



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

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REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2022 KIRKPATRICK CONFERENCE

Join Disciples historians and scholars at the 2022 Kirkpatrick 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 academic conference, open to the public, will critically analyze the impact of systemic racism and tell important stories of resistance to it. We will conclude with a conversation about where we go from here as we live more fully into the anti-racism priority we have claimed as a church.



Rev. Sandhya Jha

will open the conference on Friday morning. Sandhya Jha is an anti-oppression consultant who particularly loves

helping organizations get Diversity/Equity/Inclusion teams off the ground.



Rev. Dr. Frank

Thomas will be the preacher for the closing worship on Saturday. He currently serves as the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Miller Professor of Homiletics and

Director of the Academy of Preaching and Celebration at Christian Theological Seminary. With a long history of excellence in preaching and preaching method, Thomas was inducted into the prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College.

Rev. Dr. William

Barber II will present the keynote address on Friday evening of the conference. He is the President and Senior Lecturer of Repairers of the Breach, Co-Chair of the Poor People's

Campaign; Bishop with The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries; Visiting Professor at Union Theological Seminary; Pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, N.C., and the author of four books.



Disciples General Minister and President **Rev. Terri Hord Owens** will give the charge as the conference closes. A Disciple since young adulthood, Hord Owens was dean of students at the

University of Chicago Divinity School and pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL prior to her election.

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.

The registration fee is \$70, which includes three meals. Register for in-person or livestream attendance at www.discipleshistory.org/about/register.

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

Connect with us on

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

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER



*"Valuing the wellbeing of others
and valuing personal freedom"*

BY KEN MARSTON,
CO-REGIONAL MINISTER & INTERIM PRESIDENT

As 2022 begins, regional leadership is wrestling with how to go forward considering ever-changing COVID-19 infection rates.

On the one hand, we human beings are social creatures that need be in relationship and in the presence of others

for our emotional and physical, and I would add spiritual wellbeing.

On the other hand, being present with each other in large gatherings does pose a real risk to those very same things – our emotional, physical, and spiritual wellbeing. There are no easy answers to this predicament and as we go through this year, we need to navigate this time with a deep love and concern for both ourselves and our neighbors.

We plan for much of regional church life to look nearly like it did pre-pandemic. We plan for in-person retreats, workshops, and training events, while planning and administrative meetings will lean more towards the use of video conferencing. Some of this we were starting to do three years ago as a financial cost and time saving effort. At the same time, our planning will be flexible with how we gather and we will continue to utilize lessons we have learned.

What are some of those lessons?

Get vaccinated. These vaccines are safe and highly effective. Unless there is a medical reason supported by a doctor's recommendation not to be vaccinated, this is one of the best ways we can learn to live with this COVID-19 virus.

Wear a facemask. When we gather indoors, we will encourage everyone to wear a good quality facemask and keep a distance of at least four feet apart as much as possible.

Use good hygiene practices. Hand washing and sanitizing of surfaces is always a good practice as it helps to prevent the spread of many viruses beyond COVID-19.

Please join me in this work, as we value the wellbeing of others as much as we value our personal freedom.



**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.

Love IS A PATHWAY FORWARD Week of Compassion Special Offering February 20 & 27

On Memorial Day 2019, tornadoes swept through the Miami Valley of Ohio, destroying thousands of homes and apartments and leaving a trail of downed trees and power lines in their wake. Many of the tornado-affected families have had to relocate multiple times since, due to substandard housing conditions and inflated rent.

Two years after the storm, the Stephens family of ten was still unable to find adequate housing and was forced to live apart. In addition to dealing with unscrupulous contractors, the family had to haggle with insurance companies as they tried to rebuild their home. Yet, all was not lost. The Stephens family connected with the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Operations Group (MVLTRG), and volunteer teams finished the repairs.

Alongside these traditional home repair projects, and with support from Week of Compassion, the MVLTRG helped launch the Tornado Survivors' Pathways to Homeownership Project to help alleviate the housing crunch in the Dayton area. Volunteers and local nonprofits work together to transition "nuisance" properties and vacant lots into affordable, single-family housing options for tornado survivors who were displaced from rental housing, stabilizing both families and the community.

