



# Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)



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

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## Kansas Regional Office

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Tom Stanley, Co-Regional Minister & President  
Joanne Weddle, Corporate Secretary  
Barb Koelling, Treasurer

## Central & High Plains

### Satellite Office

**Clergy Care Office**  
5230 Broadway Avenue  
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Ken Marston, Co-Regional Minister  
Julie Reed, Admin. Assistant

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[www.tawakoni.org](http://www.tawakoni.org)  
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Olivia See, Camp Manager

## Fellowship Groups

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

## New Church Ministry

TBA, Regional Minister of New Church Ministry

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

Connect with us on

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



## THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING SUPPORTS DISCIPLES HIGHER EDUCATION

The Thanksgiving Offering, received in many congregations on Nov. 13 and 20, benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world.

The Disciples of Christ are still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of

thousands of students at our 15 colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.

The Disciples Colleges and Universities provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculties. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more.

The Thanksgiving Offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions.

They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

As we continue to struggle with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and they need our support now, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities faced by many of our schools add additional stress to students, faculty, and staff.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.





## THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

November: The Season of Gratitude

BY KEN MARSTON, CO-REGIONAL MINISTER

November. The eleventh month of the year. Daylight savings time ends. The weather is turning colder. Advent is almost upon us, but before we get there, Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a holiday designed to make us pause, take a breath, and remember that we are truly blessed. We are blessed by the abundance of creation around us. We are blessed by our family and friends that care for us and nurture us.

We are blessed to live in a country, despite our turbulent political climate, that is relatively safe. A place where most of us have somewhere to sleep at night and an abundance of food to put on our tables. A place where we have productive employment that helps give our lives meaning.

As we remember these blessings, I pray we will be motivated to become a blessing to our neighbors so that all who are in need will have those needs met.

This year, I find myself more grateful than normal. Recently, I had to undergo abdominal surgery to deal with an

attack of diverticulitis. For six months I was treated with several courses of antibiotics. After three CT scans, a visit to a urologist, and getting poked and prodded in places I prefer not to detail, I finally had the surgery.

Throughout this time, I am grateful for Josh Leu, pastor of my home church in Great Bend. I am grateful for Terri Horde-Owens our General Minister and President who called to check up on me. I am grateful for Tom Stanley's support and willingness to pick up the slack in regional ministry during my time off.

I am also grateful for the cards, emails and phone calls from family, friends, and colleagues. I am especially thankful for those in leadership throughout the Christian Church in Kansas for their support, their concern, and their leadership in this time.

We truly have a great regional church. Kansas has been a blessing to me and my family. I pray that all of you have a happy Thanksgiving, and I hope that you will take the time to say thank you to your family and friends for the blessing they are to you.

### NEW BOOK FEATURING TWO KANSAS PASTORS: 'ARE YOU STILL WATCHING?'

Looking for a new resource and study for your own growth or your congregation?

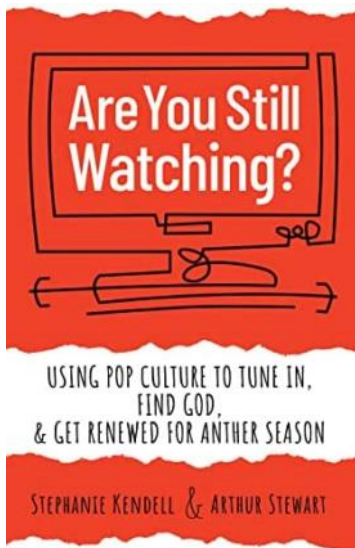
Check out "Are You Still Watching? Using Pop Culture to Tune In, Find God and Get Renewed for Another Season."

Coming from the Two-on-one podcast hosted by Riverside CC, Wichita, pastor Arthur Stewart and Stephanie Kendall, Executive Minister and C.O.O. of the historic Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City.

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 for \$16.99.



### HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Your gift can benefit your church and region for years to come. When you include the church in your estate plan, your generosity helps connect and equip future Kansas Disciples.

