



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

Vol. 127, Ed. 01: January 2023

A NEW YEAR, A NEW BEGINNING REFLECTING ON 2022 AS WE MOVE INTO 2023



HAPPY NEW YEAR

January. The start of a new year. A time to look to the future, set goals, and make plans.

Our region has faced quite a few changes this last year: new staff, new initiatives, new ways of looking at regional ministry. Amongst all this new are still pieces of the familiar traditions we hold dear.

In the last year, we brought on five new regional staff members. Each of these individuals bringing with them a new set of needed skills, a new perspective to regional ministry, and a new set of goals for the future of our region. *(See article on pages 3-4 to get to know them a little better.)*

Your regional staff is working together in conjunction with your elected Regional Moderator Team to develop leadership training opportunities. We are carefully and prayerfully

looking for keynote speakers and workshop leaders who will challenge us and equip us for ministry in the coming years.

Through the Tri-Regional Partnership with the Greater Kansas City Region and the Nebraska Region and New Church ministries, we are looking for ways to strengthen established church ministries and develop new ministries to equip church leaders. These initiatives, funded by your generous gifts to our region and various grant programs, are helping to strengthen our local, regional, and partnership ministries.

So, as we begin our 2023 ministry, here are a few of our plans and goals for the year:

Kansas is a beautiful place to call home but attracting clergy from outside Kansas is not always easy, creating a challenge for our Search and Call system. CCK has reserved booth space at General Assembly in 2023 that will increase our visibility, give us an opportunity to speak with clergy, and attract new clergy to serve in the Kansas region. *(See article of page 7)*

We have re-established the Clergy Cluster groups in the NE, SE, and SC districts. The first two meetings took place, and we had an excellent turnout at those events. We are having ongoing conversations and opportunities for fellowship and learning.

The Disciples Center at Tawakoni financials for 2022 are looking better thanks to the many outside groups we are hosting at our facility. The challenge moving forward is meeting the staff requirements to meet the needs of being a 52-week-a-year facility.

With the changes and shifts in the Region over the last year and a half, the New Church team put the search for a Regional Minister for New Church Ministry on hold. However, after consultation with the team and conversations with Tom, the search will resume.

Installation plans for our new Co-Regional Minister and president Rev. Tom Stanley are taking place for April at McPherson FCC. General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens will be joining us for this celebration.

As we look ahead to 2023, we have applied for a continuation grant through the Kansas Leadership Center to continue making progress toward our collective adaptive challenges for the Kansas region. As we look ahead to 2023, we have applied for a continuation grant through the Kansas Leadership Center to continue making progress toward our collective adaptive challenges for the Kansas region. We have 60 spots available through our KLC Partnership Grant to continue this valuable training. *(Apply at www.kansasdisciples.org/grants.)*

Your Regional Communications Team and Vice Moderator Cal Williams are working to develop a Regional Communications Advocate program. Regional Communications Advocates will be volunteer representatives in each church to receive/send communications to and from the region to inform and advocate for greater involvement by their congregation in regional ministries.



Kansas Regional Office

Business Office
2914 SW MacVicar Ave.
Topeka 66611-1787
785-266-2914
Fax: 785-266-0174

[Tom Stanley](#), Co-Regional Minister & President
[\[Vacant\]](#), Corporate Secretary
[Barb Koelling](#), Treasurer

Central & High Plains

Satellite Office

Clergy Care Office
5230 Broadway Avenue
Great Bend 67530-3208
620-792-6490; Fax: 620-792-1268

[Ken Marston](#), Co-Regional Minister
[Juli Reed](#), Admin. Assistant

South Central Satellite Office

Communication Office
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta 67010-8111
316-775-1236

[Steve Hart](#), Communications Director
[Jessica Marston](#), Communications Specialist

Disciples Center at Tawakoni

8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta 67010-8111
316-775-1222
www.tawakoni.org
reservations@kansasdisciples.org

[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](#)



THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

A Pastoral Letter to the Disciples Churches in Kansas

BY KEN MARSTON, CO-REGIONAL MINISTER

To the Saints that inhabit the faith communities that make up the Christian Church in Kansas, greetings in the name of Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

When I think of all of you, I give thanks for the life and ministry that is being done in Christ's name, and for your love and support extended to me throughout last year as I dealt with several health issues.

