



# Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

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

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## Kansas Regional Office

**Business Office**  
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[Tom Stanley](#), Co-Regional Minister & President  
[Becki Kisslinger](#), Corporate Secretary  
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## Central & High Plains

### Satellite Office

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

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[Steve Hart](#), Communications Director  
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## Disciples Center at Tawakoni

8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.  
Augusta 67010-8111  
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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](#)

## JOIN US FOR TOM'S INSTALLATION

Join us for the installation service of Rev. Tom Stanley, Co-Regional Minister and President beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at McPherson First Christian Church, 101 S Walnut St. A reception will follow the worship service.

A live stream of the service will be available through the regional website, [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org), and the McPherson FCC Facebook page for those unable to attend in-person.

There will be a number of special guests including our preacher, Rev. Dr. Terri Hord-Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Tom was called as our regional minister by vote of the Regional Assembly in August 2022. Since then he has traveled to about 40 congregations across Kansas. Tom and his wife Sandy make their home in Topeka and are members at First Christian Church of Topeka. Learn more about Tom at [www.kansasdisciples.org/staff/](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/staff/).



## 2023 CAMP SCHEDULE IS HERE!

Registration is open for the 2023 summer church camp season as we prepare for another wonderful camp season! This summer's theme is how do we have a FruitFULL Faith.

We are experimenting with a new online registration platform: RegFox. Our hope is that its simple strait forward design will make it easy for parents to sign up their kids while providing camp directors with all the necessary information for a fun and safe camp experience.

Beginning in March, churches that pay all or part of the registration fee will receive a weekly report of campers who have signed up to attend camp from their church along with payment instructions.

Previously this year, we explored a three tiered pricing structure. We have decided to rethink that idea for another year. The new fee structure is closer to what we have had in previous years. We apologize for the confusion and we hope you will bear with us as we explore this option in the future. Churches that pay all or part of the registration fee are encouraged to use the Full Price/True Cost amount to ensure an efficient and sustainable camp program for generations to come.

## Camp Dates:

			Scholarship Price	Full Price/True Cost
Discovery/Primary	Grades K-3	July 5-7	\$226	\$301
Junior	Grades 4-5	June 19-23	\$356	\$475
Chi Rho	Grades 6-7	July 10-15	\$421	\$562
Pre High	Grade 8	July 10-15	\$421	\$562
CYF	Grades 9-12	July 24-29	\$421	\$562
Grand Camp	All ages	July 7-9	\$160	\$214

Online registration closes two weeks prior to camp start to allow our staff time to prepare for camper's arrival. Late registrations will only be accepted by phone and at the camp director's discretion.

## THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

BY KEN MARSTON, CO-REGIONAL MINISTER



To all companions of The Way, who make up the communities of faith within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas, I send you greetings in the name of the one who is our guide, our strength, our healer and our sustainer.

I am grateful for the ministry, the witness, and the lives you are living to make visible the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth as it already exists in heaven. For this is the work that we have been called to do when we were called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. I am honored that I get to walk beside you and provide what encouragement and counsel God has given me to share. This has been my great joy for these past fifteen years and, God willing, my joy for years to come.

As you already know we live in peculiar and precarious times. There are forces we deal with daily that threaten our witness and our way of life of loving others as God has already loved us (John 13:34-35). Space does not permit me to name all these forces or explore them in depth, but I will name two.

One force we contend with fans the flames of our sense of righteousness and justice. If these flames reach an excess, we can be led to champion only the letter of the law and forget about the spirit of compassion for all that must accompany this work if we are to reflect the love of God. This force is the spirit of Pharisaism that Jesus contended with regularly.

Another force we contend with blinds us to the covenantal and communal nature of our life. This force tries to convince us that our Christian faith is only about our personal relationship with God, and we do not need to relate to each other, or that the congregations we associate with do not need to be connected to a wider community of faith. When we are captured by this force, we can easily be led astray so that we end up committing great acts of evil in the name of God. It is only in being in relationship with others, both individually and communally, that we come to know and live out what it means to love others as God has loved us.

It is my prayer that compassion and covenantal community will be marks of who we are as people of The Way of Jesus.

