



Kansas MESSENGER

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)



Vol. 122, Ed. 4 : April 2019



The next General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is July 20-24, 2019 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Bible Studies

Get ready with Bible studies provided by fellow Disciples. The Bible studies are opportunities to reflect on the theme and scripture in preparation for the assembly, individually or in group study.

Read them online at www.ga.disciples.org/education/bible-studies, share the link with your study group, or print .

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Resolutions

One of many reasons Disciples attend General Assembly is to perform the worshipful work of the Church and to celebrate the . The General Assembly receives and acts upon proposed policy, programs, reports, resolutions, and other items in business sessions.

Read the 2019 General Assembly resolutions at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/j5pl5m10e66l75a/AADZVDC81m31frSvGVneeRKP?dl=0>

Mission Opportunities

There are always ways to participate in local mission at the General Assembly. Some missions will require registration. At General

Assembly, visit the Mission Volunteer Table to learn more and to sign up for projects.

Speakers

- **Rev. Terri Hord Owens**, General Minister & President
- **Rev. Nancy Gowler**, First Christian Church, Puyallup, Washington
- **Rev. Ruben del Pilar**, Community Worship Center, Gardena, California
- **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale**, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, Georgia
- **Rev. Mark Briley**, Harvard Ave Christian Church, Tulsa
- **Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II**, Poor People's Campaign

Register

Register and pay online at www.ga.disciples.org or print the forms to mail.

COMING EVENTS

KDW SpiritFest 2.0
April 6, 7, 13

Camp Mission Week
April 7-13

Clergy Retreat Pg. 3
April 23-25

Boundaries Training Pg. 3
May 3 or May 4

Disciples Connect & Equip Event
August 10 Pg. 3

Disciples Men Retreat Pg. 3
September 27-28

Disciples Men Odyssey
Experience Pg. 3
September 28-29

Appendix:

Thank You 2018 Donors

"I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES ..."

2019 EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

As Disciples, we all benefit from the fruit, the gifts, of our general ministries. These fruits are made possible through the connections and support that grow in collaboration with our regions and congregations.

Our general ministries provide critical resources to Disciples congregations, like

stewardship campaign materials, loans and financial services, and space for community building around shared values and traditions.

Our ministries can bear these fruits because of our shared root system. We are rooted in Christ. As one branch of our vine grows, we can share more fruit

with more people, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

This Holy Week let us give of our own fruits to tend to the whole. Our ministries grow through your tending, nurturing, and caring. Your generous gifts to the Easter offering can transform our shared work.

KBC & Reconciliation Grants

Kansas Bible Chair (KBC) Grant Applications & Reconciliation Grant Applications are due Tuesday, April 30. Download applications at www.kansasdisciples.org/grants. While there, check out all our grant opportunities. Email KBC and Reconciliations applications to scd@kansasdisciples.org.

PRAYER 4 PARTNERS

From the Region:

- **Herington First CC**
Pastor Steve Hansen
- **Columbus First CC**
Pastor John Warring
- **Cheney, Trinity United CC**
Interim Pastor Steve Bridwell
- **Hutchinson, First CC**
Pastor Bob Phipps
- **Garden City, First CC**
Interim Pastor Phillip Hayes

From Our Partner Regions:

- First Christian Church
Elwood, NE
- Western Oaks CC,
Oklahoma City, OK

From the General Church:

- General Church Ministry
leaders including:
 - Center for Faith and Giving
 - Communication Ministries
 - DOC Historical Society
 - Disciples Women
 - North American Pacific/
Asian Disciples
- Learn more at [disciples.org/
general-ministries](http://disciples.org/general-ministries).

From our Global Mission Partners in Middle East & Europe:

- **Kearstin Bailey,**
Evangelical Church of Greece
- **Maria & Nishan Bakalian,**
*Union of Armenian Evangelical
Churches in the Near East,
Lebanon*

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT

Regarding the shootings at New Zealand mosques

*By Terri Hord Owens
Posted on March 15, 2019*



Let people worship in peace. As Linda Sarsour said, "let people live."

We do not have the right to destroy because we disagree. Our nation must demonstrate its commitment to the freedom to live, and worship, for all, and be a model to the world. As long as vitriol and blind rhetoric demonize those who

are not like you, we are sowing to the whirlwind ... hate has no place here.

We are diminished as human beings when any one of us is diminished. This must be true on US soil, and we must advocate for such all around the world.

WEEK OF COMPASSION "WATER OF LIFE"

Rev. Bekah Krevens shares a reflection on a recent delegation to Myanmar.



