



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

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KBC AND RECONCILIATION GRANT DEADLINE APPROACHING



The Christian Church in Kansas has a variety of grants that are available each year. The deadline for two of those grants -- the Kansas Bible Chair and Reconciliation Grants -- is fast approaching.

The Kansas Bible Chair (KBC) offers significant funds to provide quality education and spiritual formation for Kansas Disciples. Many events are subsidized by KBC funds, allowing KS Disciples to take part at a much lower cost than would otherwise be possible.

Funds from the Reconciliation Special Day Offering in the fall provide grants for pro-reconciliation/anti-racism programs. The Reconciliation Offering is divided, with one half staying in our region and one half used by General Reconciliation Ministry.

These grant requests are reviewed by the grant committee and recommended to the Regional Executive Committee for consideration. **The spring submission deadline is Tuesday, March 31.** Grant guidelines are available at www.kansasdisciples.org/grants.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their requests electronically through our new online submission portal. Applying online saves you and your region time and money and increases application readability. If you prefer a paper application, contact the South Central Satellite Office at scd@kansasdisciples.org or call 316-775-1236.

[Apply for a Kansas Bible Chair Grant here.](#)

[Apply for a Reconciliation Grant here.](#)

MESSENGER SUBMISSIONS

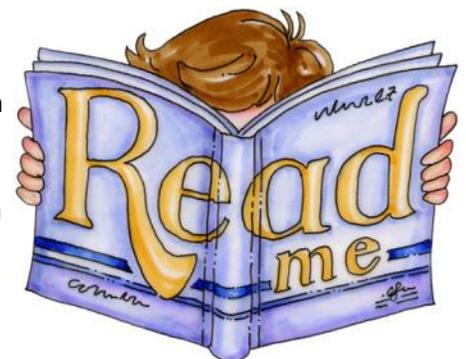
The Kansas Messenger is the communications arm of the Christian Church in Kansas. Our purpose is to promote the ministries of the Christian Church in Kansas and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and to build connections among the congregations of the Christian Church in Kansas by reporting their news.

We are glad to receive your news articles and photographs for publication. We reserve the right to edit all materials. Print decisions are made on the basis of many factors, including timeliness, space, variety, relevance, tone and more. Decisions of the publisher are final.

We prefer color, digital photographs in camera format, unaltered. Best photographs are in focus, showing action, faces and emotion.

Submit your items at <https://kansasdisciples.org/kansas-messenger-submissions/>.

Article submission deadline for the April issue is Monday, March 23.



Check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

VIOLENCE IS NOT THE ANSWER — LOVE IS **THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER**

By Ken Marston, Regional Minister



I sat down two or three times to write this article. Each time I found myself having difficulty getting a news story out of my mind. The story was about a man in Florida who drove his vehicle into a tent where people were registering to vote. The reason he said he did this was because he did not like an elected official.

No matter what political party or philosophic

orientation we may be, such a barbaric act should appall us all! In fact, there can be no justification to violently seek to injure people who have done nothing but try to register to vote. Violence is not the answer to disagreements.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "You have heard it said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,' but I say to you, do not resist the evildoer." (Matt 5:38-39) A few verses later he says, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven;..." (Matt. 5:43-45a) In 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul reminds us that no matter how great our knowledge or abilities are if we do not love, we are nothing. Loving others as God loves is fundamental to who we are as Christians.

My friends, it is time that we who claim to follow Jesus start **loving all people** or stop pretending we follow Him!

AUGUSTA FCC INSTALLS HOSKINS AS NEW MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Loy Hoskins was installed in the March 1, as the pastor of Augusta, First Christian Church by Regional Minister, Steve Martin. Hoskins began serving in Augusta on Jan. 21.

Over the past ten years Hoskins served at Disciple congregations in Wagoner, Okla., and Marshall, Missouri.

His wife, Rhonda is a registered nurse.

They have two sons, Mickey, Great Bend First Christian Church; and Jimmy - who lives with his family in Greeley, Colo.



DISCIPLES CONNECT & EQUIP **"THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME"**

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION DEADLINE MAY 8

All Kansas Disciples are invited to the Disciples Center at Tawakoni on Saturday, August 8, for a day of fun, food, fellowship, and learning.

