

The

Disciples' Advocate

Published by Disciples Home Missions

Transforming into a 21st century congregation

What is God calling your congregation to do and be in the 21st century? For 8 years, this has been the key question that I have asked congregations as I traveled this country across the life of our church. Presently, the Denomination's 2020 Vision has four goals of which one is to have 1,000 congregations in transformation by the year 2020. Since the launching of the 2020 Vision in January 2006, we have made significant progress toward our goal. Yet, we have a very long journey ahead to reach our goal. There are three fundamental questions that congregations must answer in order to comprehend the scope of becoming

a healthy and vital church in the 21st Century.

Where are you now? A congregation must recognize and come to terms with where they are before making a decision as to the direction that God is calling them to go. Unfortunately, the answer for too many of our Disciples congregations is that they are stuck somewhere in the 20th century. Living in the mid to late 20th Century would not be unhealthy if it were not for the fact that we are 11 years into the 21st Century living in a very different world. Too many of our congregations are classic 20th century congregations using 20th century tools and approaches to be

"church" in the 21st century. If this is the case for your local congregation, you will more than likely be forced to make the decision to close your doors by the year 2020. Before you can decide where God is calling you to go, you must first come to the reality of where you are.

Where is God calling us to be and go? To answer this question, may I suggest that your congregation critically think about this statement: by the year 2020, our congregation will be and look like _____.

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Leading Change General Assembly Learning Track

2:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. July 11 and 13,
Sheraton Ballroom 1-2, Nashville, Tenn.

Leadership today isn't about acquiring the right set of skills or techniques, says David Emery, senior pastor of Middletown Christian Church, Louisville, Ky. It's not about finding the "experts" or creating a program. Leadership in an era of great change requires



relationships — with people who are already engaged in ministries of transformation, and those who are just beginning. And it requires a deepening relationship with Christ.

Clergy and lay leaders alike will benefit from participating in this learning track, says Linda Gardner, who is facilitating the planning team.

"This is going to be high energy. It will be innovative and participative, with lots of dialogue, lots of telling,

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... plus much more including news, letters, and calendar.

*Have you considered making a gift to
Disciples Home Missions
in your will?*

*If so, please contact the Rev. Ron Degges
at (317) 713-2684 or (888) 346-2631.*

A word (or two) from Ron Degges

From day one, my entire ministry has been devoted to making the church an inclusive place for all people. I suppose I feel so strongly about inclusiveness because of the exclusiveness I have witnessed.

I once heard a church school teacher say to a visiting young person from a Roman Catholic background, "We will all be praying that you will become a Christian." Obviously, the teacher did not know that Roman Catholicism is the largest expression of Christianity in the world. The teacher also exposed her anti-Catholic bias.

In my first solo parish, I was instructed by church leaders that "only members of our congregation" are allowed to partake of Holy Communion. I could not believe what I was hearing. I queried, "Is this not the Lord's Table?" I asked, "Is it not the Lord who invites us to commune?" It took a few years of study and dialogue with the leaders and members of the church before that congregation voted to become an "Open Communion" congregation. Today, communion is offered to all!

I sat in an Elder's meeting of another congregation I served. The issue being discussed was racism. The question before the Elders was, "If a black person walks down the aisle and confesses his/her faith in Christ as Savior and wishes to become a member of the church, what shall we do?" There was a long silence in that all white gathering of Elders. The silence was broken by one lone Elder who stood up and said, "I do not know about the rest of you, but I will extend the right hand of Christian fellowship and receive him/her into the life of the congregation." Once the church practiced segregation, the congregation is now racially and culturally diverse. Thanks be to God for the courageous and compassionate leadership of an Elder.

Sometimes I think I have witnessed it all. But then something happens to remind me that although "we've come a long way

baby," we still have a long way to go. I was reading an excerpt from an article written by Franklin H. Littell back in 1967 – that's 44 years ago. Littell wrote:

America is called to become a world city, a meeting place of the peoples. Even the reform movements of Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism, once ethnic religions, are sending missionaries to the great cities of North America. The style of a universal spirit of dialogue is replacing the old order of coercion and arbitrament by the knife. The mind locked in a fortress, defending an ethnic complex called 'Christendom' would resist such encounters by writ and by law . . . The churches will continue to influence the form and direction of the world city. They will earn the right to be heard by the evidence of internal integrity and interreligious amity. They will no longer inherit the right to rule.

There is still too much divisiveness in the religious world. Old patterns and inherited traits of entitlement still interfere with the new thing God is doing. Such a sense of religious entitlement still sets Serb against Croat, Protestant against Catholic, Christian against Jew, Islander against Mainlander, Native American religion against imported religions, on and on and on. You add to this religious diversity the plethora of cultural expressions of faith, and you can see why everyone seems so mixed up most of the time.

Since this is the General Assembly Edition of The Disciples' Advocate, I hope all of us who call ourselves Disciples of Christ will consider it a privilege to replace the divisiveness of old with a radical inclusiveness for the present and future as we move further into this 21st century world and "influence the form and direction of the world city." The best place to begin is right where we are, repenting of past errors and

Continued on page 3. See Degges.



Ron Degges

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"Why is America forsaking its own revolution?"

– Bill Moyers

Degges *Continued from page 2*

misdeeds, setting aside suspicion and fear of others and their religions, and dispelling the ignorance that keeps erecting walls instead of building bridges. We Disciples are truly

a bridge to help this world become more human and more humane. Let us continue to build bridges of understanding, justice, and service to all.

Inclusive-ly yours,
Ron Degges

Letters

April 7, 2011

Editor,

Bill McConnell's definition of happiness as "my personal gratification" showed an ignorance of what happiness is. I have studied the concept of happiness and the least discussed emotion joy for more than 40 years. Happy people are not discontented, pleasure seeking, misery addicted, conflictual, selfish people.

I suggest he read *What Happy People Know* by Dan Baker, any of the works from the Center for Positive Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, or my books, *Visionquest for Joy: The Least Discussed Human Emotion* (1988) or *Passionate Joy: Building a Wealth of Joy in a World Starving for Love*. (2005) While in my doctoral program at Vanderbilt, I first starting building a model for understanding joy. Many therapists and pastors explain that joy and happiness are much like McConnell's concept.

They talk accurately about guilt, anger, fear, and anxiety, but rarely lead people to know moments of joy and a positive way to create an atmosphere for happiness despite the unfairness, self-righteousness, war, disease, pain, and death which no human is immuned from experiencing.

James E. McReynolds, minister, First Christian Church (DOC), Weeping Water, Neb.

April 21, 2011

Bill,

The Covenant was a great template. I have never been disappointed when I have reached out to the General Office for assistance. I will e-mail a short article with

pictures prior to your deadline for the Advocate. May this Holy Week provide for the needs of your soul.

Peace and Grace,
Melissa Acres, minister, First Christian Church, Macclesfield, N.C.

April 26, 2011

Dear Editor, and President Degges:

Thank you! This issue contains many excellent examples of congregational activities, mission initiatives, pastoral leadership and creative advice, all of which serve to build and strengthen our church(es) and our relationship with God. And, not incidentally, many of these stories illustrate a fundamental strength of the Church as they address historical aspects of our identity, expanding and clarifying the definition of who we are as Disciples.

They each 'tell the story' in different and compelling ways, and many more are needed to be heard. Please, bring them all to Nashville and share them with the Historical Society in July.

We'll tell the world.
Peace and Blessings,
Richard Bierce, Chairman, Board of Trustees Disciples of Christ Historical Society and member, Springfield Christian Church, Springfield, Va., Capital Region.

June 1, 2011

Ron, my good friend,

I need to share this serendipitous story with you.

About 2 months back as I sat in the lobby

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Letters may be sent to:

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PO Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN
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or:

[editor@dhm.
disciples.org](mailto:editor@dhm.disciples.org)

Transformation *Continued from page 1*

What ultimately will fill in the blank of the proceeding statement will also answer one fundamental question: "Where is God calling us to be and go?" The major difference between a classic 20th Century congregation and transforming congregation in the 21st Century will be that the 21st Century congregation—as a whole—will struggle with where God is calling them to be and go. The classic 20th Century approach is where the "powers that be and/or members with the most influence" determine the direction of the church. Congregations that embrace the 21st Century way will transform and the rest will remain in the 20th Century until death do they part.

How do we get there? There are three essential elements that congregations must have to be healthy and vital 21st Century congregations. Twenty-first Century congregants understand they must have a vision

and mission and offer ministry opportunities for all, not just the few. The book of Proverbs in the Old Testament (29:18—one version says/paraphrased) "where there is no vision, the people will perish." Transforming congregations understand that they must have a vision in place even if that vision is not crystal clear. Congregations must have an idea of where God is calling them to go and be. Second, transforming congregations understand that in the 21st century they must develop a mission in order to realize their vision for which they are working toward. The vision tells you where you are going; a clear and concise mission guides congregations toward realizing the vision. Finally, transforming congregations develop and empower ministry opportunities for congregant to engage in. A classic 20th Century church may have a regular

Continued on page 5. See 21st Century.



General Assembly Dinner

Church Extension, Disciples Home Missions and Higher Education & Leadership Ministries
— together, we form "A Living Cloud of Witnesses" in celebration of the launch of Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation and the inspiring leadership legacy of Jim Powell, retiring former president of Church Extension.



HOPE
Partnership for Missional Transformation

Renaissance Hotel Ballroom
Nashville, Tennessee
Saturday, July 9, 2011
5:30 - 7 p.m. (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

*Tickets: \$35 can be purchased online at
<https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/ga11tickets>*



We invite you to join us for dinner at General Assembly!

21st Century Continued from page 4

Sunday worship service, Sunday school, mid-week prayer meeting, and Bible study and perhaps the DWF, DMF, CYF, etc. are meeting on a regular basis, then again maybe not. Conversely, show me a congregation engaged in all of the proceeding activities and where congregants are empowered to create ministry opportunities and there you will find a congregation working on moving into the 21st century. 🖐️

If you and your congregation resonate with the above, you, your Pastor, and/or your congregational leadership need to contact the Rev. R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr. at the DHM Office of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation at rcalhoun@dhm.disciples.org or (888) 346-2631.

Change Continued from page 1.

and also lots of listening both to the Spirit and to each other," she said.

The planning team for this Learning Track are: David Emery, Patricia Case, Linda Gardner, Richard Hamm, Gene Lawson, José Morales, Janet Maykus, Doug Pfeiffer, and Dawn Weak. 🖐️



"If you're not experiencing the presence of Christ in your life, it can't happen for the church," David Emery, senior pastor of Middletown Christian Church, Louisville, Ky. says. "It requires tremendous risk-taking in order to begin to lead in that way."



(left to right) *Irma Gustafson (Olive Branch, Norge), Jennifer Larsen (Portsmouth), Elaine Henk (Olive Branch, Norge) and Robert Gustafson (Olive Branch, Norge). (not pictured) Marquitta Joyce (Mt. Gilead, Richmond).*

In the firm conviction that Christians are implored to fulfill a commitment toward good government and protection of the innocent, those pictured above joined a large delegation of concerned citizens from throughout Virginia who lobbied their state legislatures in Richmond, on January 26, 2011, to enact tough laws in combating the surge of human trafficking of adults and children. Alarmed that the enslavement and human trafficking of adults and children has become a mushrooming big business even among the criminal elements, a large complement lobbied as individual citizens under sponsorship of the Washington DC-

Virginia Disciples advocate as private citizens

based Polaris Project. During this occasion, they, as well as Virginia lawmakers, were astounded to learn how this trade continues to sap unsuspecting communities, as well as siphon millions of dollars in taxpayer contributions from local, state and national economy. The comments of one of the pictured lobbyists likened the human trafficking issue to the public malaise toward gangs in the '60s: "The police were well aware of the increase in street gangs, but the public refused to acknowledge and deal with the problem (which is now in full bloom in America). The same will happen with human trafficking if we do not stop it NOW."

