



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

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DISCIPLES RE-ELECT TERRI HORD OWENS, GMP, FOR SECOND TERM



The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) convened in Louisville, Ky., from July 29-Aug. 1, and during the assembly announced the re-election of Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens to a second term as General Minister and President.

She is the first African American and second woman to lead the denomination – and the first African American woman to lead a mainline Christian denomination.

Owens was installed Aug. 1 and charged with continuing her ministry of visionary love, spiritual leadership, prophetic imagination, and ecumenical service.

In her sermon during closing worship, she invited the General Assembly to “imagine new ways of being church and to stay at the table no matter what we face. Our commitment to staying at the table is grounded in our covenant relationship with God and with one another.”

Terri is regarded in the ecumenical world as "head of communion" and as the chief representative of the church in national and world ecumenical councils. In keeping with the Disciples' historic commitment to Christian unity, she serves in leadership at the National Council of Churches as the Treasurer of the Governing Board and as a member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee. Her ecumenical and interfaith collaborations also include the Faith Table, an interfaith social justice coalition.

Throughout her initial term, she demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the denomination's values, biblical literacy, and spiritual formation, building an infrastructure for ministry and congregational data, and fostering engagement and inclusion within the Church. Her visionary approach to ministry inspires many, and she continues to be a beacon of hope for those seeking a more just and inclusive Church community.

Her exhortation to the church is, “Let’s be the church we say we are. It is in being who we say we are that we actively bear witness to God’s limitless love for all.” In addition to collaborative service with the ministries that comprise Disciples Justice Ministries, she has been active in leadership in the Poor People’s Campaign.

Prior to being elected to serve as General Minister and President in 2017 she served as the dean of students for 12 years at the University of Chicago Divinity School, pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove in Illinois, and more than 20 years in corporate America leading diverse teams in data management.

Read more about this year’s General Assembly on page 10.

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THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

BY TOM STANLEY,
REGIONAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT



Greetings Disciples!

It has been a crazy couple of weeks! The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) took place July 29 through Aug. 3. And then the Kansas Disciples Connect and Equip Regional Gathering in McPherson took place Aug. 12. Both events were amazing!

I am working on purchasing the digital package for the General Assembly. This will include the worship and business sessions of the event. If you would like to have access to those events, please let me know! We also recorded DCE and will have that up on the region's social media platforms as soon as possible. Rev. Josh Leu is a true gift to the region, his sermon will touch your heart! Please take a few minutes and watch it.

We have several events coming up quickly. Our website <https://kansasdisciples.org/events/> will always keep you up to date on the latest happenings and events taking place around the region. I want to touch on a couple of amazing opportunities coming up. For the Kansas Disciples Men our retreat is scheduled for Sept. 22-23 at Tawakoni. Please join us as we explore what God requires of us! Next, Sept. 29-30 is the Church Narrative Project at First Christian Church Manhattan, KS. This event is, I believe, a significant step forward for the Tri-Regional Partnership and the Kansas Region as a whole. An event that helps us listen to and talk to each other is amazing. I hope you will join us! Lastly, please remember that the Disciples Women's Retreat is coming up on Oct. 4-6 and 6-8. Rev. Terri Hord Owens our General Minister and President is the guest speaker! Please plan to join us.

With Ken Marston on Sabbatical, my travel schedule has been disrupted. I am now doing monthly visits to the Central and High Plains areas. My calendar is currently planned through November. I am working on Advent visits currently.

We have called a new Associate Regional Minister! Rev. Travis Smith McKee will be the new Associate Regional Minister for Transformational Ministries. Transformational Ministries is about both new churches and helping older established congregations better serve their communities. This new ministry is vital to the changing world around the church. Please reach out to Travis at his new regional email address travis@kansasdisciples.org. If your congregation is interested in participating in the Transformation Ministries program, please let him know.

As always, I pray for you daily! If you need anything, call or text me.

Shalom,
Tom

REGIONAL CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Boundaries Training	Aug 26 Oct 19
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
KDW Spirit Fest	April 20 May 4

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 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 something that shifted your world? What kind of church might we have if we imagined a narrative of a shared future?

Almost all of us have had some moment of revelation. When we can see ourselves, or some relationship, or the world with greater clarity.

This is not another boring church meeting. The Church Narrative Project is 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.

Join us as storytellers from 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, an exchange that changed their sense of self, or a connection with someone unexpected that changed their path.

Storytellers from Kansas include:

- Travis Smith McKee, Galva CC
- Josh Leu, Great Bend FCC
- Christian Watkins, Manhattan FCC

After listening to these stories, immerse yourself in the Transformative Community Conference With Dr. David Anderson Hooker.

