



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

Vol. 126, Ed. 01: January 2022

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New Church Ministry

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

Connect with us on

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WITH A 'DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF'

On January 17, 2022, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday will mark the 27th anniversary of the national day of service.

This day was established to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King, and to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

In 1986, Martin Luther King Day became the only Federal holiday commemorating an African-American. In 1994, Congress designated the holiday as a national day of service, and marking the third Monday in January every year as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service - a "Day On, Not a Day Off."

Dr. King advocated for nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice as a means of lifting racial oppression. He created change with organized sit-ins, marches, and peaceful demonstrations that highlighted issues of inequality. Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964; he was the youngest person to ever receive this high honor.

We remember Dr. King as a husband, father, friend, and fierce advocate for the betterment of all people. In what way can you, your family, and your church better your community? Honor his memory by organizing, volunteering, and spreading the word. Remember to MAKE IT A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF, for you and those around you.

This MLK holiday arrives to unfinished work and the King Family's request not to celebrate until the current Voting Rights' bill passes. We cheapen the dream of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when we fail to also acknowledge his nightmare. Through nine moral meditations, Disciples Home Missions and the National Convocation have provided a glimpse into Dr. King's "[Letter from Birmingham Jail](#)."

Please spend time with them, download them, share them, and consider how we might best honor the sacrifice of Dr. King and his family. They can be found at www.kansasdisciples.org and will be posted to the regional Facebook page throughout the next week.



HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

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.

The *Kansas Messenger* editorial team reserves the right to edit all materials for relevance, clarity, and space. Submission deadline for the February issue is:

Monday, January 24

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

"The Church Can Try New Things"

BY LARRY ROSS, INTERIM CO-REGIONAL MINISTER

I once very nearly became the minister of "Going Bonkers Christian Church." Well, I DID become their pastor, but after we acquired a building once known as a children's playhouse (Going Bonkers), I playfully suggested a change of name. Wouldn't you like to attend a church that was "Going Bonkers"?

Some church folk seem to act like any suggestion for a change in the church is just going bonkers, but I like them. The church needs more "What If" people,

folk who wonder if there are better ways to be church, and better ways to start churches. The church needs more "Yes, and" people, folk who can hear a new idea and flesh it out. The church even needs more "Yes, but" people, who excel at clear-eyed analysis of the implications of new ideas, and are able to massage them into more workable possibilities. There is even a role for "No, never" people. They force the rest of us to do our homework. The sad thing is that, in a typical church, "No, never" people vastly outnumber the rest of us.

Interestingly, most "No, never" people have approached change in more open ways in the past, and in other settings. But there is something about churches that seems to lure us into complacency and comfort. We like our church. We don't want it to change. We sing "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever more shall be," as though it applies to the church, and it does, in some ways. Jesus Christ IS the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. We can count on that!

It's the WAY we do things that needs to change in the church. The world changes around us, and what once 'worked' does not work as well anymore. Robert's Rules of Order and the Functional Committee system are NOT in the Bible and can be adapted or discarded. The church CAN try new things, must try new things, and needs to test its assumptions to see what still holds true.

How about you? Are you a "What-if" person? A "Yes, and" person? A "Yes but" person? A "No, never" person? I tend to be a "Yes, and" person: not terribly creative, but willing to help try new ideas. What about you?



AN OPEN LETTER ON DISASTER RELIEF

Dear Kansas Disciples,

Regional ministers across the country are advising their churches on how best to respond to natural disasters such as the tornadoes in Kentucky.

Every noble urge to help is worth considering. We want to go and help however we can! In every disaster, the first instinct of others is to try to help right away or to send material items that are believed to be needed. However, what often happens is that these well-intended material items end up creating the second disaster as the communities are overwhelmed with clothes, washers, dryers, refrigerators, and other items.

Co-Regional Minister Larry Ross experienced this a few years ago after the tornado missed his Dallas home by three blocks. In the beginning, sending cash to a trusted group was definitely the best way to help!

Please prayerfully consider sending money directly to Week of Compassion - and indicate it is for tornado relief, as 100% of your gifts go to ministry needs rather than administrative costs.

