



# Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

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

Vol. 127, Ed. 07: July 2023

## REGISTRATION CLOSING FOR DCE REGIONAL GATHERING FRIDAY, AUG. 4

The Regional Disciples Connect & Equip event will be Saturday, Aug. 12, at First Christian Church McPherson, 101 S. Walnut. This year's theme will center around "Sustaining Our Movement for Wholeness: Reclaiming Our Identity as Disciples of Christ".

Registration is open at [www.kansasdisciples.org/dce](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/dce) through Friday, Aug. 4. Registrations after Aug. 4 will be accepted by phone.

A full day of activities are planned with presentations from the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC), Keynote Speaker Pastor Josh Leu, Great Bend FCC, and afternoon workshops on The Church Narrative Project with Tom Stanley, The Covenant Project with Etienna Mertel, Clearwater FCC, and a KLC Leadership training Discussion with Dale Matherly, Topeka FCC. The workshops will focus on what it means to be a movement for wholeness in terms of physical, spiritual, and relational well-being, with practical next steps and resources to take to congregations.

Conita Burden, Wellington FCC, will lead a program for children 5-10 years. Childcare will be available for **pre-registered** children 4 years old and younger. Additional activities include visiting exhibitors and walking a prayer labyrinth.

### The tentative schedule for adults is as follows:

8:30 AM	Registration/Fellowship Time
9:30 AM	Opening Gathering
10:10 AM	KLC Leadership Principles Presentation
11:30 AM	Disciples Resources Presentation with Etienna Mertel
Noon	Lunch
1:00 PM	Workshops
2:30 PM	Closing Worship with Keynote Speaker Josh Leu
3:15 PM	Benediction

A catered "make your own" hamburger bar will be provided with chips, cookie, and choice of drink. Pre-registration to guarantee a meal is needed by Aug. 4. Walk-in registrations will need to make their own lunch arrangements.

The cost for the event will be \$25 for adults, \$10 for youth and children (5-18 years), with children under five at no charge. Registration includes program, lunch, and childcare.

Come join us for an exciting day of learning, worship and fellowship with fellow Disciples from around Kansas.



### Kansas Regional Office

*Business Office*  
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785-266-2914  
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[Tom Stanley](#), Co-Regional Minister & President  
[Becki Kisslinger](#), Corporate Secretary  
[Barb Koelling](#), Treasurer  
[Cindy Streeter](#), Bookkeeper

### Central & High Plains Satellite Office

*Clergy Care Office*  
5230 Broadway Avenue  
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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.  
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[Steve Hart](#), Communications Director  
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### Disciples Center at Tawakoni

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[Olivia See](#), Executive Director & Pastor  
[Amanda Jolly](#), Director of Operations

### 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 REGION

BY DAVID DUBOVICH,  
PASTOR AT PARK PLACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to be writing this article to each of you, as members of the Regional Church in Kansas. As each of you may know, Ken Marston is on a much-deserved sabbatical to rejuvenate physically and spiritually. I ask that each of you keep Ken and family in your prayers as they spend a time of rest and renewal with each other.

During Ken's sabbatical, as you may have seen in the correspondence from Tom Stanley, I will be assisting Tom with providing connections with the clergy and congregations that make up the Central and High Plains Districts.

If during this time you need assistance, please reach out to Juli Reed at the Central/High Plains Regional Office and she will provide me with your information to connect with you. I will also be contacting clergy members to check-in and see how things are going with each of you.

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the year and so much has taken place within the life of the Kansas region. A lot of planning is underway for a great opportunity for all of us to come together at the Disciples Connect and Equip event on August 12 that will be at McPherson First Christian Church. There is additional information about the event on page 1, the region's website at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org) as well as through the other avenues of communication from the region. I want to encourage each of you to register and attend a great event that is in store for us. The planning team for DCE has been hard at work to make it a memorable event.

I encourage you to mark your calendars as well for two leadership events to be held on Sept. 6 in the High Plains District and Oct. 21 in the Central District. Be watching for more details on both of these events. May each of you be blessed in the continued work you do for the Region of Kansas.

