



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)



www.kansasdisciples.org

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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](#)

JOIN US FOR THE 2022 DISCIPLES CONNECT & EQUIP REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Regional Disciples Connect & Equip event is scheduled for Saturday, August 6, at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. This year's theme will center around "Adaptive change in a changed world" and what it means for Disciples.

**Early Bird Registration deadline is
Monday, July 25.**

2022 marks a regional assembly year, and the bi-annual (every two years) business session to vote on the following items, and any others

brought to the assembly:

- Election of new regional officers/moderators
- Approve revisions to the CCK constitution
- Approve the calling of a new Co-Regional Minister

Note: Copies of the business items were e-mailed in early July, copies will be available at the event.

Additionally, there will be multiple workshop opportunities and a chance to meet and visit with our new Co-Regional Minister, Rev. Tom Stanley. With the focus on "equipping," we hope to provide more opportunities for congregational leaders to learn adaptive change methods in this post-pandemic/endemic world. Workshops will be a combination of knowledge instruction and teaching practical skills.

Topics include:

- Developing an Adaptive Change Culture
- Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation
- Refugee Resettlement: How can we help?
- The Covenant Project: Changes to Disciples Governance
- The Tri-Regional Partnership: What is it?
- Church Communications Team
- Churches Supporting Children of Trauma
- Little Things Are Big Things: Being a Relevant Church

Kansas Disciples Men's ministry is providing boxed lunches. Ham, turkey, or veggie sandwich options are available with chips, cookie, and choice of drink. Pre-registration is needed by July 25 to guarantee a meal choice preference.

Following lunch, we'll have another workshop session, open pool for swimming, and introduce our new Co-Regional Minister, Rev. Tom Stanley. We'll close out the event with worship and the installation of officers.

Child care will be available for pre-registered children 4-years old and younger. Elementary aged children and middle school youth activities are currently being planned for the morning with swimming in the afternoon. High School youth are encouraged to attend and participate in the workshop discussions and fellowship activities.

Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth and children (5-18 years), with children under five years at no charge and covers program, lunch, and child care. Register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events, or through ENGAGE. Online registration closes Wednesday, July 27. Walk-ins are welcome on the day of the event.



THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

It's hard to say 'good-bye'

BY LARRY ROSS,
INTERIM CO-REGIONAL MINISTER

I hate goodbyes, so I will not use that word. "Fare Thee Well" is better. Our paths will cross again, for in the world of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we have a delightful way of running into one another! I know this: I will never traverse Kansas again without thinking of the fine clergy and laity of the Kansas Region.

I have enjoyed being your Interim Co-Regional Minister these last eight months, working with the rest of the staff. I am especially grateful to Co-Regional Minister Ken Marston for his patience, and to Moderator Laurie Lewis for her faith in me. This Region is in good hands as it welcomes Rev. Tom Stanley in August. A special word of thanks to those who hosted clergy cluster gatherings each month, and to the many who responded to the call to help guide programs, keep track of administrative and financial needs, run the camp and youth ministries, dream of church starts, and do justice work.

Ken tells me that I ask good questions, so I want to leave you with a few. If the role of the Region is to 'Connect and

Equip' you to do the work of the church, what IS that work? Here's what I think: that the Church exists to worship a marvelous God, to lead others into a right relationship with God, to bring people under our care to spiritual maturity, to reach out as representatives of Christ to a fragmented world, and to take care of one another. How can this Region help you, the Church, do these better?

As for my plans, I hope to enjoy a few weeks of rest before God reveals the next work God has for me. In September I will mark 50 years of ministry, but I am not finished yet. Let my last words in *The Messenger* be these from I Thessalonians 5:16-17 (NIV): "Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Larry



NEW PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022



The 2022 professional boundaries training schedule has been in flux since some health issues for Co-Regional Minister, Ken Marston, have developed.

Things are going better, and new plans have been made to provide opportunities for our

clergy to get this training, which is required every three years to maintain standing.

For the clergy that need this training this year, we have been able to coordinate with Bill Rose-Heim, Greater Kansas City Regional Minister, to provide three more opportunities before the end of this year.

The first opportunity is virtually from Thursday, Sept. 13, through Saturday, Sept. 15, called Healthy Boundaries 201 – an expanded version of Faith Trust Institute's basis 101 course.

The second opportunity is in-person at the Merriam Christian Church, near Kansas City, on Saturday, Sept. 24. Contact Ken for the *Healthy Boundaries 101 Workbook*.

The third opportunity will be another virtual training experience hosted by CCK and taught by Bill on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a break for lunch.