Beyond Volunteering

We Disciples are a practical people. We like to do things—build, teach, repair, clean, counsel, work. This desire to “do” carries over into many elements of our life together as church and it provides a powerful motivation for engaging in mission. We look for projects where we can be useful. A common mistake is made, however, when we think that whatever it is we are doing is in fact the purpose of the mission. This is especially true of Mission Trips, where our desire to help others puts us at risk for missing the point. Building or repairing houses, teaching Bible school, planting a community garden, or exposing ourselves to another culture are all worthwhile tasks. And they are all tasks that volunteers can do. Volunteers can show up at a soup kitchen and prepare mashed potatoes or ladle soup into bowls. Volunteers can swing a hammer or work a paint brush. Volunteers can do all kinds of things, great and small. Then volunteers can go home and feel good about the doing that was done and maybe start looking for the next task to do.

To be clear, volunteering is not in itself a bad thing. But we Disciples are called to something more: as a people of faith, we are called to serve. At its best, volunteering addresses immediate needs and eases suffering. But volunteering doesn't ask us to do a whole lot more than the task at hand. Serving, however, addresses immediate needs and it pushes us further: it compels us to ask why those needs exist. Volunteering lends itself to relationships of inequality where the volunteer gives and the other person receives. Serving recognizes that relationships matter and it requires us to be in community with those with whom we labor. Volunteering is something we can choose to do, on our terms, at our own time. Serving is something we are called by God to do, on God's terms and at God's time.

When we move beyond volunteering, we recognize that the task we are performing

is not the most important thing. When we move beyond volunteering, we see that it's also not about the good feeling that comes with helping another person—in fact, we see that at its core, it's not about helping another person at all. It's about our relationship with God: How is God calling me to use the gifts and blessings God has given? Who is God calling me to be in relationship with? What is God doing in my life as I serve in mission? What is God doing in our lives as we serve together? When we begin to understand our mission as serving, we stop looking for something to “do” and instead look for what God is doing. When we begin to think of ourselves as servants, then we are open to be led by the Spirit, to give from what God has given, to become the hands, the feet, the heart of Jesus. So how is God calling you to serve? 🖐️



The Rev. Josh Baird is Director of Disciples Volunteering, Disciples Home Missions. Josh lives with his family in Covington, La.

Stay in touch with all the latest Disciples Volunteering news through our blog (<http://gd4jc.org/>), Facebook (www.facebook.com/disciplesvolunteering) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/#!/gd4jc>).



Der Spiegel, a German newsmagazine, reports that a Catholic church, in the small town of Goldscheuer, has hired graffiti artist, Stefan Strumbel, to re-decorate the sanctuary. The work includes a full-height mural above the altar. For details go to www.spiegel.de/international/ and search for the article published June 10, 2011.

2011 Disciples Home Missions/Week of Compassion Interns



Will Brown, from Zearing, Iowa, is working with Disciples Volunteering in Nashville, Tenn. Will is a senior at Texas Christian University and will be graduating in December 2011. His home church is First Christian Church in Ames, Iowa in the Upper Midwest Region. Will is looking forward to meeting new people during his internship this year and to attending General Assembly.



Danielle Cox, from Houston, Texas is working with Disciples, Volunteering in Nashville, Tenn. Danielle is originally from Oklahoma City, Okla. She attended high school in Houston, Texas. Both places feel like home to her. She attends Lynchburg College where she is a rising senior in the class of 2012. Danielle's home church is First Christian Church in the Southwest Region. She is a huge fan of science fiction. Danielle is looking forward to working with Disciples Disaster Response in Nashville, Tenn. this summer and to be able to meet new people and do some amazing work!



Jenny Crosswhite, from Hood River, Ore., is working at All Peoples Christian Center, Los Angeles, Calif. She attended Louisville Seminary and graduated in May of 2011. Her home church is Hood River Valley Christian Church in the Oregon Region. Jenny enjoys meeting new people, knitting prayer shawls and white water rafting. She looks forward to serving God and working for justice in very tangible ways.



Rebecca Dixon, from Hubbard, Ohio, is working with the Kansas Christian Homes in Newton, Kan. Rebecca is currently a junior at Bethany College in Bethany, W.Va. Her home church is Central Christian Church, Hubbard, Ohio and she attends Bethany Memorial Church in W.Va. while at school. Rebecca is majoring in History and is a Gold Prospector! She looks forward to helping anyone she can as she continues her faith journey.



Corey Meyer, from Liberty, Mo., is working at Yakama Christian Mission, White Swan, Wash. Corey is a junior at Culver-Stockton College. His home church is Raytown Christian Church in the Kansas City Region. Corey likes to stay on track for two degrees in Ministry and Business, loves helping other people and likes to challenge the way people think about life around them. He is looking forward to helping people in need, broadening his experience with other cultures and gaining more leadership experience and networking with people in the Disciples world.

Faith is greater than AIDS

Disciples HIV-AIDS Ministry, a Hands on Mission of Disciples Home Missions, will unveil 'Malachi', a state of the art outreach unit at General Assembly in Nashville this summer.

"We are nearly 30 years into the HIV epidemic, and more than one million Americans are living with HIV" Jody Grieb, Program Director of Disciples HIV-AIDS Ministry and Volunteer Director of the AIDS Ministry Network of Disciples Home Missions told me recently. I was in New Orleans, Louisiana covering a human rights story and I ran into Jody, who was in town meeting with members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of the Great River Region, the

Archdiocese of New Orleans, The Louisiana State Department of Health and the New Orleans AIDS Task force. Jody and I sat on the steps in the shade of St. Louis Cathedral on Jackson Square. Jody went on, "Under the *National HIV-AIDS Strategy for the United States* we are called to reduce HIV incidence; increase access to care and optimize health outcomes; and reduce HIV-related health disparities in the U.S. The Strategy also emphasizes the importance of HIV testing and calls us, as people of faith, to action! The National Strategy notes that an estimated 21 percent of people living with HIV in the United States are unaware of their sero-

Continued on page 8. See Malachi.



Christian Unity Dinner - 2011 General Assembly: Wednesday, July 13, 5:30-7:00 pm

Co-sponsored by the Council on Christian Unity and Reconciliation Ministry

"Celebrating God's Gift of Unity and Reconciliation" *The 26th Peter Ainslie Lecture on Christian Unity* **Bishop John F. White**



Bishop John F. White, elected and consecrated as the 130th bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, has served as the Ecumenical Officer for the A.M.E. since July 2008, and as Moderator of Churches Uniting in Christ for 2010-2011.

Bishop White is known as an outstanding preacher, distinguished leader and teacher, and as one whose organizational style has overseen explosive growth and transformation of congregations throughout his ministry.

Place: Nashville Renaissance Hotel

Cost: \$28.00 per person

Purchase tickets on line at www.disciples.org/GeneralAssembly/Schedule/TicketedMealsandEvents/tabid/506/Default.aspx
or at the Assembly

Malachi Continued from page 7.

status. Studies show that people who do not know that they are HIV-positive are more likely to engage in risk behaviors associated with HIV transmission. While some of these individuals are already accessing health care services opportunities to diagnose their HIV disease is continually missed. It's time for us, as people of faith, to get into this fight."

Jody began to tell me about 'Malachi', Disciples newest and greatest response to the HIV epidemic. "Whenever I speak to prevention educators and testers and question them about the obstacles they face in bringing education and testing to their priority population one thing is continually cited – the lack of a proper venue in which to provide confidential testing and services outside of their primary offices. Although testing in night clubs, health clubs and medical clinics has become popular, the number of people reached at these events only account for a fraction of at-risk populations and confidentiality issues continually arise at these venues.

Our experience using a converted cargo van to provide HIV testing over the past two years convinced me that a properly equipped mobile platform could provide a unique opportunity to reach populations that traditionally have been missed." With private funding, including his salary as Program Director of Disciples HIV-AIDS Ministry of Indiana which he donates back to the ministry, Jody recently started on a journey of epic proportions. In November of 2010 a used 30 foot Blue Bird Transit Bus was purchased from the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Transit Authority and transported to Terre Haute, Ind. In January of 2011 the bus was dubbed Malachi. From the Hebrew word *Malachias*, Malachi translates to 'my messenger', a fitting name for a vehicle operated by a faith based organization. In late January of 2011, Malachi was transported to the U.S. Coach Company in Buffalo Gap, Texas, to undergo extensive reconfiguration and re-tasking. When complete, this vehicle will feature two confessional style HIV test-



ing rooms, and a third testing room which is wheelchair accessible via lift. The third room, located in the rear of the vehicle, can be used for phlebotomy and a multitude of other uses such as mobile care coordination, interviews, counseling sessions, therapy sessions, substance abuse counseling and needle exchange services. Indeed, other than medical exams, this mobile platform will be capable of providing all services on the road that can be provided in the office. Limo tinted windows covered by blackout curtains will provide absolute privacy to all persons coming onboard. Malachi will also have a small intake area and seating for five in an area designed for prevention education via oral communication or pre-recorded prevention education/intervention messages via monitors which flip down from the ceiling. Malachi will feature an on-board laboratory area for processing rapid tests and a centrifuge for preparing blood/serum samples. An on-board refrigeration unit will ensure that specimens are kept at the proper temperature until they can be delivered to the state lab.

A pre-wired system will provide internet access and printer services to the computers located in each testing room and the intake area. Secured wireless routers will ensure that these services can be accessed from anywhere on the bus or in the direct vicinity. Malachi will feature two generators,

Continued on page 10. See Bus conversion.

"It's time for us, as people of faith, to get into this fight."

Bus conversion *Continued from page 9.*

each capable of supplying the platform with energy needs to run all on-board systems and out-board video monitors and sound system. When weather permits, three privacy tents can be unloaded from onboard storage to allow three additional testing sites in the direct vicinity of the bus. An off board video monitor and speaker system will play prevention messages and advertise services to passersby.

Disciples Home Missions has been great to us. They provide support by acting as our fiscal intermediary on contracts and grants. Jody credits Ron Degges (DHM President) with the success of the program. "Ron has been very supportive from the day we met. He truly understands what we're up against out here in the field and has been very generous with his time and talents in helping get this ministry off the ground". Jody also credits Lonna Owens (VP for Finance at DHM) with helping keep him grounded.

Jody noted that this is the only vehicle of its kind in the Midwest. Malachi will debut in Nashville for General Assembly this July and then will travel to its new home in Mandeville, La.

I asked why the move, Jody replied, "There were several factors taken into consideration when we decided to relocate Malachi from Indiana to Louisiana. The primary one was the prevalence of HIV. Of the states who track HIV infections, Louisiana currently ranks 9th while Indiana ranks 28th with over 200 people per 100,000 infected with HIV. The Louisiana State Department of Health strongly encouraged us to make this relocation and has pledged funding over the next five years to supplement our budget while the Indiana State Department of Health declined to participate in the program at all. I am very excited about this new ministry plant!"

Malachi will debut in Nashville where volunteers with Disciples HIV-AIDS Ministry will provide HIV testing for those attending Assembly during the daytime and will assist a local organization, "Nashville

Cares" with testing in the evening. Disciples HIV-AIDS Ministry and the Malachi Project receive no direct funding from the church. The almost one hundred and fifty thousand dollar budget comes from private giving, state contracts, and private grants.

Congregations that would like an appearance by Malachi at an event can contact Jody Grieb – Jgrieb@dhm.disciples.org, or call Jody at (812) 229.8192. 🖐️

More information is available online: www.discipleshomemissions.org, www.disciplesbus.com, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Malachi-Disciples-Hiv-Aids-Ministry/113865595368886

Judah David is a Buddhist monk and freelance journalist. Outside of preserving the teachings of Kyabje Rinpoche Gehlek, Judah devotes the majority of his writing to issues of human rights and has been published in many national magazines including The Nation, The Advocate, and Psychology Today. Judah interned with Disciples HIV-AIDS Ministry of Indiana from 2009-2010. He presently makes his home in Bloomington, Ind. where he serves the Ganden Dheling Buddhist Temple.



Photo by Sandy Wood First Community Church, Columbus, Ohio. Story in next issue of Advocate.



Next Issue's
**Copy
Deadline
Sept. 14**

JUST+WOMEN

E M B R A C I N G L I F E

Our history as Disciples women confirms something very important—that when Disciples women put prayer, possibility and commitment together, something happens. We are inviting you to add your prayers and commitment to this possibility: The magazine is financially independent with -

2,500 new subscriptions to *Just Women* magazine by December 1, 2011.

It's time for the magazine to become financially self-sustaining. In order to do this, we need 2,500 new subscriptions AND we need all current subscribers to renew on time. That is just 76 new subscriptions per region!!!



