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The Disciples' Advocate

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New Leadership named for Hispanic Ministries and NAPAD

Rev. Chung Seong Kim has been appointed as Interim Executive Pastor of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD). The appointment was made by the Board



Chung Seong Kim

of Directors of NAPAD at its teleconference in June upon a search committee's recommendation. He was installed at the NAPAD Convention in early August. Kim has served various congregations, most recently as Senior Pastor of Good Neighbor Christian Church in Johns Creek, Ga., which he had founded. He has also been active in ecumenical and regional work, having served the Korean Ecumenical Peace Network in North America, as general secretary, and the Commission on Ministry of the Georgia Region, as a member.

Kim holds an M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary, an MA from Seoul National University Graduate School, and a BA from Seoul National University. The interim period will conclude at the 20th Biennial Convocation in 2018, after which the position will transition into that of the regular Executive Pastor, to which Kim will be invited to apply.

In his vision statement for NAPAD, Kim outlines three areas he would like to focus on. The first task

In July of this year the Obra Hispana, the name used to describe the Hispanic Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), called Pastor Lori Tapia to serve as Interim National Hispanic Pastor. This call brings the first woman into this position of executive leadership for Hispanic Ministries, providing both a pastoral and administrative role for Central Pastoral Office

for Hispanic Ministries and Spanish speaking congregations across the life of the church. Tapiabring a diverse background into this role, with over twenty-



Lori Tapia

five years of experience in community and family development in the non-profit and education sector, as well as being a church planter in Arizona. She and her husband, Pastor Martin Tapia, founded Iglesia Alas de Salvacion (Wings of Salvation Church), a bilingual congregation in Chandler, Ariz., which has just celebrated its fifth anniversary.

Tapia was born and raised on the Arizona/Mexico border and her experience of life between two countries living on the border helps her to connect bi-culturally in diverse ways. Her passion for sharing the love of Jesus through action and discipleship is foundational for her

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Next Issue



Recommitment to Reconciliation

Deadline: Feb. 1, 2017

A Word or Two from Ron Degges

This issue of The Disciples' Advocate is devoted to taking a look backwards to the summer of 2016. It was a full packed summer of meetings, conventions, convocations, and special events. During the summer two new Executive Pastors were called and installed to their new duties by both NAPAD and the Obra Hispana. You will have a chance to learn about each new leader and their respective communities in these pages.

As for me, my summer was the busiest ever. I began the summer hosting the Young Adult Commission (YAC) in Indianapolis over the July 4th extended weekend. We made major inroads in redefining the work of the YAC, improving the on-line application process, and making preliminary plans for young adults at the 2017 General Assembly.

Three days after the young adults left town, I traveled to Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, to participate in Sessions'16 with our Disciples Men. Bobby Hawey, Christian Church Foundation Vice President, hosted the Executive Committee of Disciples Men at his home for a conversation about identifying donors and making permanent gifts to support the ministries of the church. Both Todd Adams and Alvin Jackson keynoted on our responsibility as Christians and Disciples Men to end the scourge of racism. Newell Williams, President of Brite Divinity School, presented the group with a historical overview of mistakes congregations make.

Two days later, I jumped a plane to Coral Gables, Fla., for the gathering of the Hispanic Assembly. Back to Indianapolis for two days, in which my wife and I executed a new Will to replace the one we last did twenty years before. Then off again to the Leadership Institute, a pre-National Convocation training day with Dr. Brad Braxton, followed by the gathering of the National

Convocation and a special 80th Birthday celebration of BBQ and Jazz for Norman Fiddmont.

One day later, I was off to Orlando, Fla., and the joint Disciples/UCC National Youth Event. For a week, the youth of both denominations rocked Orlando reaching out to the owners of the Pulse Nightclub by remembering the 49 people killed and 53 others wounded in a terrorist attack/hate crime. Our Disciples Youth adult leaders and Disciples youth provided visible and skilled leadership throughout the event.

Two days later, I headed to Sunnyvale,

Calif., for the meeting of the NAPAD Executive Committee followed by the NAPAD Convocation. The Friday evening Cultural Appreciation event was superb as usual, celebrating our beautiful diversity in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Rev. Dr.

Geunhee Yu, Temporary Interim Executive Pastor during NAPAD's leadership transition was honored for his willingness to step in and help during a critical time in NAPAD's life. Dr. Yu addressed those gathered by saying he will now retire from this position for a second time. He then offered a pearl of wisdom: "Don't call me, I'll call you!"

For forty-one days I was privileged to see our church at its best: vibrant gatherings, creative agendas, decisive decision-making, joyous celebration, and prodding engagement. But what may be the best thing I witnessed is the way we Disciples worked together to be a church that is one, whole, and determined to carry the gospel of Christ and love of God to the world. Most notable is the leadership of our youth and young adults.

The past few decades have been hard on the church. The church has struggled to



Sharon Watkins, Olivia Bryan Updegrove and Ron Degges at the National Youth Event in Orlando, Fla.



Rev. Ron Degges



Continued on page 6. See Word.

In the Mail

Thank you and DHM for so generously providing a grant of \$1,500 to the Disciples Center for Public Witness.

With this grant, the Center was able to fund both an event dealing with record Black Lives Matter and participation by young adults in both this event and the larger Advocacy Days Conference of which it was part.

Blessings!

*Ken Brooker Langston
Disciples Center for Public Witness
Annapolis, Maryland*

The obituary of L. Eugene Brown was published in the Indianapolis Star on July 29. It was not possible for Marian and me to attend the celebration of his life and ministry on the same day. So I write to say our condolences to you this way.

Back in the late 1970s when I joined the faculty of Christian Theological Seminary (in 1975), if I recall rightly we participated in a food buying club ran by Bob Bates at Northwood Christian Church. This also involved participation by many on the National Staff, including Gene. It was a lot of fun that I remember fondly.

Sincerely with gratitude for DOC,

*Ed Towne
Professor Emeritus of Theology
Christian Theological Seminary
Indianapolis, Indiana*

Thank you all for the generous gift to the scholarship fund for Ben's sons. We are so grateful for the thoughts and prayers we have received.

Sincerely,

*The Hobgood family
Berlin, Maryland*

Thank you for Disciples Home Mission's support of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples' 19th Biennial Convocation in Sunnyvale, Calif., August 3-6, 2016. DHM's sponsorship was integral to the success of the convocation and helps sustain NAPAD's vital ministries.

NAPAD seeks to recognize and promote

the gifts and presence of North American Pacific/Asian Disciples in the life and work of the Church. This ministry seeks to participate in God's mission through the various expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, to contribute to the wholeness and unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to advocate for Pacific/Asian Disciples within and outside the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and to share the gifts and traditions of Pacific/Asian Disciples with the wider church.

The importance of partnerships such as ours was written into the preamble of our bylaws: to "join with other Disciples in the total mission of the church..." NAPAD looks forward to continued relationship between our organizations for years to come.

Blessings,

*Rev. Chung Seong Kim
NAPAD Interim Executive Pastor*

We are in receipt of your check in the amount of \$800 from the grant funds from Disciples Home Missions and the Black Leadership Projects Fund.

Thank you for joining us in our work to empower courageous leaders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through our soon-to-launch online CARE groups. By providing an accessible and safe environment of support and understanding, our CARE groups bring together church leaders who are on similar journeys in ministry. The generous support from you will enable us to create an African-American cohort within the first round of CARE groups. We are excited and honored by your partnership in this important work.

We are grateful to work with Disciples Home Missions to bring about wholeness in the fragmented world.