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.

Cost is \$25 plus a \$1.50 processing fee to attend. Register today at www.kanasdisciples.org/events.

WELCOMING VISITORS TO THE TABLE

WRITTEN BY JESSICA MARSTON, CCK COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

Imagine with me for a minute ...

It's Sunday morning and you are walking into your local Disciples church for the first time. You've done your research. You've looked the church up online, perused its social media pages, you even listened to an online sermon or two. You are finally ready to visit the church in person. The excitement is building as well as the nerves. The church looks good on paper, but is it the right one? You pull into the parking lot and make your way to the front door.

What do you see? How do you feel? Are you greeted by eager members? Do they direct you to more information about the church? Can you easily find where you need to go?

Disciples believe everyone has a seat at the table. We believe in being welcoming and inclusive to everyone who walks through our doors. But how are we putting that into practice? What do visitors truly see when they walk into our churches for the first time?

What most churches fail to see is that being a welcoming church starts long before visitors step foot into your church building. Once visitors do come, they will form an opinion about your church within the first five minutes of arriving—before worship has even started.

So what do visitors want to see?

They want you to greet them at the door with a warm smile. They want you to be aware of their presence and welcome them into your family of believers without feeling like you're putting them in the spotlight. They want to feel noticed with a personal yet non-invasive follow-up sometime during the week.

If that isn't enough here are seven specific things visitors will notice:

Welcome Center/Connection Table: Having a centrally located welcome center or connection table, provides an opportunity for

members to assist visitors to locate classrooms, restrooms, and other facilities as well as help them connect to other church activities they might be interested in.

Meet and Greet Time: When done effectively and intentionally, members are perceived as more friendly and welcoming during a designated "meet and greet time." Be aware that it can single visitors out, put them on the spot, and/or exclude visitors if members turn to greet only their friends.

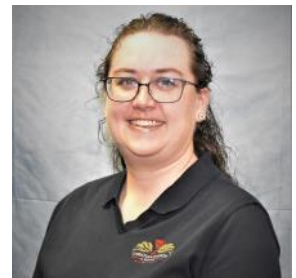
Music: Regardless of the style, visitors will look for people leading music with joy and passion. Is there an energy to it that invites visitors in or is a funeral dirge?

Contact/Connection Cards: These cards are a great non-invasive low-pressure way to help visitors connect with church events that fit their interests. Research also shows that if you collect this information, visitors will expect you to follow through. Have a plan.

Small Group, Bible Study, and/or Sunday School information: It is hard to find the right class and/or group when you don't even know what the classes are. Have a listing of class names, descriptions, meeting location and time, and the leader's name available

Coffee Stations: When done effectively and intentionally, coffee stations can be an opportunity to show hospitality and get to know visitors in a more informal setting. It can also be seen as a member's only club.

Fellowship Time: Part of being a family means building relationships with new members and visitors. Get to know your visitors on a personal level. Find out what their interests are. Listen to what their needs and desires are. Meet them where they are. Remember, just because you are passionate about something doesn't mean everyone is.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

BIG TIME TACOS IS MISSION A FOCUS ON THE MISSIONS OF GARDEN CITY FCC

Mission strategies to serve local communities come in many forms. For First Christian Church in Garden City, they believe in going big with one really big fund raiser to connect with their community. That big event takes the form of an annual Navajo Taco dinner where crowds of near 1,500 are customarily served each year.

It's a big project with big results and it takes significant manpower to make it happen. That's where a committee of 20 organizes the event, and then the whole congregation helps in some way either cooking, serving, or providing drive-up delivery service to make it all happen.

A special bread-making day is held about a week before the event, where 30+ members mix the bread and make bread balls ready for Taco Day. They make up to 2,500 balls of bread, which are frozen until needed. A member of the church designed and had built a special bread press used to press the bread balls ready to fry. The bread is fried on Taco Day in a fry shack that was designed and built by the founding event chairman, Gale Frank. It is parked right outside the back of the church and has about 10 propane burners for the iron skillets used to fry the bread.



Serving a large group in a short time means a lot of coordination for distribution. This year, with their 24th annual Navajo Taco Dinner, they served about 1,400 meals in a five-hour timeframe. Volunteers come and go in about 2–3-hour shifts, but they brag about a 1-3 minute turn-around time for their drive-through customers.

Proceeds from the dinner are distributed to different organizations in the community. In 2023, Garden City FCC was able to give \$2,000 each to Real Men, Real Leaders; Finney County Humane Society; Garden City Arts; ABC Pregnancy Care Center; Kansas Honor Flight; City on a Hill; and CASA.