Just Women Challenge

The first region to reach the goal of 76 new subscriptions & report it

wins *free*

set of Retreat Modules.
A \$150 value

Another way to look at it

38 new subscriptions by general assembly

Plus

38 more by 12/1/11

Equals

Retreat materials for spring

Disciples Women
Just Women Magazine

PO Box 1986
Indianapolis IN 46206-1986

(888) 346-2631
JustWomen@dhm.disciples.org



Grow as a Disciples Woman @ www.discipleswomen.org

Safely home

at Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home

Protecting children is everyone's responsibility. Rebuilding children's lives is Tennyson's.

For more than 107 years, Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home (TCC) has been the life boat for at-risk, abused, and neglected children and their families -- first as an orphanage and since 1970, as an accredited K-12 school and residential treatment campus.

All of Tennyson's programs, including day treatment and community-based services, impact more than 350 children and 1,100 family members each year. Children who have endured unthinkable trauma are given a warm and safe place to sleep, healthy food and good clothes. During their stay with us, they also receive critical special education and mental health treatment and therapy.

For nearly a century, the Colorado Christian Home's parent organization was the National Benevolent Association. When NBA filed for Chapter 11 protection in 2005, they put the 100-year-old campus up for auction in bankruptcy court. Ten months went by before the auction, and it seemed like all hope was lost. During that time a developer set his sights on the property and planned a high rise apartment complex. The night before the auction, a Denver businessman called Bob Cooper, President and CEO, and asked if he needed a friendly bidder. The man was in the process of forming a foundation, the Urban Land Conservancy, whose mission

was to preserve non-profits in Colorado. The Tennyson Center for Children would be his first purchase. So he bid, but he wasn't the highest bidder. The developer was, and he had two weeks to secure the money necessary to purchase the property. However, he couldn't come up with the money. So the Urban Land Conservancy purchased the home and leased it back for \$350,000 per year so TCC could continue to care for children. A miracle for sure!

In the past three years, 27 programs in Colorado have closed their doors to residential treatment for at-risk children. Agencies across the country have suffered immensely due to decreases in funding. Why is it that Tennyson Center for Children is doing so

Continued on page 13. See Tennyson.



Photos courtesy of Colorado Children's Home.



“All of Tennyson’s programs, including day treatment and community-based services, impact more than 350 children and 1,100 family members each year.”

Tennyson *Continued from page 12.*

well in the midst of an economic downturn and others are closing their doors?

One of the answers is that TCC has adapted over the years to meet the changing needs of the children and their families. Another is the dedicated people who work at the Home. But what REALLY makes TCC different from all the other agencies is the church. If it hadn’t been for the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), TCC would have gone under during the bankruptcy. Churches and their members in Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, Montana, Texas, and New Mexico helped the children with gifts of dollars, clothing, toys, food, quilts, bequests, volunteer hours, and other invaluable resources. By living their faith, the people changed the lives of countless kids. “As often as you do this for the least of these, you do it for me.”

Now we are moving toward preserving this safe haven for children forever. In 2010, Tennyson Center embarked on SAFELY HOME, a \$15 million capital and endowment campaign to purchase the campus and protect its future. We gave ourselves five years to do it, and we raised enough to close on the property in just five months. In January, we completed the purchase of

the campus with the help of a loan from Church Extension, a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

By purchasing the campus and realizing a savings of \$350,000 in lease payments, we can serve more children in need each year. We are committed to raising the remaining dollars to endow the agency in perpetuity.

These are the most broken children you will find anywhere. They have averaged six or more placements outside their homes where each foster family or treatment center found their behavior too difficult to manage. TCC takes children no one else will. We change the lives of these kids and give them hope for the future. We have an 80% success rate of placing them in a safe living environment and preparing them to perform in a public school setting.

Tennyson Center’s goal is to continue to provide children with education, best-in-class mental health treatment, and a safe place to live when they can’t be at home. We will make sure that each child makes it SAFELY HOME.

For more information, go to www.childabuse.org. 

Kathy Parker is senior development officer for the Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home in Denver, Colo.



Changing Lives. Giving Hope.

Join DJAN at General Assembly

The Disciples Justice Action Network (DJAN) will be very active at the 2011 General Assembly in Nashville, encouraging all Disciples with a passion for justice to "Tell It!" to the Assembly and to the world.

Besides having tables full of resources from DJAN and partner organizations, we will host an aftersession, a special DJAN gathering, and two resource groups.

Our Sunday night aftersession, sponsored by Disciples Home Missions and co-hosted by Disciples Peace Fellowship, features Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock and a presentation on Conscience and War: Supporting the Moral Agency of Our Soldiers.



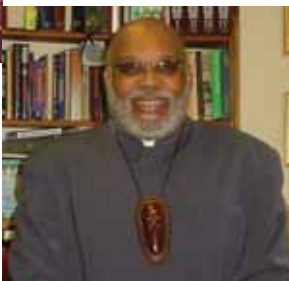
*Dr. Rita
Nakashima
Brock*

A Special DJAN Gathering at 12 noon on Tuesday will include both a brief business session for elections and an opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of James L. Demus, III, and May Sweet Lord. This event, made possible by the generous sponsorship of Disciples Home Missions, is open to all and everyone is encouraged to join us.



*May Sweet Lord
(1926-2011)*

*Rev. James L.
Demus III
(1953-2010)*



DJAN resource groups will take place on Wednesday, the first one at 2:30 p.m. and the second one at 4:00 p.m.

Our 2:30 p.m. resource group, entitled Justice and the Children of Abraham, will feature Dr. Michael Kinnamon from the National Council of Churches, Mark Pelavin from the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and Sayyid Syeed from the Islamic Society of North America. This resource group is co-sponsored with the Council on Christian Unity and the Christian Church Capital Area.



*Left: Rev. Dr. Michael
Kinnamon Above: Rev.
Dr. Eric Brown*

At 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Michael Kinnamon will join Dr. Eric Brown from Woodland Christian Church in Columbus, Ohio, and the Rev. Jennifer Kottler from Park Avenue Christian Church in New York, N.Y., to explore the possibilities for developing A Social Gospel for Today. This resource group is co-sponsored with Disciples Home Missions.

Locations for all DJAN events will be posted at www.call2justice.net as they become available. (Resolutions of special interest to DJAN will also be posted at this site). And don't forget to visit us at Booth # 22, just outside the Exhibit Hall. Stop by and share with us your passion for justice!

The Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker Langston is the Director of the Disciples Justice Action Network (DJAN), the Director of the Disciples Center for Public Witness, and the Co-Convener of the Disciples Advocacy & Witness Network (DAWN). He lives in Annapolis, Md., with his spouse, Emily, and daughter, Rachael.

Tahirih (TAH-heh-ray) was a prominent figure in Middle Eastern history—an exemplar of women's strength in mid-19th century Persia during a time and place when most women were kept illiterate and hidden from the public sphere. A member of the persecuted Bahá'í Faith, Tahirih is remembered for her renowned skill as a poet, theological insights, and ability to organize and inspire women to reject their oppressed status. In 1848, as a symbolic pronouncement that a new day was dawning for the status of women, Tahirih became the first woman in recorded Middle Eastern history to publicly remove her veil before an assemblage of men. At the age of 32, she was executed for her beliefs and activities. Her last recorded words were, "You can kill me as soon as you like, but you will never stop the emancipation of women."

The Tahirih Justice Center is a Bahá'í inspired organization founded on the belief that the achievement of full equality between women and men is necessary for society to progress. Every day, we work toward legal and social justice for women and girls as a critical step in making this equality a reality. Visit www.tahirih.org/.

From Refugee Camp ... to Fashion Runway ... to College

A rainbow emerged after the storms that hit Raleigh, NC, on Saturday, April 16. It was a rainbow of brightly-dyed organic fabrics, worn by fashion models of various ethnicities and ages, offering the promise of opportunity and education to young Montagnard men and women in the United States and Vietnam. That afternoon, as tornadoes raged across much of central North Carolina, Montagnard refugees who have settled in Raleigh worked between rain showers to cook a traditional feast of grilled meats. They were preparing for the inaugural fundraiser in support of the new Montagnard Education Fund (MEF), established by members of St. Paul's Christian Church.

Ten years ago, St. Paul's helped resettle five Montagnard men who had escaped persecution in Vietnam. Their families followed a few years later, and decided to become members of St. Paul's. Soon, the first of those children will graduate from high school, but money for higher education is scarce in these hard-working families. Nip, the oldest of five siblings, has talked with her school's guidance counselor about becoming a dental hygienist. Their relatives back in Vietnam also dream of training for careers in nursing or teaching so they can improve life in their villages, but have few resources to pay for such studies. So, the idea for a fund to help raise scholarship money was born. Julie Mullin, a member of St. Paul's, employs several Montagnard women at her organic fabric studio, Fiberactive Organics, where they make clothing, linens, and accessories. With the women, Julie began planning a dinner and fashion show, to be hosted at the church. They recruited models, planned the menu, and enlisted church members to help sell tickets.

The day of the fashion show was filled with more than the expected degree of excitement, as everyone had to huddle in the

bathrooms waiting for the tornados to pass. With their usual persistence and determination, however, the Montagnards managed to finish cooking the meal, and the show went on. Fiberactive Organics' designer Kendal Leonard, who has a degree in fashion design and marketing, put together an impressive display of eco-friendly cotton children's clothing, summer dresses, and even wedding wear, most of which was hand-made by the Montagnard women.

What a beautiful sight, watching the parade of vibrant dresses, skirts, shorts, scarves, and blouses flow down the runway. It was the models, though, who really stole the show. Young boys – both Montagnard and American – flexed their muscles and giggled together as they showed off their shorts. Teenage girls from the church charmed the audience - including Nip, who has grown from a child into a confident and talented young woman since stepping off the plane from Vietnam five years ago. Even the Montagnard mothers, usually very reserved, put on some of the dresses they had made and hid shy smiles behind their hands as they took their turn on the runway.

Knowing what hard lives and difficult journeys these refugees have been through, it was a great joy to celebrate this event with them, and to imagine the bright futures their children have ahead of them. Most of the parents never had the opportunity to finish elementary school, and are not literate in their native language. Their children eagerly attend school, and one young man is making straight A's in his freshman year of high school. All of the older children are active in school activities, including athletics and the arts. St. Paul's has been blessed by the stories

Continued on page 16. See Montagnard.



Photos courtesy of Saint Paul's Christian Church, Raleigh, N.C.



Montagnard *Continued from page 15.*

and deep faith of our Montagnard members, and I am confident that many communities will benefit from the skills and talents of the young Montagnard men and women who are able to pursue their education, thanks to the Montagnard Education Fund.

Organizers hope to take the Fashion Show on the road, visiting other churches, schools, or women's groups. If you know of a group near North Carolina that might host a show and donate the proceeds to the MEF, please contact Julie Mullin at 919-612-3765. Contributions to the MEF can currently be

made through St. Paul's Christian Church (www.stpauls.net). To learn more about Fiberactive Organics products, see www.fiberactiveorganics.com.

God's promise to care for the earth and its people was clearly visible at St. Paul's during this event, and God's love continues to be evident whenever we ensure that all of God's children have access to the resources they need. 🖐️

The Rev. Diane Faires is Associate Minister at Saint Paul's Christian Church, Raleigh, N.C.

Disciples kids help Burmese kids in Syracuse

The Kids to Kids "Fill the Backpack" packet has been used in several congregations to educate Disciples kids about refugees and immigrants. These congregations have also encouraged their kids to raise funds to help refugee kids.

Recently, funds from the Kids to Kids program were sent to the Church World Service (CWS) refugee resettlement affiliate in Syracuse, New York. They have a program called "Story Circles" for Burmese children between birth and five years of age. The key component of the program is that it is held in both English and Burmese or Karen (an ethnic Burmese language). It runs for one and one-half hours once a week. Parents and kids come to the CWS affiliate where a book is read to them in English and translated into their language. Parents are then given books to take home and read to the children, thus bonding them to their children and improving their own English language ability.

The Syracuse CWS affiliate

is using the Kids to Kids funds to provide snacks and other fun things for the kids and parents that attend Story Circles.

"Fill the Backpack" material is recommended for Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School. It is available at www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/RIMKidstoKidsFilltheBackpackMenu. 🖐️



Photo courtesy of Interfaith Works of Central New York, the affiliate Church World Service resettlement office in Syracuse, N.Y.