## REGIONAL CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Boundaries Training	March 21 May 20 Aug 26 Oct 19
KDW Spirit Fest	April 22 May 6
R3 Clergy Retreat	April 25-27
Junior Camp	June 19-22
Discovery/Primary Camp	July 5-7
Grand Camp	July 7-9
Chi Rho Camp	July 10-15
Pre-High Camp	July 10-15
CYF Conference	July 24-29
DCE Regional Gathering	Aug 12
Ministering to Children From Trauma Workshop	Sept 14
KDM Fall Retreat	Sept 22-23
KDW Fall Retreats	Oct 4-6 Oct 6-8
Tawakoni Gala	TBA
AOCC Workshops	TBA

## EASTER OFFERING: THE GIFT THAT POWERS CHANGE

The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on April 2 and April 9, supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for hospital/military chaplains, pastors, and so much more. The offering also supports many General Ministries including:

Center for Faith and Giving  
Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (Obra Hispana)  
Communication Ministries  
Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry  
Disciples of Christ Historical Society

Disciples Home Missions  
Disciples Women  
Division of Overseas Ministries (Global Ministries)  
Higher Education and Leadership Ministries  
National Benevolent Association

National Convocation  
New Church Ministry  
North American Pacific / Asian Disciples  
Office of the General Minister and President  
Treasury Services



Your gift to the Easter special offering allows us to do more together than we can alone. More ministry. More impact. More of God's love in the world. Give through your local church, your ENGAGE account, or at: [www.kansasdisciples.org/give](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/give).

## KLC/CCK PARTNERSHIP GRANT RENEWED FOR 2023

Thanks to a Partnership Grant through the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC), the Kansas region has 60 training slots in KLC's leadership training programs. This training is intended to help you lead your congregation more effectively, more powerfully, to change lives and turn systems in healthy directions.

The KLC Partnership Grant pays tuition costs and a Kansas Bible Chair Task grant will cover the cost of books, housing, and meals for those who take part.

### The workshops available are:

**Your Leadership Edge** – This training either virtual or in person for anyone who wants to lead more and get better results.

**Lead for Change** – This training is designed for individuals who are called to lead others through tough situations. Perfect for pastors and church leaders working to guide or influence change.

**Equip to Lead** – This training will give you the essential skills you need to build leadership in others. Practice and receive feedback as you learn to communicate key leadership concepts tailored to your congregation in this two-day program.



**NOTE:** All registrations will close two weeks prior to each program or once maximum capacity is reached. Early registration through KLC website is highly advised.



**KANSAS LEADERSHIP CENTER**

## 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](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, tone, clarity, and space. Submission deadline for the next issue is:

**Monday, March 20**

## CCK TOPEKA OFFICE WELCOMES NEW CORPORATE SECRETARY

CCK welcomes Becki Kisslinger as Corporate Secretary. She comes with more than 30 years of administration experience and is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that drew her to the position.

Kisslinger, who started in late February says, "I am enjoying everyone I have come in contact with. Everyone has been very welcoming, friendly, and helpful. I hope I will be a part of them, and some help to them all very soon. I love keeping busy and believe I will always have something to do here."

Her family includes 14 children, 12 foster kids and two biological daughters, one in Dodge City and one in Topeka. They have blessed her with six grandchildren.

While her hobbies involve family and friends, her goal in life is to be the best she can be. She loves to make an impact on people's lives by helping them, and encouraging them to be their best.

## ECM AT K-STATE OFFERS ECO-THEOLOGY IN ACTION

How can Kansas Disciples authentically engage God's call in the lives of university students? At Ecumenical Campus Ministries (ECM), this looks like caring about the environment.

ECM provides a rigorous hands-on opportunity, every semester, to connect student's convictions at the ECM Sustainability Retreat. The retreat happens twice per year and supports environmental curiosity and exploration at various locations including an organic farm in Independence, urban farms in Kansas City, and other locations across Manhattan.

This retreat, generally over a weekend, has an accompanied wholistic curriculum written by ECM leadership during the pandemic. The curriculum focuses on a two-year cycle—with 4 units of progression written by ministers, teachers, scientists, and therapists. It is an unique combination of faith-based and science-based approaches.