As we begin this new year, I call us all into a season of prayer. Last year was not only a year of my health issues, but it was also a time of great transition in full-time regional staff. At times, it felt a little chaotic as we navigated the sea of change. So, I feel it would do us some good to take a deep breath and spend some time in prayer.

There is good precedent for this action. The book of the Acts of the Apostles time and time again describes the rhythm of early church life that began with prayer -- waiting for God's

empowerment, a receiving of a vision or prompting to action, taking the action, and a return to prayerful waiting on God.

What do we pray for? Let me suggest we begin with this prayer:

Holy God, in whom we find our life and purpose, here we are, your servants. We desire to be of use to you and be your loving presence in the world.

To that end, we surrender our will and our lives to your guidance and your leading. Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to the needs of people around us.

In the words of St. Francis, "Make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, may we sow love. Where there is injury, may we extend forgiveness. Where there is doubt, may we encourage faith. Where there is despair, may we encourage others to hope. Where there is sadness, help us to bring joy."

- Amen.



OUT WITH THE OLD — IN WITH THE NEW ALEX DATABASE YEARBOOK REPORTS NEEDED REPORTS DUE TO REGIONAL OFFICE BY FEB. 28

It's time to reflect on the previous year and plan ahead with ALEX YEARBOOK data collection that begins in January and concludes at the end of February.

ALEX Yearbook is the tool used to record and study congregation statistics. It's as a snapshot of your congregation that provides valuable data. Congregations, regions, and other ministries analyze various geographical trends to see changes in staffing models, look for ways to combine strengths, and more. **All yearbook data must be entered and submitted electronically to the regional office no later than Feb. 28.**

The ALEX Yearbook builds historical data in the system to grasp the past as we chart our future together. Entering weekly attendance throughout the year allows you to press a button that averages your data automatically, so you can review and make any necessary changes before submitting your report. If you are using another system to track your information, importing the data to ALEX may be possible.

Top reasons for completing the report.

ALEX allows congregations to maintain their ability to accept tax-deductible donations via non-profit 501(c)(3) status filed on your behalf by the denomination.

ALEX compares the congregation's annual giving and attendance history over time. It looks for trends that may indicate adjustments are needed. For example, declining youth attendance may indicate that changes are needed or

that demographics have changed. It may mean focusing on different ministries or services that better meet your community's needs.

ALEX allows connection with other ministries that can help your congregation and point the way to new avenues of partnership. Each congregation has gifts and talents that allow them to do what they do best.

ALEX allows you to identify and recognize the volunteer ministries that serve your community and neighbors nearby. As you gather and input your data, you can reflect and recognize all that the congregation has accomplished.

ALEX helps the church identify things that matter and work together, showing our commitment to covenantal relationships. Think of it as each congregation has a piece of the puzzle. Once all the pieces are in their place, we see a complete picture.

Need help?

The link below will take you to ALEX's "Congregation" page: <https://disciples.org/ALEX/congregation-user-info/>. It provides training aids, worksheets, and links to other resources to help you with ALEX.

MEET OUR REGIONAL STAFF

Over the last couple of years your regional staff has been in transition. Several long-standing members have retired, and new faces of regional ministry have emerged. This change is a sign of growth as we continue to be "...a vibrant, diverse, and growing manifestation of God's realm...". As we continue into the new year, let us take the time to get to know our regional staff a little better.

Executive Staff:

Rev. Tom Stanley, Co-Regional Minister and President

Since August 2022

Regional Business Office, Topeka

Tom provides pastoral care, search and call support, and congregational support to the Northeast, Southeast, and South Central Districts.

He meets regularly with the Kansas Bible Chair Grant Committee and the regional Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Task Force. He provides oversight of regional administration, finances, communication, and youth and camp ministries. He works in partnership with Ken to develop New Church ministries and distribute Disciples General Church Communication.

Outside of work, Tom enjoys walking the dog with his wife Sandy. He loves to play video games and reads to relax.



Rev. Ken Marston, Co-Regional Minister

Since January 2008

Regional Clergy Care Office, Great Bend

Ken provides pastoral care, search and call support, and congregational support to the Central and High Plains Districts. He works with clergy care ministries regarding clergy standing,

ordination, commissioning, and scholarships. He works with clergy, Disciples Men, and Spirituality retreat planning teams. He meets regularly with our Reconciliation Grant Committee and provides oversight for Disciples Men and Disciples Women ministries. He works in partnership with Rev. Tom Stanley to develop New Church ministries and distribute Disciples General Church Communication.