All People's Christian Center

All People's Christian Center is a thriving Disciple-affiliated mission in midtown Los Angeles, Calif. The mission was planted in 1942 by Dan and Frances Genung. The Genungs started the mission and a church which is now known as All People's Christian Church. The church was chartered in 1946 and until 1964; the congregation and community center functioned as one. Their goals, changing lives, creating opportunities and transforming communities, are still in harmony, though they function as separate entities. The center has been lead by Saundra Bryant for the past twenty-seven years. With her dedicated staff, All People's has been transformed into a significant social service agency in the midtown area.

All People's services are focused on family needs. There is a Supplemental Food Program providing families with a monthly bag of groceries. Wee Weekend is special school preparedness program from children from birth until five years. Their parents are expected to be part of the program. The Center runs weekday after-school programs for young people from Grades 1 to 12. Activities are both social and academic. The highlight of the after-school program

is the annual Camp Joe Ide Summer Camp

held in the San Bernardino Mountains. The Center closes and the staff goes to camp as counselors. Meanwhile, the campers, all between the age of 8 and 12 years, enjoy the outdoors and nature through swimming, archery and hiking.

All People's is part of the Vernon-Central Workforce Development Network. Young adults from the community learn valuable employment skills through educational programs and apprenticeships. This program is designed to help those who do not have a High School diploma. A parallel program helps young people who haven't left the school system, but who are in difficulty in traditional programs. All People's operates as a branch of Central High School, a program run by the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Other groups and ad hoc activities call All People's home. And there is a continuous demand for volunteer assistance. All People's operates RSVP (Retired Senior and Volunteer Program), a national program helping people over 55 years in finding volunteer opportunities throughout the community. A Domestic Violence Support Group provides counseling, information and as necessary, all that is necessary for victims to become independent.

In March, All People's held its 14th Annual Health Fair. The Fair was attended by 1,000 people and was staffed by 102 volunteers. Services at the Fair included medical exams, dental exams, glucose and cholesterol screenings, flu vaccinations, vision exams and mammograms.

If you would like more information about All People's Christian Center, you can visit their web site at www.allpeoplescc.org/index.html or contact Saundra Bryant at (213) 747-6357 or by e-mail allpeoples@allpeoplescc.org. All People's is a registered not-for-profit.



Photos courtesy of All People's Christian Center.

Catch the Spirit

"Catch the Spirit" is the theme of the children and youth group of First Christian Church (DOC) Macclesfield, N. C. Macclesfield is located in Edgecombe County. We are a small rural community in Eastern North Carolina. We created T-shirts that bear our theme, which are worn as we enter the larger world to grow in faith and bring the presence of Christ to others.

Our children and youth have been growing in the Spirit through their labor and exploration of the world around them. They have volunteered for Habitat for Humanity by preparing walls for painting and clearing a lawn for landscaping. They assist the church in collecting items for homeless shelters, battered women's homes, and food and clothing for those in need. They continue to follow the Spirit as they explore God's creation.

The children and youth of the "Catch the Spirit" discovered the joy of snowboarding and skiing in the North Carolina mountains, which developed a sense of awe and respect for God's creation. They have embraced the Alverna Covenant and are currently assisting the church's efforts to reduce our impact on the environment by recycling our waste and lowering electrical use. In order to visit our nation's capital, they recycled aluminum cans, made bag lunches for the congregation, and raffled a basket of goodies at our local fall festival.

The Spirit of Christ is alive and well within the hearts and minds of another generation. The "Catch the Spirit" children and youth are growing in faith and following the Light of our Lord and Savior. They are leading lives as young disciples that are shaped by the essence of Jesus Christ. Our collective prayers rise like incense as we gather together to lift one another up and embrace the power of the Holy Spirit and seek God's will for our lives. Those of us in Edgecombe County, North Carolina desire

that the Spirit of the Lord reigns down from above and provides for all of God's children. The Spirit is habit forming, so go out and explore what God has in store for you and yours. The presence of the Lord abounds. Just simply say, Yes, here I am Lord. 🖐️

The Rev. Melissa Acres is Minister of First Christian Church (DOC), Macclesfield, N.C.

"Catch the Spirit" youth and adults at (below) center of D.C., (bottom) Castle/Smithsonian, and (right) the Lincoln Memorial. Photos courtesy of FCC Macclesfield.





Rev. Craig Watts

Big Military, the Bible and the Common Good

I can't understand why anyone who claims to be committed to a biblical faith would support Big Military. It doesn't make sense to me. And this is not just because I am a pacifist who believes the teachings and life of Jesus preclude support for war. Indeed, it is not essential to look at the Gospels in order to see the basis for my concern. Rather it is found in the fact nothing in the Bible – in either Testament – lends much support to Big Military.

From the escape of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage when Moses announced, "The Lord will fight for you and you have only to keep still" (Exodus 14:14), to the destruction of Jericho where the fortified walls of the city tumbled down by an act of God (Joshua 6:11-21), Big Military is given no role. From Gideon's forces reduced by God from 22,000 to only 300 men who then defeated the Midian army whose soldiers numbered like "the sands of the sea," (Judges 7:2-23), to the choice of the boy David to fight the giant Goliath, obvious strength was shunned by people of faith. From the many prophetic warnings not to trust in horses and chariots—that is, military technology—and the condemnations of military alliances (Isa. 30:1-3, 31:1) to Ezra who prayed and fasted for protection for the Jews returning Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity and would not "ask the king [of Persia] for a band of soldiers and cavalry to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king that the hand of our God is gracious to all who seek him" (Ezra 8:22), the bottom line is the same: either God or armed might. Both/and is not a faithful option.

Trust in God and reliance upon military technology and armed forces are not—from a biblical perspective—compatible. Massive armed might is a clear witness to the belief that God is not being trusted for

security. Religious sounding words only make matters worse. It is an offence against the third Commandment (Exodus 20:7) for the United States to have "In God We Trust" as a national motto while maintaining the most powerful military in the history of the world. As the stories of the Bible powerfully portray, real trust in God entails not trusting in superior armed might. Real trust in God is accompanied by tangible evidence, not just by words printed on currency and uttered by politicians who manipulate the religious sensibilities of the American people.

At a time when concern for a balanced national budget and paying down the national debt is a major topic of conversation, Christians should be the loudest voices calling for deep cuts in the military. It is a matter of faith, not just politics. Yet even on pragmatic grounds the hyper-bloated defense budget is unjustifiable. Those who claim that the fight against terrorism necessitates continuing the huge military budget ignore the fact that historically terrorism has for the most part not been defeated militarily but through other means, primarily politics and police action. A Rand Corporation study of terrorists groups over a 40 year period found that only seven percent of the time was military force effective. At the same time, it is the most expensive. Still the U.S. continues to pile money into a solution not proven to be particularly effective.

Even as the war in Iraq is ending and there is increasing pressure to pull out of Afghanistan, the Pentagon is dreaming up more ways to spend the freed up money and Congress will almost certainly rubber stamp its requests. Fear of being accused of being "weak on defense" and concerns over local short term economic effects that would be caused by defense cut-backs in their districts will guarantee that politicians

"A Rand Corporation study of terrorists groups over a 40 year period found that only seven percent of the time was military force effective."

The Disciples Peace Fellowship has web pages at www.dpfweb.org or can be visited on Facebook.

Continued on page 23. See Peacemaking.



Shannon Smith, a student at the Disciples Seminary Foundation - Pacific School of Religion, talks with Dennis Landon, president of Higher Education & Leadership Ministries, after HELM's workshop Saturday night.

While seminarians spent plenty of time in workshops, breaks between sessions provided opportunities to know fellow students answering a call to ministry, creating a network of peers – those connections are just as valuable as the classes.

“Not being a cradle-to-grave Disciple, having an opportunity to learn about each part of the general expression of church was very helpful,” said Dan Adolphson, an online student from Minneapolis studying at Oklahoma-based Phillips Theological Seminary. “But just getting to know fellow seminarians and have deep, meaningful conversations meant a great deal to me.”

“It was wonderful to see seminarians like me meeting each other, worshipping together, talking about our various experiences, and learning and contributing to the church together,” said Katherine Raley of the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago. “That kind of experience gives us a wider perspective of the church. It highlighted the gifts of the people and the importance of looking outside one’s own experience.”



Saturday morning's worship got the congregation moving through the historic Wightman Chapel.

Disciples Seminarians Conference provides beyond-the-classroom lessons, connections, and inspiration

Seminarians spend most of their studies digging deep into scripture, studying theology and history, or polishing their preaching skills. Denominational structure and congregational leadership – they’ll learn that outside the classroom.

The Disciples Seminarians Conference is the place. Fifty-six M.Div. students from 29 theological institutions convened for a crash course in how Disciples general ministries can support them professionally and spiritually as congregational ministry undergoes radical changes.

This year’s conference, held March 31-April 3 in Nashville, Tenn., provided time for each general ministry to explain its ministry and its future in a rapidly changing church. Participants also learned about the Hope Partnership for congregational revitalization; the search and call process for congregational ministry; and personal and church finances.

“My favorite part of the conference was being able to engage the ministry leaders on a personal level and hear the realities of ministry along with their passion and frustrations.” said Jarda Alexander of Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta.

Several students reported word-of-mouth recruiting for the conference sharing a common theme – “Don’t miss the Seminarians Conference.” The conference’s goal is to bring as many seminarians as possible. Costs are subsidized by the general ministries, and travel stipends are available for students regardless of where they study. This year, more than 80% of participants received travel stipends.

HELM organizes the conference, but it is a collaborative effort. Each general ministry contributes financially to the biennial conference. In all, 29 general ministry staff, including most general and ethnic ministry presidents, attended at least a portion of the conference.

Seminarians led worship each day. Patty Jones of Christian Theological Seminary and Detra Johnson of Memphis Theological Seminary coordinated the worship services, incorporating a variety of different styles and earning high marks from participants.

“The most important and life-giving piece of the experience was the sense of energy and reflection happening among my ministerial peers,” said Harvard Divinity School student

Tiffany Curtis. “Those connections will fuel my ministry.”

The next Seminarians Conference is tentatively scheduled for April 2013. Active students who have completed one year at an accredited seminary are eligible to attend. For more information, visit www.helmdisciples.org.

Brad Lyons is Director of Communications with HELM (Higher Education and Leadership Ministries) in Saint Louis, Mo.

Seminarian Pedro Goycolea (Disciples Seminary Foundation - Pacific School of Religion), talks with Janis Brown (DSF - Claremont School of Theology) and Church Extension's Matt Rosine during a small-group session.



Photos by Brad Lyons/HELM

PEOPLE DON'T THINK MUCH OF US.

They don't actually think badly of us. They just don't think of us at all.

When the Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church recently surveyed students and peers, the results were, frankly, a little disappointing.

We found that many participants are not aware of the benefits the Church relationship can bring to the educational experience. They don't know about our history in higher education. Or how we believe that reason deepens faith. They don't know about our commitment to service in our communities, or even about opportunities for scholarships.

As a result, the 14 member institutions are now working together as a whole to develop a new branding and awareness program. The goal? To highlight the benefits the Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church can offer to students.

We will be sharing our new website and marketing materials at the 2011 General Assembly in Nashville.

Please visit our display in the exhibition hall.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church

Barton College, Wilson, NC
Bethany College, Bethany, WV
Chapman University, Orange, CA
Columbia College, Columbia, MO
Culver-Stockton College, Canton, MO

Drury University, Springfield, MO
Eureka College, Eureka, IL
Hiram College, Hiram, OH
Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX
Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA

Midway College, Midway, KY
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
Transylvania University, Lexington, KY
William Woods University, Fulton, MO

Green Chalice, a new ministry



In the summer of 2007, by the invitation of the regional minister, Greg Alexander, a group of concerned Kentucky Disciples came together to discuss how to better care for God's creation. Since that time Green Chalice has hosted green retreats, provided educational workshops, and supplied resources to churches. With support from Green Chalice, Disciples churches in Kentucky have started community gardens, recycling programs, rain gardens, composting, using reusable dinnerware, eating local foods, praying for creation, celebrating creation in worship, planting trees and more. Several churches have lowered their carbon footprints by having energy audits, caulking old windows and installing new ones, installing geothermal systems and programmable thermostats. Green Chalice has had a positive impact on God's creation in Kentucky.