I am blessed to share the journey with each of you.

## REGIONAL CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Boundaries Training	Aug 26 Oct 19
CYF Conference	July 24-29
DCE Regional Gathering	Aug 12
Churches Healing Children From Trauma Workshop	Sept 14
Retired Ministers Luncheon	Sept 14
KDM Fall Retreat	Sept 22-23
Tri-Regional Partnership Church Narrative Project Event	Sept 29-30
KDW Fall Retreats	Oct 4-6 Oct 6-8

## 2024 EVENTS

Youth Spring Retreat	March 1-3
Spiritual Retreat	March 14-16
AOCC Workshops	TBA

### 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 giving, and register for events all from one login.

## TRPI CHURCH NARRATIVE PROJECT EVENT

First Christian Church, Manhattan

Hosted By: The Tri-Regional Partnership Initiative

Friday, Sept. 29-Saturday, Sept. 30

Have you ever experienced a process that shifted your world? What would it look like for members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to hear storytellers and engage our narratives? And what kind of church might we have if we imagined a narrative of a shared future?

It's about imagining a future by being honest about the stories that make us who we are as a church, and deciding together which stories to carry forward and which may not serve our shared future. During Story Hour we'll tell stories of seeing the light, epiphanies, large and small to deliver – "Eureka!", "Ah-ha!", "I've got it!", or "I *finally* understand!" insights.

Almost all of us have had some moment of revelation. When we can see ourselves, or some relationship, or the world with greater clarity. Storytellers in each region will tell true 7-minute stories of a time when the scales fell from their eyes — or they told someone *else* the truth ("we need to call that doctor *now*"). An exchange that changed their sense of yourself from then on ("You *do* belong here; this is where God wants you"). A connection with someone unexpected that changed your path. (Any Damascus Road moments?).

So, come hear true stories, share dinner with Disciples from across the Tri-Regional Partnership Initiative



(Greater Kansas City, Kansas, and Nebraska), and help shape the future in which God is calling the region and the whole church through the Transformative Community Conferencing process, a practical, faithful, non-divisive model.

For a detailed description of the Church Narrative Project, go to: [www.disciples.org/churchnarrativeproject/](http://www.disciples.org/churchnarrativeproject/).

### IN TRANSITION



Rev. Terri Hord Owens, Disciples GMP, joined the Kansas Co-Regional minister, Tom Stanley, at Goodland First Christian Church for the installation of **Rev. Don Warren**. Goodland FCC has been faithfully serving its community for over 130 years.



Hillside Christian Church, Wichita, welcomes **Theta and Wade Miller** as their new pastors. Their first Sunday was July 9.



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### HILLSIDE CC HOSTS ANNUAL HEALTH FESTIVAL FOR WICHITA COMMUNITY

Wichita's Hillside CC is hosting its first annual health festival Saturday, June 29 from 9 a.m.

– 5 p.m. at the church facility, 8330 E. Douglas. In addition to free health screenings and Vitamin B12 shots, there will be games, food and entertainment for all who attend.

Admission is free so those in need can have a health check at no cost to them.



#### 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. News from local churches help us connect and equip each other. Submit your news 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. The next Submission deadline is:

**MONDAY, JULY 31**

### GOD DOESN'T NEED OUR MONEY

*Reprinted from the Great Bend FCC Newsletter.*

It is all about your heart ... everything we have is a gift from God and in return we should respond with gratitude.

What is the most awkward gift giving experience you've ever had or seen? Maybe you or someone you know got busted re-gifting, or the gift wasn't something the person wanted at all.

When it comes to giving gifts, the point is not the gift itself. The point is the heart of the giver.

In Genesis 4, we meet two brothers, Cain and Abel. Cain begrudgingly gave the leftovers from his harvest, but Abel gave the most valuable animals of his flock. Abel's gift came from a love and desire to please God. Cain's did not.