When he's not working, he likes to read fantasy and science fiction books, and play games of all types (board, card, computer, outdoor, etc.). He also enjoys woodworking and doing DIY projects around the house.

Mark your Calendar!

CCK will host Tom's Installation Service in April at McPherson First Christian Church. Rev. Terri Hord Owen, GMP, will give the message. A short reception will take place after the service.

Executive Secretary (Position open) — to apply go to www.kansasdisciples.org/job-postings.

Supervisory Contract Staff:



Rev. Olivia See, Camp Manager

Since June 2022

Disciples Center at
Tawakoni

Olivia provides summer
camping program oversight

and oversees camp facilities management at Tawakoni. She liaisons between the region and event coordinators who use our facilities for a variety of programs and events. She oversees the hiring and evaluation of paid camp staff and oversees volunteer recruitment and management.

Outside of work Olivia loves being outdoors with people camping, hiking, kayaking or just sitting around talking. She also enjoys creating and building and fixing almost anything. Woodworking is a special love, and she's always up for learning a new hobby.

Steve Hart, Communications Director

Since January 2020

Communications Office,
Augusta

Steve advises the region on all marketing and communication efforts and supports in planning for regional events. He provides editorial planning, copy writing, and copy-editing regional communications including the *Kansas Messenger* newsletter. He oversees the archiving and preserving of regional publications. Provides oversight and mentoring for the ongoing work of the regional communications specialist.

In free time, Steve enjoys his three grandkids as they participate in soccer, basketball and baseball leagues and tournaments, working at various leadership positions at Woodridge CC in Wichita, and traveling with his wife Wilma as they follow Wichita State athletics.



Barb Koelling, Regional Treasurer

Since February 2020

Regional Business Office,
Topeka

Barb oversees the region's financials. She reviews annual budget requests and presents budget reports to the regional board. She reviews and tracks registration payments, donations, and payment requests. She liaisons between the region and Treasury Services who handles our bookkeeping.

Barb spends her after hours' time with family and friends — especially her two grandsons, Eli and Zeke. She enjoys golf, and travel to golf destinations with her husband, Doug.



MEET OUR REGIONAL STAFF (CONT.)

Support Staff:



Juli Reed, Administrative Assistant

Since March 2022

Clergy Care Office, Great Bend

Juli provides administrative support to Ken, Clergy Care ministries, Disciples Men ministries, and the congregations in the Central and High Plains Districts. She assists the communications office editing promotional videos and updating the events calendar on the regional website.

Outside of work Juli (sometimes known as Jill) loves gardening and has a YouTube channel called *Best "Buds" Gardening*. In her spare time, she plays with her one-year-old Maltese, Gizmo, and her four-year old parrot, Mango, who knows how to kiss, wave, target, and play basketball.

Jessica Marston, Communications Specialist

Since July 2015

Communications Office, Augusta

Jessica manages all regional communications including *Kansas Messenger* newsletter, regional website, social media accounts, and text alerts. She coordinates with regional ministries and event planning teams to distribute event promotional materials. She liaisons with the Disciples General Church communications office to distribute communications. She provides administrative support to Tom, youth and camp ministries, and the congregations in the South-Central Districts. As the need arises, she coordinates the design and purchase of regional logo merchandise.

Jessica is active in her home church, Woodridge Christian Church, Wichita, and enjoys reading urban fantasy books, traveling, and taking nature photographs. She is a fur mom of a King Charles Cavalier named Maddie.



Ministry Specific Contract Staff:



**Rev. Luis A. Mendez,
Disciples Men Coordinator**
Since September 2020

Luis coordinates regional Disciples Men retreats and special events with the

focus of connecting and equipping Disciples Men for ministry. He liaisons with Disciples Men ministries of the General Church and assists with distributing communications. With the help of the Disciples Men Cabinet, he mentors established and creation of congregational Disciples Men programs.

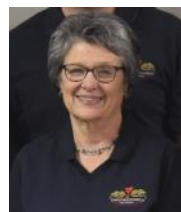
Luis also serves as the pastor at North Heights Christian Church, Wichita. He devotes his spare time to swimming, movies, music and his lovely wife, Carmen.

**Carla Pearson,
Disciples Women
Coordinator**

Since November 2019

Carla coordinates regional Disciples Women retreats, Spirit Fest, and special events with the focus of connecting and equipping Disciples Women for ministry. She liaisons with Disciples Women ministries of the General Church and assists with distributing communications to women across the Kansas region. She works with the KDW cabinet to create opportunities for women to be a part of Disciples Women programs and activities.

