

May 8, 2025



To the Oklahoma Regional Executive Committee and Regional Board:

At the Oklahoma Regional Assembly on April 20, 2024, the Oklahoma Regional Minister Search Committee was formed and tasked with conducting a denomination-wide search for our next Regional Minister, following the retirement of Rev. Pamela Holt. We began this process with a series of 13 Listening Sessions held across the state, both virtually and in-person, as well as an online survey.

From these sessions eight key priorities emerged, guiding our search, evaluation, and discernment at every stage. We received applications from thirteen candidates serving in nine different Regions. After reviewing and ranking each candidate, we conducted video interviews with four individuals, ultimately inviting two for in-person interviews.

After much prayer, conversation, and thoughtful discernment, we are pleased to present Rev. Michael A. Davison, Jr. as our recommended candidate for the position of Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma.

Among all the candidates, we believe Rev. Davison most closely embodies the qualities and priorities identified by Oklahoma Disciples:

- A clear vision and passion for what Disciples can be and do in Oklahoma as followers of Jesus
- The ability, training, experience, and desire to assist congregations in revitalization and transformation
- Strong communication skills (internal, external, and interpersonal)
- A commitment to connecting congregations with ministry and mission resources
- A strong affiliation with and grounding in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with a desire to strengthen it as a Movement for Wholeness in the Oklahoma Region and beyond
- A focus on fostering connection and interaction among congregations and with the Region
- Ability to embrace the rich diversity present around the Tables of Oklahoma Disciple congregations

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**Regional Minister  
Search Committee**

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## Committee Recommendation

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- Possess the education, experience, and spiritual maturity necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of Regional Ministry

In his 15 years of service as Associate Regional Minister in Oklahoma, Rev. Davison has consistently demonstrated these qualities. And still, we are confident he will have even greater opportunities to utilize his capabilities as Regional Minister.

Some may assume that Rev. Davison's status as an internal candidate made this an easy choice. In fact, the opposite was often true. The Committee was committed to evaluating each candidate fairly and equally, solely on their merits and potential fit for our Region. Ultimately, Rev. Davison emerged as the best candidate for this moment in our shared life.

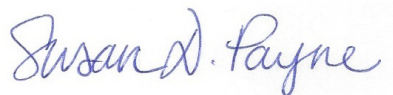
Rev. Davison has articulated a compelling vision of rejuvenation and rediscovery of our identity—one that aims to foster deeper community and stronger connections among our congregations and clergy. He is theologically grounded, articulate, informed, compassionate, and deeply committed to ministry in Oklahoma. His passion for youth and mentoring will be a valuable asset, particularly as we prepare to welcome a new member to the Regional staff.

Rev. Davison's understanding of the Region's needs aligns closely with what we heard in our listening sessions. He does not shy away from the challenges ahead but faces them with honesty, clarity, and a plan. His demeanor, discernment, approachability, and transparency make him an effective minister to ministers. He is respected across our Region and is well-positioned to build on the relationships he has already developed.

Rev. Davison also brings an admirable breadth of experience to this role: 24 years in Regional Ministry (15 in Oklahoma and 9 in Kentucky), along with 8 years of congregational ministry in six different Regions.

Therefore, we, the Oklahoma Regional Minister Search Committee, enthusiastically recommend the Rev. Michael A. Davison, Jr., for consideration by the Executive Committee, Regional Board, and ultimately, the Regional Assembly as our next Regional Minister.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Susan D. Payne

On behalf of The Oklahoma Regional Minister Search Committee