The ministry of Green Chalice captured the attention of Disciples Home Missions (DHM) President, the Rev. Ron Degges. As a result, DHM and the Christian Church

in Kentucky (CCK) have formed a new partnership. CCK's Green Chalice will now become the official ministry for the Disciples' stewardship of creation movement through DHM. As the Green Chalice Coordinator in Kentucky, I will serve both the DHM and CCK staffs as the new "Minister for Green Chalice."

In this new role, I will be updating our webpage on DHM's website and, beginning in June, an e-newsletter will be circulated the second Tuesday of each month. In the next few weeks, I will be contacting each regional office to introduce myself and offer my support. I have been serving on the green team for the General Assembly and will be leading a resource group on food and faith. Please introduce yourself to me at General Assembly. I will be the one in green!


The Rev. Carol L. Devine is Minister for Green Chalice.

The Green Chalice can be viewed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Green-Chalice-Christian-Church-Disciples-of-Christ/210641885634361

Peacemaking Continued from page 19.

will not support any bold reductions. But given that the military budget of the U.S. nearly equals that of the combined total of the defense budgets of the rest of the nations of the world, Christians should say "No!" to the requests of the Pentagon. Even if the U.S. military budget were cut in half, it would still be nearly three times larger than that of the second largest military budget, that of China.

It is time for Christians who think the words "in God we trust" are more than an empty phrase to call for serious reductions in the military budget. Not just a billion here and a billion there but hundreds of billions. The money could be far better used helping people than by threatening them. Far more jobs could be created by putting the funds into education and a host of other areas

than in defense, recent studies have shown. Big Military is not helpful for the economy and the common good of a healthy society. Too many needs are being left unattended. Money is available to meet the needs of the nation without either draconian cuts to healthcare for the elderly and poor and slashing programs that benefit those who are the least advantaged or by drastically raising taxes. But that needed money is now in the military budget. It is well past time to pull it out. May Christians say with conviction, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exalts, and with my song I give thanks to him" (Psalm 28:7). 

The Rev. Craig M. Watts is a member of the Disciples Peace Fellowship Executive Committee and pastor of Royal Palm Christian Church in Coral Springs, Fla.

Wisdom of Women DVD Series:

Melvia Fields

"I am where I am because of the bridges that I crossed. Sojourner Truth was a bridge. Harriet Tubman was a bridge. Ida B. Wells was a bridge. Madame C. J. Walker was a bridge. Fannie Lou Hamer was a bridge." - Oprah Winfrey

Disciples Women launched the Wisdom of Women DVD project — a series of video interviews with Disciples Women from across the life of the church. This year, General Assembly will be the introduction site for Wisdom of Women - Volume 2 - Melvia Fields. Melvia Fields is an African American author, leader and historian. She is the author of "Women on a Mission" - a book about African American women who were integral parts of the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She is a Cane Ridge historian. She also co-authored with her daughter, the Rev. Sharon Fields, "In Other Words - Stories of African-American Involvement in the Early Years of the Stone-Campbell Movement in Kentucky." Everyone who has had an opportunity to preview the first draft has been inspired and moved.

- The DVD is divided into 13 short six to ten minute chapters.
- A study guide with questions for reflection and conversation for each chapter.
- Use as a personal/group study or during Christian education time
- The cost of the DVD is only \$29.95

Your life will be enriched by hearing and reflecting on the Wisdom of Women.

As part of the preparation for the ordering of DVDs for sale, we are offering you the opportunity to pre-order your copy. The final DVD and study guide will be available for mailing in July 2011. 🍀

Have you purchased tickets for Disciples Women Luncheon on Wednesday, July 13, 2011?

Go to www.disciples.org/ga then click "Schedule" then "meals and events" to purchase tickets!

Disciples Peace Fellowship Introducing our 2011 Peace Interns

What a joy it is to write to you as the Disciples Peace Fellowship's Interim Peace Intern Coordinator! I am honored to accept the charge of sending this year's interns out into the world. The 2011 class of interns class has been chosen and I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce them:

Ben Saunders is a lifelong Disciple, active in his local church, the Christian Church in Virginia and the General Church. He is a student of filmmaking and religious studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, expecting to graduate in May. His most recent film, *Blank Street*, recently premiered in Richmond and documents economic injustice in Virginia. You can see a trailer and learn more about the film at www.blankstreetproject.com!

Christine Stonebraker is a graduate of Hiram College and is currently a Master's student at Kent State University studying Higher Education Administration. Christine's wealth of experiences include co-founding "The Olive Branch" (www.hiram.edu/fairtrade), the first fair trade store of its kind on a college campus, as well as holding multiple key justice-related positions within the church and her community.

Erin Taylor is pursuing degrees in social work and religion at Texas Christian University and also expects to graduate this year. Sponsoring Chi Rho youth, leading recovery groups after Hurricane Rita, and interning with Catholic Charities' Street Outreach Services Team are among many undertakings with which she is building a foundation for ministry.


With these strong young adults leading our mission in camps and conferences across the country, I am confident we will continue DPF's important traditions of planting seeds of thought and mentoring young peacemakers.

They will do this throughout this summer, in un-airconditioned mess halls that will shake with raucous rounds of silly camp

songs, and on moonlit hills far away, where sunburned teenagers will burn up in sweat-shirts just to keep mosquitoes at bay. This is where our newest generation of peacemakers will learn what it really means to be Christian... and our interns will be there. Year after year, they are there, tasked with the important challenge of meeting God's people where they are, listening to their hopes, their fears and ideals, and moving them to live as our Creator calls. Often, they will witness the moment where the message is grasped, where the pointing of the finger is removed and the breaches are repaired. But perhaps just as often, they will witness the moment where peace is planted against one's will, where worldviews crash together like an earthquake, where our messengers may feel criticized and isolated.

I remember my own peace intern experience, thinking that the message of peace and justice was an easy one to bring. I thought naively, "Who doesn't like peace and love?" believing the summer ahead would be fun and inspiring, but uncomplicated. But we peacemakers bring a radical message; one that shatters the status quo and got our savior killed. The mission our interns embark on each summer is a brave one. It changes lives. It opens eyes and hearts and inspires difficult conversations and intimate introspection.

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:44, 46-48

Perfection is a tall order, but if we can't pursue it in our own camps and conferences, how can we attempt it with the rest of the world? 

Phoebe Spier is the Peace Intern Coordinator of the Disciples Peace Fellowship


Disciples Immigration Attorney

The Reverend Ronald J. Degges, President of Disciples Homes Missions (DHM), has announced that Tana Liu-Beers has been called as Immigration Counsel for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This new half-time position, located in DHM, is being funded by multiple General Ministries, Racial/Ethnic Ministries, and Regions of the Disciples. The Immigration Counsel will work with the whole church on a broad array of immigration issues.

Tana is an immigration attorney and an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the North Carolina Justice Center's Immigrants Legal Assistance Project, where she represents clients in immigration court and works to combat the negative effects of increasing immigrant detentions. Tana has also worked with migrant workers and trafficking victims at the Southern Poverty Law Center, El Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (Migrant Rights Center), and the Farmworker Unit of Legal Aid of North Carolina. She also worked as Immigration Advisor & Parish Development Coordinator with the Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Tana is a summa cum laude graduate of Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, where she majored in Spanish. She also received a Juris Doctor with Honors from the University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Law in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where she was a full merit scholarship recipient.

Tana has volunteered with the UNC Immigration Law Association to design a "know-your-rights" training for immigrants, the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center to interview torture survivors at the York Detention Center, the Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network to document refugee women's stories, Amnesty International to establish a Women's Human Rights Group at Messiah College, and the Mennonite Central Committee to construct water systems for hurricane survivors in Honduras.

Tana lives in Durham, North Carolina where she and her husband, Chris Liu-Beers, attend services at an American Baptist congregation. She will be deployed staff working from an office in Durham, starting the middle of July. 



Tana Liu-Beers

Hope Partnership gets ready to launch

The new Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation is continuing to take shape. A collaboration of Church Extension, Disciples Home Missions, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries and other general ministry, regional, congregational, ecumenical and community partners, the purpose of Hope Partnership is to empower courageous leaders as they guide the Church into life-giving expressions of mission for this new era of God's mission.

We are currently evaluating and developing new training resources for leaders and congregations. In April, a team from Hope Partnership participated in a leadership training called "VocationCARE," developed

by the Fund for Theological Education, to determine its usefulness and adaptability for Disciples of Christ churches.

The "VocationCARE" approach involves four steps: 1) Creating space to explore Christian vocation together; 2) Asking self-awakening questions together; 3) Reflecting theologically on self and community; and 4) Enacting ministry opportunities. The training combines theory from community organizing and learning organizations with spiritual practices.

The prototype of the new "Coaching

Continued on page 27. See Coaching.



Steve Knight



Julia Brown Karimu

DOM welcomes new president

During its April 7-9 meeting, the DOM Board of Directors nominated Julia Brown Karimu to serve as its next president and Co-Executive for Global Ministries. Current President/Co-Executive Rev. David Vargas is retiring in August after serving with DOM/Global Ministries for 27 years.

Karimu's name will now be forwarded to the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), where the actual election is expected to take place by mail ballot. The 20-person DOM board will then do another mail ballot to confirm the election following the General Board's action.

A native of Mississippi, Karimu started work at the Indianapolis General Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

in 1977, serving as Director of Voluntary Service at what is now Disciples Home Missions. Eight years later, she moved to DOM as a Vice-President and Mission Personnel executive.

The Reverend Julia Brown Karimu has traveled to numerous parts of the world and learned how people across geographic, ethnic and culture barriers have a desire to be connected with one another.

Karimu has used those insights in her work as a Vice-President with DOM/Global Ministries over the years to try and build bridges between God's people. However, her experience and skills will soon be used in expanded ways. 🙌

Excerpted from Disciples News Service. Latest news is that both the DOM Board and the General Board have elected Karimu.

Coaching *Continued from page 26.*

Academy" of Hope Partnership took place in Indianapolis, May 16-18. The training event focused on the appreciative inquiry model of coaching and was led by Rev. Dr. Rob Voyle, founder and director of the Church Leadership Institute. The "Coaching Academy" was attended by 58 people, including 18 current Barnabas coaches and 22 regional partners (regional ministers and others chosen by their region to attend).

The next training event will be a pre-General Assembly "Super Peer Group" training, July 7-9, for new church planters to reconnect with their Barnabas coaches, network with other church planters, and gain additional tools for success in church planting.

A new initiative called DARE (Discernment, Assessment, Recruitment, and Empowerment) is being developed to help communicate the vision and purpose of Hope Partnership, and we're looking forward to launching that at the Hope Partnership booth at General Assembly in Nashville in July.

Hope Partnership will also be introduced at General Assembly to the participants in the Missional Church learning track, as well as during a general business session with the presentation of a Hope Partnership report.

Looking ahead to the Fall, there will be several Hope Partnership training events, including a New Church Ministry training in Indianapolis, September 26-30. We're currently developing a website with more information about Hope Partnership, which can be found at HopePartnership.info. 🙌

Steve Knight is leadership development consultant for Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation. He is also community architect for TransFORM, a missional community formation network. He and his wife Becky have three children, and they live in Gastonia, N.C., where they are part of a new Disciples church plant called Open Hearts Gathering.



Retirements

Lois Robinson

Congratulations to Lois Robinson on her retirement after 31 years [1980–2011] of service to the church through the ministries of DHM!

Lois shares: I started to work for the Division of Homeland Ministries on September 2, 1980, job sharing part time secretarial work for Loma Chalfant and Ed Taylor, Christian Educators. Several months later, I moved to a full time secretarial position, working for Frank and Lorraine Pitman, also Christian Educators. I served as secretary to Suzanne DeMoss Martin, Youth Ministry Director, was promoted to Chief CPT Operator, which gave me the opportunity to work with everyone in the CE department. In the early 1990s, I became the Administrative Assistant to Bob Glover, then VP for the Center for Education and Ministry, and held that position until Bob retired. Jane Lawrence became VP and I served as Executive Assistant to Jane until she retired.