Eventually, ECM hopes to offer course credit through the university for our program so students can apply their love for God's creation in their academic degree programs. This retreat is BELOVED by those who participate, and it is continually evolving.

If you would like to learn more about Eco-Theology or about ECM, please feel free to contact Christian Watkins, [pastor.christian.watkins@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.christian.watkins@gmail.com), check out [ecmatkstate.org](http://ecmatkstate.org), and follow us on Facebook or Instagram.



## 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](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/news). Look for the "Text logo" on the right-hand side.
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.

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

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### KANSAS CHURCH MISSION FEATURE:

Wichita, North Heights Christian Church

North Heights Christian Church, Wichita is described by pastor Rev. Luis Mendez as a family oriented, small church with a big heart of love and welcome, that makes it a point for the congregation to greet and welcome visitors.

No doubt that is a true and accurate description, but the way they work in the community to meet, serve, equip and connect is a tribute to putting in the work. North Heights is a diverse church with a primarily African American congregation, and they have trained members through two book studies to learn what it takes to be welcoming and inclusive.

Those studies have culminated in community action. NHCC members participate in an outreach ministry project each month. The objective for the ministry is to reach people beyond the walls of NHCC. In January members prepared "Bags of Blessings", which included hygiene items to be



distributed to those in need in Wichita. This year plans are to enlarge their community garden

which will provide a needed source of fresh produce to Wichita residents. And the church also encourages interaction with the local Union Rescue Mission, where on some Sundays, men from the Union Rescue Mission come to worship at NHCC.

To connect and equip within the region, NHCC's 2022 Women's Day Congregation event reached out to other DoC women across the region and resulted in networking with women from two different DoC churches in Kansas.

Do the training, do the work, and get the results are the formula as NHCC applies the knowledge from their studies, the Word, and discussions about how God is working in their lives and how the Word applies to their lives.



**Editor's Note:** This is the third 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 Jessica Marston 316-775-1236

### CHECK OUT CCK'S 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](http://www.kansasdisciples.org).

Purchased items can be picked up at the South Central/Tawakoni Office or shipped for an additional charge.

Out-of-stock items may still be available. Email Jessica Marston, [scd@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:scd@kansasdisciples.org), to request an out-of-stock item or for more details.

### Become a VIP Store Member

Subscribe to the *Kansas Messenger* email at [www.kansasdisciples.org/news](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/news) and select the "CCK Merchandise VIPs" mailing group.

Already receive the *Kansas Messenger*? No problem! Click "**Update Preferences**" at the bottom of the last *Kansas Messenger* received and select "CCK Merchandise VIPs".

### ALLEN ORDAINED

Rev. Ross Michael Allen was ordained into the ministry on Saturday, Feb. 18, at Manhattan First Christian Church.

Laurie Lewis, Manhattan FCC pastor, opened the service which was also attended by Co-Regional Ministers Ken Marston and



Tom Stanley representing the Kansas region.

Also in attendance were Arthur Stewart, pastor at Riverside, Wichita, representing the Commission on Ministry, Christian Watkins Executive Director of Ecumenical Campus Ministries at KSU who gave the sermon, and Frederick Burrack as music leader.



As part of the service, Ross and his father Dr. David Ross Allen, and grandfather David George Allen sang and played a special musical presentation of "Here I Am Lord."

Ross has been called to serve South Acton Church, United Church of Christ, Acton, Mass.



## CAMP NEWS



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. This is a paid internship!

### **APPLICATION WINDOW FOR TAWAKONI SUMMER LEADERSHIP INTERNSHIP CLOSING SOON**

Past interns have gone on to be pastors, other camp program leaders, college chaplains, missionaries, social workers, community leaders, gifted church lay leaders, 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/volunteers-staff](http://www.tawakoni.org/volunteers-staff). Application window closes March 30.

### **2023 SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

Our summer camp season is not complete without our summer camp staff. All summer volunteers and staff are required to pass a standard background check every year.

Volunteers are asked to fill out an application including references, one being their pastor, before March 30. We seek the following:



**Directors:** Adults who have a passion for working with children and youth, have served as a camp counselor, and have been recommended for their Christian leadership skills. All directors should also attend a annual training event at the camp.

**Chaplains:** Clergy members who have a passion for working with children and youth. All directors should also attend a annual training event at the camp.