With support for long-term recovery, including innovative programs like the Pathways to Homeownership Project, Week of Compassion helps create opportunities for families to thrive after disasters.

When you give, you help rebuild communities recovering from disaster. You also empower farmers to grow new kinds of crops in a changing climate; you support refugees; you empower youth through education, and empower women through vocational opportunities. Your gifts of love have the power to transform lives.
is shelter.
is a listening ear.

is community.
is a hopeful future.
is a path forward.
When all else seems lost,

Love

Love Remains

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

FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER SEARCH TEAM

BY STEPHANIE SWITZKY,
SEARCH TEAM CHAIR



Great news! The Region is now accepting applications for the Co-Regional Minister position through Feb. 20, 2022.

The Search Committee is carefully following the process outlined in the “Manual for Regional Search Committees” and hopes to begin interviewing candidates in April.

We sincerely appreciate everyone who participated in the Zoom listening sessions and online survey last fall. The support and thoughtfulness helped provide a foundation for our discussions related to the writing of our Regional Profile. We are seeking a Co-Regional Minister who:

- ⇒ Inspires a transformational vision for what the church can be, coupled with proven experience in a church setting where the vision has been successfully implemented.
- ⇒ Models effective people skills by showing kindness and respect for all.
- ⇒ Communicates effectively when writing, listening, and speaking.
- ⇒ Supports the Region’s Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism efforts.
- ⇒ Possesses a pastoral heart for people, congregations, and care of the Region’s pastors.
- ⇒ Serves as a devoted follower of Christ within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) tradition.
- ⇒ Possesses experience overseeing and administering funds within a church setting.
- ⇒ Provides leadership and collaborates with others within a church context on personnel and legal matters.

Read the full profile and the board-approved job description at www.kansasdisciples.org/2022-rm-search.

Ministers interested in applying should log in to the Division of Homeland Ministry's WebMinPro site. Click on the button in the upper right-hand corner saying, “Open Position Listings” to view the Job Description for the Kansas Co-Regional Minister position. Then follow the instructions there.

Please be in prayer as God moves in the hearts of applicants and all who are involved in this process.

A SPIRITUAL WIND CONTINUES TO BLOW Tri-Regional Partnership Report

[Editor's Note] This article uses the term “Kin-dom of God.” Kin-doms are self-organizing systems that are fostered in kinship—the recognition that we are all kin, working together cooperatively and collaboratively.

Over the last 18 months, the Tri-Region Steering Committee, made up of representatives from Kansas, Nebraska, and the Greater Kansas City regions, have learned about each other and the difficulty of discerning new ways of being church together.

The nature of this work is adaptive, meaning learning is required, better questions must be asked, answers are elusive, and hearts and minds must be open and trusting. In other words, this is not a matter of cutting and pasting tired solutions from available templates.

Despite how that might sound, we remain optimistic and committed to discovering ways to better serve local congregations and work together in new and effective ways.

Currently, we are not recommending any structural change to the regions. We remain open to the possibility if that is deemed the best path forward.

We will offer each regional board a Collaborative Framework, based on covenantal relationship, that will serve to guide future efforts, leveraging regional assets and strengths.

We will work with regional boards to determine communication processes to engage local congregations, assessing needs for which our regions or the General Church can provide direct support or link congregations to help each other.

We will offer regional assembly planning teams, workshops to aid in communication between the Steering Committee and local congregations.

We will attend training from the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) on *Leadership through Adaptive Change* with the help of a KLC Transformation Grant to the region of Kansas.

We will continue to share information in a spirit of transparency that will serve to nurture our relationships and enable ideas and opportunities to flow freely.

As our work continues, the membership of the committee evolves as inevitable changes take place in all our lives. We thank our General Minister and President, Terri Hord Owens for her insights and support. We thank our regional ministers for their mentoring, support, and latitude to do this work.