When not busy with Disciples Women she enjoys sewing quilts, baking, gardening, and enjoying life's journey with her husband, Floyd.



**Rev. Travis Smith McKee,
Disciples Youth Coordinator**
Since August 2021

Travis oversees the Disciples Youth Cabinet in the planning of regional Disciples Youth retreats, Youth

convention, Mission Week and other special events with the focus of connecting and equipping Disciples Youth for ministry.

He liaisons with Disciples Youth ministries of the General Church and assists with distributing communications.

Travis also serves as the interim pastor at Galva Christian Church. Outside of work, Travis enjoys spending time with his family, playing music, and disc golf.

JOIN OUR TEXT ALERTS SYSTEM

Get CCK news 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. 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.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

KANSAS CHURCH MISSION FEATURE:

Girard, First Christian Church

In southeast Kansas just seven miles from the Kansas-Missouri border, you can find the First Christian Church of Girard, just a block away from the town square where the Crawford County Courthouse resides.

Maybe that's why members of this small, tight-knit community of Christians with diverse backgrounds and opinions have such a spirit of service to the community where they live. They connect with and equip people in Girard by being the hands and feet of the Body of Christ through service in many different capacities.

From the food pantry to the thrift shop, to the schools, hospitals and community art events you will find members of FCC Girard serving, always seeking to love others as Christ has loved us.

Unique to other churches in Girard, FCC is led by a female pastor, Rev. Renee Goodwin, and they foster a spirit of welcome to all followers of Jesus regardless of doctrinal, political or ideological viewpoint. When it comes to equipping her congregation, Rev. Goodwin points to a healthy adult Sunday School program.

Over two-thirds of the regular Sunday morning worship participants also participate in one of two Sunday school classes, or in the mid-week Bible study where they connect with the gospel, with their own lives and with events going on around them.

Rev. Goodwin explains, "My hope as pastor is that what they learn in these classes helps to instill the peace of Christ within the participants, so they can respond with God's grace and love flowing through them in an increasingly hostile and divisive world, and they can let others know that they learned how to do that at church".

You'd be hard pressed to find a better description of the spirit of "Connect and Equip."

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles describing Kansas churches and their mission to connect & equip. If you'd like to suggest your congregation for an article, contact copy editor Jessica Marston at messenger@kansasdisciples.org or call 316-775-1236.



HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Your church could be featured here! Submit your articles and pictures to us.

We are always 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 December issue is:

Monday, January 23

CAMP NEWS

APPLY TO BE A TAWAKONI SUMMER LEADERSHIP INTERN

Are you ready for an adventure on Holy Ground? There is absolutely no life like camp life! If you come work for us, you'll find out why.

Our summer leadership internship program has been growing and changing over the years and we are hopeful that this summer will be the best one yet. This is a paid internship!

Past interns have gone on to be pastors, other camp program leaders, college chaplains, missionaries, social workers, community leaders, gifted church lay leaders in, and more. Are you up for the challenge?

Applications are now being accepted for our summer leadership internships. For this paid internship, we are looking for 3-4 college age students with a heart for God and children.

This summer is going to be amazing and we want you to come help make it that way. If you are interested in learning more and applying, go to: www.tawakoni.org/2023-summer-internship-program/.



NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

YOUTH SPRING RETREAT 2023



Join us for the 2023 Spring Retreat at Tawakoni! Youth, grades 6-12, are invited to spend the weekend at the camp beginning Friday, March 3, through Sunday, March 5.

Our 2023 theme is "Spirit Moves" and Rev. Derek Tompkins of Weatherford, Texas will share how to join in the movement of God's

Spirit around us. The retreat will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday and conclude at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Attendees are expected to eat dinner before arriving Friday night.

Activities will include games, a service project, music, and more favorites. Don't miss out on a fantastic event! A specific schedule is in the works. More information will be posted on our website as it becomes available.

Each church is asked to provide an adult sponsor for every five youth they bring or partner with another church to do so.

The cost is \$80 per person for the weekend, including meals and lodging. Registration closes Thursday, Feb. 23, to allow us to plan for your arrival. Late registrations will only be accepted by phone and at the event organizer's discretion. Registration is open at www.tawakoni.org/kcyf-spring-retreat/.

ATTENTION!