WOC and other partners have immediate disaster response teams, and they are best equipped to handle this part of the recovery.

The Disciples part of the Disaster Recovery process are the teams that arrive 3-6 months after the event is out of the news, to set up mission stations that provide for the 2-3 year ongoing rebuilding period.

Kansas churches that want to send mission teams under the auspices of the Disciples can contact Week of Compassion or Disciples Volunteering.

Let the Topeka Regional Office, 785-266-2914, cck@kansasdisciples.org, know of your plans and we will circulate that information so other churches could partner with you if they have room. This way, churches with a few individuals might join with other churches in the effort. We hope you will help us make the biggest impact in the long-term recovery for all these communities that have been impacted.

Faithfully,
Larry Ross & Ken Marston
Co-Regional Ministers



**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR CCK
TEXT ALERTS?**

IT'S EASY!

Text **KSMESSENGER** to **316-465-5352**
to sign-up for the regional text alerts system.
Standard SMS and data charges apply.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

DISCIPLES MEN AND HILLSIDE CC CO-HOST BENEFIT BREAKFAST FOR KENTUCKY

Hillside Christian Church, Wichita, and the South Central District Disciples Men are hosting a pancake and sausage benefit breakfast for the First Christian Church of Mayfield Kentucky.

Mayfield FCC was destroyed by the tornado that ravaged Kentucky and other states on December 10.

The event will take place on January 29, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Hillside CC. Come join us as we help our sister church in their time of need and enjoy some pancakes.

To see how Week of Compassion is addressing the needs in Kentucky go to www.weekofcompassion.org/stories/the-church-being-the-church-disciples-leaders-visit-western-kentucky

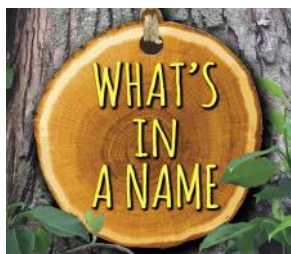
FREE FINANCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES

FCC Manhattan, thanks to a generous private donation, is hosting the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace+ program starting in February, without cost to participants, and is inviting any Disciple from the Region to attend.

If interested, contact the Manhattan FCC office at 785-776-8790. This program teaches financial management skills designed to help individuals and families.

CAMP NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 2022 CAMP SEASON



It's time to start planning for summer church camps! The Tawakoni Program Committee has five, age appropriate, camp sessions and three specialty camps planned throughout June and July. The 2022 camp program will explore the

power and meanings we apply to names and how God equips us to care for others.

To make this year's program possible, volunteers are needed to fill roles as directors, chaplains, counselors, nurses, and maintenance volunteers. Apply online at www.tawakoni.org.

Church promotional packets that include the 2022 camp schedule, volunteer opportunities, registration information, and more will be sent in February. Online registration links will open by February 15.

The Tawakoni Program Committee is working on a staff training day. See more details in future publications.

2022 Camp Dates:

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| • Primary Camp | June 1-3 | • Grand Camp 1 | June 3-5 |
| • Discovery Camp | June 1-2 | • Grand Camp 2 | June 24-26 |
| • Chi Rho Camp | June 6-11 | • Mission Week | June 11-18 |
| • Pre-High Camp | June 6-11 | | |
| • CYF Camp | July 11-16 | | |



Tawakoni is seeking applications for 2022 Summer Leadership Interns. We hope to hire three to five applicants this year.

Qualified applicants will have completed their first year in college, love children and the camp, have a specific camp skill (i.e., lifeguard certification or musician) to share with the program, have demonstrated their reliability and ability to work collaboratively with others.

Interns assist with a variety of tasks and activities including maintaining the pool, lifeguarding, tending campfires, leading games, serving food, washing dishes, facilitating challenge course activities, tending grounds, and more. They've even been known to step in as counselors when needed, and to lead music and energizers!

Former interns in most cases continue to serve in the church!

Apply online at www.tawakoni.org, call 316-775-1222 or contact Camp Manager, Sid Rutland, at campmanager@kansasdisciples.org for more details.

