



Kansas MESSENGER

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)



Vol. 123, Ed. 10: November 2019



IAS 2020: CHRISTIAN FAITH IN 21ST CENTURY

To be serious about Christian faith in the 21st century is to live self-consciously as a global citizen.

International Affairs Seminar (IAS) is designed to help juniors and seniors in high school experience what it means to live this reality. The seminar is intended for students who are active in a Disciples congregation.

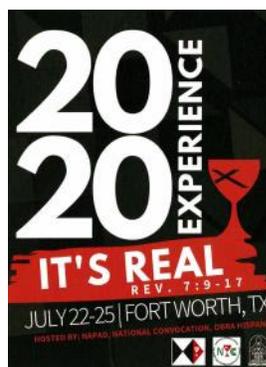
IAS 2020 happens Friday, March 13,

through Saturday, March 21. Steve Martin, Regional Minister, will serve as director/coordinator. Adult sponsors will reflect the communities from which the youth are enrolled.

Full information is available online at www.kansasdisciples.org. The fee is kept lower than actual cost by a generous grant from the Kansas Bible Chair.

For more information, contact Steve Martin at smartin@kansasdisciples.org or call 800-737-8130.

The ministries of Obra Hispana—our Disciples Hispanic congregations, NAPAD—our Pacific Asian congregations, and National Convocation—our African-American congregations, will come together to listen, learn and worship for a joint convocation July 22-25 at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas. The meeting will center on the theme "It's Real!", drawing from Rev. 7:9-17. The 2020 EXPERIENCE is not about an event, but about the way we are transformed in relationship and as the Church along the way, from the planning process, to the event, and to whatever comes after.



COMING EVENTS

KDYC Youth Convention
November 8-10

Camp Work Days Pg. 2
November 14-16

Art of Church Communication . . Pg. 3
Tuesdays in March

All About the Campers Training . .Pg. 3
March 27-28

KDW SpiritFest 2020 Pg. 3
April 18, 19 & May 2

IAS Trip 2020 Pg. 4
March 13-21

It's Real 2020 Experience Pg. 1
July 22-25

Tawakoni Gala
Tentative— Fall 2020

AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING — NOVEMBER 17 & 24



Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders. Your gift to

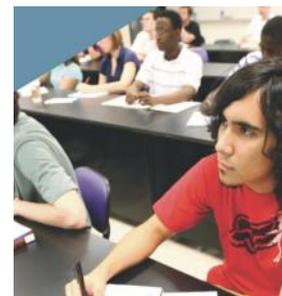
the Thanksgiving Special Offering supports the education of thousands of students at our 15 colleges and universities and our 7 seminaries and divinity houses.

This special offering supports everything from scholarships, to religious life offices, to faculty growth and development. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to

educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society.

By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you help our institutions invest in students as they prepare to become leaders. Your support is a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is a foundational part of the Disciples heritage.

Please give generously to this offering. You gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and it makes a difference in the world.



PRAYER 4 PARTNERS

From the Region:

- **Manhattan First CC**
Pastor Ben Hitzfeld
CE Director Ashley VanGilder
- **Independence First CC**
Pastor Mark Lyon
- **Haysville First CC**
Pastor Rusty Westerfield
- **Lebanon First CC**
Pastor Lance McDowell
- **Scott City First CC**
Pastor Rodney Hopper
Minister of Music Garee Geist-Smith

From the General Church:

- Pray for the church leaders who have gone before us.
- Pray for the Disciples institutions of higher learning. Your gifts to the thanksgiving special day offering supports future Disciples leaders.
- As we feast on turkey and all the trimmings, pray for those going hungry and/or homeless this holiday season. Give thanks for what you have and give to those who don't. See the Disciples Health and Social Services Ministries at nbacares.org/directory.

Submit articles for the December issue by

November 18

Send text and photos to messenger@kansasdiscalples.org
All articles are edited for clarity, conciseness, tone, and space.