**Counselors:** Adults who have a passion for working with children and youth. They are with the campers throughout the camp experience.

**Nurses:** The nurses give medications, monitor the health of campers, and at times drive campers to the Emergency Room when required.



These individuals should have training as a EMT, CNA, RN, MD or equivalent. Nurses have private sleeping quarters and get paid a small stipend.

**Maintenance Volunteers:** Spend the week aiding the Camp Manager, Olivia See, with maintenance requests and working on small projects to keep the camp both attractive and functioning for a variety of activities.

### **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. Pre-registration for all regional events is encouraged online or through your ENGAGE account.

Don't have a computer or need assistance? Our regional support staff will gladly assist you by phone.

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.

#### **Need to cancel your registration?**

Contact the Topeka Regional Office, [cck@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:cck@kansasdisciples.org) or call 785-266-2914. Our standard cancellation policy is:

- ⇒ Over 30 days prior to the event = full fee minus \$25 handling fee
- ⇒ 15-30 days prior to event = 50% refund
- ⇒ 7-14 days prior = 25% refund
- ⇒ 6 days prior or no-show at event = no refund.

### **SPRING CAMP WORKDAYS SET FOR APRIL**

The Disciple Center at Tawakoni spring workdays are here! April 20-22 out at the camp. No matter your skill level, you are invited to come to help repair, maintain, clean, trim, etc. all the different things around the camp facility and grounds.

We will start Thursday morning, April 20, at 10 a.m. and meals and lodging will be provided. Please RSVP to Rev. Olivia See at [revoliviasee@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:revoliviasee@kansasdisciples.org).

We are so excited for our summer camping season and these workdays will help get us one step closer to being ready to welcome all the kids to camp this summer!



## NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

### FUN FROM YOUTH SPRING RETREAT 2023



### TRAINING SESSION TO MINISTER TO ADOPTIVE, FOSTER AND KINSHIP FAMILIES

Mark your calendars and save the date for a special training event entitled, "Children from Trauma: Churches Ministering to Adoptive/Foster and Kinship Families" held Sept. 14 from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom.

The workshop is hosted by Greg Rea, an ordained Disciples minister, a Trust-based Relational Intervention Practitioner and Post-Adoptive Support Specialist who has provided hundreds of hours of training/coaching to over a thousand families and professionals.

There are more than 6,000 children in "out of home" care in the state of Kansas. These children and families often struggle with their children's and teens' challenging behaviors caused by previous abuse, neglect or trauma. Evidence suggests that every Christian Church in Kansas is connected to families that are raising children from trauma.

For example, at the CYF camp in 2022, 25% of the campers were living with caregivers that were not their biological parents. This training will provide principals and strategies to equip parents and church ministries to care for children in a way that promotes healing in the hearts and minds of children and teens.

### SAVE THE DATE: KDM FALL RETREAT

The 2023 Kansas Disciples Men's Fall Retreat will be Sept. 22-23 at Tawakoni. Our theme will be "What Does The Lord Require Of You?" and the keynote will be Co-Regional Minister, Tom Stanley.

Put these dates on your calendars and be praying for it. Registration will open the end of June.

### CCK TO OFFER FOUR BOUNDARIES TRAINING SESSIONS IN 2023 FOR CLERGY, LAY LEADERS

Attention all clergy and church leaders! The first of three in-person Ethical Boundary Training sessions for 2023 is fast approaching on Tuesday, March 21, at Great Bend First Christian Church.

There are two other in-person opportunities this year: Saturday, May 20, at the Tawakoni, and Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Topeka FCC. All in-person training begins at 10 a.m. and lasts until 3:30 p.m. with lunch provided.

A fourth session by Zoom will be Saturday, Aug. 26, from 9:30 a.m. through 3 p.m.

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](mailto: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.



## NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

### CCK CLERGY EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE



Due to the generosity of past generations, the Christian Church in Kansas administers several scholarship funds that allows us to invest in the training of future generations of clergy and church leaders. These scholarships are distributed twice a year, generally in April and November.

If you are a seminary student on the ordination track, a commissioned minister seeking to earn a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry, or current clergy wanting to increase your knowledge and skill for pastoral ministry, please contact Co-Regional Minister Ken Marston at [kmarston@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:kmarston@kansasdisciples.org) to see what help may be available for you.