To register for any of these three trainings go to our website www.kansasdisciples.org/events.



Make a gift on DMF Day to support Disciples Mission Fund, which makes it possible for the whole church to work together, doing far more than we could alone.

Individuals and congregations make contributions to DMF, which funds the work of regional and general ministries, who make it possible for us to be the church together, in many ways and in many places.

On August 4, we will celebrate the work we do together as church because of Disciples Mission Fund. Follow [Disciples social media](#) for live events, stories, and updates throughout the day.

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

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

MENDEZ ORDAINED



Luis A. Mendez was ordained into Christian ministry on Sunday, June 19. Mendez was installed as the pastor of North Heights Christian Church, Wichita, in August 2021.

Pictured are Larry Walls, left, Mendez, center, and Retired Regional Minister Paxton Jones.

CAMP NEWS

TAWAKONI IS HERE TO HOST YOUR NEXT CHURCH EVENT



Are you planning a church retreat or special event in 2023?

Check out Tawakoni!

Tawakoni is more than a summer church camp. It offers year-round facilities for a variety of groups and ministries. Dates are filling up fast! All Disciples churches, groups, and ministries are asked to make reservations 12-18 months in advance to receive priority treatment. Submit your request early so camp staff can adequately prepare for your event.

Submit your reservation request online at www.tawakoni.org/reservation-request and secure your dates today.

JOIN US FOR THE 2022 TAWAKONI GALA REGISTRATION OPENING SOON



Save the dates for the annual Tawakoni Gala and Auction. The annual event provides an opportunity for you to financially support your regional camp, conference, and event center.

This year, you have two opportunities to participate: virtually beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 12, through 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13, and in-person at Tawakoni 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Proceeds from the Tawakoni Gala and Auctions support camp operational costs, capital projects and summer camp

scholarships. Your donations and support go along way to helping Tawakoni's ministry.

Attention Youth: be on the lookout for more information to come about collecting donations for the Gala and in return get a discount on camp registration fees next summer.

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.

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

Submission deadline for the August issue is:

Wednesday, July 27

IN TRANSITION

Laurie Lewis ends her ministry at Parsons FCC and begins her ministry at Manhattan FCC. Her first Sunday at Manhattan FCC is July 10.

Shelton Memorial CC, Ulysses interim pastor **Craig Kirby-Groves** was honored with a farewell dinner June 22. A search for a settled pastor is underway.

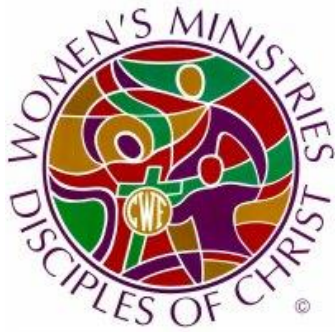
Tara Thompson ends her ministry at Emporia FCC, with her last Sunday service on Aug. 28. She will begin a new ministry as Associate Minister at Sedalia FCC, Mo.

The Board of Trustees of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society (DCHS) is pleased to announce the call of **Dr. Joel Brown** to serve as its new President.

The Board of Directors of Disciples Home Missions (DHM) announced the call of **Rev. B. Chris Dorsey** to serve as its new President and CEO.

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

KANSAS DISCIPLES WOMEN CABINET SETS UP NEW FUND



The Kansas Disciples Women Cabinet has established a new fund called the "Care and Share Fund." Monies in the fund will be from the portion of the Blessing Box contributions that stay in Kansas. Other monies may come from individual or group donations.

Under the direction of the KDW Cabinet, the primary purpose of this fund is to aid with mission and service opportunities by Disciples Women, either within or outside the Kansas Region.

If your DW fellowship is involved with a service or mission project and would like to request consideration from the Care and Share Fund, please request an application from the KDW Coordinator, Carla Pearson carla.pearson58@gmail.com.

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

The next Disciple Men's Retreat will be Sept. 16-17, start making plans to attend. 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.

As a local pastor, he has always created weekly community men's groups that had stable followings. Each took various approaches to content and when guides were scarce, he wrote his own curricula on dozens of topics and approaches.

Cost is \$70 for individuals, \$60 each for a church group of five or more, and \$50 for first time attendees. Online registration opens soon. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 2.



CANCELED: 2022 SPIRITUALITY RETREAT

Due to low registrations and conflicting schedules, the 2022 Spirituality Retreat at Tawakoni is being canceled for this year. Refunds have been sent.

A decision has been made to hold this retreat March 16-18, 2023. The retreat will return to its traditional site at the Hartland Center for Spirituality, Great Bend.

