



# Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)



[www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org)

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## Kansas Regional Office

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Joanne Weddle, Corporate Secretary  
Barb Koelling, Treasurer

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Ken Marston, Regional Minister, Inter. President  
Juli Reed, Admin. Assistant

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## Disciples Center at Tawakoni

8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.  
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[www.tawakoni.org](http://www.tawakoni.org)

Olivia See, Camp Manager

## Fellowship Groups

Carla Pearson, Disciples Women  
Luis Mendez, Disciples Men  
Travis Smith McKee, Disciples Youth

## New Church Ministry

TBA, Regional Minister of New Church Ministry

**We would love to  
connect with you!**

Connect with us on  
[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

## 2022 TAWAKONI GALA AND AUCTIONS

*Live Auction Oct. 15  
10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.*

*Virtual Auction Oct. 8-9  
9 a.m. on Sat. to 9 p.m. Sun.*

The leadership of Disciples Center invites you and your church to participate in the Gala Lunch and live Auction on Saturday, Oct. 15, at Tawakoni. Our financial goal this year is to raise \$20,000 which will support facility improvements, upgrades, and scholarships for Disciples campers.

A few years ago, a group of dedicated lay leaders in the region listened to you and determined that there are three goals for our Region to be successful. The first goal is to do mission through the Disciples Center at Tawakoni, to provide comprehensive and/or holistic programming for all ages, and to increase its visibility with corporate and non-corporate entities. The time is now to make this goal a priority for the future of our region.

To support the auction, the Gala Planning Team is seeking auction donations such as gift cards or gift certificates, individually wrapped and sealed baked goods, handcrafted items, sports team memorabilia and/or tickets, and themed gift baskets or prize packs. See more information on the Gala Auction website pages at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org) and [www.tawakoni.org](http://www.tawakoni.org).

## Youth service opportunity for camp registration credit

We want to offer another opportunity outside of giving donations to the auction. We can support our campers through a new program; "Connect A Camper." This program is a way for you or your church to provide scholarships for our DOC campers. We want to eliminate the barrier of cost for families and churches and connect as many campers at Disciples Center at Tawakoni as possible.

Campers can save money on next year's camp registration through two opportunities:

1. Collecting donations for the 2022 Tawakoni Gala and Auction. For each item, we will credit you \$0.50 on every dollar of your donation's value up to \$400, meaning you would get \$200 off your camp fee.
2. Sign up to work a shift at the Gala. We will have two opportunities, one for Chi Rho/Pre High/CYF and one for our 2023 Junior Campers. Each shift will have a few tasks and when those tasks are done you will receive \$50 off registration next year.

All donated items need to be accompanied by a donation form that is available for download from our website. Drop off items at any regional office. Donations and registrations are due by Sept. 28. Online registration is open at [www.kansasdisciples.org/events](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/events). You chose how you want to participate — in-person, virtually, or both. Cost is \$8 for a virtual bidder ticket, \$48 for an adult in-person gala ticket, and \$20 for a child in-person gala ticket. Sponsor a table of six for \$280.

If you have any questions, contact Olivia See, [revoliviasee@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:revoliviasee@kansasdisciples.org) or call 316-207-6174.

Help make 2023



**THE BEST SUMMER EVER**

for the Disciples Center at Tawakoni

## THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

*Hello! We are glad to be serving alongside you!*

BY TOM STANLEY, CO-REGIONAL MINISTER

My name is Tom Stanley, and I am excited to join you in the Kansas Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Accepting the call to serve as your Co-Regional Minister is one of the most joyful moments of my life. This call is the affirmation of nearly two decades of experience and service.

Sandy and I have joined the First Christian Church of Topeka and look forward to serving alongside the Disciples of that congregation. Additionally, I plan to visit as many congregations as possible this year.

