



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)



www.kansasdisciples.org

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BUILDING YOUR CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

BY JESSICA MARSTON
CCK COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST



Church communications is more than just editing the newsletter. Church communication is a complex and ever-changing concept and it requires more than one person to make it effective. Staff can't do everything. That is where your communications team comes in.

Why should we have a communications team?

It takes a dedicated communications team to organize your church's various communications messages intentionally and strategically. Whether you're building your church communications team or you already have one, all of these skills are valuable. With your unique combination, you can grow your ministry and your church, and reach out to the world to show what your community is really like.

Who should be on the communications team?

One of the best ways to plan for additional growth in your communications efforts is to ask yourself who you need to add to the communications team. Every team will look different and might include paid staff, volunteers, freelancers, interns, or some combination thereof.

If your church is fortunate enough to have staff, make sure you don't lock out volunteers. You might have people who can contribute in different ways. Whether you're recruiting staff or volunteers, intentionality is still important. Your team should consist of 4-6 people from a variety of backgrounds, ages, and genders that could fulfill one of the suggested roles below. While one individual may be able to take on all of these roles, your communications team needs all of these skills to thrive.

Project manager—Coordinates between ministry leaders, creative staff, vendors, and volunteers.

Brand manager—They are responsible for checking that each publication matches your church's brand and style.

Copywriter—An excellent writer who understands the power of experience and personal stories.

Graphic designer—Creates compelling graphics to support the messages and promotions of the church.

Social media guru—Coordinates social media promotions and manages social media platforms.

Photographer/Videographer—Someone who understands how to tell a story visually. Fortunately, you don't need professional studio equipment.

Cheerleader—An outgoing, polished speaker who will make your announcements and bring excitement.

The Outsider—Helps remove "church-speak" and looks at everything from an outsider, visitor, or non-Christian perspective.

The Listener—Understands how important listening is and usually has the "magic" touch for recruiting volunteers.

Final Recommendation

Start simple, start somewhere and work with what you have. These skill sets are a hypothetical dream team—the pinnacle of communications. It's ok if it takes you some time to get there.

This is an abbreviated version. Read the full article at
www.kansasdisciples.org/news.



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[Olivia See](#), Camp Manager

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[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](#)

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

BY TOM STANLEY, CO-REGIONAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT

October is Pastor's Appreciation Month. I am very grateful to all who have answered God's call to serve in the congregational setting, the chaplaincy, regional ministry, general church units, and all the non-traditional settings where pastors serve. Thank you for your service, and thank you for your gifts, time, and talents.

I have seen many of our congregations preparing to celebrate pastor appreciation month in many different forms, and I am grateful! Thank you goes a long way to relieving the stress of a hard week, it goes a long way into making a day better, and it just feels good! Study after study reminds us of the benefit of being kind and saying thank you. Please remember to say thank you to your pastor!

I am beginning a new sermon on what life more abundant means. Jesus came, as He said in John 10:10, that we might have

life more abundantly. But what does that mean? This means that Jesus came to teach us how to better love, tend and care for each other. This means that Jesus came to teach us better how to love God with everything we are today.

If we do these things, we will live a more abundant life! Life more abundantly means fully living into Jesus's commandments to love God with all you are and love your neighbors as yourselves. More on this later!



THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING FUNDS DISCIPLES HIGHER EDUCATION

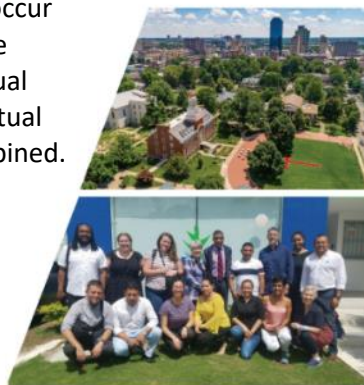
Mark your calendar for the Thanksgiving Special Offering

on Nov. 13 and 20. The Thanksgiving Offering supports Disciples colleges,

universities and theological institutions. This offering provides a direct connection to 15 colleges and universities, seven seminaries and theological programs.

Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church.

You'll find students and faculty with strong values and faith. You'll also notice a philosophy of faith paired with reason: The best learning and personal growth occur when the intellectual and spiritual are combined.



JOIN OUR TEXT ALERTS SYSTEM

Get CCK news right on your phone wherever you are. Sign-up to receive the latest CCK news and event information by text message. There are three ways to join:

1. Text KSMESSNGER to 316-465-5352 and follow the on-screen prompts to sign-up.
2. Go to our "News" tab at www.kansasdisciples.org/news. Look for the "Text logo" on the right-hand side of the page.
3. Call the CCK Communications Office, 316-775-1236

This is just one more example of how your Communications team

is working to connect you to the ministries of your Kansas Region. You will receive no more than one text message per day as a part of this service. Standard SMS and data charges apply.



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.



You can also 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.

After account creation, you can update your information, manage regional and district giving, and register for events all from one login.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

FCC WELLINGTON SUPPORTS BLANKET SUNDAY



The DWF of FCC Wellington reported a donation of \$1140 in their participation in the Church World Service 2022 Blanket Sunday event.