My responsibilities have been varied, from those mentioned above to coordinating the *Annual Planning Guide and Calendar*; serving on the Core Group Transformation Team and designing Best Practices for Congregational Transformation and

Developing Consensus on Congregational Transformation; designing and producing the *Directory of Resources for Congregational Transformation* in 2007; coordinating DHM's General Assembly Exhibit; providing back up support to the Executive Administrator, the Web master, the VP for Finance; designing *DHM's Resource Guide*...and the list goes on.

"Her gifts and skills and talents are many and will be greatly missed. But, missed most of all will be her quiet, gentle, calm spirit." says President Ron Degges. Well done, good and faithful servant! 🙌



Lois Robinson
Executive Assistant

Linda Williamson

When I became involved at my church in Richmond, Virginia, in resettling a refugee family from Cambodia in 1983, I did not realize the impact that would have on my life. That experience changed my life's journey as it led me to working at the Virginia Council of Churches Refugee Resettlement Program – a journey filled with meeting many remarkable people – from refugees whose resilient spirits and hope have awed and inspired me to those who have worked tirelessly on behalf of refugees to help them build new lives in America.

In March of 2000, I moved to Indianapolis to work with Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM) of Disciples Home Missions. Bill Culp (RIM Administrative Assistant) also started working with RIM in March, and together with Jennifer Riggs, our

Director, we have been a team that worked together to encourage our Disciples churches to be involved in the ministry of "welcoming the stranger" and extending hands of friendship and support to refugees and immigrants. We have worked not only with members of the Disciples of Christ, but also with staff of Church World Service and other denominations to ensure quality resettlement for refugees.

It has been a blessing to have had the privilege of working with the ministry of refugee resettlement, and I give thanks to God for this opportunity. I am also grateful for the people that I have been blessed to know and share service with through these years in the ministry of refugee resettlement. 🙌



Linda Williamson
Program Associate
for Refugee Resettlement

Retirements

Jim Powell



In retirement, Jim says he will stay focused on the future of the Christian Church, which includes his grandson, Charlie.

It's a new era for Church Extension as Jim Powell retires in July 2011. After leading the denomination's new church initiative in the 1980s and serving as vice president, Jim became CE's president in 1995. As president, Jim made major contributions to Church Extension's efforts to better serve the ever-changing face of the Christian Church. He assumed the role of Senior Advisor for Advancement in August 2010, nurturing support for Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation and working with CE leaders to build and strengthening networks of advocates, donors and investors. CE will celebrate Jim's visionary leadership, legacy, warmth and his deep friendship at General Assembly in Nashville. 🖐️

Jennifer Riggs



Rev. Jennifer Riggs
Director of Refugee and
Immigration Ministries

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the church in this important ministry that has made a difference in the lives of many refugees and immigrants and has helped Disciples congregations be faithful to the gospel call to reach out in mission. During my 31 years of service, over 30,000 refugees have been assisted in starting new lives in the United States through the Disciples program. Because I have visited refugee camps in over 25 countries and seen the deplorable conditions in which refugees often live, I rejoice in the new opportunities these refugees have been given. Although the laws of the United States make it very difficult for immigrants to enter or stay in the United States, I have been able to help in some small ways in individual situations and to advocate for better treatment and improved laws for immigrants. The concrete nature of refugee and immigration ministries has been a blessing in helping me live out my call to ministry. There are so many stories that I could tell of how refugees and immigrants have touched my life; maybe I'll write a book someday.

It has also been my honor and privilege to represent Disciples in many ecumenical settings related to my refugee and immigration work. For 12 years, I have been one of the officers of the Church World Service Board of Directors and worked with the

National Council of Churches in the USA. I have also been involved in several World Council of Churches committees and meetings. In all these settings, it is always clear to me that Disciples are crucial supporters of efforts to lift up the unity of the Church and that the contributions that Disciples make ecumenically reach far beyond the size of our denomination.

For several years, I have dreamed of a day when the Disciples would be able to hire an immigration attorney who could better assist the many members and pastors of our congregations that are affected by our out-of-date immigration laws. It gives me real joy to see that dream being fulfilled as I head into retirement. I am grateful to the many ministries of the church that have joined together to make this possible. Immigration was an important factor in the founding of the Disciples, and the future of the Disciples is tied in many ways to immigration patterns today.

While my extensive international travel has sometimes been dangerous and difficult, I have welcomed the opportunities it has given me to better understand God's world

Continued on page 30. See Riggs.

Curriculum? Go to www.discipleshare.net

The Rev. Adam Frieberg and the Disciples Youth Ministry Network operate a splendid, resource-laden web site for all of us to use in christian education planning.

The web site says, "Curriculum on this site is offered free, to use and adapt as you need. Curriculum embraces the belief in the liberty and responsibility of individuals to develop their own understanding of God and the world.

"Contribute www.discipleshare.net/


send-curriculum/, *poach*, or even just *browse* at www.discipleshare.net/curriculum/ — you're welcome."

Curriculum can be found on the site covering Camp life — Junior, Chi Rho, CYF; Sunday School — Pre-school, Elementary, Junior & Senior High School, and adults; Youth Group — all ages; Vacation Bible School; plus games and skits. Wow!



Riggs *Continued from page 29.*

and the many cultural differences that all God's children live out. I have been stopped on roads by gun-carrying teenagers; I have slept in refugee camps; I have eaten some very strange food; and I have talked with people who see the world in a totally different way. All of this has opened my eyes to a broader understanding of God's creation. I listen to the nightly news, personally knowing people in many of the countries mentioned. I only wish that I could have brought all Disciples along on those trips, because I know we would be a more mission-driven, more culturally-sensitive, more welcoming church, if all Disciples could experience the world in the way I have.

My faith has been strengthened by the refugees and immigrants I have visited around the world and in the United States. In the midst of dire situations, they have modeled strong faith in God and God's grace. They have praised God for God's blessings in situations where I saw no blessings except life itself. I am a better person for having known these persons who live on the margins. Thank you, Disciples, for giving me all these experiences. Thank you, Disciples, for giving the opportunity for new life to all these refugees and immigrants. May this ministry continue to flourish in the midst of our denomination, not only for the sake of refugees and immigrants, but also for the sake of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). 

David Vargas



David A. Vargas, President of the Division of Overseas Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries, will retire effective August 1, 2011.

Prior to his current position, Vargas served as Area Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean and before joining DOM/Global Ministries, he was Director of Program Services for Hispanic and Bilingual Congregations in the Division of Homeland Ministries (now known as Disciples Home Missions). While serving with DOM/Global Ministries he also ministered as the first National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries during a transition period in preparation for the appointment of a permanent National Pastor.



Ministerial Changes

Ministry change listings to be discontinued

Since reporting on Ministry Changes began, Disciples Home Missions has worked diligently to ensure these listings are as timely and accurate as possible, and according to the permissions of each minister noted. Such an effort has always required a significant amount of work, including follow-up verification. Unfortunately, maintaining the ministry of these listings has become increasingly difficult, due to fewer staff and decreased dollars. Thus, a decision has been made to discontinue the listing of ministerial changes within DHM's Advocate publication, and online.

However, even as we let go of this often-appreciated ministry, please know that Disciples Home Missions is doing so in order to concentrate our available resources, more fully, to serve God's church in the areas of faith formation, leader development and congregational transformation. We truly are here to serve God and God's church! — *Warren Lynn*

Allen, Mark S., to pastor, Crofton Christian Church, Crofton, Ky., from Central Christian Church, Caldwell, Kan.

Beamer, Layne, to pastor, First Christian Church, Whittier, Calif. from Mc Carty Memorial Christian Church, Los Angeles, Calif.

Bradshaw, Mary Jo, to pastor, All People's Christian Church, Los Angeles, Calif. from North Long Beach Christian Church, Long Beach, Calif.

Brown, Stephen, to pastor, Central Christian Church, Warren, Ohio

from Hebron Christian Church, Hebron, Ohio

Case, Robert Lowell, to pastor, Orangethorpe Christian Church, Fullerton, Calif. from Capilla del Sol Christian Church, Tucson, Ariz.

Dees, Robert, to pastor, First Christian Church, Katy, Texas.

Edge, Peggy, to pastor, Central Christian Church, Austin, Texas from North Christian Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Fugarino, Robert, to co pastor, Kingwood Christian Church, Kingwood, Texas

Grogan, Michael, to pastor, Wahiawa

Christian Church, Wahiawa, Hawaii from Bellevue Christian Church, Bellevue, Wash.

Harbin, Jeremy, to pastor, First Christian Church, Hartselle, Ala. from Union Christian Church, Tuskegee, Ala.

Harper, Terrell Lamont, to pastor, First Christian Church, Ocala, Fla. from First Christian Church, Greenville, N.C.

Hunter, Victor, to pastor, First Christian Church, New Martinsville, W.Va. from Evergreen Christian Church, Evergreen, Colo.

Johns-Boehme, Steven, to pastor, First Christian Church, Hagerstown, Md. from First Christian Church, Owensboro, Ky.

Mitchell, Peter, to pastor, First Christian Church, Marion, Iowa from Bondurant Christian Church, Bondurant, Iowa.

Moore, Steven, to pastor, Lafayette Christian Church, Lafayette, Calif. from National City Christian Church, Washington, D.C.

Morris, Richard, to pastor, First Christian Church, Rock Falls, Ill., from First Christian Church, Holden, Mo.

Neel, Terry Lee, to pastor, First Christian

Church, Kingsville, Texas from First Christian Church, Guymon, Okla.

Pollack, William, to pastor, First Christian Church, Princeton, W.Va. from First Christian Church, St. Albans, W.Va.

Polley, Timothy, to pastor, First Christian Church, Benton, Ky. from First Christian Church, Moline, Ill.

Summers, Gregory, to pastor, Arrowsmith Christian Church, Arrowsmith, Ill. from First Christian Church, Bloomington, Ind.

Sybrant, Troy, to pastor, Tylersville Road Christian Church, Mason, Ohio from First Christian Church, Pasadena, Calif.

Thomas, Jr., William, to pastor, Little White Chapel Christian Church, Burbank, Calif. from Church of the Valley, Van Nuys, Calif.

Tuttle, Donald Marion, to pastor, North Central Christian Church, San Antonio, Texas from First Christian Church, Corpus Christi, Texas

Voth, Dennis, to pastor, Central Christian Church, Arkansas City, Kan. from First Christian Church, Bartlesville, Okla.

Prayer for our ministers in ministry and transition

O God whose care for us all is bound together with a deep and intimate grace, we give thanks for the ways You guide each of us throughout our lives of vocation and mission.

For those ministers whose present days are lived amidst the ongoing care of a congregation to which they've offered pastoral leadership for some time, or in another institution wherein their presence has been like a healing salve upon the spiritual wounds of other children of God, we ask for Your continued guidance and wisdom in their ways of vocation.

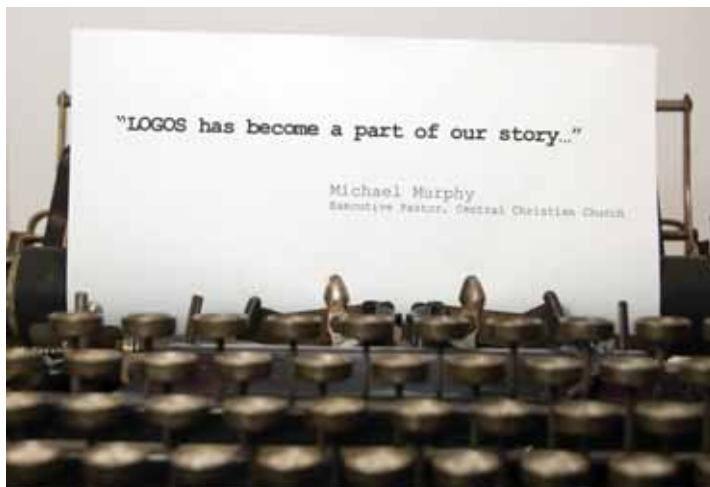
For those who've heard Your call toward new ministry, and have entered into a searching process of discernment, but have yet to affirm where the future will lead, we ask for restful patience and prayerful attentiveness to Your lead. We request an openness in their seeking to the fullest possibilities of new ministry. We ask, also, for Your gifts of responsible diligence -- that these ministers in transition will discover a next authentic call that makes the best use of Your gifts in their lives. And, we pray for a deep, deep trust that You are, indeed, at the heart of their journey -- as they slowly disengage from one ministry and continue to search for the next

community in which their pastoral leadership can abide.