I believe we are all called to serve, love, and tend all God's children. We, Kansas Disciples, live in covenant with each other, with other Disciples churches, the Regional Church, and the General Church. We can do so much more together than apart! Our camping program is a fantastic example of what can be done together. But we have many more opportunities to share our time, talents, and resources! As we journey together, I look forward to hearing from you on how we can better the

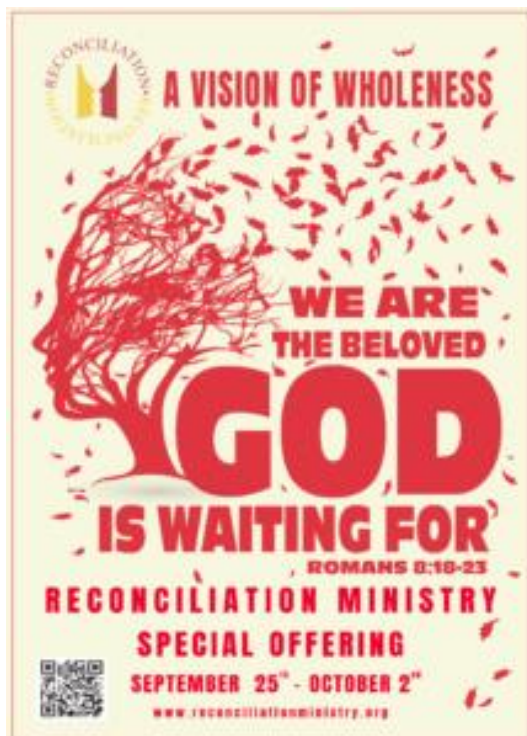
ministry of the Christian Church in Kansas and how we can better equip and connect Disciples across Kansas.

I invite you to attend my installation as your Co-Regional Minister on April 29, 2023. Our General Minister and President, Terri Hord-Owens, will conduct the installation. I want to say thank you to Rev. Lynn Scott and First Christian Church of McPherson for agreeing to host my installation. We will let you know the worship service time as we get closer to April 29. The event will also be live streamed if you cannot make the trip to McPherson.

If you want to speak with or text me, my cell phone number is 405-570-4430. I look forward to meeting you and serving alongside all of you.



## RECONCILIATION OFFERING HELPS US BE A MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS



Since the beginning of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) our purpose has been to bring healing and hope to a divided world. The Week of Reconciliation Special Offering which we receive Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 helps fund ministries in Kansas and throughout the United States and Canada that feed the hungry and heal divisions in the lives of people.

This year, we have received funding requests for \$9318 from:

1. Home Sweet Home homeless ministry in Independence
2. Books for Prisoners program sponsored by Wichita's North Heights Christian Church DWF
3. Birthday Backpack Ministry out of Pine Valley Christian Church in Wichita

4. Peace Camp sponsored by West Side Christian Church in Topeka which seeks to develop empathy in children for those who are different.

Our goal for this special offering is to receive \$25,000 to help fund these ministries which are making a positive difference in hundreds of lives in Kansas. We encourage all members of our congregations in Kansas to give generously. Be watching the regional Facebook Page, Web page, and the Sept. *Kansas Messenger* for more details about each of these ministries.

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### FROM BAGS TO MATS



Plastic bags are one of the worst offenders of the wasteful products that are polluting the Earth's oceans and occupying the limited space of landfills. Equivalently, 429,000 plastic bags are dumped into landfills each hour; or 7150 are thrown away each minute.

Before you throw away that plastic grocery bag, consider this: it could be helping the homeless get a better night's sleep.

On the fourth Saturday of every month, volunteers from New Hope Christian Church and the surrounding Wichita community gather to turn plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats for the homeless.

"It is always exciting because we never know who will show up to help us," said Denny Bell, pastor. "It adds to the fellowship each time someone new comes and shares their gifts of wanting to reach out to the community to help others. There is a genuine willingness to help others in need."