Even though the Taco Dinner is the main driver for mission fund raising, Garden City FCC has other ways the congregation can connect with the communities underprivileged. They operate a Give-N-Go Pantry to help feed those in need and collect coats during the summer to provide a coat ministry during the colder months.

Thinking big means congregational help, but with planning and organization, FCC Garden City finds a way to connect and give as much as possible back to the community.

“DRYNESS OF THE SOUL”

Written by:

Rev Dennis Voth, Pastor
Central Christian Church,
Arkansas City

Here it is nearing Fall and we have cooled off into the nineties and have had mornings in the sixties, but we are so very dry. As I write this article on, I look at the forecast and don't see much of a chance of rain in the near future and except for a couple of days in the eighties, we will be right back into the nineties. Some trees are already shedding their leaves to protect themselves, the grass is brown, and in places, there are cracks in the ground. All symptoms of lack of moisture.

Dryness of the soul can also occur in our lives. There are many symptoms that reveal dryness of the soul such as sadness, depression, hopelessness, helplessness. We become locked into a pattern of routine and can't seem to bring ourselves out of it.

Personally, I like a routine, but sometimes routines or patterns can be harmful. If we continually focus on the negative and not the positive, we can become paralyzed. We become lost in our own self-absorption. We may need to change things up in our daily routine.

The mind is very powerful and if we continually have our mind in a place that binds us from being open to new and different experiences or teachings, we can become bogged down, stuck in the mud so to speak.

We need to begin our day by thanking God. You may not feel very thankful but thanking God can begin the process of changing your thought pattern. It will give you an awareness of everything around you and not just focusing on yourself.

It is God's will that we give thanks. This is not to say we need to be always smiling. Sometimes things in life are bad and we need to mourn and be upset, but it is in these moments that God asks us to thank God anyway. The trials in our lives are not pointless.

Editor's Note:

This article was originally published in Sept. 2022 in the Arkansas City Central Christian Church Newsletter and republished with permission.

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 or online at:

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, AUGUST 28

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

YOUTH/CAMP NEWS

2023 SUMMER CAMP SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The summer camping program ended with a big flourish as graduating seniors attending the CYF Conference celebrated their final year as campers. We had about 200 campers plus staff at Tawakoni this year.

Camp pictures are up and available for download at www.tawakoni.org/photo-pages. Page password was sent by email to all attendees. For safety of all our campers please contact Communications Specialist, Jessica Marston, prior to republishing.



Volunteers and Funds Needed!

Help give the Tawakoni dining hall a facelift!



Join us
OCTOBER 8-14

Cannot join in person? Please consider a financial donation

Estimated cost of repairs is \$8,000

- Visit www.tawakoni.org and click on "Donate Here" for online giving
- Donate by Check:
 - Christian Church in Kansas
 - attn: Dining Hall Fund
 - 2914 SW MacVicar Ave.
 - Topeka, KS 66611-1787

Lodging and meals provided. Come for the whole week, or for a day!

For questions or to sign up to help, please contact Amanda at ajolly@kansasdisciples.org

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.

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 and President, Tom Stanley.

Friday kicks off with an optional pre-event service project at Tawakoni clearing trees and brush beginning at 10 a.m. Friday Lunch will be at an area restaurant. 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. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 15.

JOIN US FOR DISCIPLES WOMEN FALL RETREATS

All Kansas women are invited to the KDW Retreat, Oct. 4-6 or Oct. 6-8, at Disciples Center at Tawakoni.

Be sure to register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/disciples-women or download a registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka Regional Office prior to **Sept 15**. For assistance with registration, please contact



KDW Coordinator Carla Pearson, carla.pearson58@gmail.com.

Full Retreat registration includes two nights' stay, five meals, and all activities. One-day Retreat registration includes all Day 2 activities and two meals. The proceeds from T-shirt sales will be donated to the KDW Care and Share Fund, which was created as a ministry to provide for women-related service and ministries within our region. Childcare is available for ages 3-12 years.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President, will be our keynote speaker. She will bring the message at the four worship services. Each service will emphasize a different scripture, focusing us to Renew, Refresh, Recharge, and be Restored.

A wide variety of workshops, service projects, and free-time suggested activities will be available to choose from.

Workshops include:

- Chat with Rev. Terri Hord Owens
- Dr. Sondra Stieber, Wichita's Bionic Woman
- Book chat discussion of *Mended* by Angie Smith
- Understanding Alzheimer and dementia
- Finding calm through Tai Chi for health
- Updates on Kansas Christian Home
- Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery
- Therapy dogs.