Rev. Dr. Paul Koch, Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Mid-America, will once again be leading our retreat. The theme will still be "Attitudes of Being", in which participants will explore the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5.

The cost will remain \$135 that covers six meals, two nights lodging and program.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: 2022 FALL KDW RETREAT



Registration for the Fall Kansas Disciples Women retreat is now open. You may register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events or you may download a copy of the registration form to mail in your registration.

The dates for the retreat are Oct. 5-7

(Midweek) and Oct. 7-9 (Weekend). If you can't make it for the full retreat, a partial retreat registration is also available. The keynote speaker for retreat is the Rev. Christian Watkins,

Executive Director/Campus Pastor at Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Kansas State University.

This year's theme is "Let's BEE Church and Make a Difference!" The Retreat Committee, chaired by Jeanette Hammond, North Heights CC, Wichita, has a full schedule of events for retreat. Workshops will get you thinking about how to BEE more aware of those around us and BEE the women we are called to be!

Registration cost is \$85 for the full retreat before Sept. 15 (\$100 after Sept 15) or \$50 for the partial retreat before Sept. 15 (\$60 after Sept 15). Scholarships are available that will pay for one-half the registration cost. Please contact Carla Pearson, carla.pearson58@gmail.com, if you are interested in completing an application.

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

KCH HOSTS BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Education is a capable tool for empowering students' success and inspiring their future. Many point to the need for good teachers and increased funding to make this happen.

But funding doesn't matter if it doesn't translate to pencils and paper that students can use for work. An inventive teacher isn't effective if his or her students don't have the appropriate supplies.



Help Kansas Christian Home (KCH) support the children and teachers of Harvey County. From July 1 to August 15, KCH will be collecting school supplies to help get staff children ready for school and to adopt a classroom(s) and support a deserving teacher with the supplies her students will need throughout the year.

What's needed:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| • Pencils | • Notebooks | • Crayons |
| • Pens | • Folders | • Markers |
| • Erasers | • Staples | • Books |
| • Bookbags | • Rulers | |
| • Calculators | • Tape | |

To donate call (316) 283-6600 or contact rsetser@kschristianhome.org. KCH is located at 1035 SE 3rd Street, Newton, KS 67114.

ARE YOU NEEDING TO UPGRADE YOUR CHURCH TECH?



Disciples Church Extension Fund is offering loans of up to \$50,000 for technology upgrades to help congregations pivot to a stronger online presence.

The technology needs of congregations can include tangible equipment purchases and upgrades to undergird the church's ability to connect with their members virtually.

These technology loans are available through December 31. To apply, contact James Michel, the regional Building and Capital Services Advisor for DCEF, at 317.635.6500 Ext. 2535 or jmichel@disciplescef.org.

KCH LEGACY OF JOHN DINNER FUNDRAISER RETURNS



Kansas Christian Home (KCH) will have their Legacy of John fund-raiser dinner again after two years of absence due to COVID. Its' successful return is so important since the money raised at the dinner goes to offset the cost of taking care of Medicaid residents at KCH. Medicaid only pays about 80% of the cost of keeping a resident at KCH.

The Legacy of John Dinner is set for 5 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 20. The dinner will be hosted by the First Christian Church Manhattan at 3001 Grand Mere Parkway.

The meal will include garden salad, brisket, turkey, pork loin, roasted summer vegetables, cake, water, tea, and coffee. There will also be a Portobellos option for vegetarians. The meal will be followed by excellent entertainment starring the "Charades," a well-known barbershop quartet in northern Kansas, and a magic show by Ken Garwick of Kansas City.

Seating is limited to 120, and we hope that the people and churches of Kansas will support this event to help us meet our fundraising goal of \$18,000.

Reservations are available from KCH (Rebecca Setser, 316-283-6600) and will cost \$150 each. Or consider sponsoring a table for six for \$900, to help people who would not be able to attend otherwise.

Let's support this comeback with a great event and help KCH. Please join us in supporting this ministry!

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

WEEK OF COMPASSION SERVING IN UKRAINE



It's been just more than four months since Russian troops invaded Ukraine, and the destruction, casualties, and horror have not ceased. The Ukrainian people have gathered in force, receiving military aid, and holding out far longer than most global experts

anticipated. Meanwhile, the humanitarian crisis has grown, overflowing Ukraine's borders into the surrounding nations that are welcoming and tending to millions of refugees, even as millions more internally displaced persons remain in country. The repercussions will be felt for years, and while relief supplies and aid have been immediate, the ripple effects and response will be long-lasting.