Not long ago, I found myself preparing for a Week of Compassion delegation to Myanmar; our group would visit several sustainable development projects that are bringing new life to villages on the other side of the world.

A small but striking pagoda appeared on the horizon as we pulled into Ma Su. We were warmly greeted by local leaders who ushered us to a meeting room in their local monastery, situated on stilts like all of the buildings there. While we sipped tea and ate snacks that had been carefully prepared for us, different villagers took turns sharing stories about their lives.

Not long ago their entire village had been destroyed by a strong cyclone. That compounds the challenges they already face each year during the rainy season, when life is interrupted as dry ravines are transformed into swift tributaries. When the water rises, the village's

livelihood dries up—children are unable to get to school, families can't make it to the market, and no one is able access emergency medical care if the need arises.

These challenges can be alleviated by simple types of infrastructure that we often take for granted.

Thanks to your generosity, Week of Compassion was able to build a bridge and install water pumps to provide safe, clean water throughout the year. Access to safe clean water affects all aspects of life, and these projects allow the village to flourish in new ways. Each water pump benefits the health and wellness of the community, and frees time that can be spent for education and economic opportunities.

We walked through fields of okra to visit the bridge, and then back to the village where a handful of water pumps dotted the walking path.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to travel to Myanmar and even more grateful for the life-changing work of Week of Compassion.

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP SEASON

2019 Summer Camp Registration is open. Save \$40 on many camps by registering before April 30. The schedule and registration form are available for download at www.kansasdisciples.org/summer-camping-programs.

Plan to attend one of 15 camp experiences available for all ages. All camps are at Disciples Center at Tawakoni, near Augusta, unless

otherwise stated.

The all-inclusive camp fee includes lodging, food, and program expense including a nurse. All campers receive a theme T-Shirt and water bottle.

Register and pay online at www.kansasdisciples.org or print a registration form and mail to Topeka Regional Office.

Scholarships are available. Camp scholarship applications have been

extended to April 15.

Remember most churches will pay half of the registration fee. Check with your church office for details.

Directors have been selected and are actively recruiting. Volunteer applications available for download at www.kansasdisciples.org/summer-camping-programs.



DISCIPLES GMP TERRI HORD OWENS COMES TO KANSAS



The 2019 Clergy Retreat will feature General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens April 23-25 at Tawakoni.

Rev. Owens will give several presentations around the theme "Leading Through Points of Collision." Participants will learn more about managing differences in our churches and communities.

Take advantage of an opportunity to rest after the busy Easter holiday, and get acquainted with our General Minister and President.

The retreat fee of \$70 includes two nights lodging at the camp and four meals. If you prefer to stay elsewhere, the retreat fee is \$50. Register and pay online at www.kansasdisciples.org or print a registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka regional office.

TODD ADAMS KEYNOTES 2019 BOUNDARIES TRAINING

The 2019 Kansas Boundaries Training will be from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m on Friday, May 3, or Saturday, May 4, at Tawakoni. The same program is offered each day.



The Rev. Dr. Todd Adams, President and CEO of the Pension Fund will lead this seminar on Church and Clergy Financial Boundaries and Best Practices.

We welcome and encourage the presence of church treasurers, trustees, board chairs and other lay leaders in addition to clergy.

Cost: \$35.00 for Clergy, \$15 for Spouses and Lay Leaders.

Register and pay online or print a registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka Regional Office.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EVENTS

Kansas Disciples Men Fall Retreat September 27-28 Tawakoni

Kansas Disciples Men Odyssey Experience September 28-29 Tawakoni

Kansas Disciples Women Fall Retreat October 2-4; October 4-6 Tawakoni Register at www.kansasdisciples.org

KDYC Youth Conference November 8-10 Hutchison Conference Center Featuring Rev Virzola Law

DISCIPLES CONNECT & EQUIP

KANSAS REGIONAL GATHERING

In 2018, we introduced the Congregational Escape and MissionFest as a re-envisioning of the traditional regional assembly.

This year, we are taking it one step further by combining the proposed regional vision statement and our Kansas Leadership Center training into an

event designed to connect Kansas Disciples and equip them for the adaptive challenges faced by our churches.

Join us Saturday, August 10 at Tawakoni for a day that will connect, celebrate and express our challenges as we reimagine what it is to be church.

Age-appropriate programs

for children and youth are being planned. Possible activities include:

- Workshops
• Bouncy House
• Swimming
• Challenge Course
• Archery
• Food Court

The day will begin and end with worship together under the big tent.

