



Disciples ministries call new leadership

New presidents and operations vice president are called to lead established and new Disciples ministries designed to strengthen missionally centered, contextually relevant congregations

For Immediate Release

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Indianapolis IN, January 27, 2012 –The board of directors of Church Extension Financial and Missional Resources, Inc. (CEFMR) announces that Erick (Rick) D. Reisinger and Rev. Dr. Gilberto Collazo have accepted calls to serve as presidents of Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) and Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation, respectively, effective February 1, 2012. In addition, Rev. Janet L. Maykus has accepted the call to serve as executive vice president of Operations for CEFMR, effective March 1, 2012.

This announcement follows several years of intensive research, collaboration and planning to develop processes, services and ministries that will help Disciples of Christ congregations transform into more missionally centered and contextually relevant communities of faith. In November 2011, CEFMR directors approved a plan to establish Board of Church Extension of Disciples of Christ, Inc. dba Disciples Church Extension Fund (formerly Church Extension) and Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation, supported operationally by administrative general ministry Church Extension Financial and Missional Resources, Inc.



Rick Reisinger has served Church Extension (now Disciples Church Extension Fund) for more than 30 years in areas of finance and operations, service development, asset and liability management, congregational consulting, regional partnership, and most recently as vice president and treasurer. As president of DCEF, he will oversee the loan, investment and capital fundraising services that have been the primary focus of Church Extension for nearly 130 years. He brings to the ministry a deep understanding of the intricacies of church lending and building/capital planning, especially as they pertain to the missional lives of congregations. His experience and expertise in accounting, securities compliance, financial operations and his lifelong relationship with many aspects and entities within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are some of the many qualifications and attributes the executive search committee and board of directors cited as reasons for Rick's selection as president.

“In seeking a new leader for Disciples Church Extension Fund, “ says CEFMR board chair Dwayne L. Bell, Sr., “we were committed to calling a visionary leader who understands how to build upon the strengths of Disciples Church Extension Fund to help congregations become the best possible stewards of their financial and capital resources. We also sought a leader who is completely committed to excellence in stewardship of the resources entrusted to DCEF by Disciples investors and donors everywhere. We believe Rick is that individual.” He adds, “The board is highly confident that he will move the organization to even higher levels of quality service to Disciples and their congregations, so they can be in a better position to make a difference in their communities through their ministries.”

Rick earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and economics from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo. He has served on boards and planning committees of the Denominational Investment and Loan Administrators organization of church extension funds, United Church of Christ Insurance Board, World Convention of Churches of Christ and Wilshire Christian Church Foundation. He and his wife, Denise, have three children and are members of Southport Christian Church in Indianapolis.



In 2001, Gilberto Collazo came to Church Extension following 17 years of pastoral ministry in Puerto Rico, where he served as loan officer, liaison between the Christian Church in Puerto Rico and Church Extension, and the first Hispanic Church Extension board chair. As part of the New Church Ministry team, he co-led the wider church priority of planting 1,000 new churches by the year 2020. Most recently, as vice president for Congregational Services, Gilberto provided oversight to consulting teams, who serve congregations by providing high quality building and capital planning services that help them effectively house their ministries. He also served as CEFMR’s anti-racism officer.

In his new call, Gilberto brings experience and expertise in serving new and renewing congregations and a deep understanding of the needs of churches in their cultural context to the work of Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation, a network of ministries, regions, organizations, congregations, educational institutions, and clergy who provide for the stewardship of resources to call, form and support courageous leaders to implement congregational mission. Hope Partnership services include skill development events for new, transforming and emergent congregational leaders; coordination of peer learning groups; leader coaching; demographic and relocation services for congregations; ministry planning; and New Beginnings Assessment Service. Importantly, Hope Partnership will continue to carry forth the critical whole-church imperative of new church ministry through development of new church planters, coaches, visionaries and emerging church leaders.

Says Linda S. Gardner, executive search committee co-chair and former board chair, “We were committed to calling a leader for Hope Partnership, who models the collaboration and creativity needed to empower leaders to guide congregations into a new era of God’s mission where that mission is culturally relevant. Gilberto has that rare combination of bridge-building skills, vision and focus that will help Hope partners effectively identify, equip and support our church’s future leaders.” She adds, “In starting a new thing with Hope Partnership, the executive search committee

feels we have in Gilberto a leader who truly understands and lives what it means to step out boldly in new ways for the sake of God's mission."

Gilberto earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Business Administration Studies degrees from the University of Florida, a Master of Divinity from the Evangelical Seminary in Puerto Rico and his Doctorate of Ministry from Lexington Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Dagmar, have four children and attend Renacer Christian Church in Indianapolis.

Rick and Gilberto will report to the wider church as co-executives of CEFMR.

Rev. Janet Maykus comes to CEFMR with eight years of experience in higher education and 15 years in healthcare ministry, grant writing, leadership development and strategic planning, most recently as director of Church Relations for Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas; as principal of College of Pastoral Leaders at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas; and as director of Higher Education & Leadership Ministries Fellows for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In her new role as CEFMR executive vice president of Operations, Janet will manage the finance, administration and operations support teams, who will provide collaborative service and operational support to Disciples Church Extension Fund and Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation.



"The board is extremely pleased that Janet is joining us at this momentous time in our ministry," says board chair Dwayne Bell. "Her impressive ministerial and organizational management experience is exactly what CEFMR needs as she helps to develop the strategic and operational plans to implement the mission and vision for DCEF and Hope Partnership. As a skilled staff leader, we're confident she'll do an excellent job collaborating with the new presidents and their teams to provide the operations support required to carry out their very important work."

Janet earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Christian University and a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University. She has served on boards and committees for Austin Area Interfaith Ministries, Interfaith Clergy Advisory Committee for Planned Parenthood of Austin, Leadership Fort Worth cohort, East Austin Wellness Initiative, and NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, to name a few.