NOTE A CHANGE TO CCK EVENT REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

We are always happy to extend an invitation to you, your church, your friends, your family, and your neighbors to attend any of our regional events.

To help us adequately prepare for your arrival and keep registration fees low, pre-registration is highly encouraged. We also encourage you to use our online event registration system found at www.kansasdisciples.org/events or through your ENGAGE account. Credit/Debit card and electronic check payments are accepted.

Don't have a computer or need assistance? Our regional support staff will gladly assist you by phone. While we are no longer providing a paper (PDF) registration form, they may still be available through any of our regional offices.

New in 2023: To help our support staff and admin volunteers to be more efficient in preparing event materials, online registration will close a minimum of one week prior to an event's start date as published on our website. Registrations after that date will only be accepted by phone and at the event organizers discretion. Late registrations may also be subject to late fees.

CCK LAUNCHES ONLINE STORE

We have launched a new online store with apparel, gear, and gifts with the regional and/or Tawakoni logo. With General Assembly right around the corner, show up in style with a Kansas Disciples polo or Tawakoni tumbler. Check it out at www.kansasdisciples.org.

Purchased items can be picked up at the South Central/Tawakoni Office or shipped for an additional charge. Out-of-stock apparel items may still be available through our supplier. Email Jessica Marston, scd@kansasdisciples.org, to request an out-of-stock item or for more details.

Want to become a VIP Store Member?

Subscribe to the *Kansas Messenger* email at www.kansasdisciples.org/news and select the "CCK Merchandise VIPs" mailing group.

Already receive the *Kansas Messenger* in your email inbox? No problem! Click "Update Preferences" and select "CCK Merchandise VIPs" mailing group.

CCK OFFER THREE BOUNDARIES TRAINING SESSIONS IN 2023 FOR CLERGY, LAY LEADERS

Attention all clergy and church leaders! The first of three Ethical Boundary Training sessions for 2023 is fast approaching (March 21 at FCC Great Bend).

Besides the March 21 training session, there are two other opportunities throughout the year: Saturday, May 20 at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni, and Tuesday, Oct. 20, Topeka First Christian Church. All training begins at 10 a.m. and lasts until 3:30 p.m. with lunch provided.

Clergy, if you have not taken boundaries training since 2020, you need to do so this year to meet requirements for standing. Contact Juli Reed (chp@kansasdisciples.org) in the Clergy Care Office, Great Bend, if you are unsure when your last training was.

Church leaders: if you have ever wondered about the standards of ethical behavior we expect of our ministers, please join your pastor for this one-day training session.

In addition to going over the *Ministerial Code of Conduct*, we will also look at another document, *Ethical Guideline for Congregations*, that sets expectations for how we hope church members will treat each other and their pastors in the life of the congregation.

The cost of this training is \$35 for clergy and \$10 for congregational leaders. Registration closes one week prior to the start of each session, to allow us to plan for your arrival. Late registrations will only be accepted by phone and at the event organizer's discretion.

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

SPIRITUALITY RETREAT 2023 REGISTRATION OPENS

MATTHEW 5:1-12



Spiritual Retreat is two months away! Registration is open for the 2023 retreat held March 9-11 at the Heartland Center for Spirituality in Great Bend.

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.

Cost is \$135 per person. Register now to explore the "Blessed Attitudes of BEing" at www.kansasdisciples.org or through your ENGAGE account. Registration closes March 9, to allow us to plan for your arrival. Late registrations will only be accepted by phone and at the event organizer's discretion.

REGISTER TODAY FOR KDW SPIRIT FEST 2023 LIVING YOUR FAITH WITH CHRIST AS YOUR ANCHOR

Registration for Spirit Fest 2023 is open. This annual spring gathering of women offers workshops, worship, and fellowship.

Topeka West Side Christian Church and Wichita's Woodridge Christian Church will host Spirit Fest on Saturday, April 22, and

Saturday, May 6, respectively. The women of these congregations are extending their hospitality and preparing for your arrival.

Gail Goolsby will be the Spirit Fest keynote speaker. After the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, Gail found herself as the founding principal of the International School of Kabul in Afghanistan. Her story is one of passion, commitment, and how she lives her faith while helping others.

Do you know women who are unable to drive? Offer them a ride and enjoy some extra fellowship time together. Participants are asked to bring a canned good item. The canned goods will be included in the host church's food bank ministry.