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

2022 SPIRIT FEST: WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF ME?

Disciples Women are invited to attend one of three Spirit Fest opportunities this spring. The Bible study will be based on "Micah for You", written by Stephen Um. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at Spirit Fest. Amazon also has the Kindle version of the book available.



Rev. Angèle Saunders Johnson, Executive Director of Disciples Women will provide the keynote address. Angèle previously served as the Minister of Discipleship and Outreach for Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, Tenn. Her prior experience includes faith-

based community organizing, executive pastoral leadership, and serving as Director of Christian Education for New Covenant Christian Church in Nashville.

She will join us by recorded message at Salina FCC on April 2, and Emporia FCC on April 9 before joining us in person at the April 30 event at Riverside Christian Church in Wichita.

As we have done in the past, our Blessing Box monies will be dedicated during our morning worship. Checks for Blessing Box offering should be made out to Christian Church in Kansas.

Please plan to attend one of the Spirit Fest sessions. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and worship with women from across Kansas.

Registration is open online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events, through your ENGAGE account, and the regional Facebook Events page.

YEARBOOK REPORTING TIME!

Remember to turn in your annual yearbook reports. To avoid an ALEX database crash on March 15, churches are asked to turn in their forms by March 1.

See article on page 7 and attached forms for details.

KCYF SPRING RETREAT 2022

Come out to Tawakoni for the KCYF Spring Retreat, March 4-6, 2022, starting Friday at 7 p.m. through Sunday at 10 a.m. Note: Please eat before you arrive on Friday. Dinner will not be provided.

We look forward to seeing you again, reconnecting with camp friends and making new ones. The featured speaker is



Brad Greene, Director of Children & Youth Ministries at Atchison FCC. Brad received Bachelor's degrees in Bible & Theology and Youth Ministry from William Jessup University in Rocklin, Calif. He has served on staff in youth and children's ministries in California and Idaho before coming to Kansas. The KCYF Cabinet has also planned fun activities throughout the retreat.

The cost is \$60 for the weekend, including lodging and meals. Registration is open online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events, through your ENGAGE account, and the regional Facebook Events page. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 23.

Tell your friends and share at your churches! Contact Travis Smith McKee for any questions, travistucc@gmail.com.



REST, RELAX, AND RENEW CLERGY RETREAT

All Kansas pastors are invited to Tawakoni for a time of rest, relaxation, and renewal at this year's clergy retreat.

Dr. William Willimon will be our resident Theologian. It happens April 26-28 at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. The retreat begins with dinner at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26 and will end before noon on April 28.

The cost is \$70 for two nights lodging at the camp and four meals. If you will not be staying at the camp the cost is \$50.

Registration is open online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events, through your ENGAGE account, and the regional Facebook Events page.

ANNUAL REGIONAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT RETURNS

Yes! It's back! The annual Spiritual Retreat will be March 10-12, 2022.

Due to on-going COVID concerns within the community of retired nuns who live at the Mid-America Center for Spirituality in Great Bend, the retreat will be held in a new place, at our own Disciples Center at Tawakoni

Dr. Paul Koch, Co-Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Mid-America will be this year's retreat facilitator.

Cost will remain the usual \$135. Registration will open soon.



The art of communication is the language of leadership.

James Humes

Are you a pastor struggling to keep up with the changes in technology?

Do you work in the church office and need help with some effective communication strategies?

Are you a ministry leader wanting to make an impact in your church and community?

REGISTRATION IS OPEN! SIGN-UP NOW FOR THE 2022 ART OF CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR

Join us for the weekly Art of Church Communication Workshop Seminar in April. Taught by CCK Com.munications Specialist, Jessica Marston, sessions will combine in-person, live streaming, and online “at your own pace” learning styles to provide church leadership – pastors, office staff, and members – with tools and strategies to improve their church’s overall communication ministry.