Our theme this year is "No place like home." Some activities planned are a Pie in the Sky baking contest, Cooking for Mission food court, swimming, archery, and high ropes challenge course. Look for more information on how you can get involved in next month's issue of the *Kansas Messenger*.

2020 marks a regional assembly year where we conduct the business of the regional church. According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Christian Church in Kansas, any major resolution to be considered by the 2020 Regional Assembly must be on the desk of the Regional Minister, by May 8, 2020, which is 90-days before the Assembly. The Committee will consider the resolutions and prepare them for the Assembly. Resolutions will be sent to the congregations June 8, 2020.

Resolutions may be presented by any member congregation or administrative unit, the Regional Board, any ten individual members, or any organization of the Christian Church in Kansas.

All resolutions should be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons that the submitting group deems it necessary or advisable for the Assembly to consider the subject. Any supporting data or rationale that will assist in understanding the full impact of the resolution should also be included.



NEWS FROM THE REGION

THE ART OF CHURCH COMMUNICATION 2020 WORKSHOP SERIES

Registration is still open for three 2020 Art of Church Communication Workshops: *The Community Connection* on March 17; *The Welcome Center* on March 24; and *Texting in Church* on March 31.

Join us by live video feed 9 a.m. to noon from the comfort of your home or office. Recorded videos of each workshop presentation will also be available with paid registration.

If you are interested in church communication ministry, regardless of skill level, you are welcome and encouraged to attend. Cost is \$25 per workshop. Register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/2020-aocc-workshops.

BESSLER FEATURED AT 2020 REST, RELAX, RENEW CLERGY RETREAT

Dr. Joe Bessler is the featured visiting theologian for Rest, Relax, and Renew Clergy Retreat beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, through mid-morning on Thursday, April 30, at Tawakoni.

This is a great time for clergy of the region to get rejuvenated after the very busy time of Lent and Easter.

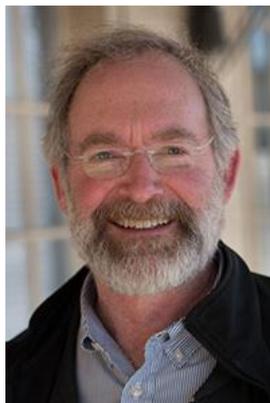
Bessler is the Robert Travis Peake Professor of Theology at Phillips Theological Seminary where he is currently serving as Interim Chief Academic Officer and Dean.

He will speak on:

- ⇒ Mapping our Constructive Theologies: How the major topics of Christian theology are interrelated and why it matters.
- ⇒ Sacred ground: How and Why Political Discourse overlaps with the Theological
- ⇒ Coming Apart: Tribalism in Politics and in Faith Communities
- ⇒ Developing Constructive Theologies in the Face of Cultural and Religious Tribalism

A registration fee of \$70 covers two nights lodging and four meals during the retreat. Lunch on Wednesday is on your own in Andover, Augusta, or Wichita.

For clergy who live near the camp and do not require lodging, the cost is \$50 to cover the four meals and program costs. Register online today at kansasdisciples.org/event/clergy-retreat.



2020 BOUNDARY TRAINING SESSIONS TO FOCUS ON CLERGY AND CONGREGATIONAL

Attention all clergy and church leaders! The first of three Ethical Boundary Training sessions for 2020 is fast approaching (Thursday, March 26 at FCC – Topeka, KS).

Clergy are required to attend boundaries training at least every three years. Church leaders are highly encouraged to attend with their pastors to better understand what standards of ethical behavior we expect of our ministers.

This year, in addition to going over the *Ministerial Code of Conduct*, we will also look at another document, *Ethical Guideline for Congregations*, that set expectations for how we hope church members will treat each other and their pastors in the life of the congregation.

The cost of this training is \$35 for Clergy and \$10 for congregational leaders. Besides the March 26 training session, there are two other opportunities throughout the year: Saturday, May 23 at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni, and Tuesday, October 20 at FCC in Great Bend.

All trainings begin at 10 am and last until 3 pm. There is lunch provided for all who attend.

Register and pay online at <https://kansasdisciples.org/event/clergy-retreat/>.



KANSAS DISCIPLES WOMEN 'SERVING JOYFULLY'

Join Disciples Women Saturday, April 18 at Central Christian Church in Arkansas City; Sunday, April 19 at Galva Christian Church; or Saturday, May 2, at Baxter Springs First Christian Church for 2020 Disciples Women Spirit Fest.