Other activities include tying fleece blankets for the Sunlight Children's Home, creating coaster tiles or origami boxes, solving crossword puzzles, participating in a small-group "search party", and more.

A new event that we are calling "Dinner and a Show" will be the evening of Day 2. We hope for a wide variety of talent to be shared by the women attending. To volunteer, contact jskhan2@cox.net and indicate which retreat you will be attending.

Women are also encouraged to enjoy walking on the trails, reading, meditating in the prayer room, chatting with cabin-mates, walking the labyrinth, taking a nap, conversing with old and new friends, and simply being Renewed, Refreshed, Recharged, and Restored.

CCK CALLS ASSOCIATE REGIONAL MINISTER FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY



The Kansas region has called Rev. Travis Smith McKee as the Associate Regional Minister for Transformational Ministry for the Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ).

In this new position, he will provide regional support for new church starts and congregations looking forward to next steps in the transformational process, finding healing from changes, and supporting new worship expressions for church.

Travis started with the Kansas Region in 2005 as a summer camp intern and has served churches in the Kansas and Greater Kansas City regions. He has most recently served as interim pastor at Galva Christian Church. Travis has a passion for empowering congregations to reach out to their communities, finding expansion to the witness of God's grace.

He lives in Wichita with his wife, Rev. Kassie Smith McKee, and their daughter Lucy. He enjoys making music, board games, craft coffee and gardening.

ATTENTION CLERGY:

STANDING FORMS TO BE SENT IN SEPTEMBER

Beginning in September, ordained and commissioned clergy in the region of Kansas will receive an email with instructions regarding the renewal of standing for 2024. These forms due by Nov. 10 to receive standing.

Starting in 2024 all standing cards will include a photo. If you have not seen Jessica Marston for a photo, please contact her about getting a photo taken.

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.
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.

TWO MORE 2023 BOUNDARIES TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



CCK will host 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.

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.

'FOUR THE CROSS' TO HEADLINE KCH LEGACY OF JOHN GALA

The Kansas Christian Home's annual benefit dinner and gala to support the Legacy of John is scheduled for Sept. 9 in Newton. This year's entertainment for the event will be the gospel group "Four the Cross". You can preview the group at www.fourthecross.com.

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.

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 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.

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

DISCIPLES CONNECT AND EQUIP HIGHLIGHTS



KANSAS PROGRAM HELPS FAMILIES WITH \$1,000 SCHOOL-SUPPLY GRANTS

The Kansas Education Enrichment Program (KEEP), in partnership with Merit International, has distributed \$1,000 awards to children across Kansas to use on learning loss recovery and other post-COVID effects. Yet many Kansas families are unaware of the program.

Here's what you need to know about the learning loss and school supply program.

- The state's Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas Executive Committee in late 2021 approved a program meant to help low-income families with books, technology, tutoring and other educational expenses.
- The full \$1,000 grants are awarded to any eligible children ages 5 to 18 enrolled in a K-12 program and from households with eligible income levels.

Children in foster care are also eligible for the grants, regardless of their household income. Students with disabilities up to the age of 21 can also receive grants, as well as students 18 or older who are still enrolled in high school.

Once approved, families can use the \$1,000 KEEP grants on a variety of goods, supplies and services including:

- Academic or instructional camps
- Language classes
- Musical instruments, including rental fees and lessons.
- Tutoring
- School supplies, including materials and textbooks.
- A single large tech item such as a tablet, laptop or desktop computer, worth more than \$200.

For more information and to begin an application, parents or guardians should visit keep.ks.gov. The website and application materials are also available in Spanish.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

HIGHLIGHTS OF KANSAS DISCIPLES AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

After four years, the 2023 General Assembly gathered in Louisville, Ky., for an historic four-day event. The assembly kicked off with a Regional roll call, with each of the 31 regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada processing into the opening ceremony.

The Regional Minister for Kentucky, Rev. Don Gillett and the Governor of the state of Kentucky, Gov. Andy Beshear, brought greetings to the Assembly, reflecting the hospitality of the state, region and local arrangements. Gov. Beshear welcomed the Assembly saying, "I have faith in God. I have faith in us. In this most divisive time, I believe that love will win."



Opportunities for Fellowship, Networking and Learning

On Sunday, the assembly kicked off with worship across the greater Louisville area, a special worship hosted by Obra Hispana, a worship experience at Cane Ridge hosted by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, and a service project hosted by Local Missions and Week of Compassion in the Exhibit Hall where a team built a home frame.



The afternoon featured over 23 workshop opportunities for adults.

While adults engaged in learning and dialogue around practical ministry and spiritual formation topics, the youth did a mental health workshop followed by a magic show presented by magician Ron Diamond.

