books. Scholarships are available from Christian College of Georgia for members of Disciples churches in Georgia. A unique feature of the program is mentoring for the development of a "Ministry Portfolio" in which a student may demonstrate competency in ministry with a formal record of educational background and experiential learning. There is no charge for this consultation and service. For more information, either for prospective students or instructors, please contact Bob Harris at 770-815-9078, 1-800-235-2496 or on the web at www.ccofga.org.



Use our online bookstore: www.gadisciples.org and Camp Christian Conference Center will earn a commission on all your purchases. Please use our link for all your Amazon purchases.



We Need Our Messenger Angels!

Rev. Billie Hillis was the editor of the Christian Messenger for many years until her untimely death. That is why we dedicate the offering each year to her fine work. We would like to hear from many more of our readers who appreciate being a part of the Messenger ministry. Our goal for 2006 is \$10,000. When we underwrite this goal, we will provide a new year's worth of regional communications. Please mail your check to **The New Christian Messenger, 2370 Vineville Avenue, Macon, Ga. 31204**. Your generous gift will be much appreciated and is greatly needed.

Send your gift today!

Business Items for Regional Assembly:

- I. Budgets for CCCC and Regional Operations
- II. Election of people to fill vacancies (nominating report has not yet been received)
- III. Ratification of Regional Board recommendation about DMF distribution

That DMF funds given in Georgia during 2007 be distributed by the Christian Church in Georgia the following way:

Office of General Minister and President	6%
Ethnic Ministries	1%
General Ministries	28%
Colleges and Seminaries (Higher Education)	5%
Christian Church in Georgia	60%

CAMP CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER 2007 BUDGET SUMMARY

(Line item budget can be see on the regional website or by contacting the Regional Office)

Income

Program fees	90,000
Friendship Circle and Mortgage adoption	45,000
Other contributions	25,000
Support form CC in GA	18,000

Total income

178,000

Expense

Personnel	50,436
Mortgage payments	49,000
Food	20,000
Buildings Grounds and equipment	25,000
Utilities	23,900
Office costs and supplies	8,815

Total expenses

177,151

Net

849



Notes

- 1) this assumes that 6 months mortgage payments or more are adopted and other donations continue
- 2) this reflects the movement of 1/2 of the costs of Executive Director compensation to CCCC budget as part of personnel

2007 OPERATIONAL BUDGET SUMMARY

(The entire detailed budget can be found on the Regional website or by contacting the Regional Office.)

Income

Disciple Mission Fund	438,000
Other income from churches	82,000
Other income	11,200

Total Income

531,200

Expense

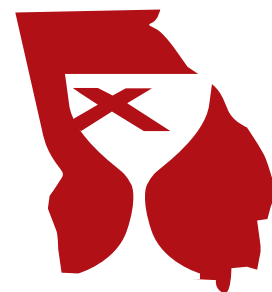
Disciple Ministries outside the Region (DMF)	175,200
Grants and assistance	2,000
Personnel costs	212,961
Fees & Assessments	14,000
Facility and Utility costs	5,152
Insurance	13,951
Communications (incl. Messenger)	23,870
Travel	25,700
Office Expenses (includes fees, etc.)	15,720
Interest	3,600
Depreciation	9,000
Subsidy to CCCC operating	18,000
Net Assets moved to restricted	10,000

Total Expense

539,154

Net

(7,954)



Notes

- 1) assumes an increase in DMF giving based upon last three years experience and specific request to congregations
- 2) all staff receive 3% raise (the first since 2004)
- 3) the percentage of DMF retained in Georgia is 60%
- 4) this assumes that the Woodland property is sold - if not, there will be approximately \$10,000 additional expense
- 5) this budget transfers 1/2 of Associate Minister compensation to CCCC budget
- 6) this budget assumes that significant funds will be raised to support the ministry at CCCC or else the operating budget subsidy will need to increase
- 7) this budget assumes an increase in the amount of the Christmas Special Offering to \$30,000 in 2007

Change Comes To Campbell-Stone *by Cliff Pepper*

Beginning in 1999, the Board and staff leadership of Campbell-Stone decided to pursue means to undertake major rehabilitation of their campus located in the Buckhead neighborhood of metro Atlanta. The community's studio apartments, some as small as 325 square feet, were obsolete. Kitchens in the apartments were outdated, the heating and air conditioning system needed a new chiller, and the electrical systems required major improvements. In April of this year, Campbell-Stone completely refinanced the property and in May began an \$11 million renovation project to reposition the forty-two year old community for many more years of service to Atlanta's older adults.