Cost is \$15 and includes program and lunch. Register now at www.kansasdisciples.org or through your ENGAGE account. Online registration will close one week prior to each event's start date. Registration after that date will be accepted by phone and at the event organizer's discretion.



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

REGISTER FOR THE 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Four nights, four dynamic preachers. Each night of the 2023 General Assembly will bring dynamic preaching and uplifting music centered around the three scriptures that shaped the 2023 General Assembly theme Kindom of God, Within Us, Among Us.

You can explore the speakers, utilize the Bible study sessions and watch each of the preacher's "Imagine with Me" conversations with these helpful links.

Early-bird rates only last through March 1, so register now to be a part of this worshipful week.

We are excited to invite the whole church to the 2023 General Assembly The Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us in Louisville, Ky., July 29 – Aug. 1. All the resources your congregation, region or ministry need to invite people to the in-person and virtual event can be found at <https://ga.disciples.org/resources/>.

Join us in Louisville!



PEACE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION WINDOW CLOSING SOON

Disciples Peace Fellowship (DPF) Interns spend the summer serving as Ambassadors for Peace and Justice.

In addition to serving on Program Staff at Church Camps

throughout the United States and Canada, the 2023 Peace Interns will also have remote work weeks where they partner with Disciples Justice Ministry groups and Ecumenical Peace Organizations to work on specific, pre-defined projects.

Plus, since this is a General Assembly year, Peace Interns will also attend the Assembly with DPF covering all their GA expenses in Louisville.

If you know an outstanding young adult, someone who will be at least 21-years-old by the beginning of the summer, with a passion for peace and justice who is looking to live out their faith this summer then share this link with them:

www.disciplespeace.org/apply

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

LILLY ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION PROVIDES MILLION DOLLAR GRANT TO DOC

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has received a grant of \$1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help support and equip Disciples to preach the good news.



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A Private Philanthropic Foundation

The program, preliminarily called The Proclamation Project, will kick off in January with a virtual preaching workshop and a sermon series resource for preachers to use in preparation for next summer's General Assembly. As the program takes shape, it will grow to include a resource library with new and curated preaching materials, support for preachers in bi-vocational settings, cohort groups, and learning opportunities for Disciples preachers.

"I am thrilled that we will be able to offer this level of support to preachers in local congregations," said Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President. "We know that preachers are hungry for resources they can trust, hungry for connection with other preachers, hungry to hear good preaching themselves. We understand that proclamation is not a discrete task but is intricately tied to the whole of ministry: from the prophetic to the pastoral to the educational. As we continue to imagine new ways of being church, the Proclamation Project will help Disciples offer the authentic, Spirit-filled preaching the world needs."

The Office of the General Minister and President will be developing a team to lead this effort, which will provide support and resources for preachers from the diverse communities that make up the Christian Church (DOC). The

program was designed by a planning committee that included Rev. Lee Hull Moses, Vice President and Chief of Staff in the OGMP; Rev. Rogelio Martinez, pastor of Casa de Oracion de

Fullerton and Iglesia Nueva Vida; Rebecca Anderson, co-pastor of Gilead Church Chicago; and Rev. Bill Lee, former General Church moderator.

The Proclamation Project is being funded through Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching Initiative. The Christian Church (DOC) is one of 32 organizations receiving funding in an invitational round of grants for the initiative, which is designed to help Christian pastors strengthen their abilities to proclaim the gospel in more engaging and effective ways.

"We are excited about the work that these organizations will do to foster and support preaching that better inspires, encourages and guides people to come to know and love God and to live out their Christian faith more fully," said Christopher L. Coble, Lilly Endowment's vice president for religion. "Their programs will serve a significant number of aspiring and current preachers who are working to reach and engage increasingly diverse audiences both within and beyond congregations."

The Compelling Preaching Initiative is part of the Endowment's longstanding interest in supporting projects that help to nurture the religious lives of individuals and families and foster the growth and vitality of Christian congregations in the United States.

About Lilly Endowment: Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location.

In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana. The principal aim of the Endowment's religion grantmaking is to deepen and enrich the lives of Christians in the United States, primarily by seeking out and supporting efforts that enhance the vitality of congregations and strengthen the pastoral and lay leadership of Christian communities.

In addition, the Endowment also seeks to improve public understanding of diverse religious traditions by supporting fair and accurate portrayals of the role religion plays in the United States and across the globe.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

KCH'S HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

Since its inception in November 2021, Kansas Christian Home's *Homemaker Program* has made its mark as an irreplaceable program in the healthcare center. Unlike nursing and home health departments which offer skilled medical care, homemakers focus on non-medical care needs.

