



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

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Fellowship Groups

[Carla Pearson](#), Disciples Women
[Luis Mendez](#), Disciples Men

TBA, New Church Ministry

JOIN US FOR TAWAKONI'S ONLINE GALA AUCTION

Once a year, the Disciples Center at Tawakoni hosts a gala and auction fundraiser to support the camp and the next years' campers. However, the risks associated with COVID-19 make gathering at Tawakoni this year an impossibility.

Instead, we are hosting an online auction November 7-14. Proceeds from this year's auction goal of \$25,000 will benefit overall operational costs and provide camp

scholarships for the 2021 season.

As your regional camp and conference center, we invite more than 500 campers and staff each summer. In

addition, Tawakoni hosts a variety of groups for overnight and day events including church camp; Disciples Men, Women, and youth retreats; weddings; family reunions and more.

To build our auction inventory, we are asking for donations of easily transportable and non-perishable items. These items can be mailed to or dropped off at any of the locations listed below and should include a Gala Donation Form with each item.

All donations and forms need to be received at drop-off locations no later than Friday, Oct. 16. Call drop-off locations for specific hours.

Then, we need you to go to our website, www.kansasdisciples.org/gala, or www.tawakoni.org between 12-noon, Saturday, Nov. 7, and 9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14, to register for your bid number, and bid on your favorite items. Auction items already donated include:

- Florida Trip (time sensitive)
- Gyrocopter experience
- Beef — two quarters

During the auction process you will receive emails that confirm your bid number and will let you know if your bid has been surpassed.

After the auction is completed you will be notified if you have successfully acquired an auction item(s) and will be given instructions to complete your payment. Once payment is received, we will coordinate with you on shipment and/or pickup arrangements.

We thank you in advance for your help in securing auction items, promoting the event and participating in the bidding to ensure that we have the best 2021 Tawakoni camping experience that we can provide.



THE DISCIPLES CENTER
AT TAWAKONI
BE STILL • KNOW GOD

Gala Donation Drop-off Locations

- **Topeka Regional Office**
2914 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka,
785-266-2914
- **Lewis Christian Church**
320 Main St, Lewis
620-324-5217
- **Central/High Plains Satellite Office**
5230 Broadway Ave, Great Bend
620-792-6490
- **Tawakoni Camp Office**
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd, Augusta
316-775-1222

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

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER



BY STEVE MARTIN, REGIONAL MINISTER

I know we are all struggling with the harsh realities of our world. No one could have predicted the wide-spreading affects of the COVID-19 virus. Every facet of our lives has been touched and we frequently cry out, “When this is over....”

Unfortunately, it may not be over. I have heard several experts in epidemiology who are predicting that, even with the hoped-for vaccine, the virus will still be present. They are suggesting we need to begin to think about

living with its presence in everyday life. That sounds like a tall order.

Perhaps you have thought about how life is different for you because of the presence of COVID-19. I have been in on a few conversations and I think it is helpful. Many of us recognize that the priorities of our life are more clearly seen. At our home, we are eating better and pay more attention to foods which are more beneficial to us. We eat far less fast food, and we have experimented with foods which we otherwise would not have included in our diet.

My heart aches for those who are suffering in this time. While reports of COVID -19 in our congregations are relatively few, I can only imagine the anxiety and struggle which victims of the virus experience. I also hurt for our schools – for students, parents and teachers. Adjustments to the typical school day are numerous and these are cause for a great deal of anxiety and pressure for all involved. For me, asking a 5-year old to spend four hours in front of a computer screen and calling it Kindergarten simply feels wrong!

Congregations have made many adaptations, and these are filling a need. In the region, we have learned to rely on Zoom for meetings and other ways to connect with people, and these too are working. The canceling of our 2020 camp program has been the source of great disappointment. Just as schools have learned to adapt, the camp program will do the same! Next year there will be camps. We are working on a schedule and are planning to keep camps much smaller than in the past.

I am sure you have your own list of regrets in the face of our chaotic world. No matter what our list looks like, and no matter how much we would love to see the virus stricken from our world, we learn again the age-old truth, “we are not in control.” This remains God’s world, and our response is to be faithful in our work to bring God’s love and peace into each situation.