Women from across the region will gather for worship, study, sharing, fellowship and to take part in a service project. Enjoy a light meal, shop at our book table and learn more about "Serving Joyfully."

The Bible study entitled "Service, Ministry of Heart and Hands" is a study that can be done individually, or in a small or large group. Judy Cooper, Galva Christian Church, is the 2020 Spirit Fest Coordinator.

If you would like a paper copy of the registration form to submit, please contact Carla Pearson. Online registration may be completed at www.kansasdisciples.org. Registration should be submitted two weeks prior to the event date.

The registration fee is \$15.00. Scholarships are available through the Marie Lindberg Scholarship Fund. Plan now to attend. We look forward to seeing you.

Check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)



**Check out the 2020 Season Camp News in the accompanying appendix.
Then, come join us for a terrific season.**

WHAT'S COOKIN' KANSAS

The Kansas Disciples Women will publish a region-wide cookbook this year with all proceeds going to the Jones Lodge construction fund.

Included in the cookbook will be a history of Disciples Center at Tawakoni along with pictures and information about the Jones Lodge project.

Although this is a Disciples Women project, we encourage recipes to be submitted by both men and women. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

Recipes should be sent to Carla Pearson at 1816 17th Ave, McPherson, KS 67460 or by email to carla.pearson58@gmail.com. Don't wait, get your recipes submitted today.

COMING SOON: TAWAKONI GALA & AUCTION

Mark your calendar for the 2020 Tawakoni Gala and Auction beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 14.

This annual fundraising event includes a silent auction, dinner and live auction. Proceeds go toward camp capital improvements. The dresser (pictured below) courtesy of David Webb and Dennis Bass is one of several items already donated for this year's event.

Plan to come out and support the camp.



YOUTH RETREATS PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN YOUTH FAITH DEVELOPMENT



I want to talk about the 2020 Spring retreat. There should be more retreats like the spring retreat and the fall Kansas Disciples Youth Convention in Hutchinson. It was a good experience and I enjoyed learning with other youth from around Kansas about the love of God and Christ. I think that Rob Tulloch was amazing and very fun. The way he preaches is very powerful and I really enjoyed listening to him talk during the keynote sections.

The retreats are good because not all kids get the chance to attend summer church camp due to money, sports, or anything else for that matter. I would like more service projects for us to do around the camp because it is fun to help clean the camp to make it the beautiful, heavenly place it is.

I think the retreats should be longer, because the more we kids get introduced to sports and other activities, the less we get to spend time with God. My overall experience was very fun and exciting, and I made a few new friends.

So please consider having more, longer retreats so more kids get to experience the enjoyment that I got to experience.

Sincerely,
Jonas Lonergan
Topeka First Christian Church

I'm delighted to hear such mature and encouraging words from one of our young people. This highlights the profound impact that the camping program and retreat ministries have had and continue to have on the youth of our denomination.

I am personally honored to receive such high praise and enjoyed the opportunity to bring good news to that sacred space. Thank you, Jonas for the kind words and I look forward to watching you grow and lead with your peers here in Kansas.

Blessings,
Rev. Rob Tulloch
Pastor, Hillside Christian Church



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Members from Woodridge Christian Church, Wichita, and Topeka First Christian Church, recently traveled on a mission trip to Texas City, TX, to help with hurricane relief. The Texas City, Houston, and Galveston area was hit by Hurricane Humberto (Sept 2007), Edouard (Aug 2008), Ike (Sept 2008), and Harvey (August 2017) and in many cases families are still struggling to rebuild.



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

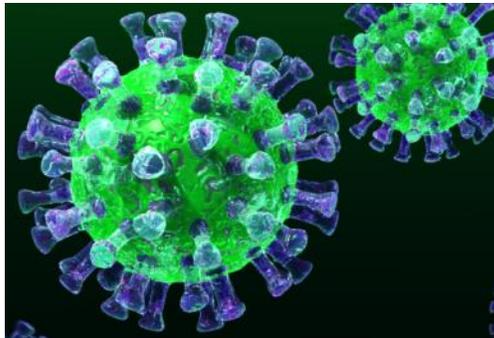
DISCIPLES MINISTRIES RESPOND TO CORONAVIRUS

A Statement of Compassion and Care Concerning the Coronavirus Outbreak

Offered by the Office of General Minister and President, National Benevolent Association, and Week of Compassion

Posted on February 28, 2020 at 7:18 pm.