NEW! THE CCK DONOR'S PORTAL—FOR RECURRING GIFTS

Consider setting up regional gifts on a recurring gift schedule using the new CCK Donors Portal.

With the Givers Portal, you have the convenience and flexibility to create and change recurring regional gifts to any fund or ministry.

You can also have secure online access to giving history over the previous 12 months.

Because the Donors Portal does store payment information, a login is always required to donate.

How?

- 1. Click on the Donors Portal at www.kansasdisciples.org
2. Follow on screen instructions to create login

Kansas Regional Office

Steve Martin, Regional Minister
Susan White, Executive Secretary
2914 SW MacVicar Ave.
Topeka 66611-1787
785-266-2914; 800-737-8130
Fax: 785-266-0174

Barb Runge, Disciples Women

South Central Satellite Office

Renee Bridwell, Regional Minister
Jessica Marston, Communications
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta 67010-8111
316-775-1236; Fax: 316-775-1455

Central & High Plains Satellite Office

Ken Marston, Regional Minister
Kathy Foster, Admin. Assistant
5230 Broadway Avenue
Great Bend 67530-3208
620-792-6490; Fax: 620-792-1268

Disciples Center at Tawakoni

8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta 67010-8111
316-775-1222

FEEDING THE HUNGRY ACROSS KANSAS

Churches across Kansas are reaching out to their communities to alleviate hunger. Maybe your congregation is considering offering something similar. Here are some of the ways that other churches do this.

Atchison FCC – In operation for over 14 years, the Atchison County Food Pantry is an ecumenical and community-based group, with volunteers from many different backgrounds. Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, people are welcome to receive food once a month.

Chanute FCC – God’s Pantry is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings. In 2018, they served more than 3500 people.

Coffeyville FCC – on the last Saturday of each

month, the church offers a free community breakfast. In January 89 guests were served.

Emporia FCC – in coordination with the Salvation Army and the First United Methodist Church, the church’s food pantry is open two days a week. Each family is given standard items including protein, vegetables, and carbohydrates. Patrons appreciate the roll of toilet paper included in each bag. Patrons may choose extra items when available. Annually, over 560 families are served.

Girard FCC – The church has lead the way to making the community food pantry. Open a few days each week, several local churches have joined forces

to make this vital ministry happen. the church hosts a pantry

Great Bend FCC — In addition to supporting the community food bank which provides meat, bread, and dairy items, the church has a small pantry of canned and dry goods for those in-between times and for transients.

Holton FCC – The church houses the local ministerial alliance’s Food Pantry.

Independence FCC – Serves a free community dinner every Tuesday night

Neodesha FCC – Serves a community breakfast on Sunday morning

Topeka FCC – Sack Lunch Ministry prepares 150 sack lunches that include a sandwich, a bag of chips, fruit and a granola bar. The

sack lunch items are donated, assembled, and distributed by church members to the Topeka Rescue Mission every Sunday.

Wichita Faith CC – Tuesday Food Pantry
Wichita, Hillside CC -- Volunteer food pantry serves 50-65 households a week. They work with the larger Wichita Food Bank program and receive non-perishables as well as fresh food. Church members also donate clothing, hygiene products, and even refurbished bikes.

We’re confident that this list is not comprehensive, and that more Disciples churches are feeding the hungry. Have your own twist on keeping our hungry fed? Share with us!

PEW AVAILABLE

Douglass First CC has a 10.5 foot pew available to an interested congregation. Contact the church office at 316-746-2221.



WARRING ORDINATION

Girard First Christian Church pastor Cristine Warring was ordained March 16 at Tawakoni. Phillips Seminary classmate Josh Bell brought the sermon and Regional Minister Ken Marston presided. Regional Minister Steve Martin took part in the local celebration hosted by the Girard congregation on March 17.



WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

From Topeka's "Doorstep" to the ends of the earth. The Noontimers small group at Topeka West Side Christian Church spent time Tuesday, March 12, sorting clothes at Doorstep. (bottom left)

Youth and J-Walkers group spent Sunday, March 10, volunteering at Ronald McDonald House. They completed a number of house-cleaning tasks and donated items for the house’s pantry. (bottom right)



IN TRANSITION:

Coffeyville Christian Church has called **Louie Celaya** as their part-time pastor. Louie has been active in prison ministry, youth ministry counseling and church planning and more. His wife Donna is a retired newspaper journalist.