For information about bequests, contact the Christian Church Foundation at 1-800-668-8016, email Kirby Gould at

[kgould@ccf.disciples.org](mailto:kgould@ccf.disciples.org) or go to [www.christianchurchfoundation.org](http://www.christianchurchfoundation.org).

## MEET YOUR 2022-2024 REGIONAL MODERATOR TEAM



**Ruby Brower, Layperson,**  
Manhattan FCC  
Position: Moderator

I am a native Kansan, who grew up in Benton, a Wichita suburb, moved to Manhattan to attend Kansas State University, and never left. As a medical laboratory scientist, I served as the director of a hospital laboratory and eventually worked in the regulatory

aspects of the laboratory, traveling the state inspecting laboratories.

My husband, Garry, was a professor and faculty advisor to the rodeo team at Fort Hays State University for many years. My family also included two sons, Doug and Justin. Justin and his wife Kathy, are the parents of two beautiful granddaughters, residing in Manhattan. I have been a widow for ten years, and I lost my older son five years ago.

A life-long member of the Christian Church (DOC), I have served my church, FCC Manhattan, as a deacon, elder, and coordinating council chair. After completing a two-year term as the Moderator-Elect of the Christian Church in Kansas, I am the current Moderator. As one of the CCK representatives to the Tri-Regional Partnership Initiative, I participated in the "Lead for Change" workshop at the Kansas Leadership Center this past summer. As Moderator, I look forward to continuing to collaborate with the leadership in the Nebraska and Kansas City Regions to find ways to implement adaptive leadership skills within our regions and congregations.

Though retired from full-time employment, I work part-time as a private laboratory consultant. My free time includes volunteering, church, 4-H, and professional organizations. I especially appreciate spending time with my granddaughters and always enjoy reading good books.

**David Dubovich, Pastor,**  
Park Place CC, Hutchinson  
Position: Moderator-Elect



I grew up in a small community about 50 miles south of Pittsburgh, Pa. The street we lived on there were about eight houses. My mother's parents lived on the same street, so it was convenient to see our grandparents on a regular basis.

I am the oldest of three. My brother lives in Pennsylvania working as an Assistant Manager at Walgreen's. My sister is a family practice doctor in Westminster, Md. My mother still lives in Republic, Pa., working part-time as the church secretary at the church I grew up in. My wife and I live in Hutchinson where I serve Park Place Christian Church and my wife (Cindy) is a hospice chaplain for Reno County Hospice as well as serving First Christian Church in Stafford, Kan.

When I have time, I like to work with ceramics and painting various items. This was one of the many hobbies my grandmother had, and she taught me various techniques to make creative items. My other hobby is computers. I was always fascinated with computers early in my childhood years playing computer games of course.

After obtaining my associate degree from ICM School of Business, Pittsburgh, Pa., I moved to Fairfax, Va., to work for Boeing Computer Services in the computer operations department. I began to attend a DOC congregation which was heavily involved in mission work. I participated with a group from the church along with another congregation and participated in a mission trip to Kingston, Jamaica. During that two weeks trip, we did some amazing work for the community and the children. The impact of the trip stirred emotions inside of me to pursue my life further to serve and help others and sensed a call to pastoral ministry.

When I think about setting goals for a group, I refer to the organization's mission and vision statement and how can I add my experience, ideas, etc. to make an impact. When I think of the region's mission statement, "Together – we connect and equip," as Moderator Elect, my goal is to work side by side with the other elected officers of the region along with the Regional staff, visioning how we can provide opportunities to connect and equip our pastors and laity. I have received much training through the Kansas Leadership Center, and I see this as a goal to help educate church leaders within our region to think of ministry through a different perspective.

### 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 KSMESSENGER to 316-465-5352 and follow the on-screen prompts.
2. Go to our "News" tab at [www.kansasdisciples.org/news](http://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 normally receive no more than one or two text message per week as a part of this service. Standard SMS and data charges apply.