As a partner program to the activities that KCH Life Enrichment Coordinators provide, KCH homemakers fill the gaps in social and emotional support that some residents continue to feel after the fallout from the pandemic.

The Homemaker Program wouldn't be possible without the dedication of its leadership and team. Sherry Donnahoo, KCH homemaker supervisor, noticed residents developing self-isolating habits as a result of having been isolated during the pandemic. Now with homemakers ready to assist, residents are more encouraged to participate in group activities and are seen at least three times a week.

As an intergenerational program, KCH homemakers are local high school students who exhibit social skills, confidence, and empathy for others. When asked what they've learned as a result of being a KCH homemaker, they shared how it's important to build trust with the residents, take initiative during their workday and show leadership qualities.

To learn more about this program or to volunteer, contact Tasha Vela, Chief Nursing Officer for KCH at (316) 283-6600.

JOIN US JAN. 25-27 FOR REMIND & RENEW 2023 TRANSFORMING JUSTICE



Registration is now open for Remind & Renew 2023. As of now, Remind & Renew will be both in-person and online.

Theme statement: We are

called to be seekers and doers of justice to transform our families and communities into places of just living. Remind & Renew 2023 will focus on the ways our social justice efforts can be transformative for society.

Presenters:

- Kazu Haga
- Terence Crutcher Foundation
- *The Many* will lead our worship times and present an evening concert.

For more information about presenters, visit the Remind & Renew webpage.



JOIN US FEB. 6-8 FOR BRITE'S MINISTERS WEEK

Registration is now open for Brite Divinity School's Ministers' Week Retreat Feb. 6-8 on the campus of Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas.

Presenters:

- Rev. Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes
- Rev. Darnell Fennell
- Rev. Dr. Jeremy Williams
- Courtney Richards
- Rev. Dr. Khalia Williams
- Danny Couch
- Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber

This year's retreat will also feature an organ recital by Bradley Hunter Welch, A native of Knoxville, Tenn.

For more information about presenters, visit the Brite Ministers' Week webpage.

Cost is \$10 for the retreat with the option to attend the President Williams Reception, Women in Ministry Breakfast, and Retried Ministers Dinner.

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.



MINISTRY ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES OPEN FOR KANSAS CLERGY



You are working to drive meaningful progress and build a thriving faith community where you work, volunteer, and live. As these powerful aspirations guide your efforts, you confront challenges that leave you feeling stuck, confused and curious about what to try next.

Life in this gap offers everyone the chance to find a path to make purposeful progress on complex challenges. The principles and tools of Adaptive Leadership increase your capacity to make progress toward your goals.

In the course *Everyday Leadership: Progress on Purpose*, you will be introduced to principles, competencies, and tools of Adaptive Leadership. Through large and small group interactions, you will employ these components on your own challenges to increase your capacity to make progress on your organizational and personal goals.

The course will be offered online 6-8 p.m. (Central) on Mondays, via the Zoom platform over 8 weeks beginning January 23 and finishing prior to Holy Week. This course is offered in partnership with Disciple Interims.

Dates: Mondays, Jan. 23 - March 13,
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. (Central).

Cost: \$500/registrant

Textbook:

Your Leadership Edge: Tools and Strategies for When Everyone Leads by Ed O'Malley and Amanda Cebula (Wichita, KS: Kansas Leadership Center Press, 2015).

Registration Link:

<https://discipleshomemissions.regfox.com/everyday-leadership-progress-on-purpose>

IN TRANSITION

IN MEMORIUM

Rev. Lydia Cordaro former minister in Kansas and Iowa died Dec. 29 in Hutchinson. Lydia was an enthusiastic participant in the church from an early age. At thirteen she was traveling by herself to nearby villages in her native Philippines to teach Sunday School. After receiving her Divinity Degree, she was ordained into the Disciples of Christ in 1978. She was a member of Park Place CC Hutchinson.

IN CELEBRATION

Rev. Ben Duerfeldt, retired Disciples of Christ minister died January 12. He was 89 and a member of FCC Manhattan. Rev. Duerfeldt was described as a wonderful man with quite a gentle, loving spirit, and his quiet, prayerful discernment carried great power in his community. Services are scheduled for Feb. 3 at FCC Manhattan.

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 or go to www.christianchurchfoundation.org.