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

BY RENEE BRIDWELL



*I want to live in a friendly world, a friendly world, a friendly world;
I want to live in the kind of world that's kind to folks like me.
If I run short of a cup of milk and my next door neighbor's in,
I want to know that she won't say no to the color of my skin,
Or the place I worship in,
Or the town from which I came,
Or my great-grandfather's name.
I want to live in a friendly world, ...
If there's a job or a place to live or a school of medicine,
I want to know that they won't say no to the color of my skin, ...*

I learned the song in children's Sunday School. Only snippets of Sunday School lessons remain -- the Zacchaeus story, Jesus blessing the children -- remembered, I think, because we children could find ourselves in the story.

But the songs -- the songs stuck. Their message took root and still bears fruit.

As a child, I didn't understand the hazard of having an ethnic name, or the wrong religion or being from the wrong place. But I did understand a world of kindness. I noticed adults whose words and actions didn't measure up to what I learned from the Bible or from the hymnody that filled my young world. Other adults explained that Sunday School songs and Bible teachings were

"well and good for church, but didn't apply in the real world" where life is more complicated. They said that the Bible is just unrealistic.

Fortunately, the Christian teachings went deeper than the attempts to uproot them. Some of the adults that populated my young world believed in the Bible's message. Because the gospel was real to them, it was real to me.

I still believe that the Bible is more real than 'the real world.' It fully describes humanity, faults and all, and still describes God's vision for humanity living together in peace and wholeness.

I still long for the friendly world of the song; that hope drives my ministry. I pray that you teach this Christian vision in your church, and that you stand behind it.

TAWAKONI FALL WORK DAYS



Join us for Tawakoni fall camp workdays Thursday, Nov. 14, through Saturday, Nov. 16. Work begins at 10 a.m. on

Thursday and continues through Saturday afternoon.

Overnight lodging and meals are provided. Registration is required so

that meals and material can be purchased before work begins. Call Vern Failor, 785-231-3960.

A number of camp upgrades are planned including preparing the new shower building for inspection, preparing the camp for winter, and finishing a few projects in the caretaker house.

Kansas Regional Office

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620-792-6490; Fax: 620-792-1268

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Communication Office
[Renee Bridwell](#), Regional Minister
[Jessica Marston](#), Communications
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Augusta 67010-8111
316-775-1236

Disciples Center at Tawakoni

[Sid Rutland](#), Camp Manager
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta 67010-8111
316-775-1222

THANK YOU, KANSAS DISCIPLES!



The quilt pictured here is a beautiful reminder of my ministry with you for these last 12 years. The shirts are from summer camp (especially Grand Camp!), a Habitat for Humanity project with women from Pine Valley and Riverside, a district mission trip to Joplin, service as a Trustee of Phillips Seminary, and more—and each one triggers more fond thoughts of time spent with you.

You will remain forever a part of me, and I pray that you and all the region

continue to enjoy the blessings of God as together, you connect with others and equip yourselves and others for effective ministry in God’s Kin-dom.

SEEKING CAMP LEADERS FOR 2020

If you are a current camp leader or want to be one, come to the “It’s About the Campers!” leadership training!

The training will be March 27-28 at Tawakoni. There’s something here for everyone! The program will begin with supper at 6 p.m. on Friday and will close by 2 p.m. on Saturday. Bring bedding and spend the night in one of the cabins.

The Camp Program Team is bringing together current and future camp adults and those who are curious about where they might fit into the program, to share their wisdom and learn from others about best practices in various leadership roles. Learn how the pieces fit together and how each person contributes to the whole camp experience.

Rev. Greg Rea will keynote on Trust-Based leadership. Greg has done much research regarding challenged youth, and he brings insightful and helpful information.

Register early and save big! Register by Tuesday, March 10, and pay \$25. Beginning March 11, the registration fee is \$45, still a great deal!



BOOK A CABIN AT TAWAKONI TODAY!

A few summer dates are still available, including both weekends and week days—and they are filling fast. Book your family reunion, corporate picnic, crafting retreat or other event now!

Call Sid at 316-775-1222 or Jessica at 316-775-1236 for availability.

2020 SPIRITFESTS:

April 18, 19, & May 2. Locations will be published at a later date.

ART OF CHURCH COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS

Tuesday mornings in March. Topics are:

- ⇒ Your Church Story in Photographs
- ⇒ Your Church Live
- ⇒ The Community Connection
- ⇒ The Welcome Center
- ⇒ Texting in Church

Read more at kansasdisciples.org

OXFORD’S BLANKET MISSION REACHES MILESTONE



Several ladies from Oxford Christian Church meet once a month since 2012 to make blankets. These small quilts, afghans, and fleece blankets are donated to hospitals, children’s homes and women’s shelters.