WELCOME LUIS MENDEZ!

KS DISCIPLES MEN COORDINATOR



The Christian Church in Kansas (DOC) welcomes Luis Mendez as the Kansas Disciples Men Coordinator. He began September 1.

Mendez has served as

the Minister of Fairview Christian Church since 2001, which became The Dock CC in 2014. As of September 1, he also became the acting pastor at North Heights Christian Church, Wichita.

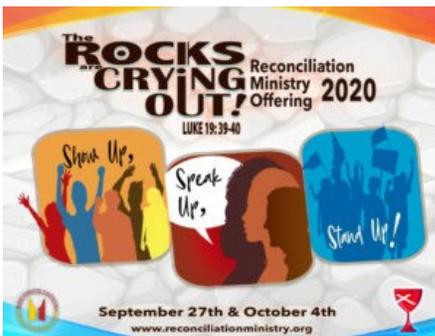
During his ministry, Mendez has been active in Kansas Disciples Men’s ministry and has served on the cabinet as the Vice President, then President, and then Past President. He brings a breadth of experience and a passion to help men connect their lives to God and each other.

In the coming months, he will work with the cabinet to assess the current status of men’s ministry in the region and guide a visioning process to chart a new direction. He will seek advice, equip and empower men for ministry in their congregations, in the region and beyond.

This position is made possible by the generosity of local Disciples Men’s groups and individuals who have underwritten half of the salary of this position. The region is very grateful to this faithful generosity.

You can email Luis at:

disciplesmen@kansasdisciples.org.



RECONCILIATION MINISTRY SPECIAL OFFERING 2020

Recent events have reignited the conversation about human brokenness evidenced in the sin of racism and perpetuated in our institutional structures and systems.

Funds from the Reconciliation Special Day Offering 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.

Regional reconciliation ministries seeking grants are:

- Kansas Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team
- Brothers in Blue Wichita Prison Ministry
- Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen (LINK)
- Pine Valley CC Birthday Backpack Program, Wichita
- West Side CC Peace Camp, Topeka

Thank you for your generosity.

Your gifts to the Reconciliation Ministry allow your communities and your congregations to ensure the human dignity of every child, to ensure all have access to Christ’s abundance, to fully flourish in education, and financial stability, and friendships across God’s human diversity.

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

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

TOOLS TO FUND YOUR MISSION AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TRAINING WEBINARS

The Central and High Plains Districts together with a grant from the Kansas Bible Chair have one last leadership training webinar on stewardship led by Bruce Barkhauer, Disciples Minister of Faith and Giving. The webinar begins at 9 a.m. and ends by 11 a.m. Cost is \$5.

Video recordings of all three webinars are available upon request to all participants.

**Saturday, September 19:
The New Evangelism —
Finding Partners in Mission**

We want to grow our church – not for the sake of putting more “butts in the seats and

cash in the plate” but for the strength created by building relationships and finding partners who empower us. Gain insight into the relationship between evangelism and stewardship as spiritual disciplines and avenues for both church and personal growth.

FINAL 2020 BOUNDARIES TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The final 2020 boundaries training session will be 9 a.m.-Noon on October 20 by Zoom video call.

Clergy Boundaries is a crucial and timely topic in today’s society. All clergy and church lay leaders should be informed about legal and ethical issues as they relate to the church and ministry. We are inviting board moderators and elders to join their pastor at this year’s training.

This year’s theme is “Back to Basics” and will focus on the Ministerial Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines for Congregations.

We welcome and encourage the presence of clergy, church treasurers, trustees, board moderators and, other lay leaders.

\$15 for Clergy; \$5 for Board Moderators, Elders and other church leadership. Register early! Maximum of 20 participants for this session.

KANSAS DISCIPLES WOMEN VIRTUAL RETREAT

Reservations are now open for the KDW virtual retreat, “Contemplating Spiritual Disciplines”, 7-9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2, and 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 3.

learning, sharing and rejoicing.

The event is structured so women may attend for whatever time personal schedules allow. Friday night will include a short worship service and a dedication of Blessing Box money. Two spiritual disciplines, Silence and Solitude will be presented. The evening will close with scripture and prayer.

