



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest

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To: All congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest

From: Rev. Dani Loving Cartwright, Regional Minister and President

Re: Your Church's Corporation

In the past several months, we have discovered difficulties in a variety of congregations as they were working on real estate issues, tax issues, and even issues of liability for employees and for accidents on the premises. What we have discovered is that many of our congregations do not have the congregation's corporate charter up-to-date. Some have expired, some have been forfeited for failing to file annual reports, some have been forfeited because the registered agent is no longer current.

It is important that every congregation have an up-to-date non-profit corporation. This is the entity that should own the church's property, the bank accounts, the deed to the land, and other assets. It is also the entity that represents your church in legal disputes. For example, if someone slips and falls on your church's steps, you want the corporation sued, not the individual members.

In conversation with the Region's attorney, James Blume (*pronounced "bloom" like the flower!*) we are pleased to offer you a "Corporate Update Plan" We have made a special arrangement with Mr. Blume to offer a low fixed price for a corporate check up and update service for congregations in the CCSW. For the fixed fee of \$300.00, the Region's Counsel will:

- determine if your charter is current
- correct any deficiencies, including filing of annual reports
- bring current the registered agent information
- verify you have current bylaws and annual minutes
- create any documents needed to bring your corporation completely current.

I did some research and discovered that most law firms charge \$200 per hour or more for this type of corporate work. We are grateful that our Regional counsel, Mr. Jim Blume, is willing to perform these services for a low fixed fee for our congregations as part of his representation of the Region. I do want you to know that his services to the Region in the past three years have been extremely helpful and we certainly commend his services to you!

To participate in this Corporate Update Plan, simply fill out the enclosed form and return it to Mr. Blume at the address shown, along with your congregation's check for \$300.00. Should you have questions, you can give me a call at (817) 926-4687.

I hope you will take advantage of this Corporate Update opportunity! It is a service that we can make available to you and it is well worth the expense – especially should you find yourselves in a place where your legal affairs are most important!

We are delighted to be in ministry with you!