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

All aboard for the 2023 Spirit Fest! Our theme this year is *Living Your Faith with Christ as Your Anchor*.

Join us as we will walk through the promenade with our keynote speaker, Gail Goolsby as we learn about her time in Kabul, Afghanistan. We will set sail to workshops and stop by the Captain's Quarters during worship.

Our day begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 2:15 p.m. The keynote speaker is Gail Goolsby, counselor and certified life coach. Our ship will dock at Topeka West Side Christian Church on April 22 and Wichita Woodridge Christian Church on May 6. Register today at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org). Your \$15 registration includes a morning reception, worship, and workshops.

**Online registration will close one week prior to each event. Late registrations will only be accepted by phone 316-775-1236 at the event organizer's discretion.**



### JOIN US FOR 2023 REST, RELAX, RENEW CLERGY RETREAT

Hey pastors! Would you like to get some rest, relaxation, and renewal after the busyness of Lent and Easter? Would you like a chance to spend some time visiting with colleagues while also getting a chance to hear a brilliant New Testament scholar and professor from Phillips Theological Seminary? And would you like to do this at the affordable cost of only \$60 for two nights' stay at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni with four meals provided?

Then, register today for this year's Rest, Relax, Renew clergy retreat that takes place April 25-27! And remember, this is one way to fulfill anti-racism and continuing education requirements to maintain your standing with the region of Kansas.

Rev. Dr. Arthur F. Carter, Jr., Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies at Phillips Theological Seminary.

The event cost is \$70 for lodging at Tawakoni, four meals, and program, or \$50 for meals and program. Online registration at [www.kansasdisciples.org/events](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/events) will close after Tuesday, April 11. Registration after that date will be accepted by phone and at the event organizer's discretion.

#### **Scholarship Money Available:**

There is scholarship money available to cover up to \$25 for your registration. If interested, please contact Regional Minister Ken Marston or Regional Minister Tom Stanley.

### KBC GRANTS AVAILABLE

Established by the Kansas Women's Board of Missions, the Kansas Bible Chair provides grants for educational programs and lectureships which will benefit both laity and clergy of Disciple congregations in Kansas.

The deadline to submit grant applications is March 31 and Sept. 30. To help avoid confusion, use a separate form for each request, rather than combining related but individual items.

Apply online at [www.kansasdisciples.org/grants](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/grants).

### RECONCILIATION GRANTS AVAILABLE

Funds from the Reconciliation Special Day Offering in the fall provide grants for pro-reconciliation/anti-racism programs. The Reconciliation offering is divided, with one half staying in our region and one half used by General Reconciliation Ministry.

The deadline to submit grant applications is March 31. Grant recipients will be promoted as a part of the 2023 Reconciliation Special Offering in September and October. Funds distribution will be in January 2024.

Apply online at [www.kansasdisciples.org/grants](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/grants).

## THE GIFT OF COMPASSION KCH'S RAMSEY EMERGENCY FUND

One day, an employee called off from her shift because she lived outside of town and had a flat tire. Several days went by, with her calling each day explaining she had no funds to get the tire fixed and no way to get to work. After about a week, she was terminated.

Fortunately, the employees at Kanas Christian Home (KCH) will never face this kind of crisis because of the compassion of Neewannah Ramsey and supporters such as yourself. In Sept. 2011, Ramsey gifted funds to KCH to start an emergency fund for the employees. The Ramsey Fund provides interest-free loans to employees experiencing an unforeseen crisis.

In 2022, 14 staff members were assisted in their time of crisis. This includes car repairs, legal assistance, medical expenses, housing and utilities.

Compassion is often learned when one sees it modeled in the behavior of others. KCH staff are asked to provide compassionate care each and every day. Please prayerfully consider extending your compassion that they may more deeply feel the love of Christ modeled.

### NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

#### TIME FOR A TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE? DCEF CAN HELP.

Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) is offering up to US \$50,000 for congregations looking to improve their technology, whether it is tangible equipment purchases or upgrades. The application deadline for these loans, which are at 0.25% below DCEF's current rate for loans with comparable terms, has been extended to April 30.