Sincerely,

*Bethany Watkins Lowery
Director of Development
HOPE Partnership for Missional
Transformation*

Continued on page 10. See In the Mail.

New Advocate for Racial Justice Shared by Three Disciples Ministries

In partnership with Disciples Home Missions and Reconciliation Ministries, the Disciples Center for Public Witness this summer announced that Deirdre Harris-George has volunteered to serve as their shared Advocate for Racial Justice.

Deirdre, a married mother of three children, a former teacher, and a committed activist (as well as a jazz singer), has over 20 years of nonprofit experience. She also serves as part-time Executive Assistant to the Regional Minister of the Christian Church Capital Area.

"We are very pleased to welcome someone so knowledgeable, talented, and passionate about justice to this new ministry,"

said the Rev. Dr. Alvin Jackson, cofounder of the Center and copresident of its Board of Governors. We are also pleased to share this position with our partners in ministry at Disciples Home Missions and Reconciliation Ministries.

As Advocate for Racial Justice, Deirdre will provide a Disciples presence at faith-based gatherings and events that deal with federal-level public policy affecting racial justice in the United States and Canada. This includes visiting and briefing federal lawmakers and their staff.

"We are pleased to be a partner in this extremely important shared ministry," said DHM President Ron Degges. We look forward to working closely with Reconciliation Ministries and the Disciples Center for Public Witness to promote a greater commitment to racial justice in the social witness of our church and in the public policies of both the United States and Canada.

"We see this as a natural extension of our anti-racism work into the area of justice advocacy in the public square," said April Johnson, Director of Reconciliation Ministries. One of our goals is to prioritize racial justice as a primary and shared concern of the diverse voices of prophetic witness within our denomination.



Deirdre Harris-George

PROPHETIC VOICES for SOCIAL JUSTICE

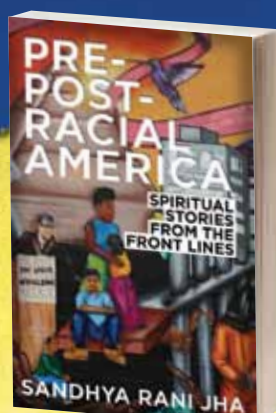


Forward Together

A Moral Message for the Nation

William J. Barber II

ISBN 9780827244948

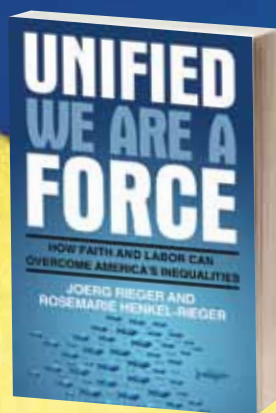


Pre-Post-Racial America

Spiritual Stories from the Front Lines

Sandhya Rani Jha

ISBN 9780827244931

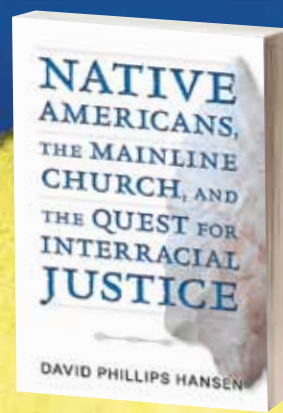


Unified We Are a Force

How Faith and Labor Can Overcome America's Inequalities

Joerg Rieger and
Rosemarie Henkel-Rieger

ISBN 9780827238589



Native Americans, the Mainline Church, and the Quest for Interracial Justice

David Phillips Hansen

ISBN 9780827225282



Move Together...

Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering 2016

This year's Special Offering theme for Reconciliation Ministry is the second in a three-part series entitled "**Be Reconciled: Move, Heal, Bound Together.**" These are simple words describing incredibly worthwhile and hard work. The message of Christ consistently beckons us toward each other, pushing our notions of what it means to live as the one body of Christ "...First go and be **reconciled** to them; then come and offer your gift." (Matthew 24) Or, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On this hangs all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 39 -40) Throughout our faith tradition, Christians have been called to move against our nature to be at enmity with one another. We are admittedly a counter-cultural movement.

So we find today Disciples in Ferguson, meeting in serious dialogue to learn and to act together to confront the conditions that uncovered a chasm of racial divide and inequity in their community and beyond. These conversations have been uncomfortable yet movement and progress are occurring. Within numerous settings of our churches and the communities where we serve, intercultural and interfaith partnerships are advancing advocacy for neighbors historically underserved by policies and practices that perpetuate poverty and hopelessness. The Moral Monday movement, founded by Disciples' pastor William Barber III, has led to a peoples' movement that interrogates who we say we are and what we are called to do. Pastors in Kansas City, Mo., continue to hold sway over oppressive wage and lending

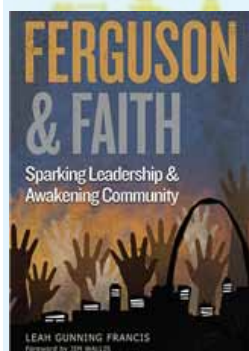
practices, decisions after having forged relationships with community leaders and policy makers.

The message of Christ and the message of the moment is that we are called to do the same thing in different ways. We are many gifts in one body called to be reconciled – to liberate those held captive by the frailties of human systems. Reconciliation Ministry equips and empowers the Church to confront systemic racism and poverty – systems that limit instead of loosen the bonds of injustice. Our collective work is not meant to denigrate or condemn the hard work of our ancestors. Instead we are emboldened by their hard work and the model of Christ to strengthen the bonds between us in a unified witness for Christ.

Your giving to Reconciliation Ministry empowers the Church to advance healing in our communities through safe and intentional dialogue. Through our training and granting programs together we move from debate to dialogue. This fund equips our Regional Camp and Conference programs to deepen our Youth's capacity to be the leaders the future is calling in their representation of the complexity and diversity of our nation, world and Church. The movement needs your generous giving.

In Christ and for his sake may our continued movement together be so. . .

*Rev. April Johnson,
Reconciliation Ministries*



"Ferguson & Faith" is available from Chalice Press chalicepress.com



Dr. Leah Gunning Francis, author of the book "Ferguson & Faith" joined the Disciples Home Missions Pro-Reconciling Anti-Racism Team at their August retreat. She shared her experiences of Ferguson and how she came to write the book. Dr. Gunning Francis is currently Dean at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Photo from left: Ron Degges, Jennifer Larson, Candyce Black, Sheila Spencer, Leah Gunning Francis, Wilma Shuffitt, Brenda Tyler, and R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr.

A Time to Protest and a Time to Rest:

Activist Mental Health and Wellness Strategies

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; ... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

The deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile by police officers in July struck a cord within the activist community. I received countless calls from family and friends expressing pain, horror, anger, and disgust. Yet, as I spoke to my activist friends and clergy who have been involved in the Black Lives Matter movement, and other justice movements for some time now, I noticed an eerie truth—we are tired.

As the nation is confronted yet again with the ugly reality of inequality and racism, many of us are ignited with righteous indignation and feeling compelled to find out how we can help put an end to the senseless killings. However, others of us are disheartened with discouragement, numbed by pain, and paralyzed by pure exhaustion—this blog is for you.

As activists, we all too often seem to put

ourselves last when it comes to caring about the safety and wellbeing of others. However, when we deliberately expose ourselves to physical danger and social isolation without proper self-care techniques or considering the potential long-term psychological effects, we run the risk of experiencing debilitating burnout, numbing compassion fatigue, and other common psychological defenses created to serve as warning signs for emotional, psychological, and spiritual imbalance.