Saturday will be similar including an alumni memorial service to recognize our sisters who have passed since the 2018 Regional Assembly. Two, one-hour workshops and four different spiritual disciplines

- ⇒ Experience worship with music, scripture and meditation.
- ⇒ Participate in workshops by Kansas Clergy Women. Encounter fresh insights into personal disciplines.
- ⇒ Share the bread and cup as you bring your personal elements to the table.
- ⇒ Spend time with Disciples Women from across the region

will be presented. The event will conclude with worship and communion.

The event is free, but registration is required to receive login information. Sign up today at www.kansasdisciples.org or log into Engage.



SAVE THE DATE!

For these
Spring 2021 events.
Registration will open
January 4.

2021 ART OF CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOPS

Wednesday Mornings
in March

In-Person and Live-
Steaming Webinar available

More information in the
October issue
of the *Kansas Messenger*.

KCYF SPRING RETREAT

March 5-7

More information in the
November issue
of the *Kansas Messenger*.

CLERGY RETREAT

April 27-29

More information in the
November issue
of the *Kansas Messenger*.

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

MINISTRY IN TRANSITION

Ron DeVore ended his ministry at Garden City FCC, July 6.

Girard First CC has called **Renee Goodwin** as their permanent pastor as of July 19. Goodwin has been serving as their transitional pastor.

Craig Robertson ended his ministry at Ottawa First CC as of August 9.

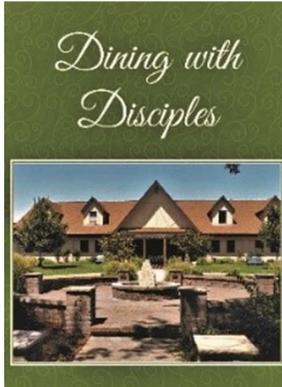
Matt Broxterman ended his ministry at Atchison First CC on August 20. Atchison FCC has called interim pastor **Brad Green**.

Dighton First CC has called **Steve Payne** as their interim pastor. He began August 23.

Great Bend First CC has called **Timothy Long, Jr. (TJ)**, as their new Associate Youth Pastor. He began August 29. He and wife Jenny are from North Carolina.

Titus James retired August 31 after serving 41 years at North Heights CC, Wichita.

'DINING WITH DISCIPLES' COOKBOOK



Have you tried the Picnic Pasta Salad on page 48 of the new *Dining with Disciples* cookbook? A great meal for a hot summer's day. How about the Ice Cream Sandwich Cake on page 145? It's delicious!

The cookbooks are flying off the shelves. Many are returning for additional copies for gifts. If you haven't purchased a copy, don't wait. Remember, all net proceeds go to the Jones Lodge construction fund at Tawakoni.

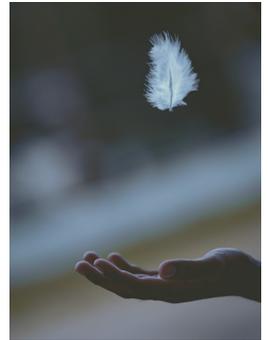
As of this date more than \$3,000 has been added to the construction fund. Contact Carla Pearson at carla.pearson58@gmail.com to order your copy.

PEACE IN CHAOS AFFINITY GROUP

You are invited to join others who are exploring ways to find peace and new life in the midst of the chaotic world we live in. This is a small group, online experience for those who are 18-35 years old.

Peace in Chaos (PIC) is a four week, online discussion of spiritual practices. Spiritual practices are activities that we intentionally practice to grow our faith. For example, things like simplicity, prayer, or journaling. You'll hear about a few spiritual practices and get a chance to try them yourself. We'll learn and grow, together creating PIC, a snapshot of what finding peace in the midst of chaos looks like for each us.

PIC will start on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 6:30 p.m. We'll meet for 90-minutes on these Thursdays - October 8, 15, 22, 29. . Please contact Becky Duncan at duncareb@hotmail.com or Donna Gilchrist at dkgilch@gmail.com if you're interested in being part of this online adventure.



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

WEEK OF COMPASSION'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

A global pandemic means that people are in need close to home and around the world. Disciples want to know how to help.