First, volunteers sort and straighten donated bags. Using rotary cutters, volunteers cut the bags into strips and then tie them together to create "plarn" or plastic yarn. They then use the plarn to crochet the sleeping mats. Finally, a strap is attached for ease of carrying. It takes more than 1000 plastic bags to make one mat.

These sleeping mats are more hygienic, waterproof, easily transportable, and provide protection from the cold concrete. They're a welcome comfort to those living rough, while also keeping more plastic out of landfill and our marine systems.

**HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?  
YOUR CHURCH COULD BE  
FEATURED HERE!**

**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES  
AND PICTURES TO US.**

We are glad to receive your news articles and photographs for publication. Submit your items online at [www.kansasdisciples.org/km-submissions](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/km-submissions).

The *Kansas Messenger* editorial team reserves the right to edit all materials for relevance, clarity, and space.

Submission deadline for the September issue is:

**Monday, August 22**

## CAMP NEWS



The Disciples Center at Tawakoni's 2022 summer camping season has come to a close. We welcomed more than 230 outside guests this summer. First time camp groups:

- The American Diabetes Association Camp Discovery
- Christ Church middle and high school students from Andover
- Goessel Church Junior High youth

We had 250 DOC campers this summer between our two Grand Camps, Discovery, Primary, Junior, Chi Rho, Pre-High and CYF camps. It was an extremely successful summer camp season.

We are grateful for all the support from around the region that made this summer possible. Part of that support is from our countless maintenance volunteers who put in over 120 hours this summer to help make camp run smoothly.

Thank you, to all our Directors, Chaplains, and Counselors for donating your time to being out here at camp. Also, thank you to all our paid staff, this summer would not have been successful without all of you. Our DOC students might not know the impact and commitment you all have made, but we do. This camp could not run without all of you. Your time and work and faith are part of the continuation of bringing the Kingdom of God to this earth through guiding and leading our youth during summer camp. Thank you!

As this season ends, we are already looking forward to Summer 2023. Please save the following tentative dates for next summer's schedule. Dates are subject to change. A final schedule will be published in February 2023.

- |               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| • June 1-3    | Grand Camp            |
| • June 19-23  | Junior                |
| • June 23-25  | Family Camp *New      |
| • July 5-6    | Discovery Camp        |
| • July 5-7    | Primary               |
| • July 10-14  | Chi Rho/Pre High Camp |
| • July 24 -29 | CYF                   |



## NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

### JOIN US FOR DISCIPLES MEN FALL RETREAT SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 16-17

The next Disciple Men's Retreat will be Sept. 16-17, where our guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Paul Koch, Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Mid-America.

Paul values most being a pastor to pastors and a shepherd for people seeking wider church connections in their faith. He is especially overjoyed that this includes helping men and his brothers among congregations grow into a deeper, vital, transformative spirituality through Disciples Men.

Additionally, the 2023-2024 Kansas Disciples Men Officers will be installed at the retreat. Officers include:

- PRESIDENT - Ken Schuette, Wichita
- VICE PRESIDENT - John Sowers, Leavenworth
- SECRETARY/TREASURER - Jay Mapel, Arkansas City
- PASTOR ADVISOR - Shawn Fletcher, Garden City
- PAST PRESIDENT - Lanny Norstrom, Galva
- KANSAS DISCIPLES MEN'S COORDINATOR - Luis Mendez, Wichita

Cost is \$70 for individuals, \$60 each for a church group of five or more, and \$50 for first time attendees. Online registration available at [www.kansasdisciples.org/events](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/events). Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 2.



### JOIN OUR TEXT ALERTS SYSTEM

Due to regulatory issues, we've been required to change the number used to subscribe to the CCK Text Alert system. If you are already subscribed and receiving messages this change will not affect you. However, if you've recently attempted to join the Text service, using our old number would have made it impossible to join.

For anyone who would like to join the CCK Text alerts system you can do so by texting KSMESSENGER to 316-465-5352 to sign-up.