We move prayerfully ahead, confident in the power of the Holy Spirit leading us to discern God’s will for the work of our regions and the work of local congregations to build up the kin-dom of God.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Kelly Gindlesberger (Kansas)
Peggy Chandler (Greater KC)
Rev. Mike Njus (Nebraska)



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND, BUT DEADLINES ARE NEAR

The Christian Church in Kansas (CCK) has a variety of grants that are available each year. The deadline for two of those grants – Reconciliation Offering and the Kansas Bible Chair Grants – is fast approaching, and the Kansas Leadership Training Grant slots fill quickly, so early registration is recommended. Applications for all CCK grant opportunities including descriptions can be found at www.kansasdisciples.org/grants. Here are the descriptions on each of the programs.

— RECONCILIATION GRANTS —

Half of the funds from the Reconciliation Special offering, received September-October, stays in Kansas to fund projects that address racism and/or poverty in our community.

Projects selected for grants are people centered projects — on-going or experimental — that reflects personal involvement in the life of any community where people are hurting because of poverty, alienation, racism and fear. Other considerations include the sponsoring organization's financial support of the annual Reconciliation Special Offering.

Grant requests will be reviewed by the grant committee and recommended to the Regional Executive Committee for consideration in April. Funds will be dispersed in January 2023 after the available offering funds are known.

Apply online at www.kansasdisciples.org/grants. The application and supporting documentation submission deadline is **March 31**.

— KLC TUITION GRANTS —

Once again, our region has a marvelous opportunity: 50 training slots in the leadership training programs offered by Kansas Leadership Center (KLC).

These are for people who want to make progress on something important – that is, to grow their leadership skills, to aid their congregations and CCK in addressing the adaptive challenges we face.

This training is intended to help you lead your congregation more effectively, more powerfully, to change lives and turn systems in healthy directions.

The team from within our region who will help to recruit individuals to the training programs are:

- ⇒ **Rev. David Dubovich**, Park Place CC, Hutchinson
- ⇒ **Rev. Laurie Lewis**, Parsons First CC
- ⇒ **Rev. Luis Mendez**, North Heights CC, Wichita
- ⇒ **Danielle Euler**, Leavenworth First CC,
- ⇒ **Rev. Guillermo Reyes**, Iglesia Cristiana Discipulos de Cristo, Garden City
- ⇒ **Rev. Titus James** (Ret.)

If you want to make progress on something you care about, grow your leadership skills, aid your congregation and the CCK in addressing the adaptive challenges we face then this training is for you. Your church will benefit most by sending



— KBC GRANTS —

Established by the Kansas Women's Board of Missions, the Kansas Bible Chair (KBC) offers significant funds to provide quality education and spiritual formation opportunities for Kansas Disciples.

Many regional events are subsidized by KBC funds, allowing Kansas Disciples to take part at a much lower cost than would otherwise be possible.

All requests for funding of education projects must come to the KBC Task Force with an endorsement from a committee or commission of the CCK.

KBC Grant requests are reviewed twice a year — April and October — by the grant committee and recommended to the Regional Executive Committee for consideration.

The Spring submission deadline is March 31.



teams of 3-4, one of whom is probably your pastor. You will also benefit by identifying a challenge on which you want to make progress.

As you begin the process of defining what your adaptive challenge is for your congregation, the team developed a collective adaptive challenge for the region of Kansas. The collective adaptive challenge we have defined is: *We want more people leading so that we can strengthen/empower and equip the leadership within the congregations that make up the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas, as our church navigates an everchanging world.*

Plan to focus 90 days on the process: prework, the training and its application, beginning 21 days before your event.

In addition to congregational teams, CCK plans to send interested staff, moderators, and other regional leaders. Trainings fill fast and registration early in the year is encouraged.

The KLC Partnership Grant covers tuition and a Kansas Bible Chair Grant covers books, housing, and meals.

Apply online at www.kansasdisciples.org/grants and pay a \$25 commitment fee. After your application has processed, follow the emailed instructions to register with Kansas Leadership Center and arrange for securing books from regional staff.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

DISCIPLES MEN AND HILLSIDE CC BENEFIT BREAKFAST FOR KENTUCKY A HUGE SUCCESS

The Hillside Christian Church and SCD Disciples Men's Pancake Benefit Breakfast was a huge success! Thank you to all who participated in the event and/or donated to the Mayfield FCC Tornado Recovery Effort.