We also pray for those who've recently affirmed a next call to serve You amidst Your people and world. Whether they are in their first days and weeks of a ministry that is new to them, or yet to begin that which has already been decided, we pray You will care for them as they seek to establish new relationships of caring leadership, and let go of that which is no more. May these ministers of Your church know patience and wisdom in their lives, that they may help Your people journey into celebrative possibilities of vitality and hope. May their care help move Your people into vibrant new transforming realities. May Your care fill them with enough stamina to thrive in their personal and communal lives, even amidst the challenges that are a part of every ministry in this world.

For these things we pray to you, even as we each open our hearts and minds to that which You might have to say to us, in the abundance of your grace throughout creation. Amen.

The Rev. Warren P. Lynn, Director of the Office of Search and Call, is a native of Salem, Ore., and a member of Allisonville Christian Church, Indianapolis.



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Are you searching to find new ways to interact with your community?

Are you seeking new ways to do ministry on a limited budget?

This national conference is for you...

Evangelism:
Transforming Congregations,
Engaging Communities

November 2-5, 2011 Detroit, MI

Evangelism: Transforming Congregations - Engaging Communities is designed for churches of all sizes and priced so that you can bring a team from your church to be trained.

Dates:
November 2 - 5, 2011

RE:
Fellowship Chapel • 7707 W. Outer Drive • Detroit, MI

Cost:
Early Bird Registration until July 31, 2011:
-\$90 per person
-\$70 per person with 8 or more from one church.

Hotel:
Hilton Garden Inn
24000 American Drive • Southfield, Michigan
Room Rate
\$94 for a single w/hot breakfast each morning
\$54 per person/double w/hot breakfasts

Transportation will be provided free of charge from the hotel to Fellowship Chapel each day.

For more information and to register, please go to:
www.ucc.org/evangelism/Events/



Calendar

Calendar items
may be sent to:

editor@dhm.
disciples.org

- July 6 – 9 **Texas Christian Missionary Convention** Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas. **INFORMATION:** Ruby Henry (214) 275-7229.
- July 7 – 9 **Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Pre-GA Retreat** Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, Tenn. **INFORMATION:** Anne Marie Moyars amoyars@dhm.disciples.org
- July 8 – 9 **National Evangelism Workshop** Nashville, Tenn. **INFORMATION:** R. Wayne Calhoun (888) 346-2631 rcalhoun@dhm.disciples.org
- July 9 – 13 **General Assembly**, Nashville, Tenn. See website www.disciples.org/GeneralAssembly/tabid/59/Default.aspx

A few highlights.....

July 9

5:30 p.m.

A Living Cloud of Witness Church Extension, Disciples Home Missions and Higher Education and Leadership Ministries dinner, Renaissance Hotel Ballroom, Nashville, Tenn. **TICKETS:** \$35 online at <https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/ga11tickets>

9:00 p.m.

Leader Apprentice Program Graduates and Enablers

Aftersessions at The Well, Rm 201, Nashville Convention Center

July 10

9:00 p.m.

Clergy Women & Women Seminarians Aftersessions at The Well, Rm 201, Nashville Convention Center

July 11

9:00 p.m.

Woman-to-Woman Worldwide & Women's Action Web Participants Aftersessions at The Well, Rm. 201, Nashville Conv. Ctr.

July 12

Disciple Women Report from Plenary stage

Disciple Women present "Resolution on Human Trafficking" to Assembly

9:00 p.m.

Former ICWE/IDWM Executive Committee Members & ODW Staff Aftersessions at The Well, Rm. 201, Nashville Convention Center

July 13

Noon

Disciples Women's Luncheon Renaissance Room at Renaissance Hotel includes 2014 Quadrennial site announcement

2:30 p.m.

How to hold holy conversations on immigration Renaissance Ryman 2

4:00 p.m.

General Conference Disciples Men Annual Meeting Fisk Room, Renaissance Hotel

July 14 – 16

Disciple Youth Ministry Network Gathering Montgomery Bell State Park, Burns, Tenn. Cost: \$275 **INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:** www.dymn.org/

July 14 – 17

Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention Nicholasville, Ky. **INFORMATION:** Rev. Darrell Hayden (498) 932-0859.

July 14 – 18

50th Annual Convention of the Association of Disciples Musicians University Christian Church and Texas Christian

Continued on page 34.

Calendar

Continued from page 33

- University, Fort Worth, Texas. **INFORMATION:** Rev. Gail Strunk, ADM President, gstrunk@fclongview.org or visit www.adm-doc.org
- July 15 **Deadline for applications for Black Leadership Project Grants**
INFORMATION: Bill Culp (888) 346-2631 wculp@dhm.disciples.org
GUIDELINES: www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/AA-Convocation
- July 15 – 17 **Kentucky Region's Men's Spiritual Retreat** St. Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, Ind. **THEME:** "Lenses: Gaining a clearer vision of the male spiritual journey" **KEYNOTE:** Rev. Greg Alexander, Kentucky Regional Minister **COST:** \$45 plus lodging **INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:** www.ccinky.net/upcoming-events/mens-spiritual-life-retreat/
- July 16 11:00 a.m. **Regional Picnic of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon** Oak Rove picnic areas 2 and 3, Champoeg State Park, St. Paul, Ore. Bring food to share, table service, folding chairs, games and friends. After fun and eating, concludes with outdoor worship and sharing of Communion. **INFORMATION:** www.oregondisciples.org.
- July 22 – 23 **Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention** Northside Christian Church, West Point, Miss. **INFORMATION:** Rev. Patricia Parker (662) 459-2678.
- July 22 – 24 **Arkansas Disciple Women's Retreat** Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, Ark. **KEYNOTE:** Pat Donahoo **INFORMATION:** www.grrcc.org/DW_Calendar.html
- July 28 – 31 **Piedmont District Convention** Camp Christian View, Reidsville, N.C. **INFORMATION:** Evonne Chavis (276) 930-9978.
- July 30 – 31 **Oklahoma Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** New Beginnings Christian Church, Tulsa, Okla. **INFORMATION:** Donna Jackson (918) 510-2457 donna@jack@yahoo.com.
- Aug. 1 – 5 **Talking Theology and Fishing** Bear Lodge Resort on Highway 14A near Dayton, Wy. **GUEST LEADER:** Rev. Dr. Dick Lowery **INFORMATION:** Doug Goodwin pastordoug@sheridandisciples.org
- Aug. 5 – 7 **Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training** First Christian Church, Glasgow, Ky. **TRAINERS:** Kaye Edwards and Petie McLean **COST:** \$120 if received by July 22, 2011. **REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION:** <https://secure.disciples.org/cwwtmain.asp?assemblyid=67>
- Aug. 5 – 7 **Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training** First Christian Church, Huntsville, Ala. **TRAINER:** Jane Nettles **COST:** \$120 if received by July 22, 2011. **REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION:** <https://secure.disciples.org/cwwtmain.asp?assemblyid=67>
- Aug. 8 **Minister's Monday—Leading Change in the Congregation** Vine Congregational UCC, Lincoln, Neb. **KEYNOTE:** Bill McConnell **COST:** \$10 including lunch.
REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION: www.disciples-ne.org/
- Aug. 8 – 11 **Young Clergy Women Project Conference 2011** Duke Divinity School, Durham, N.C. **RETREAT LEADER:** Rev. Winnie Varghese of Episcopal Church's clergy wellness program. **COST:** \$160 plus lodging

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Calendar

Continued from page 34

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REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION:

youngclergywomen.typepad.com/conference/

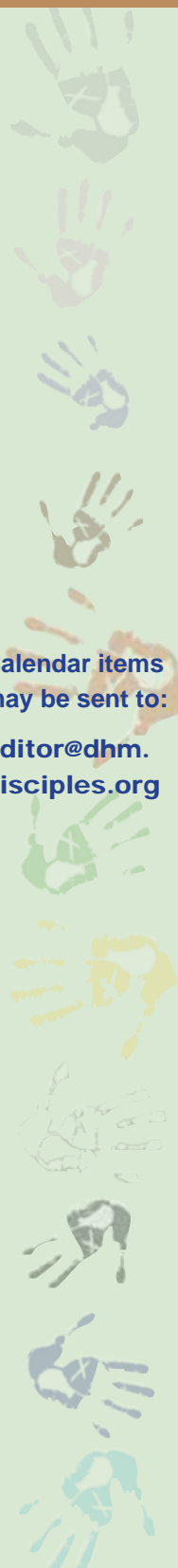
- Aug. 11 **Pacific Southwest Region Boundary Training** Torrey Pines Christian Church, La Jolla, Calif. **TIMES:** 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
INFORMATION: www.disciplespswr.org/index.html
- Aug. 12 – 14 **2011 Nebraska Disciples Women's Retreat** Leadership Center, Aurora, Neb. **THEME:** "Are You Living God's Dream for You?"
INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION: www.disciples-ne.org/
- Aug. 12 – 14 **Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training** Washington Avenue Christian Church, Elyria, Ohio. **TRAINER:** Debbie Walker
COST: \$120 if received by July 29, 2011. **REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION:** <https://secure.disciples.org/cwwtmain.asp?assemblyid=67>
- Aug. 13 – 14 **Virginia's 2nd Annual Licensed Ministry Retreat** Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg, Va. **INFORMATION:** www.ccinva.org/
- Aug. 14 – 20 **Young Women's Action Web** San Diego, Calif. **CONTACT:** Leah Suzanne Dewey, Coordinator (805) 907-1311 or bellatwine@gmail.com
- Aug. 19 – 20 **Nebraska Men's Retreat** Kamp Kaleo, Burwell, Neb. **INFORMATION OR REGISTRATION CONTACT:** ccnebraska@windstream.net or (402) 476-0359
- Aug. 19 – 21 **Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training** First Christian Church, Martinsville, Ind. **TRAINER:** Heather Roberts
COST: \$120 if received by August 5, 2011. **REGISTRATION & INFORMATION:** <https://secure.disciples.org/cwwtmain.asp?assemblyid=67>
- Aug. 19 – 21 **Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training** First Christian Church, Burbank, Calif. **TRAINERS:** Kaye Edwards and Soo Yun Cost \$120 if received by August 5, 2011. **REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION:** <https://secure.disciples.org/cwwtmain.asp?assemblyid=67>
- Aug. 26 – 27 **Dream God's Dream for Nebraska** Aurora Leadership Center, Aurora, Neb. **CONFERENCE LDR:** Ruth Fletcher **INFO & REGISTRATION:** www.disciples-ne.org/uploads/2011%20Registration%20form.pdf
- Aug. 27 **Upper Midwest School for Congregational Learning** Des Moines Christian Church, West Des Moines, Iowa **WORSHIP PREACHER:** Christian Piatt **INFORMATION:** www.uppermidwestcc.org/
CONTACT: Adam Frieberg amfumw@gmail.com
- Sept. 2 – 5 **Christian Church in Illinois & Wisconsin Family and Friends Retreat** Camp Walter Scott, Dieterich, Ill. Camping weekend co-directors: Dan and Amanda Jassman. Camping fees involved.
INFORMATION & REGISTRATION: Mary Bible (309) 828-6293
mary@cciwdisciples.org.
- Sept. 2 – 5 **The Gathering of Disciples (G.o.D.) Retreat** Indiana Region's Camp Barbee, Leesburg, Ind. Family camping — swimming, boating, square dancing, fellowship, etc.
INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION: www.indianadisciples.org/camp/
- Sept. 9 – 10 **Indiana Men's Recharge Retreat** Bedford Christian Camp, Bedford, Ind. **KEYNOTE:** Dean Phelps **INFORMATION:** www.indianadisciples.org/