## MEET YOUR 2022-2024 REGIONAL MODERATOR TEAM (CONT.)



**Cal Williams**, Layperson,  
Salina FCC  
Position: First-Vice Moderator

I was born in Florida, my father was a career Air Force officer, so we moved around and as a child I lived in places like Florida, Newfoundland Canada, and California. After dad

retired, we moved to Abilene, where my folks raised Greyhounds. I was drafted in 1969 and spent two years in the Army. I married my wife Diane in 1969 and, after the army, worked for a few years before finishing college at Emporia and attending Washburn Law School graduating in 1978. I practiced law for 15 years in eastern Kansas and then 23 years in Colby.

We have four married daughters, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Diane worked for me and then taught business at the Vo-Tech in Goodland before teaching in the business department at Colby Community College. We are both retired and now live in Salina close to three of the daughters and grandkids.

After close to 40 years practicing law, I now enjoy being able to be outside and work with my hands. I have a shop at home and am a trustee at Salina First Christian Church. Otherwise, I read and listen to books and have, to my families chagrin, what I call "Cal's world famous collection of old rock and roll."

Something I have learned is that I can't wait to be told what to do, which I have been guilty of. It is up to me to take the initiative, set deadlines, and adhere to the duties set out in the constitution, by-laws, and calendar for this Board's term. If the Board approves, I would like to work with a few ideas identified in the first half of the Vision Project. It just seems to me that as Disciples we have great and ambitious ideas for the future, but we aren't always so good at implementation and follow up.



**Randall Hill**, Pastor,  
Smith Center FCC  
Position: Second-Vice Moderator

I was born in, and grew up in, Wewoka, Okla., where I was nurtured into, and was baptized in, First Christian Church. I received my

Bachelor of Arts degree in Ethics and Religious Studies (1974) from the University of Oklahoma, and my Master of Divinity degree (1977) from Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University.

My wife, Susan, and I married in July 1987 at Southern Hills Christian Church in Edmond, Okla.. We have two daughters, La Dina and Amber, and five granddaughters, Kayla, Jenna, Leah, Jade, and Desja. Leah is attending the University of Central Oklahoma and is pursuing a degree in counseling. Jenna attends Northwestern State University in Alva, Okla., and trains quarter horses.

I am currently serving in our local Lions' Club which keeps me involved in local fundraising and service projects in our community. I have enjoyed researching my family's genealogy and may one day write a book to share the information I have collected over the years. I love to spend time traveling to ancient sites like Mesa Verde and researching the geological and historical aspects of those sites.

My ministerial call began as a youth and has continued through thirty years of lay ministry, choir, and theological study. My experience in various congregations across Texas and Oklahoma set the stage for my current pastoral ministry as an extension of my lifetime involvement in various aspects of administration, teaching, and service.

My goal is to assist in meeting the team goals of our new Moderator in the coming year, helping wherever my skills and service are needed across the region.



**Lisa West**, Layperson,  
Wichita Riverside CC  
Position: Third-Vice Moderator

I was born and raised in Larned and attended Larned First Christian Church. I started my camp experiences at Camp WaJaTo and transitioned to Camp Christian Hills. There I met my future husband, Lee West. I served

one year as President of Central District Youth and on the KCYF Cabinet.

I completed my Bachelor of Music Education degree at the University of Central Oklahoma. After graduation, Lee and I moved to Denver for a year before moving to Shawnee. Both our daughter, Ruth, and son, Ray, were born there.

I completed my Master of Music in Conducting degree at Kansas State University. Eventually, I transitioned to elementary music and we moved to Hutchinson. We attended Park Place for 10 years and I worked as the Director of Music for almost 5 of those years.

After Lee took a job at Spirit AeroSystems, we moved to Wichita, joined Riverside Christian Church, and I began teaching elementary music in Wichita.

Since that time we have experienced a crazy "excremental journey," to borrow a phrase from Debby Martin, with our daughter Ruth. We are coming out the other side with renewed hope. I credit most of that success to our dedication to being part of our church families and working to make our part of the world a bit more Heaven-like.

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS



### TOPEKA FCC FOOD HANDOUT

First Christian Church Topeka feeds hungry people! They have partnered with the Harvester's organization to be a food distribution site.

Once a month, tons of food are dropped off in the church's parking lot. After a bit of sorting and repackaging, hundreds of people and families drive through and receive food.