When completed in October 2007, the renovated community will have 342 apartments that have been freshly renovated and enlarged to meet the needs of our present and future residents. All of the kitchens are being replaced and enlarged with modern appliances, cabinets and counters. The electrical and air conditioning systems are being upgraded, and the entire building is receiving new windows, carpet and paint. The common areas of the community will be retained, including the Arts and Crafts room, community meeting spaces, a fitness center, computer lab, beauty parlor and gift shop.

An additional component of the transition of

Campbell-Stone will be through that of staff leadership. After seventeen years of service to Campbell-Stone Apartments in Buckhead, Pat Pepper, Executive Director, has decided to retire effective October 27, 2006. After realizing her personal goal to reposition the community for many more years to come, Pat felt the time was right to make this transition in her life. In response to Pat's retirement, the Campbell-Stone Board of Directors has hired Terry Parr to serve as Administrator for the Buckhead campus. The Board has also asked Cliff Pepper to serve as interim Executive Director for both Campbell-Stone Apartments and Campbell-Stone North Apartments (where he currently serves as Executive Director). Cliff will provide additional leadership for the organization during the management transition and revitalization of Campbell-Stone Apartments in Buckhead. The Board, staff and residents of Campbell-Stone thank Pat for her years of dedicated service and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Both Campbell-Stone communities are sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia. For additional information about retirement living at Campbell-Stone, please send a request to info@campbellstone.org or contact Cliff Pepper at 404-256-2612.

Church And Clergy News *by Dr. Charles Beadle*

What's Going On Around The Region

Rev. Dale Andrews has begun his ministry at **First Christian Church, Sandersville**. He comes to Georgia after a five-year term as pastor of the Rice Patch Christian Church in South Carolina. While in South Carolina Rev. Andrews taught Philosophy/Theology part-time at Springfield College. Formerly of New Mexico, Dale has worked as a therapist, counselor, and minister in Texas and New Mexico. He was also involved in TV and radio programs. Welcome Rev. Andrews to Georgia when you see him next month at Regional Assembly.

St. Andrews Christian Church in Macon will have a ceremony on October 22 to celebrate the transfer of standing of interim minister, Rev. Steve Womack.

Rev. Doug Job has begun a ministry with **Sandy Springs Christian Church**, as Interim Senior Minister.

New minister **Rev. Lynn White**, elders Sylvia and Gordon Hamlin, and others participated in a groundbreaking ceremony at **Eagle's Landing Christian Church (McDonough)** on October 2. The site for the new building is strategically located at the intersection of Highway 42 and Brannan Road and has great visibility. They hope to begin construction shortly and to be in the new building in a few months.

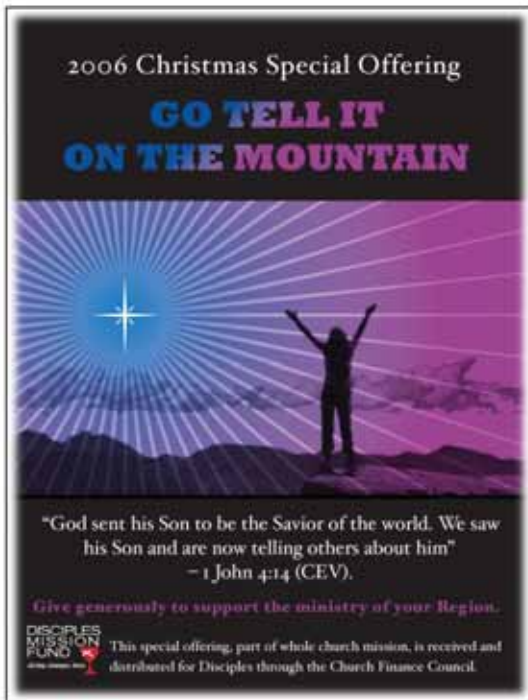
Construction of the new building at **Cherry Log Christian Church** has begun in earnest. Foundation work is underway after the site preparation was finished in September. Plans are to get the building under roof by winter. The church is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a DVD of interviews with members and a history book of the church.



Yes, Virginia, It's Time To Think About Christmas!