Their offering, along with others around the world, provided 51,810 fleece blankets, 16,950 heavy blankets, 83,760 hygiene kits, 33,240 school kits and 4,642 cleanup buckets.

More than \$2.5 million in goods were shipped to various parts of the world suffering from disasters through this event.

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time,

reminding them that they are not alone.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters.

What does it take to hold a CWS Blankets celebration?

1. **Plan An Event:** Set a date and fundraising goal
2. **Get Materials:** Order and download bulletin inserts, envelopes, Etc.
3. **Spread the Word:** Put up posters, share on social media and get involved!

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 by email at messenger@kansasdisciples.org or 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 November issue is:

Monday, October 24



The proceeds from pumpkins and gourds sold at a local pumpkin patch will be donated to aid Ukrainian refugees. Pumpkins for Peace will run from Oct. 16 through Oct. 31 at West Side Christian Church (WSCC) located at 432 SW Lindenwood Ave. in Topeka. The patch will be open on Sundays from noon to 6:30 p.m. and Mondays through Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Pumpkins and gourds of all sizes will be

TOPEKA WEST SIDE PUMPKIN PATCH PROCEEDS TO AID UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

sold for as little as \$1 each for small gourds.

Fall Fest at the Pumpkin Patch will be Saturday, Oct. 22, from 5-7 p.m. Activities at the outdoor event will include free candy and temporary tattoos for children.

"We are excited to see 500+ pumpkins on our lawn! This opportunity to mingle with the community while supporting Ukrainian refugees is a win-win for everyone," said Kit Pittier, WSCC Board moderator.

WSCC is hosting the pumpkin patch in partnership with Midtown Community Services, Potwin Presbyterian Church, and Topeka

Center for Peace and Justice.

WSCC is a Disciples of Christ Christian Church with the motto, "WEAR Love: Welcoming all, Encouraging love, Accepting others, Returning love through mission." Other WSCC community outreaches include 5th Sunday Missions (community service projects on months that have fifth Sundays) and an annual summer Peace Camp for children in partnership with Topeka Center for Peace and Justice.

For more information visit www.westsidedisciples.org.

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

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

TAWAKONI GALA & AUCTION

The annual Tawakoni Gala was held on Oct. 15 at the region's camp and conference center. About 80 people participated in the in-person activities that included great food prepared by Martin Peck and his team of cooks.



A special thank you to our team of cooks headed by Martin, our auctioneer and MC Travis Smith McKee, our Camp Manager and event planning chair Olivia See, and all the volunteers from Topeka FCC.



Donations are still being processed. So far this year's event has raised \$14,600 for a new camp tractor and camp scholarships. Thank you to all those who donated and/or purchased auction items.

Still want to donate? Give online at www.kansasdisciples.org/give or mail a check to the Topeka Regional Office made out to the Christian Church in Kansas with Gala in the memo.



NBA INVITES WICHITA'S 'CAMP SUNFLOWER' TO BECOME INCUBATE PARTNERS

The National Benevolent Association's (NBA) Social Entrepreneurship program is proud to welcome Camp Sunflower, to their lineup of Incubate Partners.

In 2018, Camp Sunflower was launched in Wichita to serve as a safe place for young people of all sexual orientations and gender identities to connect with others, develop leadership skills, and learn coping and advocacy skills.

The camp, hosted at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni each summer, is directed by Finn Lanning who has overseen the project since it began.

"Camp Sunflower is excited to partner with the National Benevolent Association to further our shared goal of advocating for underserved communities by creating affirming and welcoming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth to build community, develop leadership and activism skills, and to improve outcomes for these vulnerable young people," says Lanning.

More than anything, the staff, and attendees at Camp Sunflower have one goal in mind: to make sure each person is celebrated and surrounded by a healthy, life-giving community, where campers can come as they are, and experience a positive model of love.

The NBA of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is dedicated to accompanying and partnering with health and social service projects and ministries. Incubate Partnerships are one way NBA seeks to accompany and resource social entrepreneurs in launching their organizations anywhere from the start-up phase to non-profits that have been operating for some years (1-10 years).



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPIRIT FEST 2023 DATES

Dates have been set for the 2023 spring event, so mark your calendars. Spring dates are Saturday, April 22, at Topeka, West Side Christian Church and Saturday May 6, for Woodridge Christian Church in Wichita.

The theme for the spring event is, "Living your Faith." Gail Goolsby, a resident of South-Central Kansas, is the keynote

speaker. Gail is an educator, life coach, counselor and former school principal in Afghanistan. She believes there is support and encouragement in God's word to help us all learn to live well. Watch for more exciting details to come.

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

KANSAS DISCIPLES MEN 2022 FALL RETREAT RECAP

The Men's Fall Retreat was a success! We are grateful for the, Rev. Dr. Paul Koch who brought us a great message on, "The Courage To Let Go(d)." We had 23 men participate in this year's event.