Each week will include discussion boards, a video presentation, interactive Q&A sessions, real-world applications,

and more. This seminar is for anyone (not just church office staff). If you’re interested in church communication ministry, regardless of current skill level, you are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Learn more at: kansasdisciples.org/aocc-workshops. Register online, through your ENGAGE account, and the regional Facebook Events page. Registration closes Friday, March 18

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH



BECOME A SUMMER DISCIPLES PEACE INTERN

The Disciples Peace Fellowship (DPF) intern program will soon begin accepting applications for the 2022 interns! If you will be 21 by June 21, 2022, you can apply online through Jan. 31.

Peace Interns are young adults who provide educational and program support at church camps and other church-related assemblies and events about peace and justice issues, serving as counselors and resource people, and modeling the lifestyle of peacemakers for youth and adults alike.

Learn more at www.disciplespeace.org/what-is-a-peace-intern.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2022 ECO-JUSTICE CAMP

AT CHRISTMOUNT CHRISTIAN MISSION—JUNE 27-JULY 1

Disciples Home Mission’s Green Chalice program and Christmount Christian Mission will partner for this incredible eco-justice camp. High-school students, young adults, and adults will explore complex sustainability challenges and meet churches, organizations, and individuals engaged in justice in their own communities. We will engage across topics of poverty, food and faith, climate change, pollution, health, anti-racism, equity, and reconciliation. Registration details to come!



TCU MINISTER’S WEEK REGISTRATION OPEN

The 2022 Minister Week is a clergy conference co-sponsored by Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University and University Christian Church scheduled for Feb. 7-9.

With an 80-year history, this event brings together clergy, alumni, seminarians, and people from the community for fellowship, learning, and worship.

In addition to the worship service and plenary sessions the conference includes breakout workshops, the Brite Luncheon, a Retired Ministers Dinner, an organ recital and hymn sing, and a Brite alumni gathering.



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR PTS’S REMIND & RENEW MINISTER’S RETREAT

The **ART** of RITUAL
January 25-27
REmind & **RE**new 2022

Registration is open for the 2022 Remind & Renew clergy retreat at Philips Theological Seminary Jan. 25-27. This year’s theme is “The Art of Ritual: Cultivating Practices for Community.”

Both in-person and online options are planned with recorded and live presentations.

2022 speaker line-up includes:

- Marcia McFee
- Victoria Loorz
- Chelsea Yarborough
- Sarah de la Fuente
- Dan Paul

Cost is \$95 for in-person registration; \$65 for online registration, and \$35 for current students. Register online at www.ptstulsa.edu/news-events.

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

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

HELM IS NOW ACCEPTING 2022 GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Disciples of Christ Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM), works with wider church and higher education partners to develop and nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society and world.

HELM is excited to announce that the application period for the Leadership Fellows Program, PhD Scholarships and Seminarians Grants will run from Jan. 1 to March 31.

For more information on the application process and eligibility requirements, go to www.kansasdisciples.org for resources and application links.

CELEBRATE WEEK OF THE LAITY WITH RESOURCES FROM DISCIPLES HOME MISSIONS

[Week of the Laity](#) will be celebrated January 16-22. Laity Sunday is a special time when the church pauses to consider lay leaders' varied gifts for ministry to church and community.

As you start the year, resources inspired by Simon of Cyrene, are available to aid you in doing so thoughtfully. Simon of Cyrene was a North African man we find supporting the church in Matthew 27, Mark 15, and Luke 23.

For 2022, we have reflected on Simon of Cyrene's, leadership, critical presence, gifts for ministry, and provided an video study with Rev. Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder. There is also a worship litany included for Laity Sunday. Check them out at www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/laity-week/

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR TRAINING AVAILABLE JANUARY 22

Disciples are growing more concerned about climate change. As they witness and experience impacts to their health, livelihoods, and communities, they are

increasingly looking for guidance on solutions, from people in their daily lives – including faith leaders like you. Addressing the climate crisis takes us all. Together let's commit to stronger action in 2022.

The live virtual training will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 22, and will include several breaks throughout.

This training will equip you with the knowledge, hands-on experience, and resources to speak and act confidently on climate change and solutions.

With this training, and a cohort of like-minded leaders, you will be able to engage your congregations and congregants, colleagues, the public, and policymakers to inspire climate solutions that help protect our families and communities now, and ensure a prosperous, just, and secure future.