Read this full article, including four potential psychological risks of activism and a list of ways to respond and maintain

balance and wellness, at:

www.nbacares.org/stories-and-news/time-to-protest-time-to-rest

Additional resources are available at:

www.nbacares.org/care-resources/nba-response-to-crisis-and-trauma

www.disciples.org/resources/justice/acts-of-reconciliation

www.nbacares.org/mental-health

Angela Whitenhill

National Benevolent Association



Angela Whitenhill and Rev. Ayanna Johnson Watkins at the St. Louis-Area Disciples Summit on Racial Justice, September 2015.

Word *Continued from page 2.*

find its way in the midst of a changing world. Discouragement rather than joy has become commonplace in many quarters of the church's life. But this summer has taught me something that Winston Churchill said long ago and that I am just now beginning to understand. Churchill said: "If you're going through hell, keep going." In spite of it all, the church has kept going and there are signs of promise and blessings in our present and future.

Keep going!

Ron



Photo above: Some of The General Youth Council at the National Youth Event in Orlando, Fla.



Standing Rock

Trucks and cars pulled out of the Yakama Nation headquarters on August 28. Eighteen hours later Tribal Council and tribal members arrived in Bismarck, N. D. In hours, they would join the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their peaceful protest to stop construction on the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Disciples gathered in Stillwater, Okla., on September 8 to stand with supporters heading to the Standing Rock protest. The next day more Disciples gathered in Tulsa in support.

As the Standing Rock protest gained national news cover-

age, Disciples began asking questions. How can we support Standing Rock? Where do Disciples stand on Standing Rock? How are Disciples engaging American Indian, First Nation, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, and indigenous justice issues?

Disciples of Christ have engaged in Native justice issues since inception. The story is long. Sometimes virtuous, sometimes bleak, always with an underpinning of enhancing people's wellbeing. The most distinctive act of care began in 1921 when Disciples opened the American Tepee Christian Mission in the community of White Swan,

Yakama Nation. The mission, now known as Yakama Christian Mission, has brought awareness to issues of Native injustice such as: inadequate medical supplies in the 1930's, damming of the Columbia River in the late 1950's, and high Native incarceration and suicide rates in the 2010's. For nearly 100 years the Yakama Christian Mission has been Disciples' most visible presence for Native justice.

Local congregations and organizations have made impacts as well. The last decade has experienced the development of the Sacred Hoop congregation (www.sacredhoopnam.org) who focuses on developing services and practices that honor the ancient American landscape and her people as well as bringing awareness to injustices experienced by Native people of the Americas. Another is the recent development by First Christian Church, Colorado Springs to design and build chicken coops for the Diné (Navajo) of northern New Mexico (<http://disciples.org/congregations/chicken-coops-mission>). With the passage of General Assembly resolution GA-1324 on the Doctrine of Discovery and indigenous justice, in 2013, the organization Landscape Mending formed. Landscape Mending's concentration has been to educate Disciples congregations on issues of injustice currently experienced by indigenous people due to the Doctrine of Discovery. Their work has led to an annual Winter Talk event

Continued on page 24. See Standing Rock.



Yakama Chairman JoDe Goudy speaking at Standing Rock (Photo from Seattle Times) www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/washington-tribes-stand-with-standing-rock-sioux-against-north-dakota-oil-pipeline



Refugees Need Our Help!

- The US will resettle 110,000 Refugees in 2017.
- This is an increase from 85,000 in 2016. The US resettles refugees from all over the world, but the majority of refugees who will be resettled next year will come from Syria, DR Congo, Iraq, Burma and Somalia.
- The US has resettled 35,000 plus refugees this year between July and September amidst challenges of high volume of arrivals in a short time frame, shortage of affordable housing options, increased medical caseload, and political pushback.
- Congress is considering funding for the 2017 Fiscal Year that would flat line funds for refugee resettlement at the 2016 levels. This proposed funding would turn our backs on the 110,000 refugees we have pledged to welcome, damage integration efforts and negatively impact communities that welcome refugees.
 - **You can help** by urging your Governors and Mayors to sign on to a national funding letter for refugee resettlement programs.
 - **Organize** meetings with Members of Congress.
 - **Call** Members of Congress and Congressional Leadership and urge others to do the same.



The Men Hang Their Hats in Texas

Disciples Men gathered from across the US and Canada to Hang their Hats in Fort Worth, Texas at the home of the Horned Frogs—Texas Christian University. We were welcomed with the open arms of hospitality. We met not only in the heat of summer but the heat of social unrest as that week had seen two African-American lives taken by police and amid protests, Five Dallas police officers also killed.

We gathered for healing. We gathered for recommitment to one another and to God. We gathered to hear a word about unity and about a God who loves us so much as to call us by name. Rev. Dr. Alvin Jackson spoke to us on Friday evening about Black Lives Matter, Blue lives matter, ALL lives matter in the eyes of God. Saturday, we were challenged by Rev. Dr. Todd Adams to see the instances of “White Privilege”

around us and to work toward racial justice. Other speakers included a Bible Study led by Dr. Warren Carter and Rev. Dr. Newell Williams speaking on the “Three Biggest Mistakes congregations make.”

On Sunday, we gathered for Worship and were blessed by the word that God is ultimately fair, Matthew 20: 1-16. We are called by a God Who Loves Lavishly to go and do likewise. An offering of \$3,020.00 was collect to support the Disciples Men’s four Mission Centers: Kentucky Appalachian Ministry, Inman Christian Center, All People Community Center, and Yakama Christian Mission. Plans are already in the works for Sessions2020 – Dates: July 10-12, 2020 at TCU.

*Rev. Stephen Bentley
Disciples Men*



Alvin Jackson preaching at Sessions '16 in Fort Worth, Texas.



Sessions '16 in Fort Worth, Texas.



Jeremy Scaggs & John Malget at the Welcome Table Christian Church in Arlington, Texas for Sessions '16.



Disciples Men's Presidents: (Left to Right) Brian Burton-President Elect, Dan Crawford-Current President, Jay Stevenson, Archie Jenkins, Charlie Gaines, and Paul Few.



Hindsight - Insight - Foresight

"And the Lord answered me, and said, 'Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it.'" Habakkuk 2: 2

The above theme and scripture made up the foundation and ethos for the preparation and planning for the 24th Biennial Session of the National Convocation. The Sheraton Overland Park Hotel was filled to capacity for the event that brought Disciples of Christ to the National Convocation from

across the country. We were very impressed to have young adults and seminarians present, to participate and offer a sense of hope for the future. We were encouraged by paid registrations of more than six hundred sixty persons of all ages. The Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Annetta Vertreese, did an outstanding job to make us feel warmly welcomed, informed and cared for in a most hospitable way.

There was outstanding preaching, beginning with our president, Rev. Jesse Jackson's, challenging opening night message, the music of the National Convocation choir and the workshops. The workshops and the dialogue in various sessions of plenary stood out as most crucial for our time together. For the purposes of this article for ADVOCATE, I would encourage all who may have attended the National Convocation to keep the conversation going. The identity of the denomination is made more relevant and vital as we see the need to live into our initiative to truly become a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racism church. As we see the 2020 Vision actualize before us with new and revitalized congregations, let us not forget the desire to be leaders in the war on racism.

We were called on to give an update and progress report on the response of the church to Resolution 1518, "BLACK LIVES MATTER: A MOVEMENT FOR ALL", which was adopted by the General Assembly. The response presented in the workshop sparked much rich, open, hon-

Continued on page 22. See Convocation.