This mission has recently crossed the 1050 blanket

milestone with the blankets pictured above. Pictured are members Juanita Green, Janice Bain, and Oleta Turner.

NEW KDM SERVICE PROJECT

Kansas Disciples Men have adopted Wreaths Across America as a service project. Programs will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 30 cemeteries in Kansas.

People may participate by (1) sponsoring wreaths at \$15; (2) attending the program at a nearby cemetery; (3) helping place wreaths.

Event details are available at www.wreathscrossamerica.org, where you may also purchase wreaths for a participating cemetery of your choice. KDM Cabinet member Ken Schuette, 316-722-9566 can answer your questions.

E-Mail: kmlschuette327@gmail.com

BECOME A DISCIPLES PEACE INTERN



Disciples Peace Fellowship will begin accepting Applications for **2020 Peace Interns** on Friday, Nov. 15.

For four decades DPF Peace Interns have been serving the wider church by spending a summer traveling from Disciples Church Camp to Disciples Church Camp as advocates for Peace and Justice. The DPF Peace Internship is a life-changing 12-week, paid internship with a \$2500 stipend for anyone age 21 and over.

It begins the last week in May with a weeklong training event in Indianapolis followed by 10 weeks on the road at

weeklong Church Camps and Conferences all over the United States and Canada.

As an added bonus, next year's Peace Interns will be attending "It's Real," the first ever joint event of the National Convocation, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples and Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries hosted at Texas Christian University!

The Internship concludes in early August with a weeklong closing retreat where they will debrief the experience, recuperate from the summer, and begin thinking about what's next for our justice and peace advocates. Learn more about the [Peace Internship](#) at the DPF Website.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND, EYES TO THE HEAVENS

The Upper Midwest region invites pastors to take part in Ministers' Institute 2020, held January 27-29 at Christian Conference Center, Newton, Iowa.

This year's theme is "Boots on the Ground, Eyes to the Heavens: Dismantling White Supremacy in Our Church." Among other topics, this event will offer at least four hours of Anti-Racism training.

Visit their website for more information: docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/MI2020



DISCIPLES MEN SESSIONS 2020

Join Disciples Men from across the denomination for Sessions 2020 Friday—Sunday, July 10—12, on the Texas Christian University campus in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Every four years, Disciples Men gather to pray, teach, support, fellowship and care for one another so that they may return home impassioned and uplifted; moved by the Holy Spirit; ready to lift their

churches and their ministries through the grace, power and wisdom of Jesus Christ.

Registration fee is \$295 for those under age 30 and \$395 for those 30 and over. Save \$70 when you register before May 1. *Scholarship support (1/2 of the registration fee) for Kansas Disciples Men to attend Sessions 2020 may be available; contact your regional minister to inquire.*

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Your gift can benefit the church for years to come. For information about bequests, contact the Christian Church Foundation at 1-800-668-8016, by email at jcullumb@ccf.disciples.org or on the web at www.disciples.org/cccf.

PRE-ORDER 'JUST WOMEN' BIBLE STUDY

Just Women is now accepting pre-orders for the 2020 Just Women Bible study! Pre-order by Dec. 1 and pay no shipping.

The 2020 study features reflections from authors including Rev. Shannon Dycus, Rev. Dr. Janice Johnson Hume, Rev. Karen Thomas Smith, and Rev. Angela Whitenhill.

Each Bible study is \$15 and you can order your copy online or by mailing your check (made payable to Just Women) to: Just Women, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

The theme for the 2020 Just Women Bible study will be Healing & Wholeness.

DISCIPLES MISSION FUND SUPPORTS WORK OF WIDER CHURCH

Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) brings the whole Church together, connecting us to the life-giving and life-saving work we have been called to do. It also simplifies giving for congregations and individuals, providing a way to support the entire Church at once. DMF-funded regional and general ministries offer opportunities for Disciples to serve as missionaries, attend college or seminary, advocate for the least of these, and so much more.

When you make a gift to Disciples Mission Fund, you share God's love from your doorsteps to the ends of the Earth.