Week of Compassion and ecumenical partners focused emergent aid on the immediate needs of refugees, providing shelter, food, medical and psychosocial care, education, and vocational resources. Over the next months and years, that assistance will continue as some evacuees choose to return home when they are able, and others resettle more permanently into new locations and lives.

In just four months, Week of Compassion has received gifts totaling \$1.7 million. Working alongside global partners, Disciples are serving with:

- ACT Alliance - Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Slovakia; transition centers at borders, housing, food packets, social services
- Baptist World Alliance- Ukraine, Poland; churches as safe havens and sanctuaries, emergency shelters and transitional centers into stable accommodation
- Global Ministries- Greece - apartments, utilities for refugee families; Hungary - support for churches caring for internally displaced persons
- International Orthodox Christian Charities - Poland, Romania, Ukraine - food, water, clothing, shelter to IDPs; special focus on women & children, safety from gender based violence
- L'Arche - online connections for separated families, medicine and hygiene supplies, adaptation and disability support needs

Support for the long-term recovery ahead can be directed through the Week of Compassion giving page, designated 'Ukraine'. More information about refugee response and preparing your congregation to serve any of the thousands of families already in the resettlement process, as well as those to come, can be found on the Week of Compassion Refugee and Immigrant Response page.

THE COVENANT PROJECT

HOW WE DO CHURCH IN A DIFFERENT TIME AND PLACE

The future of the church is more connected. The future of the church is in deeper conversation. The future of the church is a future with deeper covenant. The Covenant Project is the work of changing structures to be more just and relationships across the church to be more connected.



The Covenant Project began more than three years ago as part of the work of Governance Committee of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). When the Governance Committee met in retreat in the Fall of 2019, they committed to the work of aligning the Design of the Christian Church (DOC) with God's design for the church and to claim the power and potential of covenant.

To that end, the committee took two important steps: the first was the development of the Covenant Curriculum, a small group resource for congregations to explore their identity as covenantal partners in the wider church. The second was a process of a review of the Design, with an aim to explore how the church's structures and practices might shift to better serve the church.

When the Christian Church established The Design in 1969, much of the structures and practices were adapted from the existing structures. However, the changing composition of the church and a growing desire to have our structures reflect our commitment to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world means rethinking how we engage and relate to one another.

The goal is for each member of the Christian Church to understand the Covenant Project proposed changes and have the ability to provide feedback. We encourage you to attend a Covenant Project town hall.

<https://disciples.org/covenant-project/covenant-project-town-halls/>

Please take time to explore some of the Frequently Asked Questions about this process and its impacts.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

THE GATHERING: A RETREAT FOR PASTORS



Pension Fund
of the Christian Church
strong. smart. secure.

True to our mission, "For the Support of Ministry," we know that the needs of ministers and their families are many and great. As we continue to expand Ministerial Relief and Assistance and renew our commitment to walk with clergy throughout all

stages of ministry, we invite you to attend *The Gathering: A Retreat for Pastors*. The Gathering is a biennial conference that helps you connect with other pastors as you join together to learn and discuss spiritual, health, and financial wellness. Our hope is that you will leave The Gathering feeling refreshed and inspired.

The conference will open on Tuesday, Sept. 6 with The American Spiritual Ensemble (ASE). ASE is composed of some of the finest performers in the classical music world. ASE consists of more than 125 singers hailing from a wide variety of backgrounds, including; The Metropolitan Opera soloists, Broadway veterans, as well as some of the most prominent voice professors within the United States.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Matt Bloom, Ph. D. is a professor at the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame with expertise in working with a variety of not-for-profit

organizations. He leads the *Flourishing in Ministry and Wellbeing at Work* research projects which focus on the wellbeing of helping and caring professions. Matt is passionate about finding real solutions to make work a healthy, vibrant, life-enriching experience as a spouse of a former United Methodist minister. Matt will share the latest research on the wellbeing of clergy and practical insights about how to build and sustain that wellbeing.

Cost is \$100 if your home congregation's average worship attendance is less than 100; \$150 if your home congregation average worship attendance is more than 100; and \$150 for spouses.

Cost includes registration, two breakfasts, one lunch, and a hotel for two nights. Additional discounted room rates are available over Labor Day weekend to come before the beginning of the conference as well as the weekend following the conference.

Arrival transportation to the hotel will not be provided, however, Pension Fund will be arranging shuttles to the airport at the conclusion of the event. If you choose to stay longer, you will be responsible for transportation back to the airport.

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.kansasdisciples.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** 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.

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.

