



*Mission West*

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In the Southwest

**Organizing Ourselves for Mission in the CEA, HPA and TRA: Mission West  
Being a Sign, Foretaste, and Instrument of God's Reign**

Late last year, Area Ministers Charlotte Hoppe (TRA/CEA) and Chuck Fisher (HPA), extended an invitation to explore ways we can better organize ourselves for God's mission in the West was extended to all Disciples in the Central, Hi Plains and Tres Rios Areas. On January 17 and 18 twenty-seven brave souls, representing each area, responded by gathering in Amarillo.

What did we want to accomplish in this meeting? Our goal was to create an exploratory working agreement (covenant) between the three areas that would begin no later than January 1, 2014. Following lengthy and often lively discussion, we came close to our goal. We agreed that we will have ready by March 1, a proposed agreement to be considered and voted on by each Area. Our hope is that, if each Area approves the covenant, to begin living together in community by September 1.

To create the covenant, two representatives of each Area present in the meeting were chosen as a Covenant Team. They are:

- Regina Erwin, FCC Odessa, TX – TRA [Convener]
- Patrick Crocker, FCC Alamogordo, NM - TRA
- Travis Stanley, FCC Abilene, TX – CEA
- David Hargrave, Brookhollow CC, Abilene, TX-CEA
- Randa Reeves, FCC Brownfield, TX - HPA
- Terry Ford, FCC Liberal, KS, HPA

Chuck and Charlotte will not be participating in the on-going Covenant Team discussion, but will be available as consultants if necessary.

The Covenant Team's charge is to prepare an exploratory working agreement (covenant) between the three areas to begin no later than January 1, 2014. The proposed covenant is to be ready for each Area's consideration by March 1.

The Thursday and Friday discussions led to a Provisional Mission Statement, which, along with New Day New Direction insights, will guide creation of the covenant:

*"To live out our ministry as a connecting community of communities seeking to serve Jesus Christ in the contexts in which God has placed us" (Adapted from CCSW New Day New Direction Ministry Plan).*

The group also suggested "Provisional Core Principles for Transformation":

- Youth ministry
- Heightened communication
- Horizontal Covenant Relationships...Sharing/collaboration
- Flexibility and Transparency
- Mission driven
- Caring for clergy

Go to our Mission West website, [www.missionwestccsw.org](http://www.missionwestccsw.org), for up-dates. Suggestions, comments critical or otherwise are welcome. Send your remarks to [hpa@ccsw.org](mailto:hpa@ccsw.org) and they will be forwarded to the Covenant Team.