We also elected a new slate of officers to the KDM Cabinet. We are still seeking a Vice-President. If you would like to volunteer or know someone who would be good, please let contact KDM Coordinator Luis Mendez.



Our current slate of officers include:

- President - Ken Schuette
- Vice-President—[Vacant]
- Secretary - Jay Mapel
- Pastor-Advisor - Shawn Fletcher



We continue to reach out to men of every district, encouraging them to build trusting and lasting relationships with each other, and it's our goal to, Connect and Equip men to be disciples of Jesus Christ.



2022 FALL KDW RETREAT RECAP

The Women's Fall Retreat was a success! We are grateful for the, Rev. Christian Watkins who brought us a great message on, "Let's BEE Church and Make a Difference."



Participants also had a variety of workshop and activities to choose from in addition to fellowship with other Kansas Disciples Women.



We had 88 women participate in this year's event. The planning team is already busy planning next year's retreat.



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" July 29-Aug. 1, 2023, in Louisville, Ky. 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 connects us 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.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

DISCIPLES CLERGY CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Disciples Home Missions (DHM) seeks to support ordained and commissioned clergy in their commitment to a process of life-long learning. The application period for 2023 Clergy Continuing Education Grants is now open.

The deadline to have applications and regional endorsement forms submitted is Monday, Oct. 31. If you haven't yet applied, consider how you'd like to use up to \$500 of DHM's grant monies for a continuing education experience in 2023.

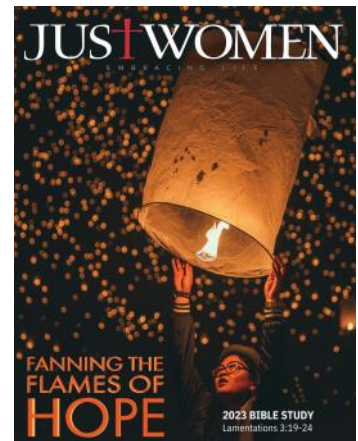
You may review the criteria and eligibility for ordained clergy or commissioned clergy, or you may proceed directly to the online application:

www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/scholarships/christian-vocation-continuing-education/.

JUST WOMEN BIBLE STUDY 2023 ORDERS

Pre-Orders are now available for Just Women 2023.

"Fanning the Flames of Hope" is a collection of 13 lessons and articles written by a team of exceptional writers. It invites readers to explore the tension of being stuck between our sometimes dark, isolated reality, and the eternal hope of Christ that lights our path in the darkness.



Contact Disciples Women Coordinator, Carla Pearson, discipleswomen@kansasdisciples.org, or call 620-755-4640 for details on ordering.

Orders received by Dec. 9 receive free shipping.

— GREEN CHALICE MINISTRY NEWS ROUNDUP —

Going Green to Save Green

Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF), a general ministry of the CC (DoC) offers building planning, loans, and capital campaign guidance to Disciples congregations.

DCEF offers green renovation loans which support the building and maintaining environmentally friendly places of worship. They provide up to \$150,000 to faith communities that want to upgrade their air conditioning, repair or replace inefficient windows, and/or insulate, rewire, or weatherproof a facility.

Learn more at <https://disciplescef.org/borrow/renovation-loans/>.

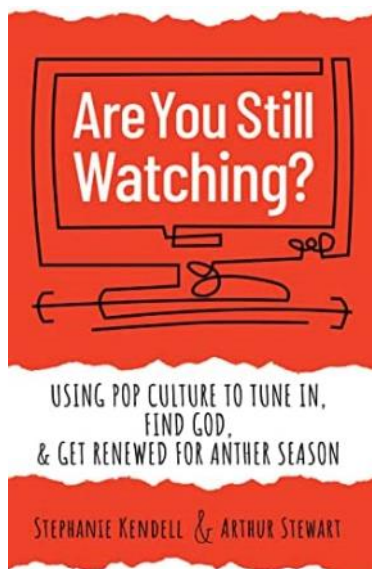
Become A Green Chalice Ministry

1. Start a Creation Care Team.
2. Sign the Green Chalice Covenant as a team or congregation.
3. Make at least 3 changes that demonstrate your congregation's commitment to caring for God's creation.

Then **EMAIL** the following:

1. Congregation name, city, state, address, phone number and name of contact.
2. The date the Covenant was signed.
3. The 3 or more creation care changes made.

Learn more: www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/green-chalice-program/



NEW BOOK OUT THIS MONTH: 'ARE YOU STILL WATCHING?'

Looking for a new resource and study for your own growth or your congregation? Check out "Are You Still Watching: Using Pop Culture to Tune In, Find God and Get Renewed for Another Season" out Oct. 25.

Coming from the Two On One podcast hosted by Riverside CC, Wichita, pastor Arthur Stewart and Stephanie Kendall, many different authors reflect on pop culture experiences through a theological lens.

Galva CC Interim pastor Travis Smith McKee is also a contributor.

These musicians, actors, writers, and producers often sit in the prophet's chair and offer us modern parables with deeper meanings waiting for those with ears to hear.

Find it on Amazon or on ChalicePress.com.

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