Read full article and view related resources at disciples.org/general-ministries/disciples-ministries-respond-to-corona-virus/



The emergence and spread of coronavirus, or COVID-19 as designated by the World Health Organization, has faith leaders wondering about their role and response. At such times, we are reminded of how interconnected our global world can be.

We sometimes focus on the numbers and the maps, yet each reported case is a person, a family, a community. The church is called to be in prayer for those affected, those caring for the affected, for those working to diagnose/treat patients, and for those agencies attempting to prevent, detect and respond to this virus. As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we offer our prayers for all affected parties.

It is important during such a global event, that we, as the church, take the time for an informed and thoughtful response. The need for urgency can be fertile ground for fearful reactions. We may begin to see others through a lens of

skepticism and fear. Historically, we know how discrimination and isolation can develop to those deemed as "others." We encourage a faithful response that is informed by medical and mental health professionals and reflective of our theological beliefs of care for all.

While it is tempting to rely on social media for news, be aware that misinformation is also shared through these outlets. Do the research with accredited professional organizations as listed in the resources section link provided.

You may be concerned about church events, including your regular worship and other elements of church life. It is time to prepare information about preventative measures, make a response plan for your congregation or organization, and make proactive decisions to be communicated as widely as possible.

2020-21 NBA XPLOR APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Young adults, ages 21-30, are encouraged to apply for a position in the National Benevolent Association's NBA EXPLOR program where they will explore lives of service in a faith-based, 10-month, congregationally hosted residency program.

Launched in 2014, NBA XPLOR is a prophetic movement of and for young adults who are considering lives of care and service. The residency provides 10-month professional development and vocational discernment opportunities for young adults, living simply in community and engaging in direct service and justice work. Through NBA XPLOR, we partner participants with Disciples congregations, regional and general ministries, and wider communities -- positively engaging neighborhoods, the congregations, and the young adults themselves.

The National Benevolent Association (NBA) initiates ministries designed to establish and grow partnerships with health and social service supporters and providers and have extended the application deadline for the NBA XPLOR program.



NBA XPLOR 2019-20 Cohort, with Staff and Spiritual Companions



Join fellow Disciples musicians for the 59th annual

Association of Disciples Musicians (ADM) Music and Worship Conference at the University of Tulsa, 800 South Tucker Drive, Tulsa, OK. The conference starts with registration on Sunday afternoon, July 26, followed by a meal and concludes by noon on Friday, July 31.

Conference Clinicians are: **Rev. Terri Hord Owens**, General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); **Anton Armstrong**, Tosdal

THE ASSOCIATION OF DISCIPLES MUSICIANS 2020 MUSIC & WORSHIP CONFERENCE

Professor of Music, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN; **Marcia McFee**, Author, Worship Designer and Leader, Professor, Preacher and Artist; **Tom Trenney**, Minister of Music to First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE; **Tim Waugh**, Internationally Acclaimed Conductor, Composer and Performance Arts Educator.

Conference workshops include handbell techniques, beginning keyboard improv, choral conducting, organ improv, Taize, labyrinth building, worship design, creative worship experiences, and more.

Registration fee is \$470 for the entire

conference and includes ADM Membership when you register by Monday, June 1. Full registration fees increase to \$525 after June 1, or you may register for \$100 per day with meals and housing separate. Register and pay online at <https://www.adm-doc.org/>.

If this is your first ADM Workshop and you are registering for the full conference, you may apply for the Vera Enz First-Timer's Scholarship of \$50 per individual or \$75 per couple. The scholarship will be presented at the closing service on Friday.

IN MEMORIAM:

Pam Norstrum, Galva Christian Church, died February 10, after a battle with cancer. She was very active in her church, community, and Kansas Regional Ministries including Disciples Women and camp. She had served as Disciples Women's president for two years (2016-2018). Memorials may be given to Galva Christian Church Social Media Fund or Disciples Center at Tawakoni Jones Lodge project.

Rev. Dr. James (Jim) Manley Smith, died on February 11 in Ruidoso, New Mexico. He served on the Regional staff of the Kansas Region and as the Area Minister and President of the Tres Rios Area of the Christian Church in the Southwest. He was part-time campus minister at East Texas State University and served as adjunct faculty for both Phillips Theological Seminary and Brite Divinity School.