How Churches are Welcoming Refugees

One creative example of Disciples partnering to welcome refugees is through the work of Disciples in Kansas City and Missouri, who gathered in July to share strategies for building refugee friendships. Saint Andrew Christian Church in Olathe, Kan., spent six months earlier this year discerning refugee needs and member interests in their area, and are moving forward with vital leadership to support refugees in the Kansas City area through its "Hand of Welcome" ministries. St. Andrew's initial projects include ESL Tutoring, Move In Teams to help set up apartments for new family arrivals, Donation Drives to collect supplies for newly arrived families, and Mentoring Relationships to build personal relationships with new refugees. They have also worked to help build and encourage the "KC for Refugees" network. KC for Refugees (find them on Facebook!) builds interfaith partnerships to welcome and integrate refugees, and to advocate for their support. Congratulations to St. Andrew on their effective and exemplary ministries of hospitality.



Blessing of New Officers at the National Convocation in Overland Park, Kan. From left: Patricia Penelton, President; Rev. Dr. Donald Gillett Sr., Vice President; Gloria Gilliard, Treasurer; and Rev. Ed Cushingberry, Secretary.

Read more stories on Welcoming Refugees on Page 24.

UCC & Disciples Youth Event

"Will you be our princess @ Disney?" were the words printed on the "proposal" from the General Youth Council (GYC) to our OMGP Sharon Watkins at the National Youth Event (NYE) with the United Church of Christ in Orlando, Fla.

The fun, the silliness, and the seriousness that happens in amazing ways when (3,000ish) youth gather just continued throughout the week. It was filled with hands-on, worship-filled, and deeply spiritual connections to God, each other, and the "small world" we live in.

GYC member from Oklahoma and current Chapman first-year, Avery Claire Bennett says, "I really liked the youth speakers during worship! It's incredible to hear of young people taking on 'adult roles' and making change in society."

Any age can be a part of the movements that are inspiring youth and the world to shift in faithful ways. The worship speakers reminded all of us that change can happen and be led at any time and age.

Worship speakers included Michelle Higgins who is the director for Faith for Justice (faithforjustice.com), and a primary leader in the Movement for Black Lives;

Conservationist activist Sean Russell of the Stow-it Don't Throw it Project (www.stowitdontthrowitproject.org); Trisha Prabhu, a 15-year-old innovator who created the ReThink words software that is helping stop cyber bullying in teens (www.rethinkwords.com); Aidan Thomas Hornaday, a musician and activist who began his organization Aidan Cares at the age of 8 (www.aidancares.org); and finally, Hadiqa Bashir who has organized a young feminist group speaking out against child marriages in Pakistan.

These were just some of the world-changing voices that echoed from the worship space into the hallways. There were more movements happening in interactive booths and workshops. In each moment people were engaging in crucial faith stories and current world realities with all ages. There was not any major-issue topic that was not on the table as youth learned about wars, climate change, refugees, social justice issues, and even college preparation. GYC member, Kate Summers, even went to a workshop that taught her how to peacefully sing, yes sing, when protesting injustice.

Continued on page 17. See NYE.



Rev. Olivia Updegrave and Disciples youth at the National Youth Event in Orlando, Fla.

In the Mail

Continued from page 2.

You guys Rock! (Children of Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana, Indianapolis, Ind.) The thought of what you did to raise so much money to help these innocent newborns survive the month after birth brings tears to my eyes. About a million babies a year are born to a mother without family support. After a day or two in the hospital she and her baby leave with a worn out receiving blanket and a handful of disposable diapers. Then they wait for about a month until a social services agency can get a little financial aid to the mother. Your wonderful gift will help our chapters provide many large tote bags filled with 24 essential items to help keep those babies clean, warm, dry and healthy. We even include nice outfits so Mom can show everybody how cute her baby is! Even a soft comfort toy is included!

I have news on one of our projects that is making progress this year. Our safe, separate sleep efforts are being helped as we acquired 432 bassinets and have been distributing them to families over the past couple of months. We really worry about newborns being bedded in adult beds. In the last two decades that has caused quadrupled deaths by crushing and suffocation. Many of our chapters hand make Moses baskets or buy Pack n Plays.

Our national Headquarters is sponsored by a Disciples of Christ church and Sunday I will tell them about your wonderful gift.

Bless you for caring about these babies.

*Sam Safrit, Chairman
Board of Directors
Newborns in Need*



Believe at National Youth Event

Having the opportunity to serve as a member of the Worship Planning Team for National Youth Event (NYE) was unforgettable. On June 26th, youth from across the globe gathered together in Orlando,

Florida at Disney's Colorado Springs Resort for a week of worship, mission, strategic planning and fun. The NYE Conference is a quadrennial event for youth organized by the United Church of Christ. However, this year a unique concept was added, as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) partnered with the UCC in all aspects to make this NYE Conference one for the ages. Over 2,500 participants gathered together

daily in worship and mission, focusing on the theme "Believe!" Wow! What a theme to uphold in a place that believes everything to be "Magical!"

"Believe" inspired each and every one to do the unthinkable. No matter what, through Christ, we are able to "Believe" that justice can and will be experienced by every living being. Whatever circumstance we are presented with, we should be able to "Believe" that we have been given the authority from God to accomplish it. Nothing is impossible! And sure enough, if it can be "Believed," it can be achieved. Many gathered that week, and I am for certain that many left knowing and "Believing" that we all can be the change agents we desired to see in the world. I am already looking forward to what NYE holds for us four years from now. Whether the partnership is maintained or not, I am excited to see how much progress we will have made, all because we chose to "Believe" in 2016.

*Rev. Antonio Redd
General Youth Council
Henrico, Virginia*



Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins and Rev. Antonio Redd during the youth event in Orlando, Fla.



All For One And One For All

You might say “unity” and “covenant” are important concepts to Disciples. After all, “unity is our polar star,” a rallying cry for our spiritual ancestors. And, of course, our 2017 General Assembly is themed around the verse in John (17:20-21a) where Jesus prays that we “all may be one.”

A very tangible way we live out our covenant is through ministry together, whether in the collaborations to plan regional camps and ecumenical food pantries or cooperation between the Disciples and the United Church of Christ in global missions.

We also demonstrate our union through a shared funding system known as Disciples Mission Fund (DMF). The origins extend back into the early 20th century when congregations asked for a way of supporting all the ministries in a more streamlined way. That became Unified Promotion, then Basic Mission Finance and now Disciples Mission Fund.



Your congregation's budgeted distribution to DMF is the main support for nearly all our general ministries.

- ***You are there*** when your region is able to put together a camp for future leaders of the Church.
- ***You are there*** when Hope Partnership and your region help a congregation in transition.
- ***You are there*** when our partners in the Middle East educate another generation to work for peace.
- ***You are there*** when the Council on Christian Unity bridges ecumenical and interfaith gaps.
- ***You are there*** when a returning citizen is supported through the National Benevolent Association's Prison Ministries affinity group or a social entrepreneur starts a new ministry.
- ***You are there*** when another child is brought to faith through a Children's Worship and Wonder lesson.

Find out more about how you can be present in ministries of the Church at disciplesmissionfund.org



**Yakama Christian Mission
Reservation Worktrips 2017**

Justice
Advocacy
Conversation

www.yakamamission.org
(509) 969-2093

Urban Adventures Summer Day Camp Program

Urban Adventures Summer Day Camp Program is five weeks, 8 hours a day of structured activities for 90 inner city youth. Ten year old Julie was less than enthusiastic to begin camp. It took much prodding to get

her to participate in activities, especially in the math and English lessons. She described the day as "lame" and "boring." We knew that this was common among youth participants. Staff were instructed "continue to provide positive encouragement."