Register now and share within your networks. If you have any questions about registering, please contact FaithAmbassadors@ecoAmerica.org.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE 2022 KIRKPATRICK CONFERENCE

Registration for the 2022 Kirkpatrick Conference is now open. This academic conference, "Visions of Wholeness: Systemic Racism, Antiracism, and 'Reconciliation' in Our Shared History and Tradition" will be March 18-19, at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. The conference is sponsored through Disciples of Christ Historical Society's Kirkpatrick Lecture Endowment.

Bringing together leading Disciples and Stone Campbell scholars and church leaders, this is an academic conference open to the public. Papers and panel discussions will critically analyze the impact of systemic racism in Disciples and Stone-Campbell history and tell important stories of resistance

to it from the earliest days of our movement to the present time. We will conclude with a conversation about where we go from here as we live more fully into the antiracism priority we have claimed as a church.

Rev. Sandhya Jha will open the conference on Friday morning. **Rev. Dr. William Barber II** will present the keynote address on Friday evening of the conference.

Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas will be the preacher for the closing worship on Saturday, and **Rev. Terri Hord Owens** will give the charge as the conference closes.

On Saturday morning, participants will gather at Reconciliation Park in the

Greenwood Community for a remembrance of the 1921 Tulsa Massacre.

Major grant funding provided by Reconciliation Ministry and the Oreon E. Scott Foundation, in addition to partnerships and sponsorships from various Disciples ministries, makes it possible to offer travel grants. Applications for grant funds will be available in January.

The registration fee for the day and a half event is \$70, which includes three meals. Register for in-person or livestream attendance at <https://discipleshistory.org/about/register>.



IMPORTANT DOC YEARBOOK, CCK UPDATE REPORTS NEEDED

The Year Book of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada is the official document that shows all the Disciples Congregations and Ministries in our denomination.

This is the second year we will use the Alex program to compile Year Book data online. Alex provides assessment tools to work with congregational data. The deadline for completing the 2022 Year Book Report (based on 2021) is March 1, to avoid a repeat of last year's computer crash.

Please share this information with

the person(s) that completes your congregation's annual Year Book report for the general church. Click the link below for instructions, tutorials, worksheets, and videos for assistance.

<https://disciples.org/alex/congregation-user-info/>

Two other pdf items are attached to this mailing to print, complete and email (cck@kansasdisciples.org), fax (785-266-0174), or mail to the Topeka Regional Office (2914 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka 66611):

1. Church Leadership Report Form:

Provide names/contact information for officers who will serve as of January 1, 2022. This helps your regional office send information to the proper person(s).

2. Church Salary Review Survey (2

pages): Your treasurer may be the best person to prepare this page. This compensation data is often requested by pastoral relations committees, stewardship committees, and search committees.

The provided information will be summarized by congregation and community-size. A summary is available upon request from the Topeka Regional Office. Church names will not be indicated on the summary.

Thank You

Kansas Disciples,

There were many surprise cards, gifts, and people who made my retirement special. Thank you to Disciples in all corners of Kansas. I have enjoyed the work and will miss the people contacts most of all. Best blessings to new changes for the Christian Church in Kansas.

Susan White

JOIN OUR TEAM! REGIONAL LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For churches and region alike, the turn of the year brings challenges and opportunities. Regional committees and working groups are underway for 2022. Needed are ideas about people from churches in the Region who might be willing to serve on the regional level. Current leadership will do the asking; we just need you to tell us the names and contact info of folks you know who are committed to Disciples churches, have skills in leadership and

organizational service, and are supportive of the Christian region.

We'll be looking for some folks to help plan the Regional Assembly, and others to work on the proposals to come before the Assembly in August. We'll be looking for people to plan the Region's Budget. We'll need others to flesh out some of the working groups in the Region.

This Region is blessed with so many good leaders! We want to continue to



recruit people who are potential new leaders for down the road, equip them, and connect them to holy work. That's who we are as a Region, yes?

"Together, We Connect and Equip."

Please send name suggestions to lross@kansasdisciples.org or call the Topeka Regional Office at 785-266-2914.