To apply, contact your regional Building and Capital Services Advisor. Call 800-274-1883 or visit DCEF's website for contact information: [disciplescef.org/about/staff](http://disciplescef.org/about/staff).

#### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR PHILLIPS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Phillips University Legacy Foundation is now accepting applications for its Undergraduate Scholarship Program for the 2023-2024 academic year which makes annual awards up to \$8,500 to full-time students pursuing degrees at Disciples-related colleges and universities.

More information and the application process can be found online: [www.pulf.org/about-the-program](http://www.pulf.org/about-the-program). For questions, please email [scholarships@pulf.org](mailto:scholarships@pulf.org) or call 580-237-4433. The application deadline is March 24.



For information or to register go to [ga.disciples.org](http://ga.disciples.org).

#### ALEX DATABASE YEARBOOK REPORTS



Thank you to all the churches who submitted yearbook reports. ALEX Yearbook Congregational Reporting has closed on March 1 with 77% of Kansas Disciples churches reporting.

If your church has not submitted their report, there is still time! Scan and email a completed Yearbook Worksheet form to Jessica Marston, [scd@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:scd@kansasdisciples.org) before March 30.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) thanks you for supporting the ALEX Yearbook Reporting process. Information in ALEX will not be sold or shared with third-party vendors. ALEX is an exclusive application built only for Disciples congregations, regions, and general ministries to use.

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



## DISCIPLES INVITED TO SHARE IN PANDEMIC IMPACT STUDY

Faith Communities Together has invited Disciples congregations located in the United States to participate in a national survey of American congregations.

This survey is being conducted in partnership with the Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations study, which is actively researching change and innovation in the American religious landscape as a result of COVID.

It is the seventh such survey in the Faith Communities Today (FACT) series, begun in the year 2000. The surveys offer religious leaders of all traditions critical planning information about the changing nature of congregational life and how to effectively respond. The findings from the FACT surveys are freely provided online.

You can take the survey at:

[www.covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eVRi1ouWsHLYUV8](http://www.covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eVRi1ouWsHLYUV8)

### 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)
- Go to [www.christianchurchfoundation.org](http://www.christianchurchfoundation.org).

## PHILLIPS RECOGNIZES MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE HONOREES

The alumni association of Phillips Theological Seminary (PTS) awarded the 2023 Marshall Award for Ministerial Excellence to Rev. Renee Bridwell and Rev. Dr. Mark W. Pumphrey during the Remind & Renew conference in January. Rev. Daniel B. Merrick, Jr. was also honored with a special, posthumous award.

Bridwell received two degrees from Phillips Graduate Seminary. She served as co-pastor with her husband, Steve, at First Christian Church in Hennessey, Okla. Following her ordination, they accepted a joint call to First Christian Church in Marion, Ill. Renee's final full-time ministry was Co-Regional Minister with in the Kansas region.

Pumphrey, who received three degrees from Phillips, started his journey into ministry in 1972 as a youth minister in Colorado and continued to serve the local church for more than four decades.

Merrick, Jr., editor of the Chalice Hymnal, who served congregations in Illinois, Wisconsin, and the Panama Canal Zone during his ministry career.

Phillips is grateful for the lifetime of ministry given by the three deserving alumni/ae.



### IN TRANSITION

The Disciples of Christ Historical Society is thrilled to announce **Dr. Timothy S. Lee** as the next General Editor of the Journal of Disciplina, a scholarly journal for the study of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the broader Stone-Campbell Movement. Lee brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role as General Editor.

**Robin Colerick-Schinkel** concluded her ministry as a chaplain for Lawrence Memorial Hospital. She has accepted a transitional ministry position for a church in Merriam, Kan.

FCC Leavenworth announces that **Steve Martin** has agreed to begin serving as interim minister. His first Sunday of service was March 5.

### IN MEMORIUM

**Lawrence (Larry) Steinmetz** died Jan. 23, at 83. Larry was known by many as a scholar, a teacher, an artist, and a minister. Larry served in several posts in the church including Executive Director of Ministries for the Division of Higher Education, Managing Editor of the Year Book and, and he also dedicated much time to helping coordinate and oversee ushers for General Assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).