When we asked Julie what made Camp so "lame" she responded that she was tired of school and that it was her time to rest, not to "learn" math or reading. I explained to her that all we required is two hours of participation in academics, then she would be free to participate in fun

activities. After our conversation, she said that she would try it out. I was surprised that the second week of camp, she was one of the first students at the center. She was excited and I noticed that she was establishing friendships with the other youth. She participated in all the activities including the "boring" math and English classes. I asked her what had changed and she said that she really liked hanging out with her new friends since they went to different schools. Julie gave me a big hug and said "thank you for not giving up on me even when I gave you attitude." I asked if she would be joining us next year and she said "of course so that I can see my friends again." This story not only shows us that patience is a virtue that all of us working with youth should have, but it also teaches us that when we make it a point to be there for the youth, we make a priceless impact on them.

*Deisy Huerta, Youth Director
All Peoples Community Center
Los Angeles, California*

Mission Gatherings Foster Deepening Connections

More than 2,500 Disciples have taken part in more than 70 Mission First! Mission Gatherings ranging in size from six to several hundred people. Disciples Women, youth, regional assemblies, special area gatherings and summer assemblies have all provided venues for talking about what matters most – God's call on our lives.

"The conversations and sharing in small groups during our NAPAD Convocation allowed people to speak about their hopes for the Church. People had the opportunity to convey what the needs are in their local communities and how the Church can be prophetic in its response," shares Rev. April Lewton, who led the NAPAD gathering. "There was often a lot of shared laughter. Groups stopped to join in prayer over something, and people came away encouraged through their connections together."

"We had the wonderful opportunity to host 11 Mission Gatherings," says Georgia Regional Minister Denise Bell, a member of the Mission First! Implementation Team.

"I was never quite sure of what to expect except that each one would be different. We experienced the joy of sharing current mission stories and activities and dreaming about what courageous actions God has in mind for us."

One gathering has already started a conversation between two racially different congregations to join ministry efforts in their community. "Every person left the gathering with a renewed hope about the church," Bell said.

All the results will pour into a report to the Mission Council meeting Dec. 2 to 4. The report will be a combination of computer and human analysis of all the information received from all the mission gatherings. The Council will discern one or more themes for the Church to help focus our work together. In addition, the General Board, meeting in February, will discuss whether to formalize the governance changes piloted these past two years and present them to the 2017 General Assembly.



Celebrating Global Mission at ¡Missionworks!

Global Ministries was thrilled to welcome so many of you at this summer's ¡Missionworks! We gathered to celebrate, pray and engage in God's Mission with global partners, and had a spirit-filled time in the process.

Friday night began with a powerful sermon from Paul Turner, who is currently serving with the Community of Disciples of Christ in the Congo, and lively worship music from around the world performed by the band Oikos. Participants then chose from several active workshops that included crafts and games, a musical celebration, a discussion of the film *The Stones Cry Out*, and dances from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Saturday was a day full of learning. We began with testimonies from Palestinian Christians about their experiences which were followed by a stirring address by Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Their messages challenged congregations in the United States and Canada to reconsider their approach to the Holy Land and to seek opportunities for building peace.

Participants then had another wide variety of workshop options – The Middle East Initiative, with Peter Makari; The Origins of the Syrian Refugee Crisis and How Congregations Can Respond, with Jim Moos and Megan Hochbein; Understanding and Expanding Interfaith Relationships, with Karen Georgia Thomsson; and An Introduction to African Dance, with Nicole Kamana. We heard back from dozens of attendees that they had wished there had been time to go to all four of the workshops, and many of those who attended with friends from their congregation split up to make sure they could collect all of the information.

In the afternoon, we heard stories from Global Ministries mission personnel Judy Chan, Tyler Reeve, Paul Turner, and Beth Guy, celebrating the work of global partners, and from Diane and Tim Fonderlin, Jayanthi and Jim Wilson and Elena Huegel about the

many different forms of worship they experienced with global partners. Their contribution to the weekend helped many attendees understand the importance of mutuality in Global Ministries' approach to mission.

After our time with missionaries, we heard from Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah from the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa. Rev. Mbillah

spoke at length about the challenges in working for better understanding between different groups in the region and the hopeful opportunities he sees.

Global Ministries' staff then presented the work of the program offices: Mission Personnel, People-to-People Pilgrimages, Child and Elder Sponsorship, Advocacy, Resource Development, Mission Engagement; as well as the area offices: Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and Europe, and Southern Asia. Each office shared specifically how they

engage with congregations and shared opportunities for action. These short presentations were meant to wet the appetites of the participants for the Mission Festival that evening, which provided opportunities to connect with missionaries, staff, and guests from Disciples Women, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Council on Christian Unity.

¡Missionworks! Concluded Sunday morning with a Call to Mission from Global Ministries Co-Executives, Julia Brown Karimu and Jim Moos, followed by a lively worship service featuring three gifts from the Pentecostal Church of Chile as shared by Elena Huegel.

¡Missionworks! was a resounding success according to those who were able to attend, and we hope to see you at the next Global Ministries event so you, too, can share in celebrating, praying, and engaging with global partners.



Tom Morse
Global Ministries

Congregation Finds a Pathway to Mission

New ministry planning process helps church regain purpose

Early this summer, Hope Partnership launched a new service to help congregations put their resources to work to become a more transformative force in their community. The story of pilot congregation John's Creek Christian Church illustrates how well the process can work.



How does a congregation become the kind of church needed in this rapidly changing world? Mission Pathways, a futuring process designed by Hope Partnership, opens the eyes of the church to see what it has become. It opens the hearts of the congregation to perceive the needs of its neighbors. It opens the will of the congregation to let go of what it has been in order to become God's new creation.



In the 1990s, the new church start in John's Creek, Ga., had a passion for sharing the gospel. Then, the economic down-turn came along, members moved away, and the congregation found itself saddled with mort-

gage payments that had become an overwhelming burden. "Our finances were all we ever talked about," Bill Davis said. "We lost track of the church's mission." Finally, the congregation found some financial breathing room by restructuring its budget and working with Disciples Church Extension Fund; it was ready to re-group and re-focus.

When Hope Partnership suggested that the congregation might want to pilot the new process called Mission Pathways, the church jumped at the chance. They named a core team and began to take a hard look at their current reality. The congregation was smaller, older, and less energetic than it once had been. "We'd lost our vision and our purpose," one of the elders admitted. "It was hard to stare that truth in the face, but once we did, we were freed up to stop doing what wasn't working anymore and to make different choices."

During the Mission Pathways process, the core team immersed itself in the John's Creek community by interviewing community leaders. "At first, we didn't think there were any needs around us," a member of the core team said. "We live in an extremely affluent neighborhood. But then, we started listening to the stories of a sheriff, a city planner, a hospital administrator, and a school principal. Boy, did they change our minds! They helped us to see how hurried, harried, and isolated our neighbors really are—like sheep without

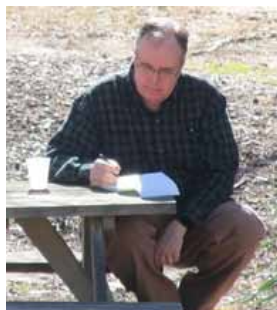
a shepherd. Their children develop eating disorders and commit suicide at an alarming rate because of all the pressure put upon them to succeed."