God gave Cain a chance to change his heart and warned him of the sin waiting to overcome him, but instead, Cain grew angry and allowed jealousy to consume him. Cain murdered Abel, which condemned him from God's presence.

Giving is a heart issue. God doesn't want us to give to Him so we can check off a task. He also doesn't want us to give less than our best. God wants us to give from a faithful heart that desires to please Him. God doesn't need our gift; He wants our hearts.

#### Think about:

- Are you giving to a local church? Why or why not?
- Are you or your church giving to the regional or wider church?  
Why or why not
- What is your motivation for giving?
- Do your reasons for giving reflect a heart that loves God?  
If yes, how so? If not, what needs to change?

*Note: this article was edited from its original printing by Kansas Messenger Editorial Team.*

## YOUTH/CAMP NEWS

### ATTENTION YOUTH: APPLY FOR REGIONAL YOUTH CABINET

Applications for the 2023-2024 Youth Cabinet will be accepted July 28 through Sept. 22.

The KCYF Cabinet provides opportunities for Kansas' high school youth to experience the transforming power of Christ in a community of Christian youth, connect with peers beyond their local congregations and equip them with leadership development opportunities.

The cabinet includes two youth representatives from each district, two at large youth representatives, and two to four adult sponsors from different districts.

Online application and reference form link will be available at [www.kansasdisciples.org/our-youth/](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/our-youth/).



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

## NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

### REGISTER FOR 'CHURCHES HEALING CHILDREN FROM TRAUMA' WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars and save the date for a special training event entitled, "Churches Healing Children From Trauma" held Thursday, 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. Drawing from personal experience, Greg knows the struggles that children go through dealing with their history and the challenges that families experience.



This training will provide tools and strategies that churches can use to lovingly support these families in a way that promotes healing in the hearts and minds of children and teens.

Registration is \$15 per individual or \$10 per person when signing up as a church team. (A church team consists of three or more from the same church.) Register today at [www.kansasdisciples.org/events](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/events).

### CCK AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We can't wait to see you in Louisville! General Assembly is only a few weeks away and we are looking forward to seeing you there.

If you will be at General Assembly, be sure to join us for an after-session gathering on Saturday, July 29, following worship (about 8:30 p.m.) at the Galt House Hotel's Jockey Silks Bourbon Bar, 140 N. Fourth Street, Louisville, KY. We'll meet on the second floor of the West Tower.

### Did you know that CCK will have a booth?

We are looking to have volunteers willing to spend an hour or two at our booth answering questions about our regional ministries, collecting contact information of potential Kansas pastors, and/or handing out giveaway items.

Is this you? Sign up to be a booth host. While many of our ministry leaders will be around and may stop by the booth when they are free. We are asking for volunteers to sign-up for 1-3 one-hour time slots to represent our great region.

Sign up at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org) or call Jessica Marston at 316-775-1236.

### Go to General Assembly in style!

Get CCK t-shirts, polos, cups, mugs, and more in the CCK store for your journey to Louisville. Place your order by July 21 and we'll have it ready for pick-up at the CCK booth. Call Jessica at 316-775-1236 or go to [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org) to place your order today.

### REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THE 2023 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.

Friday kicks off with an optional pre-event service project beginning at 10 a.m. Event registration begins at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. The retreat will close around 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Cost is \$70 for individuals, \$60 each for a church group of five or more, and \$50 for first time attendees. **SAVE!** Be one of the first 10 registrations under the age of 50 years and have your registration fee refunded.

Register today at [www.kansasdisciples.org/events](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/events). Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 15.

### A MESSAGE TO THE KDW FAITHFUL

The proposed 2024 Kansas Disciples Women budget includes a reduced amount for our coordinator's salary. To be sure we are all aware, there are two sources of funding for this position: 1) the Region's budgeted amount and 2) contributions from DW groups and individuals.

These contributions have been declining the last three years and rather than have money pulled from the permanent funds of KDW, Carla has requested that her salary be reduced. This is a prime example of her heart for the work and future of Disciples Women in Kansas.