"It is a beautiful program that touches many lives. But more than that, it connects three churches!" said Co-Regional Minister and church member, Tom Stanley.

Because the food is dropped in FCC's parking lot, the guests park in the Baptist Church parking lot across the street.

Additionally, FCC partners with Trinity Presbyterian Church who is also a food drop-off point, volunteers from both churches help pass out food to awaiting vehicles.

FCC also prepares 150 sack lunches every Sunday for The Hope Center. The Hope Center only serves one meal to those in need on Sunday. FCC stepped into this gap and provides food for hungry people in need.

"This is what it means to be a Disciple of Christ!" said Stanley. "We are strengthening the whole Body of Christ while caring for those in need."

### HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

*Your Church could be featured here!*

We are glad to receive your news articles and photographs for publication. Submit your items at [messenger@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:messenger@kansasdisciples.org) or online at:

[www.kansasdisciples.org/km-submissions](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/km-submissions)

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

**Monday, November 21**

### MY 'JESUS NAILS'

## OPENING THE DOOR TO EVANGELISM THROUGH EVERYDAY CONVERSATION

BY ANDY NEWBREY, FORMER PASTOR AT FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH, WICHITA



Several years ago, I owned an ornamental iron and sculpture company. We created lots of unusual things. (see the giant bugs in the Downing Children's Garden at Botanica, Wichita)

We painted most of the pieces we created with specialty finishes and very concentrated enamel paint.

Many times, I would get the paint on my hands and found that, even though it washed off my skin easily, sometimes it really stuck to my fingernails.

One day, in a grocery store, I realized that the paint on my nails made people a little uncomfortable. I thought to myself, "Hmm. This could be fun..." Over the years I've had lots of fun making people wonder. Today, I call them my "Jesus nails" and here's why:

When was the last time you talked to someone you didn't know about Jesus?

Opening a conversation about our Savior can be a pretty hard thing to do. We don't want to offend. We don't want people to think "Oh, here we go with the 'Jesus' thing again." Talking about Christ can really put us on-the-spot and may even cause us to have to follow up with that person.

When people ask me or make a comment about my nails, I say, "These are my Jesus nails. They remind me to treat you with respect, love, and kindness just like Jesus tells me to do; with no judgment, no condemnation. Jesus loves and takes you just

as you are, how you are and where you are."

Research has shown that non-believers see Christians as condemning, judgmental and intolerant. This world is hurting, fractured, and fighting and needs to see our Savior for what He really is: love, hope, forgiveness and open to everyone!

#### Your challenge:

Find your own way to start a conversation about Jesus. Turn on your "Jesus switch" and be ready to share the most important thing you can – Jesus loves everyone just as they are.

Check us out on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kansasdisciples), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kansasdisciples) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/kansasdisciples)

## NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

### TAWAKONI WINTER WORK DAYS

Grab your tools and your gloves! We will have winter camp work days Thursday, Dec. 8, through Saturday, Dec. 10. We will begin each morning at 10 a.m. in Tawakoni's Dining Hall.

Anyone and everyone are welcome to join us. Tawakoni staff is so appreciative of our volunteers and their dedication to helping make our camp run smoothly.

Planned projects include installing a bump post around the new gate call box, winterizing cabins, and removing old flooring and installing new flooring in Cabin 1. These projects are subject to change and/or additional projects may be added based on weather, number of volunteers in attendance, and supply availability.

Meals are provided for all volunteers and overnight lodging is available upon request. If you are interested in coming out, whether for a day or for all three days, contact Camp Manager Olivia See at [revoliviasee@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:revoliviasee@kansasdisciples.org), call 316-775-1222 or, text 316-207-6174.



### KICK OFF ADVENT WITH A NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS CLASSICS LED BY REV. BRIAN NIXON



Join Kansas native Rev. Brian Nixon and Trinity United Christian Church, Cheney, on Friday, Nov. 25, for a beautiful evening of music as we enter into the season of Advent and the excitement that comes with awaiting Jesus' birth! The concert begins at 7 p.m. at TUCC, 416 Washington, Cheney.