There is also a sign-up page on our News website at <https://kansasdisciples.org/news/>. Look for the "Text logo" on the right-hand side of the page. Standard SMS and data charges apply.

## IN TRANSITION

**Travis Smith-McKee** ends his ministry at Cheney, Trinity United Christian Church and will become the new interim pastor at Galva Christian Church.

**Rev. John Sowers** is leaving Leavenworth, First Christian Church to accept a call to a church in Iowa.

**Linda Moore** is moving to Kansas from Nebraska as an interim minister for Emporia, FCC.

**James Byers** ended his ministry at Wellington, FCC on June 26 after five years of service.

## SPECIAL PRAYERS

Prayers are requested for Christian Church Foundation Vice President, **Kirby Gould** and family, as her husband John Gould suffered a massive stroke and died Aug. 15. Funeral services are planned for 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23, at Hillcrest Christian Church in Overland Park, Kansas.

## IN CELEBRATION

Retired Regional Minister **Paxton Jones and Janie Jones** will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Aug. 19.

### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: 2022 FALL KDW RETREAT



KDW Women's Retreat will be held at Disciples Center at Camp Tawakoni on Oct. 5 - 7 and 7 - 9, 2022. Registration is now open! We are planning a full schedule where we will be joining in fellowship, learning, and worshiping.

The speaker for retreat is the Rev. Christian Watkins, Executive Director/Campus

Pastor at Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Kansas State University. More information about Christian is available on the registration form.

Using our theme scripture, 1 Peter 3:8-12, we will learn together how we can BEE church and make a difference by being a blessing to others in our lives and world. Register by Sept. 15 at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org). Please join with the women of the region as we embrace our theme, "Let's BEE Church and Make a Difference!"

Don't forget to register soon!

## NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

### 2022 DCE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY INTRODUCES NEW STAFF ELECTS NEW OFFICERS/MODERATORS

By Ruby Brower

**2022-2024 Regional Moderator, Chair of DCE 2022 Regional Assembly**

The 2022 Disciples Regional Assembly was held Saturday, Aug. 6. A warm, windy day greeted the 150 registrants who welcomed the opportunity to “Connect and Equip” in person in God’s beauty at the Disciple’s Center at Tawakoni. Attendees representing about 25 Kansas DOC churches were introduced to Co-Regional Minister Rev. Tom Stanley and Tawakoni Camp Manager Rev. Olivia See.

Participants chose from a diverse offering of workshops to assist with “equipping” them for future ventures in the local and general church. Topics ranged from creating an adaptive change culture, Disciples governance, the Tri-regional partnership, visioning for your church, church communications, racism in the church, support for children experiencing trauma, and welcoming refugees. We sincerely appreciate our workshop leaders, especially those presenters who were guests in our region.

The official biennial business meeting was a central part of the day's activities. Agenda items included the approval of the revised Christian Church in Kansas constitution, affirm the calling of Rev. Tom Stanley, as Co-Regional Minister, the election of 2022-2024 regional officers/moderators, and the selection of Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, as the date for the next regional assembly.

The business meeting ended the term of Rev. Laurie Lewis, Moderator. Her guidance, counsel, and leadership were exceptional and greatly appreciated during the

numerous significant regional changes in the past two years.

Thanks to the Disciples Women for hosting the morning reception and the Disciples Men for hosting lunch. Both were enjoyed and appreciated immensely by everyone.

A worship service with scripture and reflections by Rev. Ken Marston opened the program. The event closed with scripture, meditation by Rev. Tom Stanley, and a celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Rev. Dr. David Dubovich coordinated the worship services and Walter Colvin at the piano led the music.

If you have not had the opportunity to participate in a regional assembly or a “Connect and Equip” program, make plans to join us for next year’s meeting. The planning committee and regional staff worked tirelessly to provide an exceptional event and ensure its success.

Thank you to everyone who planned or participated in this noteworthy event.



## NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH



### SAVE THE DATE! DISCIPLES GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

Mark your calendars and start making plans to attend the 2023 General Assembly “The Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us” will be held in Louisville, Ky., July 29-August 1. The theme for the assembly is based on Luke 17:20-21, Genesis 11:1-9 and 2 Peter 1:3.

This four-day event will encourage Disciples who gather online and in person to celebrate the way that God’s expansive love connects each of us as “kin” and to part of the larger Kindom of God. Join us to explore Louisville and share opportunities for worship, workshops, Bible study, mission, and the sacred work of the church for children, youth, and adults across the life of the church.

**Registration will begin in October 2022.**

## NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

### MARKS OF A VITAL CONGREGATION VIDEO SERIES



In The Center for Faith and Giving's *Marks of a Vital Congregation* video series, they offer short (5-10 minute) videos that can help your leadership group or congregation identify and build vitality in the life of their church.

The goal is to develop congregations that will leave a positive mark on communities, that will build connections to God and one another for generations to come. What are the marks of a vital congregation? And how can you work to create that vitality today? Find out through this thought-provoking series at [www.kansasdiscalples.org](http://www.kansasdiscalples.org).

The Center for Faith and Giving exists to create a culture of generosity across the life of the whole church and is supported by the Disciples Mission Fund. Learn more at [www.centerforfaithandgiving.org](http://www.centerforfaithandgiving.org).

### HAVE YOU TRIED ENGAGE?

This easy-to-use, mobile-optimized system allows you to give securely online, set up auto draft giving and view your giving history at your convenience.



ENGAGE goes beyond online giving to also provide you a way to connect with others in the region through common interest groups, update contact information and register for regional and district events.

To get started, go to [www.kansasdiscalples.org/give](http://www.kansasdiscalples.org/give) and click the ENGAGE portal button. From there, follow the on-screen instructions to create an account or log into your existing account. If creating a new account, you will receive an email to reset your password and confirm the creation of your account. Mobile users will be prompted to add [engage.suran.com](http://engage.suran.com) as a shortcut app. After account creation, you can update your information, manage regional and district giving, and register for events all from one login.

### WOC RESPONDING IN THE MIDWEST, KENTUCKY

Late last month, St. Louis recorded the greatest single-day rainfall in its history, at times exceeding two inches per hour - and just two days later, the area endured several more inches of rain. Dozens of stranded motorists, damaged homes, and water evacuations filled the news.

At the same time, in eastern Kentucky, 8 to 11 inches of rain fell in just 48 hours, devastating communities that are still recovering from last year's record flooding. Most of the damage is in Hazard, Whitesburg, and Jackson, Ky.

These communities were also the first to respond in December 2021 when tornadoes devastated western Kentucky towns.

Since the news of these storms, Week of Compassion has been in touch with Regional Ministers and local church pastors. While the situations are still being assessed, initial reports are of some level of damage to three churches in the St. Louis area.

Week of Compassion is also in touch with our ecumenical partners in affected areas, already at work on emergent needs of safety and shelter. These partners are already creating response plans rooted in community assets and partner relationships and making preparation for long-term recovery in these communities.

#### 'How can we help?'

This is our favorite question. It is one that makes Disciples who they are and empowers Week of Compassion in the ministry we do together. We have three quick answers:

- 1. Stay in touch.** We are grateful for Disciples who are eager to step in and volunteer; right now, the situation is best left to professional responders. When our partners determine ways for volunteer response - and there will be many opportunities, for a long time to come.
- 2. Giving to Week of Compassion** - designated 'US Storms' - brings Disciples alongside our partners as needs emerge and as long-term plans take shape. Gifts can be made online, or by mail to Week of Compassion, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.
- 3. Remain steadfast in prayer** - for our Regional Ministers and staff, for local pastors and their congregations, for first responders and local entities going about the work of caring for their communities, and for all those who give time, talent, and resource in response to a neighbor in need.