Disciples men representing a variety of south central Disciples churches helped with cooking, serving, and clean-up throughout the morning. Team member and community members also engaged in



Kansas Day Trivia and fellowship opportunities.

The event served around 120 people and raised about \$3,400 that will be given to Week of Compassion (WOC) to aid Mayfield FCC and the



surrounding community in tornado recovery efforts after the December 2021 tornados.

Donations supporting the ongoing relief effort can be sent directly to WOC. Please indicate it is for Kentucky tornado relief.

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

BELMONT BOULEVARD CC, SALINA, CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Members of Belmont Boulevard Christian Church gathered Sunday, Jan. 30, to commemorate the founding of the Congregation.



During a morning worship service in 1962 at Salina First Christian Church, twelve families were commissioned to start Belmont Blvd. Christian Church. These 12 families gathered at a house that would be the parsonage and gathering place for the new church.



The last four living members of the original 12 people were present and participated in leading this service by presiding at the communion table and receiving of the morning offering. Ell Umphrey provided the Communion Meditation and the prayer dedicating the morning offering and Betty Worrel said the prayer of Thanksgiving for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

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 March issue is:

Monday, February 24

CAMP NEWS

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES TEAM ANNOUNCES 2022 SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Come join us at Tawakoni for another exciting year!

Camp registration is now open for the 2022 Summer Camp Program. Six, age appropriate, camp sessions and three specialty camps are planned throughout June and July.

This year's theme, "What's in a Name," will explore the power and meanings we apply to names and how God equips us to care for others.

Church promotional packets that include the 2022 camp schedule, volunteer opportunities, registration information, and more have been sent to church offices for posting and distribution.



Camp Scholarships are available for families who have need. Contact your church office for details. **Scholarship application deadline is March 31.**

Registration fee includes lodging & meals, program expense, nurse, theme T-shirt and water bottle, and \$10 for the camp maintenance fund. Register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events, or through your Engage account.

Registration and health forms are also available through your church office. **Register before April 30 and SAVE \$40!** Registration will close two weeks prior to each camp session or when a session reaches maximum compacity. A wait list will be maintained in the Topeka Regional Office.



HELP US GET THE CAMP READY FOR THE SUMMER SEASON!

This Winter weather will soon be history and Spring will bring warmer days. That will mean it's time to meet at the camp and get the facilities ready for the summer!

Mark your calendar!

This year's Spring Camp Work Days are April 21-23. More details about planned projects and how you can get involved coming soon.

We have project for everyone who wants to help. Weather it is one hour, one day, or all three days, there is a job waiting for you.



ARE YOU PLANNING A CHURCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT, FAMILY GATHERING, OR OTHER SPECIAL EVENT?

The Disciples Center at Tawakoni, your regional camp conference and event center is here to help!

Tawakoni rents out cabins and meeting spaces for a variety of events and meetings. It's your year round camp, conference, retreat and event headquarters!

Fees and deposits vary depending of size and nature of each event. For more information, go to www.tawakoni.org, email reservations@kansasdisciples.org or call 316-775-1222.

The 2022 Camp Season is right around the corner. More camp news about the upcoming season including schedule and volunteer opportunities is in the accompanying

***Tawakoni Camp News
Special Edition***

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2022 ART OF CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR IS OPEN



Join us for the weekly Art of Church Communication Workshop Seminar in April. Taught by CCK Communications 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 participants will discuss a different church communication topic through discussion boards, a video presentation, interactive Q&A session, 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.

In addition to all the great information, strategies, and resources presented during the seminar, every

participant is eligible to win a \$50-\$75 gift card for their church.

Learn more and register at: kansasdisciples.org/aocc-workshops, through your ENGAGE account, or the regional Facebook Events page.

The early bird deadline is **4 p.m. Friday, March 11**. A minimum of eight paid registrations is needed by the early bird deadline to hold workshops. Registration will close at **4 p.m. Friday, March 18**.

HEY YOUTH! REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR KCYF SPRING RETREAT 2022

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to Tawakoni for this year's KCYF Spring Retreat, March 4-6, 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.

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**.