We need your help in being able to compensate the KDW Coordinator reasonably. If a contribution equal to \$50 per church in the Region was received, this line item of the budget would be able to be adjusted back up.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email, [williamsdlw@yahoo.com](mailto:williamsdlw@yahoo.com), or phone, 785-443-2003.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your help in this matter.

Blessings,  
Diane Williams  
KDW President

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

GMP, REV TERRI HORD OWENS HEADLINES KANSAS DISCIPLES WOMEN FALL RETREATS

The secret is out – Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be our keynote speaker at the 2023 Disciples Women’s Retreat.

A Disciple since young adulthood, she worked for more than 20 years in corporate America, leading diverse teams in data management, before she entered seminary. She was a pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL. She served for 15 years as the Dean of Students at the University of Chicago Divinity School, shepherding a varied student body in both background and theology.

Rev. Hord Owens is widely sought after as a preacher, speaker, and workshop facilitator, and we are so very blessed to have her joining us. Her ministry and intellectual interests include a theology of reconciliation, cultural intelligence, developing inclusive and multi-cultural congregations, and the mentoring of youth and young adults.

We are thrilled to have her lead four worship services during the retreat, helping us focus on how to renew, refresh, recharge, and be restored. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn from this amazing woman leader, with time available to reflect on her teachings.

We will be joined by women from the Greater Kansas City and Nebraska Regions. Sign up early to reserve your space. One-day registrations are an option, which includes two opportunities to hear Terri speak in worship service, as well as workshops, service project opportunities and two meals. Childcare is available at either retreat for children who are 3-12 years in October.

Register now for the KDW retreat, Oct. 4-6 or Oct. 6-8, at Disciples Center at Tawakoni. Register online www.kansasdisciples.org/disciples-women or download the form and mail with payment to Topeka Regional Office.



TWO MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOUNDARIES TRAINING IN 2023



There are two more opportunities for Boundaries Training this year: in-person from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19, at Topeka FCC and by Zoom from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26.

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.

KCH LEGACY OF JOHN GALA SET FOR SEPT. 9

Every year, gifts to the Legacy of John – totaling more than \$200,000 – are used to provide the highest levels of care and improve the lives of the residents of the Kansas Christian Home (KCH). All gifts to the Legacy of John benefit residents of KCH in need of charitable care and can be used to secure future improvements as well.

The Kansas Christian Home’s annual benefit dinner and gala to support the Legacy of John is scheduled for Sept. 9 in Newton. Plan now to attend, but if you can’t, donations are welcomed throughout the year. Please contact 316-283-6600 ext. 135 for more information or donations.

Check us out on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Advertisement for Disciples Church Extension Fund. It features a yellow background with the text '4%\* DO GOOD' and 'You can invest anywhere. But can you do as much good in the ways that matter most to you?'. It also includes the Disciples Church Extension Fund logo and contact information: 800.274.1883, invest@disciplescef.org, and disciplescef.org/invest/individual/.



## NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

### DCEF GREEN LOANS CAN HELP WITH THE HEAT

Replacing your church's old air conditioning units with newer models not only ensures a more uniformly cool building, but also ensures that your place of worship is eco-friendly. Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) can help you improve operations that contribute to a more energy-efficient building, including upgrading heaters and insulating, rewiring, or weatherproofing a facility, with a green loan up to \$150,000.



Whether you're improving your facility to better serve your ministries or simply making it more accessible for your people, DCEF can help by providing an affordable church renovation loan. To plan, borrow or fundraise you can find help at <https://disciplescef.org/borrow/renovation-loans/>.

### HELP SHAPE DOC EVENTS BY PARTICIPATING IN GREEN CHALICE MINISTRY'S SURVEY



Green Chalice and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) would like to hear your voice on important issues that affect our planning and programming for the next year.

Fill out the survey online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/DOC23Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DOC23Survey) or click the link on our regional website to take this five-minute survey. Your individual answers are confidential, and we value your input!

### 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 KSMESSSENGER 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 messages per week as a part of this service. Standard SMS and data charges apply.

### 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).