"Does Christianity have anything to say to those who are anxious and alone?" Hope Partnership's facilitator Ruth Fletcher asked at the Future Story retreat. For nearly an hour, the core team engaged in identifying how the Christian way of life calls people to spiritual, physical, and emotional wholeness which depends on God instead of on personal perfection. During that dialogue, the purpose and passion of the congregation began to reemerge.

Mission Pathways helped the John's Creek core team imagine becoming something new for the sake of their neighbors: a movement for wholeness that embraces values which are different than those of corporate America. The core team is still considering how the church can live out that purpose through its worship life, educational classes, and other ministries. It's still wrestling with which of its past programs fit its new mission and which will need to be released to free up more resources for its new focus. It's still deciding which leadership capacities it will need to develop among members of the congregation and which gifts it can find in community organizations that share the congregation's commitment to well-being.

However, Mission Pathways will encourage the church to quickly stop talking and start doing. Before long, the church will launch its first experiment—a prototype it can try out and learn from without getting bogged down in all the details. Meanwhile, Mission Pathways continues to walk alongside the core team through a coaching relationship to make sure it stays on track and continues to turn dreams into reality.

*Ruth Fletcher, Regional Minister
Christian Church in Montana
Submitted by Hope Partnership*



Photos of some of John's Creek team writing components of their "future story."

Youth, Technology, Faith and God's Creation: A Beautiful Combination

Green Chalice Shared a Hope-filled Creation Care message to over 3,000 youth this summer.

It was an event that both nurtured and empowered youth for the future of the church and beyond. "The power of love and courage flooded Orlando during the Believe! National Youth Event" said Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri of Green Chalice. Hardin-Nieri



and Green Chalice was in Orlando with over 3,000 youth from the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to explore ways to grow in faith

and justice and to imagine a better world. Green Chalice hosted an Ecological Puzzle Game in the exhibit hall as well as four workshops including the topics of discernment, climate change, social justice and prayerful art. The youth climate empowerment video, featuring Hip Hop artist and pastor Julian DeShazier (J Kwest), was debuted at the event and can be viewed at [www.](http://www.greenchalice.org)

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

As part of our growing movement of Green Chalice Churches we are partnering with the United Church of Christ to offer a way for youth to weave together faith, skills with social media and a passion for caring for people and the planet. After the amazing time in Orlando with such a powerful group of young people we wanted to continue the creation care momentum. We are building a social media team of youth to communicate and empower others regarding creation care and climate change. Will you join us? You can join us anytime. Contact Brooks Berndt from the United Church of Christ. Contact info can be found at www.ucc.org/digital_revolution. You can also email shardinnieri@gmail.com with other questions.

Scott Hardin-Nieri

Associate Minister of Green Chalice

Kudos to Disciples Colleges and Universities!

Disciples schools are growing! Several of our Disciples schools are experiencing record student enrollment. Jarvis Christian College, Midway University, and Culver Stockton College are all reporting incoming freshman classes that are some of the highest numbers in their schools' recent histories. Jarvis Christian College will open its first off-campus instructional site, which will be at Friend-

student financial aid funding.

Chapman University and Eureka College both have new presidents. Daniele C. Struppa, Ph.D. became the thirteenth president of Chapman University in September. Struppa previously served as Provost and Chancellor at Chapman. In becoming president, he follows in the footsteps of Dr. Jim Doti, who successfully led Chapman for over 25 years and



Daniele C. Struppa

ushered in a new era of growth as well as a rising reputation for academic excellence and faculty research.

Last fall, the Eureka College Board of Trustees announced the appointment of J. David Arnold to the position of chancellor of the college.



Jamel Santa Cruz Bell

Continued on next page. See Kudos.

Our partnership between Green Chalice Ministry, ecoAmerica and Blessed Tomorrow! Photo above: Bob Perkowitz, President and founder of ecoAmerica, the organization that helped create the Blessed Tomorrow program.





Chris Dorsey

HELM relocated its office to Disciples Center in Indianapolis, Indiana in August.

Relocating to Indianapolis will allow increased collaboration between HELM and wider church partners, while reducing overhead facilities and staffing costs.

"We give God thanks for all HELM has accomplished in its past and we look forward to the ministry yet to be done," said the Rev. Chris Dorsey, HELM's President. "As we go through a transitional period, we are doing everything possible to fulfill the mission and sustain our witness well into the future."



Kudos *Continued from page 16.*

Effective July 1, 2016, Dr. Jamel Santa Cruz Bell became interim president at Eureka College and will serve as such until the board completes its search for a new president.

The national magazine *US News & World Reports* has published its annual college and university listings and there are lots of accolades to go around for Disciples Schools! Transylvania is ranked #46 on the Best Value Schools listing. Chapman University is #6 on the Regional Universities West listing and #2 on the Most Innovative Schools listing. Eureka College has ranked as #26 on the Regional Universities Midwest listing. Drury University comes in at #11 on the Regional Universities Midwest listing and was ranked #18 on the Best Value Schools listing. Culver Stockton was ranked #30 on the Regional Colleges Midwest listing. Barton College is ranked #13 on the Regional Colleges South listing and #7 on the Best Value Schools listing. Lynchburg College is ranked #35 on the Regional Universities South listing and #17 in the Best Value Schools listing.

NYE *Continued from page 10.*

GYC member and current first-year student at Eureka College, Emily Lange, said, "For the workshops, there were a lot of choices. A Syrian refugee spoke about his family and growing up in Syria, and then about how ISIS took over. He told us his brother was going to be drafted into the army, so his parents tried to leave Syria, and they were one of the few lucky families to be allowed refuge."

Former GYC moderator and current first-year student at Texas Christian University, Chelsea Martin, echoed Lange's thoughts, "The Syrian refugee workshop really helped to make the situation that's happening in Syria feel real, like having someone in front of us who had lived it. Immigration always felt kinda sketchy to me, but when he was telling us about how he was 16 and dealing with an ISIS invasion and hiding in his attic and how scary it is, it really resonated with me."

Disciples Home Missions sponsored this workshop, and others. Scott Hardin-Nieri, Associate Minister of Green Chalice, facilitated Green Chalice workshops and worship

There is much to be proud of with our Disciples related colleges and universities! For more information about higher education in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) visit the HELM website at www.helmdisciples.org.

*Rev. Chris Dorsey
Higher Education and Leadership Ministries*

Educational Grants for Disciples Clergy

Disciples Home Missions (DHM) seeks to support ordained and commissioned clergy in their commitment to a process of life-long learning. Applications for 2017 grants will be accepted until October 31, 2016. Grants will be considered for events happening ONLY in the 2017 calendar year. It is applicant's responsibility to ensure application and regional endorsement forms are received before the deadline.

Go to www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/scholarships/christian-vocation-continuing-education/ for information on criteria, eligibility and guidelines.

tools, including the new #ButterfliesEffect Change video (greenchalice.org).

Others may not have been at the event in Orlando, but anyone can be a part of the response. The event's theme was "Believe." Belief does not end. It provides hope that others will join in the journey that brings all to know God's love, justice, and goodness. Here are a few more steps to help share the important ministries and missions that keep us all connected and believing.

- Visit the links throughout the text above.
- Learn more about Disciples Home Missions and all of their ministries.
- Worship and pray with the worship tools that were used during the event.
- Celebrate and encourage the amazing leadership of the Disciples and UCC youth. Stand with your youth and children as we work together to create a world and know a God worth believing in.

*Rev. Olivia Bryan Updegrove
Family & Children Ministry*

Global Ministries and Disciples Peace Fellowship Collaborate in 2016 Peace Internships

Disciples Peace Fellowship (DPF) and Global Ministries collaborated in the 2016 Missionary-in-Residence Peace Internship. This year, they jointly hosted two Palestinian Christians serving as Missionary in-Residence Peace Interns alongside DPF's three domestic interns. Disciples Peace Fellowship is excited to participate with the Global Ministries' Middle East Initiative in this way.

