



# Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am honored, on behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, to join with the Balm in Gilead in encouraging all faith communities to come together in prayer and witness during the **National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS**, March 6 – 12, 2011.

Since the 1980s, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been an advocate for education, prevention, testing, research and treatment in the ongoing fight against this disease that knows no gender, race, nationality, religion or economic status. Advocacy is currently being carried out in Disciples Home Missions AIDS Ministry Network through our emphasis on everyone being tested to help diminish the stigma and fear of testing. We also work through our Division of Overseas Ministries, in partnership with Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ, to educate children, teens and adults around the world about the disease, how to prevent it and how to live with HIV/AIDS or care for someone who has the disease.

The goal of, “the eradication of HIV/AIDS through prayer, education, advocacy and service,” as the Balm in Gilead states so effectively, requires the participation of all of us. Let us unite together in prayer, witness, compassion and deed.

Blessings,

Sharon E. Watkins  
General Minister and President