It will be an energetic evening of Christmas music with musicians from Iowa and Kansas including Brian Nixon, Mark and Luke Ehrhardt, Jared Neal, Abby Penna, violinist Max Bennett, and others. Come enter the greatest story of all time with us!

Concert admission is free. There will be a love offering and CD sales to support the performing musicians. Refreshments provided following concert.

*Kansas native, Rev. Brian Nixon is a dad, husband, singer/songwriter, and pastor serving First Christian Church in Keokuk, Iowa. His upcoming full-length debut album, "Just Here", is a personal storytelling venture in seeking the abundant and everyday magic of life.*

*Nixon also served as a worship leader at a new church start, Good Harvest Christian Church, and at Hillside Christian Church, Wichita. He served as a summer intern for three years, and he served as camp caretaker at Tawakoni for four years.*

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE 2023 DATES

#### KCYF SPRING RETREAT

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to a weekend retreat at Tawakoni beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 3, to 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 5.

More information coming soon. Registration to open in January.

#### SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Rev. Dr. Paul Koch, Co-Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Mid-America, will facilitate the 2023 Spiritual Retreat. The retreat will begin at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, at the Heartland Center for Spirituality, 3600 Broadway, Great Bend.

Cost is \$135. Registration opens in January. Registration deadline is Feb. 23.

#### BOUNDARIES TRAINING: BACK TO BASICS

All clergy and church leaders should be informed about the legal and ethical issues in church ministry.

CCK will host three opportunities for Boundaries Training in 2023:

- Tuesday, March 21, Great Bend FCC
- Saturday, May 20, Tawakoni
- Thursday, Oct. 19, Topeka FCC.

Training, facilitated by Ken Marston, CCK Co-Regional Minister, begins at 10 a.m. and concludes around 3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$35 for clergy and \$10 for lay leaders. Registration opens in January. Registration closes two weeks prior to each session.

#### KDW SPIRIT FEST

Disciples Women are invited to attend one of two KDW Spirit Fest events:

- Saturday, April 22, Topeka, West Side Christian Church
- Saturday May 6, Woodridge Christian Church, Wichita.

The event's theme is, "Living your Faith." Gail Goolsby, an educator, life coach, counselor and former school principal in Afghanistan, is the keynote speaker.

#### CLERGY RETREAT

All clergy are invited to a three day retreat Tuesday, April 25, through Thursday, April 27, at Tawakoni.

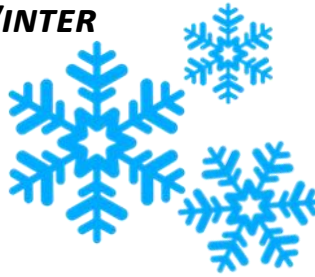


## NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

### GETTING YOUR CHURCH READY FOR WINTER

Here's a guide to maintaining the inside and outside of your building during the winter.

- **Heating System:** Your system should be inspected and serviced by a licensed contractor. Check furnace filters and replace them every three months. Keep combustible material at least 36 inches from heating units.
- **Frozen Pipes:** Know the location of the main water shut off valve. Wrap exposed water pipes with pipe insulation. Close windows near water pipes and cover open-air vents. Drain and disconnect faucets from hoses. Irrigation systems should be winterized by specialists. With extreme temperatures, turn interior faucets to a slow drip to reduce pipe freezing.
- **Roof and Gutters:** Examine roofs to search for cracking, blistering, cupping, peeling, or loss of granulation. Check drains, gutters, and valleys for debris blocking roof drainage. Check downspouts to ensure runoff goes away from the building. Prune trees close to your building.
- **Ice Dam Prevention:** Ensure the attic has sufficient insulation and ventilation. Seal any openings in the attic, like heat ducts, light fixtures, and vent pipes. Use a snow rake to clear snow 2-3 feet from all roof edges.
- **Parking Lots and Walkways:** Fill cracks and reseal the surface of your asphalt lot. This should be done every 3-5 years. Excessive ice melt can damage concrete. Use ice melt per the manufacturer's instructions.