Minerva Halteh and Rachel Shomali, two young Palestinian women nominated by the YWCA of Palestine, a partner through Global Ministries, accompanied Disciples Peace Fellowship's domestic interns, Matthew Capestro, Naomi Gonzalez, and Alexis Ofe, to camps and conferences this summer.

The interns began their summer this past June in Indianapolis, Ind., taking part in Global Ministries' Missionary Conference, as well as Disciples Peace Fellowship's Intern Training Week. Go to DPF's website at dpfweb.org, where you can find the interns' blogs, in which they shared reflections on their adventures.

The Interns

Matthew Capestro is a native Missourian and stu-

dent at Eureka College, where he is studying religion and philosophy. Prior to college, he served as an NBA XPLORES resident in Ferguson, Mo., where he was connected to St. Peter's United Church of Christ and helped bring the Ferguson-Delwood Community Resource Center into being. He has participated with a couple Disciples churches near his college home, and was an active leader in his *Matthew Capestro* home church, Table of Grace, a new church start in Jefferson City, Mo.



Matthew is also an accomplished pianist, which helps him connect with people of all ages. Matthew is interested in leading youth in conversations around LGBT issues, gender inequality and heteronormativity, and racism division and inequality, with a "love first" approach that encourages peace among those with different perspectives.

Naomi Gonzalez is a Puerto Rican woman who grew up in Pennsylvania. Naomi is a 2016 graduate of

Continued on page 20. See Peace Interns.

Tapia *Continued from page 1.*

in ministry. In addition, she has a passion for working with women and youth stemming from her years working in family development as an activist to put an end to violence in the home and she presently serves as the Hispanic representative to the IDWM Executive Committee for Disciples Women. Tapia is involved in activism and hands on ministry working to end the senseless separation of families due to the unjust immigration system in our country and works in partnership with the Refugee and Immigration Ministry of Disciples Home Missions.

She is a musician and songwriter and states, "I am alive when I am worshipping through music." Lori and Martin have three children, Joey (Carmen), Alex (Monica) and Kassandra (Tony) and eight grandchildren. "Life is good when we can all come together to glorify God, different generations, different styles, different personalities, but worshipping one amazing and living God" Tapia explains. "Family is everything to me and this is why I feel so passionate about the family structure in ministry. Strong families make for strong communities and churches." Tapia says that her work over the next two years is to build strong relationships that create unity within the body of Christ breaking down the walls of division that separate us and building bridges of understanding and communication that

unify us. Tapia states, "The work of the Obra Hispana is with, for and through the Latinx population for the whole Church, as we are all called to be one in, with and through Christ. Somos Uno! For more information or to get involved with the Obra Hispana visit the website at www.obrahispana.org or email somosuno@cpohm.disciples.org. You can contact Pastor Lori Tapia directly at ltapia@cpohm.disciples.org.

*Pastor Lori Tapia
Hispanic Ministries*



Installation of Lori Tapia at the Obra Hispana Assembly

Historical Society Dedicates New Home

The Disciples of Christ Historical Society dedicated its new home this past September in Bethany, W. Va. There was a reception and tour of the Campbell Mansion and historic sites, an All-Village Feast, An annual Kirkpatrick Lecture presented by Dr. Newell Williams, president of Brite Divinity School, in the Old Meeting House followed by a communion service. With worship on Sunday morning at Bethany Memorial Church.



The dedication of the new home of The Historical Society in Bethany, West Virginia, was held in September 2016. Historical Society is for all members of the Stone/Campbell Movement.

Description of the Sarah Lue Bostick Pump Organ displayed at the Historical Society.



The Sarah Lue Bostick Pump Organ on display at the Historical Society.



Sarah Lue Bostick Portrait on Pump Organ at the Historical Society.



Hal and Evelyn Watkins Portrait on display at Historical Society.

The Garden and Patio at the Historical Society dedicated to Peter and Lynne Morgan.



The Historical Society with Scott Thayer, Pastor of Bethany Memorial Church, standing outside.

Bethany Memorial Church Welcoming the West Virginia Regional Assembly and Dedication of the Historical Society.



Peace Interns *Continued from page 18.*

the M.Div. program at Brite Divinity School. While in seminary, Naomi was part of Refuge, a new Disciples congregation, and worked at the Soul Repair Center, under the leadership of Rita Nakashima-Brock.



Naomi Gonzalez

Naomi attended Moravian College, where she studied the church's relationship to war and peace. This interest has continued to shape her studies. Some of the issues she is interested in discussing with campers included the Syrian refugee crisis (and the responsibility of the US to respond to it), Islamophobia and civil rights, and policing reform.

Naomi is passionate about peace and justice, and excited to share that passion as a Peace Intern.

Alexis Ofe is a native of Montgomery, Ala., where she has been part of First Christian Church since she was 8 years old. Lexie will graduate from Huntingdon College in 2017. She has completed internships with Disciples Home Missions and the ACLU-Alabama Affiliate. She has also worked with the Equal Justice Initiative. An English and Religion double-major, Lexie focused her senior capstone project on refugee literature.



Alexis Ofe

Lexie has dreamed of being a Peace Intern for years, because of the impact previous DPF interns had on her at church camp over the years. She is interested in working with young people around issues of criminal justice, immigration, and racism. She is particularly interested in models of restorative justice. As a progressive growing up in the deep South, Lexie has learned how to have respectful conversations about difficult topics with people of varying perspectives, a vital skill for a Peace Intern.

Minerva Halteh lives in Jericho, where she is a software engineer with Exalt Technologies. She has a

Bachelor's degree in Information System Engineering from Birzeit University, in Ramallah. She is a member of the Greek Orthodox Church and an active participant with the local YWCA.



Minerva Halteh

Minerva was able to attend and participate in the 59th Commission on the Status of Women in New York in 2015, her first trip to the U.S. She is currently serving on the national YWCA-Palestine Peace and Justice Task Force.

As a Palestinian Christian, Minerva follows a "religion of love and peace," and believes that "equality leads to peace." She is excited to share her experience of living under occupation with young people across the church, along with leading discussions about gender equality, poverty, and the needs of disabled and elderly people. Minerva also loves music & sports.

Rachel Shomali grew up in Michigan and moved to Beit Sahour in the West Bank when she was 12. She is a student at Birzeit University, where she is studying political science and marketing. She is an active member of New Life Community Church in Beit Sahour.

An avid basketball player, Rachel served in a sports ministry internship in South Africa last summer, with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She has also worked with her local YWCA.

As a Palestinian Christian living under occupation, Rachel has learned deeply what it means to follow Jesus and love our enemies. She aims to "find justice for Palestine by peace." Some of the issues she hopes to work with our youth on include sexism & gender equality and the global refugee crisis, along with the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.



Rachel Shomali

Ron Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions this summer with the Disciples Peace Interns, Executive Committee, and group coordinator. From left: John Brock, Rebecca Littlejohn, Ron Degges, Chrissy Stonebraker-Martine, Phoebe Spier, Naomi Gonzalez, Alexis Ofe, Minerva Halteh, Matthew Capestro, Deniese Degges, Rachel Shomali and Mary Jacobs.



A Celebration of Sisterhood: Connecting Across Faiths

Leading a department at an interfaith poverty social justice organization has enabled me to give voice to community needs and the challenge of interfaith engagement working as a bi-vocational Disciples minister. After writing an article for a Sojourner's Women's History month online series, I was invited to speak at its 3rd Summit for Change in Washington, DC.