The featured speaker is Brad Greene, Director of Children & Youth Ministries at Atchison FCC. Brad received his 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. We look forward to seeing you again, reconnecting with camp friends and making new ones.

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 Kanas 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 loross@kansasdisciples.org or call the Topeka Regional Office at 785-266-2914.



NEWS FROM YOUR REGION



ANNUAL REGIONAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT RETURNS



This year's Spiritual Retreat is four weeks away — March 10-12 at Tawakoni.

Led by Dr. Rev. Paul Koch, Co-Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Mid-America, participants will explore attitudes of Being which define what it means to live in God's Kingdom. Matthew 5:1-12 will ground this exploration as attendees contemplate the Beatitudes from different Biblical cultural and experiential perspectives.

Koch has provided emotional and spiritual care for individuals and congregations for 30 years. He dedicates himself to helping all men and women seek encounters with creational/incarnational theology and avenues for spiritual transformation through annual retreats in the Ozarks, New Mexico, and the North Woods of Minnesota.

Register now for \$135 at www.kansasdisciples.org or through your Engage account.



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 April 26-28 at Tawakoni. The retreat

begins with dinner at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26 and will end before noon on April 28.

Each year during the last week of April clergy from around the region meet at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni for fellowship and conversation with a resident theologian. This year, Dr. William Willimon will be our resident Theologian.

Take advantage of an opportunity to rest after the busy Easter holiday renew your spirit among ministry colleagues.

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.

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. 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 Belmont Blvd. CC, Salina, on April 2, and Emporia FCC on April 9 before joining us in person on April 30 at Riverside CC, 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.

Registration for the event is \$20 per person which includes all materials and lunch. If you prefer, you may register to join in the worship service via Zoom for a cost of \$8 per person. Registration is open online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events, through your ENGAGE account, and the regional Facebook Events page.

REMEMBER YOUR YEARBOOK REPORTS!

If you have not already, remember to turn in your annual yearbook reports. These reports are compiled into the annual Disciples Yearbook.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Yearbook and Directory is more than just numbers. It is, above all, a touchstone for our covenantal relationships across the expressions of the Church. General ministry reports, general assembly resolutions, regional and congregational

information and more appear in these pages connecting us.

The yearbook is also a document of record. Not only does it show trends in membership and giving, but it also serves as the documentation for congregations' 501(c3) nonprofit status with the Internal Revenue Service in the United States.

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

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

BLANKET SUNDAY IS LOVE SUNDAY

Church World Services (CWS) is sponsoring a special Blanket Offering program to help those around the world who are facing hard times receive a warm blanket, and to be reminded that God has not forgotten them.

CWS makes it easy for your church to live out your faith and help others by hosting a special Blanket Offering. Promotional materials, including a support video are available at cwsblankets.org/order. You can even get a Blanket Offering page online built specifically for your church. CWS will set up the page and provide a link, making giving easier for your congregation. Visit cwsblankets.org/virtual to learn more and see a sample page.



Be the church one person and one blanket at a time.

CANCELED:

'IT'S REAL: THE 2022 EXPERIENCE'

The ministries of [National Convocation - Disciples](#), [Obra Hispana](#), and [North American Pacific/Asian Disciples \(NAPAD\)](#) have prayerfully decided to cancel "It's Real: The 2022 Experience."

Since 2019, these ministries have been planning a one-time in person gathering for the whole church to experience the diverse theological, multicultural, and multilingual identities, history, and culture of our communities. In care for the health and wholeness of our church, as cases of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant surge globally, we have discerned that we cannot host the event with excellence and integrity.

Read the full statement at: <https://www.nationalconvocation.org/2022experience>

IN MEMORIUM

Regional communications director, **Steve Hart's** mom, **Hylagene "Hyla" Hart** died January 28, at age 86. A service honoring her life was held on Monday, Feb. 7, at Woodridge CC, Wichita.

Bonnie Frasier died Feb. 2 in Raymore, MO. She was the wife of former Park Place CC, Hutchinson, pastor **Gene Frasier**.

IN TRANSITION

Goodland First CC has called **Don Warren** as pastor. His first Sunday was Feb. 6.