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Calendar

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- Sept. 9 – 11 **Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training** First Christian Church, Winston Salem, N.C. **TRAINER:** Kaye Edwards
COST: \$120 if received by August 26, 2011. **REGISTRATION & INFORMATION:** <https://secure.disciples.org/cwwtmain.asp?assemblyid=67>
- Sept. 9 – 11 **Virginia Men's and Women's Retreat** Craig Springs Camp and Retreat Center, New Castle, Va.
INFORMATION: (540) 864-5768 or camp@craigsprings.com
- Sept. 9 – 11 **West Virginia Disciples Women's Retreat** Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley, W.Va. **INFORMATION:** www.wvdisciples.org/
- Sept. 10 **3rd Annual NAPAD Celebration** First Christian Church, Sacramento, Calif. **INFORMATION:** www.ccncn.org
- Sept. 11 – 13 **Upper Midwest Senior Adult Retreat** Christian Conference Center, Newton, Iowa **COST:** \$100 **INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:** www.christianconferencecenter.org/2011/golden-years-retreat/
- Sept. 16 – 18 **Arizona Disciples Women's Retreat** Chapel Rock Camp and Conference Center, Prescott, Ariz.
INFORMATION: Carol Friesen c.friesen@cox.net
- Sept. 16 – 18 **Central Rocky Mountain Women's Renewal Conference** Glen Eyrie Conference Center, Colorado Springs, Colo. **INFORMATION:** www.centralrockymountaindisciples.org/CRMRMinistries/
- Sept. 16 – 18 **Indiana Men's Recharge Retreat** Barbee Christian Camp, Leesburg, Ind. **KEYNOTE:** Dean Phelps **INFORMATION:** www.indianadisciples.org/
- Sept. 16 – 18 **Northern California/Nevada Disciples Women's Fall Retreat** Mission Springs Camp & Conference Center, Scotts Valley, Calif.
KEYNOTE: Donna Rose-Heim **INFORMATION:** www.ccncn.org
- Sept. 19 **7th Annual Pacific Southwest Region Golf Classic** San Dimas Canyon Golf Course, San Dimas, Calif.
INFORMATION: www.disciplespswr.org/
- Sept. 22 – 25 **Children Worship & Wonder Story Teller Training of Trainers** First Christian Church, Temple Texas **COST:** \$100
INFORMATION: Kaye Edwards kedwards@dhm.disciples.org
- Sept. 23 – 25 **Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training** First Christian Church, Temple, Texas. **TRAINER:** Kaye Edwards
COST: \$120 if rec'd by September 9, 2011. **REGISTRATION & INFORMATION:** <https://secure.disciples.org/cwwtmain.asp?assemblyid=67>
- Sept. 23 – 25 **Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training** First Christian Church, Salem, Va. **TRAINER:** Elaine Austin \$120 if received by September 9, 2011. **REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION:** <https://secure.disciples.org/cwwtmain.asp?assemblyid=67>
- Sept. 23 – 25 **Florida Disciples Men's 2011 Annual Retreat** Christian Church Conference Center, Silver Springs, Fla. **INFORMATION:** www.floridadisciples.org/ministries/men.htm
- Sept. 23 – 25 **Georgia Disciples Women's Retreat** Norman Park Conference Center, Norman Park, Ga. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Sandra Barnhill, National

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Calendar

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- President, Foreverfamily
INFORMATION: Betty Brewer Calvert betty@gadisciples.org
- Sept. 23 – 25 **Disciples Women's Retreat of Bluebonnet Area Lower Rio Grande Valley District of Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** Disciple Oaks Retreat Center, Gonzalez, Texas **KEYNOTE:** Sheila Spencer
INFORMATION: www.bluebonnetarea.org
- Sept. 24 **Rock the Loch Youth Fundraiser Concert** Loch Leven Camp and Conference Center, Mentone, Calif. To be a volunteer, a performer or other contact [RTL on facebook](#) or e-mail RockTheLock@gmail.com
- Sept. 29 – Oct. 2 **Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training of Trainers** Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Okla. **COST:** \$100 **INFORMATION:** Kaye Edwards kedwards@dhm.disciples.org
- Oct. 1 **Health Boundaries I and II** Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis **COST:** \$45 **REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION:** www.indianadisciples.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2011/04/Healthy-Boundaries-Brochure-2011.pdf Indiana Region's healthy boundaries training for licensed and ordained clergy.
- Oct. 1 – 2 **Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training** Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Okla. **TRAINER:** Kaye Edwards \$120 if received by September 16, 2011. **REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION:** <https://secure.disciples.org/cwwtmain.asp?assemblyid=67>
- Oct. 7 – 8 **Oregon Women's Fall Retreat** Murray Hills Christian Church, Beaverton, Ore. **KEYNOTE:** Nancy Gowler Johnson
INFORMATION: www.oregondisciples.org/
- Oct. 7 – 9 **The Sixteenth Anniversary Disciples Men's Retreat** at Cedar Lakes Camp and Conference Center in Ripley, W.Va. **SPEAKER:** Darwin Collins, Vice-President, Christian Church Foundation.
INFORMATION: www.wvdisciples.org/men
- Oct. 8 **Living Generously: Teaching household budgeting and personal financing** Geist Christian Church, Indianapolis **WORKSHOP LEADER:** Bruce Barkhauer, Disciple Minister for Faith and Giving
REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION: www.indianadisciples.org/events/speaking-generously-stewardship-workshop/
- Oct. 14 – 15 **Indiana Region/UCC Indiana-Kentucky Conference Licensed Minister Training Event** St. Joseph Conference Center, Tipton, Ind. **"Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation"** **TEACHING:** Ron Sommerville
COST: \$85 **INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:** Becki Nunnally e-mail becki@indianadisciples.org telephone (317) 926-6051
- Oct. 22 **Deeper Roots Higher Reach Pacific Southwest Regional Gathering** University Christian Church, San Diego, Calif.
INFORMATION: www.disciplespswr.org/
- Oct. 25 **Dedication of the Children's Worship Center – A Sacred Place for Children Worship & Wonder Story Teller Trainings**, Phillips

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- Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Okla. 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
INFORMATION: www.discipleshomemissions.org/
- Oct. 29 – 30 **Kentucky Disciples Women's Retreat #1** Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park **RETREAT LEADER:** Kathy Jeffries, past-IDWM Vice President. **REGISTRATION FEE:** \$25 to be sent to CCK, 1125 Red Mile Rd, Lexington, KY 40504 by October 14, 2011. Park reservations can be made by calling (270) 362-4276 or on web site parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/kd/
- Nov. 2 – 5 **Evangelism in the Community** Fellowship Chapel UCC, Detroit, Mich. Transforming congregations — engaging communities. Cost: \$90 early bird registration plus lodging and meals; group rates available.
INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION: www.ucc.org/evangelism/E.vents/
- Nov. 5 **School for Congregational Leaders, Pennsylvania Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**
LOCATION: TBA **INFORMATION:** www.padisciples.org/
- Nov. 5 – 6 **Kentucky Disciples Women's Retreat #2** General Butler State Park **RETREAT LEADER:** Rev. Lisa Caldwell-Reiss, co-pastor at First Christian Church, Fort Thomas, Ky. **SONG PRAISE:** Kelly Burns, vocalist.
REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 to be sent to CCK, 1125 Red Mile Rd, Lexington, KY 40504 by October 21, 2011. Park reservations can be made by calling (270) 362-4276 or on web site parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/gb/
- Nov. 11 – 12 **Georgia Regional Assembly** **INFORMATION:** www.gadisciples.org/
- Nov. 11 – 13 **Kentucky Disciples Women's Retreat #3** Knobs Haven Retreat House, Loretto, Ky. This is a silent retreat. **REGISTRATION/LODGING/MEALS FEE:** \$85 to be sent to CCK, 1125 Red Mile Rd, Lexington, KY 40504 by October 28, 2011.
- Nov. 18 – 19 **Green Retreat** Cumberland Falls State Resort Park **INFORMATION:** Carol Devine carol@ccinky.net
 See story about Green Chalice on page 23.
- Nov. 29 – Dec. 1 2012 **College of Regional Ministers** tba
- Jan. 21 **Extreme Makeover II – Tools for Evangelism Workshop** Seventh Street Christian Church, Richmond, Va. "From visitor to member"
GUEST PREACHER: Rev. Bill Lee **INFORMATION:** www.ccinva.org/
- Feb. 23 – 25 **Children Welcome! Conference** Kansas City, Mo. A joint conference with the Presbyterian Church **INFORMATION:** www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/FCM-ChildrenWelcome
- Mar. 23 – 25 **Georgia Disciples Men's Retreat** **INFORMATION:** www.gadisciples.org/
- May 18 – 19 **Oregon Regional Assembly** First Christian Church, Albany, Ore.
GUEST PREACHER: Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
INFORMATION: www.oregondisciples.org/
- July 12 – 15 **16ta Asamblea Nacional Hispana y Bilingüe** Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo), Texas
INFORMATION: obrahispana.org/index.php?nid=113149&s=mn

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Letters

Continued from page 3

of the Disciples Altadena office awaiting my meeting with Don Dewey, I picked up *The Disciples' Advocate*, Spring 2011 issue and opened it to see your familiar face staring back at me. Before being called into the meeting with Rev. Dewey, I read the first two paragraphs of your article, relishing the focus on the 'mission' of the church of Jesus (as opposed to the focus on 'evangelism' with which I am so accustomed). We had a very good meeting and I followed your advice to be forthright about my recent experience. I had put my copy of *The Disciples' Advocate* in my book bag and did not get back to it until I was in Cartagena a week or so later.

My wife is a hairstylist in Colombia and she has many gay friends and employees. One morning as I pulled *The Disciples' Advocate* out of my book bag, one of these friends spotted the rainbow pattern on the cover of the English language publication I was holding, and he asked me if that was a gay publication. I explained that it was a church publication from the Disciples community and that the use of rainbows is a common symbol for peace with Biblical roots in the story of Noah. I then walked outside to the patio and read the rest of your article, *A word (or two) from Ron Degges*. Obviously, in light of my 30 year history in AIDS ministry and the GLBT struggles, I read your words with growing enthusiasm until the point where you concluded, "Unapologetically yours, Ron Degges." I may be an old man now, but I believe I actually did a celebratory back flip at that point.

I then ran into the house and shared the content of your article with a room full of gay men who were at the house. Having been raised in Roman Catholic Colombia, (where being Protestant was historically illegal), they had never heard any perspectives other than that of the RC Church. I did my best to share a more affirming gospel message in my feeble Spanish over the next

two hours. The following day, they returned with more gay friends and the discussion continued. The following day, they brought their mothers to hear! (Sadly, the majority of the mothers were concerned that their sons were "going to hell" but this opened the door to more opportunities to talk about the grace of God). One man stated that he felt I could open a church in Cartagena and that this perspective would be well received by many, (although despised by others in a culture struggling with machismo). I was concerned that my Spanish was not sufficient to this task, but with the help of these men, we were able to convey and discuss alternative Christian theological perspectives adequately.

Long story short, I am hoping to rent the courtyard of the Museum of the Inquisition in the center of Cartagena to start a small worship service on Sunday mornings when I return to Cartagena in the next few weeks.... On one side of the courtyard there is what looks like a huge stone baptismal font, but was actually used to water-board people with boiling water. On the other side of the courtyard looms a tall guillotine. It is between these horrendous devices of inhumanity, that I believe another community of nonviolent disciples will gather in the name of Jesus Christ. Not unlike a letter from St. Paul himself, your unapologetic letter has inspired a Christian community on a distant shore that has needed to hear this message of inclusion and acceptance. You may have gotten 'heat' for it, but it lit some fires! Thank you, Ron, for that courageous, prophetic article. Your grateful friend,
Rev. Wayne Christiansen
P.S. The other articles in that issue were also very impressive; like water to one too long in the desert.

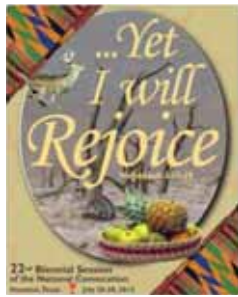
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Are you one of those pastors --

- who says what you think, but in a kind way?
- who never saw a challenge you didn't like?
- who gets energized by change?
- who "knows when to hold 'em, knows when to fold 'em"?
- who really tries to understand all sides?
- who is physically and emotionally vital?
- who has a good sense of humor?

Are you one of those pastors --

- who feels called to a holy purpose?
- who knows who you are and lets others see who you are?
- who trusts and can be trusted?
- who delights in service to Christ and his church?
- who can stay on task?
- who is creatively adaptable?
- who is attentive to your own spiritual life?

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The Disciples' Advocate is published three times annually by the Division of Homeland Ministries, Inc.; doing ministry as Disciples Home Missions; P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1986; phone (888) 346-2631; e-mail editor@dhm.disciples.org. The Disciples' Advocate welcomes letters to the editor and advertisements from organizations listed in the Yearbook and

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