Through Week of Compassion, your congregation can support local and global ministries that are meeting needs and changing lives. Read more about Week of Compassion's [COVID-19 Response](#).

We invite you to "Grow Your Compassion," as we receive a designated offering for COVID-19 relief. The gifts that your church shares through this response will extend your

mission capacity far beyond the church building, and even beyond your local community.

On our website, you will find videos, mission moments, worship resources, children's activities, sample social media posts and more. During this time, when worship has been modified, we've made these resources easy to "plug and play" for your remote gatherings. We're also using a new mobile giving platform that will allow members to easily text their gifts from their phone in just a few clicks. You can create your own "fundraiser page,"

or even create a team page for a congregation with customizable goals, unique text codes, and more.

The needs of our neighbors are great right now, but we are disciples, and our compassion is even greater. Join us as we share the love of Christ -- close to home, and around the world.

[Contribute to COVID-19 relief](#)

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



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

2021 DISCIPLES GENERAL ASSEMBLY CANCELED

Dear Church:

We write to you in unprecedented times to share some unprecedented news: In a special called meeting of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) via Zoom on Sunday, July 19, the board voted to cancel the 2021 General Assembly originally scheduled for July 31-Aug. 4, 2021, in Louisville, KY.

This was not a decision that was made lightly. After many weeks of prayer, investigation, and long discussion, it became obvious to us that we needed to act in the best interests of the Church going forward. The COVID-19 pandemic has made travel and large gatherings ill-advised until the situation becomes more stable.

We have worked closely with staff to explore all our options. Regional ministers and presidents of the general ministries were consulted as well. All of us were united in our desire to keep our members safe. When we took the

situation to the Administrative Committee, they, too, were in agreement it would be best to not gather in person next summer. The health and safety of our church family is far too important to risk meeting in an environment when we can't be sure that everyone will be safe.

Deciding now to cancel the event, even as we don't know yet what next summer will bring, is also an act of stewardship for the Church. There will be financial implications to cancelling, but had we proceeded in planning an event which needed to be cancelled at a later date, or one which was only sparsely attended, we might have incurred even greater expense.

We join you in grieving the loss of this beloved event. While we have some mourning to do before we can begin to find a way forward, we also see this as an opportunity: an opportunity to take a collective deep breath, an opportunity to listen courageously to the Holy Spirit,

an opportunity to imagine new ways of gathering and doing business together as a church.

A conversation about the process by which we arrived at the cancellation decision is available on the General Assembly website. You are also welcome to send your questions to news@disciples.org.

Even in these difficult days, and maybe more so in these difficult days, we are united in our conviction that God is with us. Over these past several months, we have often prayed together using the words of Romans 8:38-39, which would have been our theme scripture at the General Assembly:

There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We know this to be true.

With gratitude,

Terri Hord Owens, GMP
Belva Brown Jordan, Moderator
Stephanie Kendell, First Vice Moderator
Néstor Gómez, Second Vice Moderator
Clyde Hunt, Moderator Elect

KBC GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 30

Your region has a variety of grants that are available each year. The fall deadline for the Kansas Bible Chair 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.

These grant requests are reviewed by the grant committee and recommended to the Regional Executive Committee for consideration. **The Fall submission deadline is September 30.**

Grant guidelines and applications are available at www.kansasdisciples.org/grants.



LEXINGTON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OFFERS NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Lexington Theological Seminary is offering a certificate in African American Ministry tailored to the demands of today's context for ministry. The program is a partnership of the seminary, the Office of African American Clergy Leadership Development and the National Convocation. The first sessions begin in October.

To accommodate busy schedules, students attend synchronous courses online

(via Zoom) as well as four-day, in-person intensive courses at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY, in the summer (these in-person gatherings are dependent upon changing circumstances pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic). Upon successful completion of all 12 courses, students earn the Certificate in African American Ministry or they may apply them as continuing education (CEU) credits.

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

KANSAS MESSENGER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

We are glad to receive your news articles and photographs for publication. We reserve the right to edit all materials. Submit your items at <https://kansasdisciples.org/km-submissions/>. Article submission deadline for the October issue is **Monday, September 21.**

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