As we move toward Advent, to celebrate the birth and promised return of Jesus Christ, we give thanks for all we have been given. We gather for special services. We gather in homes for special parties. We reconnect with family and friends. We look for ways to celebrate the Good News that we have received.

Participate in the Special Christmas Offering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). 100% of the offering goes to the Regional church, its ministries and Camp Christian Conference Center and Camp Kicklighter. Let's say "thank you" for the work of the regional church!



Celebrating The Challenges!

By Rev. Brad Miller,
Regional Moderator

There is no doubt, these are challenging times for the church. Too often, the church is unwilling or unable to face the changes that the world has put right in front of us. There, I've said it. If we are to be faithful to our Great Commission to spread the Gospel and make Disciples of the world, we must change, too.

What was good enough for my parents and grandparents is good enough for me, and it ought to be good enough for succeeding generations, right? Oh, I wish that were true. We know how to be the church that met the needs of our grandparents' generations; but we struggle with how to meet the needs of the current generation, and we will continue that struggle if we are unwilling to be flexible.

I can tell you that the regional church is working hard to understand how we can best function as church in this confusing, post-modern world. We are hard at work getting things in order, financially and otherwise, so that we can move forward confidently and boldly, celebrating the challenge of being the church every step of the way. But we need your help.

What are the needs of your congregation? Where are you running into stumbling blocks? How can the regional church best work to efficiently and effectively partner with you in the cause of building Christ's church?

We will get there. We will celebrate along the way. We will stumble along the way. It starts with you. With all our support, we can help ministers, Ray and Michael and Betty help the church prosper. So let us know your ideas, your questions, your concerns. Let us know how you can increase your support - physically, prayerfully, and financially - to allow us to get on solid ground and move into the world, confident that we can take on any challenge we meet. We are, after all, the church. With God's help, we can do anything.

Adopt-a-Month Benefits Outdoor Ministries

Our annual regional outdoor ministries fund raising campaign is underway. Camper families, friends, and dedicated donors are supporting the Friendship Circle with gifts that make ministry happen at our camps and conference center. You can send a gift to our regional office (in the note write: Friendship Circle) or you may make gifts online through the regional website.

The Camp Christian Adopt a Month campaign is just getting started. Already members of Sandy Springs Christian Church adopted September over the next three years. Their gifts will pay the mortgage and help with utilities. The regional board has been challenged to adopt the \$4,000 March mortgage payment. Gifts and pledges from the board and staff are coming in now. Several groups are looking at covering four more months. That leaves at least six more months available for

adoption. Contact the regional office if you would like to adopt a month or want to organize a group adoption.



Friendship Circle at Camp Balaam

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From Georgia's Regional Minister:



Dr. Ray Miles

This summer and fall a number of congregations have had to replace air conditioning systems. It seems that this was the year they just quit working. Here at the Regional Office we also are limping along with an air conditioning system that needs replacing. It also has reached its life span and has completely lost any effectiveness.

There are things which just wear out and don't work any more. Things need replacing. Sometimes the replacement is more efficient, more economical, or includes new technology. When we replace we want to get whatever is most "up to date."

That got me thinking about how many things in the church wear out. I'm not referring to boilers, roofs, sound systems or that kind of thing. I'm wondering about ministry and operational things that are not working any more. What in the church needs replacing or could be replaced with newer and more efficient models, more appropriate to where we are? It's an important question, so let me lead you a little bit further before I drop you on your own.

For some congregations it is the structure that needs to be replaced. To be the church in this coming century we need to be light on our feet, streamlined and flexible. That's the kind of world we live in. The church needs administrative forms that let us respond to the fast moving world which is changing rapidly every five or ten years. Most of our congregations are over structured.

What in the church needs replacing or could be replaced with newer and more efficient models, more appropriate to where we are?

One church has a constitution calling for 40 to 50 positions on the board when they barely have 60 in worship. Other congregations have a constitution and bylaws which restrict and hem them in by micromanaging the church. An advisor told me that

a constitution should say as little as possible so that the church can be flexible. The church of the 21st century needs permission giving and enabling structures rather than ones which bind us to what we once were.

For others the piece needing replacing is our worship. We have tried to nurse along a style and format that worked wonderfully 50 years ago but doesn't resonate with most of the population today. It just doesn't work for us any more.

There's bound to be other things in the church that aren't working. It's a valuable question for us to think about. What is not working? What needs replacing? What are we still trying to make work when it can no longer do the job? The air conditioner needs replacing but what else?