For more winterization tips visit <https://disciplescef.org/blog/preparing-winter-maintenance-tips-church-facilities> or call the Disciples Church Extension Fund at 800-274-1883.



### ATTENTION ARTISTS: CALL FOR ART SUBMISSION FOR DISCIPLES GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

The 2023 General Assembly has issued a call for submissions for artists across the life of the church, in the local Louisville art community and throughout the world. Learn more about the way the General Assembly will be shaping a experiential art experience and how to apply at: <https://conta.cc/3husUJU>

As a Resident Artist, you'll have the chance to create an immersive art space in a 10' x 10' space that will be housed in our exhibit hall through the week. Each space will explore an idea or question related to our theme "Kingdom of God Within Us Among Us". It may be an interactive gallery displaying several pieces, a living "room" for interactive exploration and small-scale performance, a mixed-media sculpture that is seen and touched from different angles— anything that invites viewers to do more than passively watch but to engage with two or more senses is welcome.

Across the exhibit hall, organizations, churches, and more will provide information and social connection to mix in with four immersive art spaces from resident artists and two gallery/marketplace areas for other artists of all kinds. Each artist will receive compensation including a cash stipend and supply/travel/lodging reimbursement to total \$1500. Applications for Resident Artists will be received until Dec. 1, with official announcement of Resident Artists in January 2023.

### APPLY FOR DISCIPLES PEACE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

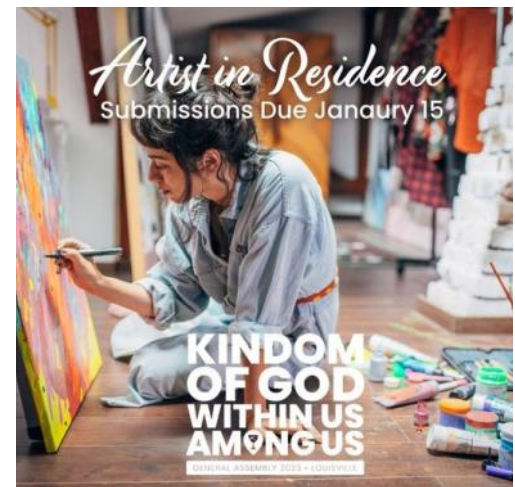
BY BRIAN FREDERICK-GRAY,  
DPF MISSION DIRECTOR

The best part of my job as Mission Director at Disciples Peace Fellowship (DPF) is getting to work with our amazing DPF Peace Interns! While the work of the Peace Interns happens in the summertime, the work to find the next cohort of Peace Interns is already underway!

The DPF Peace Intern Program has been around for nearly 50 years, empowering young adults to be ambassadors for peace and justice. It is a life-changing 12-week, paid internship for anyone age 21 and over.

The last several summers the DPF Executive Committee and I have worked hard to create a hybrid model experience where Peace Interns spend most of their time on staff at in-person Church Camps, and a few weeks of their summer working remotely with Disciples Justice Ministries. You can learn more about the Peace Internship at the DPF Website.

The application portal:  
[disciplespeace.org/apply](https://disciplespeace.org/apply).



## NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

### JESUS AND ANXIETY

BY RON COBB, PASTOR AT HORTON FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The DSM V diagnostic criteria for generalized anxiety disorder is, “The presence of excessive anxiety or worry about a variety of events or activities for at least six months.” Anxiety is an overwhelming uneasiness, full of emotional turmoil.

Explaining the life of Jesus of Nazareth, the author of Hebrews 2:15 in the *Message Bible* says this anxiety can literally scare us to death. By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil’s hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death. Cowering through life, living hunched over and worried, is an accurate description of anxiety... “scared to death of death.” Most of us do not experience a full-blown anxiety disorder but, if you ever read the newspapers or listen to the television news, you can’t help but feel a bit anxious from time to time in our volatile 21st century.

Hebrews 2:16-18 talks about the anxiety and inward pain we all have. Jesus didn’t go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That’s why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people’s sins, he

would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed.