Numerous Disciples Ministries and organizations filled the exhibit hall, including Kansas, allowing pastors and ministry leaders to network and collect resources for their ministries back home.

Each night ended with a powerful worship service as we all 3,000 Disciples focused on what it meant to be a "Kin-dom" rather than a "Kingdom."



GA Business Highlights

The assembly also met for several business sessions where the assembly received reports from General Ministry units and discussed resolutions for consideration.



One highlight of the business session was the adoption of [GA-2343 Proposed Changes to the Design](#). The resolution, developed out of the Covenant Project, features a

move to an in-person general assembly gathering every three years following the 2025 General Assembly with at least one digital gathering in between, and a smaller General Board and congregations moving to three representatives. An implementation team will be appointed by the Moderator of the Christian Church and will bring their work and recommendations to the 2025 General Assembly, in Memphis, Tenn.

[GA-2337 Recognition of a Truth and Healing Council to Honor Our Covenantal Relationship with Indigenous Peoples and to Discern Ways of Reparations for a Path to Reconciliation](#) was referred to the Office of General Minister and President (OGMP) for further study.



The Committee on Reference and Counsel received two emergency resolutions: [GA-2352 Invitation to Oppose Anti-Trans Legislation and Affirm the Dignity of Transgender and Gender-Diverse People](#) was referred to the Committee on Reference and Counsel by the assembly to include language specifically for "the states of the US and provinces of Canada." After revision, it was brought back to the floor and was adopted by the assembly unanimously.

The second emergency resolution, [GA-2353 Emergency Resolution Concerning Solidarity with the Faith Coalition to Stop Cop City and Defend the Weelaunee Forest](#), which was brought to the General Assembly at Tuesday's business session, was referred for further study to the Office of the General Minister and President.

[GA-2348 Report of the General Nominating Committee](#) was adopted by the assembly, welcoming in a new moderator team to the leadership of the assembly.

In addition, a Report of the General Assembly Committee was adopted naming Memphis, Tenn., as the location of the General Assembly that will be July 12-15, 2025

Updated business items can be found by visiting the [General Assembly business page](#).



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

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

DMF DAY IS AUG 24

DOING MORE TOGETHER THAN WE COULD ALONE



August 24, 2023
DMF DAY
Doing more together than we can alone



Disciples Mission Fund makes it possible for us to do more together than we can alone. Because of DMF, lives are transformed and ministry happens across the church and around the world.

Congregations are stronger when they participate in Disciples Mission Fund because they are part of something much larger than themselves – DMF makes it possible for Disciples in do ministry in places far beyond their own community.

Plus, congregations benefit from DMF in tangible ways as well: support from their regional minister through the search and

call process, sending kids to church camp, ministry interns from Disciples seminaries, global mission partners, and so much more.

How has your congregation been impacted by Disciples Mission Fund?

On Aug. 24, we will celebrate the work we do together as church because of Disciples Mission Fund. Follow Disciples social media for live events, stories, and updates throughout the day.

Please make a gift on DMF Day in celebration of all we are able to do together.

APPLY FOR A YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Through NBA's Young Adult Leadership Development (YALD) program area, we seek to co-create spaces with and for young adults 18-30 to flourish in life and service. NBA's YALD grants are specifically designed to support current and future leaders in identifying their leadership qualities, building leadership capacity, and allowing young adults to explore new possibilities in the areas of service and justice. Young adults are eligible to apply for either a Development grant or an Exploration/ingenuity Grant.

NATIONAL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION SEEKS MORE INFO ON 65+ AGE GROUP

Understanding adults (ages 65+) is vital to the life and health of congregations and communities. We are directing efforts to learn about existing programs and resources that utilize and serve their spiritual, emotional, and physical needs.

With that in mind, NBA would appreciate a few minutes of your time to answer the simple ten-question survey here:

<https://www.nbacares.org/resources/aging-in-faith-clergy-worship-resources-spiritual-care-older-adults/>

The Older Adult Ministries of the Christian Church (DOC) National Benevolent Association, has a mission and mandate to collect information about older adults through a church-wide distribution of surveys across congregations.

We offer training and resources in response to the wishes and needs of individuals, churches, and facilities. We have links to quality resources, including leader guides for groups, on our website. We will be offering webinars and curricula in the coming months, with much more to come.

Your response to the survey is a key ingredient in our learning and data collection. We welcome ideas, thoughts, and continuing conversations!

With gratitude,
 Jan Aerie,
 Gerontologist, Coordinator
 Older Adult Ministries of the
 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 An NBA Innovative Conversation Group

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
- Go to www.christianchurchfoundation.org.