In the Aramaic language that Jesus spoke, the Passion translation of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30 explains the way to freedom from anxiety. “Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Then come to me. I will refresh your life, for I am your oasis. Simply join your life with mine. Learn my ways and you’ll discover that I’m gentle, humble, and easy to please. You will find refreshment and rest in me. For all that I require of you will be pleasant and easy to bear.”

Men and women were created for this type of unconditional acceptance and inner healing from anxiety. Jesus will help us learn as he guides us with his gentle manner and the humble flow of his leadership. Through Jesus, you and I can be free from the anxiety of this digital, high-speed, quantum physics world and gain the energizing peace that God so intensely wants to freely give to each of us.



### EASE YOUR ANXIETY WITH NBA’S SOUL CARE: WARMTH AND WELLNESS EVENT



Join National Benevolent Association’s Mental Health & Wellness Director, Joselyn Spence, along with other guests on Dec. 14 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. as we share a moment to pause, process, and care for ourselves this holiday season. We encourage you to grab your favorite mug, something soothing to sip, and a cozy chair as you prepare for an evening of SoulCare focused on wellness practices. Want to share the moment? Schedule a ‘watch party’ with your family, Bible study

group, or congregation!

NBA would like to offer you some hearty hospitality to prepare for this event! If you **register yourself or your group by Monday, Nov. 21, the NBA will send you or your group hot cocoa, stickers, pens, and a small journal** to use in your wellness practice. Groups or individuals are encouraged to register at [www.nbacares.org/event/soulcare-warmth-wellness/](http://www.nbacares.org/event/soulcare-warmth-wellness/) and watch live via Zoom, YouTube Live, or Facebook Live!

### 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](http://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 GENERAL CHURCH

### DCHS PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Disciples of Christ Historical Society announces the retirement next year of DCHS President, the Rev. Dr. Richard H. (Rick) Lowery.

During Dr. Lowery's tenure, DCHS has expanded its efforts toward digitizing and making its extensive resources accessible online to a global audience. It has launched the online-only *Journal of Discipliana*, a peer-reviewed journal for original scholarship on topics related to the theology, history, and practice of churches in the Disciples and broader Stone-Campbell tradition.

Under his leadership, DCHS has focused on telling stories of historically underrepresented groups in the Disciples/Stone-Campbell tradition and recruiting authors for biographies of significant Disciples leaders such as Preston Taylor and Sarah Lue Bostick.

"Dr. Lowery has brought the Disciples of Christ Historical Society into the modern age. With his deep knowledge and love of Stone-Campbell history and his ability to convey the importance of our history, he has drawn new enthusiasts into the fold," stated Archie Jenkins, Chairman of the DCHS Board of Trustees. "We are grateful for the energy and experience Rick has brought to DCHS and will miss him greatly. We wish him and his family the best as they step into this new journey."



### BRITE DIVINITY SCHOOL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

At a recent Board of Trustees meeting, Brite Divinity School President Newell Williams announced his intended retirement.



Dr. Williams has served in the capacity since May of 2003, having previously taught at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis and at Brite on the TCU Campus.

Since coming to Brite as President, Dr. Williams has overseen the expansion of the faculty, the growth of the Ph.D. program, the construction of a new classroom and administrative facility, and a continuation and expansion of Brite's longstanding determination to pursue the vision of a world transformed by God's love, mercy, and justice.

An internationally respected church historian, author of numerous books, Dr. Williams is also an ordained minister within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In receiving this announcement, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to confer upon Dr. Williams the title of President Emeritus.

The Brite Board of Trustees will immediately form a Transition Committee charged with ensuring a smooth transition, beginning with the appointment of an Interim President who will lead as a bridge to the next era of Brite Divinity School. Dr. William's retirement from his position was effective Aug. 31.

### IN TRANSITION

### IN MEMORIUM

### IN CELEBRATION

William E. (Bill) Tucker, former TCU chancellor died on Friday, Oct. 14. He was known best for his tireless work to lead TCU as the institution grew from a regional to a national presence.

Tucker, who graduated from TCU and led the university from 1979 to 1998, was 90 years old. He earned his divinity degree from TCU's Brite Divinity School in 1956 and his master's and doctoral degrees from Yale University.