The Summit is an invitation-only conference for leaders that endeavors to build relationships and support cross-sector collaboration among leaders. As a Summit facilitator for a small group session (called a salon), I was responsible for shaping the agenda and

creating a safe space for conversation with women leaders of three different faiths: Jewish, Christian and Muslim.

We began our session with the question: Can the spiritual daughters of Eve find common ground to celebrate their sisterhood? We all sat face-to-face at one big round table, and agreed to the ground rules I had drafted for maintaining a welcoming environment. While the Sojourners concept of a salon is less presentation and more conversation, our mostly Christian audience, saw us as the go-to-resource on how to do justice work that involves interfaith engagement. They listened intently as we talked about the day-to-day tasks of doing interfaith work in good and not-so-good situations, and especially situations that challenged our

faith. We've all had to respectfully decline to participate in a ritual or conversation. Sometimes we've wondered if our participation merited repentance.

In a non-judgmental atmosphere, we sought to go beyond the "can't we all get along" small talk. We were not afraid to share and hear tough talk about the portrayal of women in sacred texts, women's leadership in faith communities, and even using the name of Jesus in the public square. Rabbi Batya questioned why Christians wear crosses. A Christian questioned how a Muslim Chaplain could pray for a believer in a hospital. Maggie responded that she was once a Baptist, and then answered the question by demonstrating her knowledge of Christian practice by extending her hands to clasp another's hand in a typical Christian prayer position, signaling our way of announcing a call to prayer. I shared my challenge of praying in the public square, of recruiting clergy and lay leaders of many faiths to open our County Council sessions, and convening a Christian-Jewish clergy women's group.

Despite our differences, we recognize that our unique experience as women connects us across our boundaries of class, culture, race, and denomination. We ended the session keenly aware of the impact we can have on changing the quality of the lives for women in our faith communities. There are mountains that we can climb together, visions to dream and see come true in our lifetimes. We emerged with renewed respect and admiration for diverse women in the Bible who dared to believe and live out their faith with courage. They are timeless role models for us today.

* The Rev. Amy Gopp, Vice President of External Relations and Advocacy at IMA World Health and the Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, Refugee & Immigration Ministries, were also Summit speakers.

*Rosetta Robinson
Interfaith Works
Rockville, Maryland*



The first gathering at the Summit for Change in Washington, D.C.



Disciples Home Missions is now on Facebook!

Follow us for resources on . . .

- Missions & Volunteering
- Congregational Transformation
- Support for Clergy & Lay Leaders
- Faith Formation & Education
- Justice & Advocacy
- Scholarships & Grants
- Ministry Resources for Women, Men, Children, Families, Youth & Young Adults



www.facebook.com/discipleshomemissions • www.discipleshomemissions.org

Convocation *Continued from page 9.*

est and heartfelt discussion. The resolution called on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to share awareness and participation in the sacred conversation and dialogue on race relations and inclusion. Interestingly enough, our church and congregations have been vocal and active in light of recent atrocities and acts of violence in the nation. We pray for the continued support, leadership and community care giving, offered by our pastors and congregations in those areas impacted by such tragedies. We pray for boldness and unity, for our church to not sit idly by in silence but be active in the Black Lives Matter Movement. It is more than a hashtag! It is alive and vital, ongoing, respecting the sanctity of all humanity.

Rev. Timothy James, National Convocation



Emerging Black Preachers at the Saturday morning breakfast from left: Rhonda Aldridge, Christian Smith, and Milton Bowens.



Justice panel from left: Antonio Redd, Derick Perkins, and Angela Whitenhill at the National Convocation.



Jazz during the National Convocation Banquet.



T-Shirt Night makes for colorful praise during National Convocation.



Norm & Marilyn Fiddmont celebrating Norm's 80th Birthday during National Convocation!



Friday night's praise team dance during National Convocation.

DHM Student Scholarship Program

Application form opens on January 2, 2017, until the March 15 deadline. References and transcript deadline is April 15.

Please go to the link below for complete information on eligibility and guidelines. There are numerous scholarships available. It is imperative that you read all of the information on submitting applications and supporting documents.

www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/scholarships/scholarship-guidelines/

Farm Worker Updates

Disciples and National Farm Worker Ministry

Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director for Disciples' Refugee & Immigration Ministries joined ecumenical partners to tour and visit with farm workers in Dudley, N.C. (in rural Eastern, N.C.), and to celebrate our 45 year heritage in supporting farm workers at the Board Meeting and Benefit Dinner for the NFWM in Raleigh, N.C. Special thanks to our N.C. Regional Staff, Rev. Valerie Melvin, who joined the benefit dinner to hear directly from a farm worker's voice about challenges, and improvements made through help by "FLOC", the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, with which NFWM and Disciples partner for justice! You can learn more about our work with FLOC to improve the lives of farm workers with tobacco and other crops there and in Ohio by visiting the web at: nfwm.org/campaigns/floc-campaign

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was a founding member of the National Farm Worker Ministry organization, and Disciples continue to engage in partnership with many faith communities through NFWM to support farm workers around the country!

Boycott Against Wendy's To Support Farm Workers Rights

For many years (and including a justice event during last year's General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio), Disciples have urged Wendy's leadership to join the "Fair Food Program." As Wendy's has continued to resist, Disciples joined other denominations in May to support the boycott, and continues to partner with National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM) in its boycott efforts, as well. Contact our office at: sstanley@dhm.disciples.org for postcards and other information to share with your congregation!



Sakuma Bros. Berry Farm/Driscoll's Boycott Ends With An Agreement

Familias Unidas por la Justicia (FUJ) in Washington state, has officially agreed to an election and negotiation process for a collective bargaining agreement with Sakuma Bros. Berry Farm. In a letter to their supporters, "Thanks to your tireless efforts we are entering into this next phase of our union's development with hope and determination. At this time we are calling for an end of the boycott, and all boycott activities. To read the letter in full go to NFWM website at: <http://nfwm.org/2016/09/important-message-familias-unidas-por-la-justicia>.

RIM's Director, Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea commented, "In learning of Sakuma's decision, we as partners with Familias Unidas por la Justicia (FUJ) give thanks to God for this victorious step toward farm worker justice for Northwest berry farmers during this Labor Day week. In solidarity with FUJ, we will halt our boycott activities and contacts at this time related to Sakuma, Driscoll's, and those who buy or sell Sakuma's products. We will continue in strong prayer for all parties throughout the approved election and negotiation process, in hopes it may result in a just collective bargaining agreement that honors the farm workers who cultivate and harvest with Sakuma Brothers Berry Farm." Katherine Bell, Disciples board leader with the Farm Worker Ministry-Northwest, said on Monday, "In this Labor Day week, Farm Worker Ministry-Northwest stands with Familias Unidas por la Justicia and all farm workers in not only providing a foundation for the voices of many to be heard and recognized but also remembering the voices of our ancestors who have worked hard throughout the years. It is when workers' stories are shared and heard among the many that healing and change can begin."

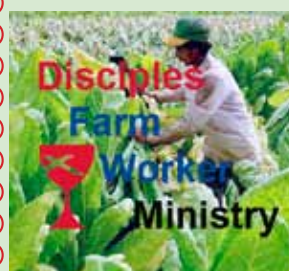
*Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea
Refugee & Immigration Ministries*



RIM WRAP



- To read the latest RIM WRAP on Farm Worker and Immigrant Updates go to: conta.cc/2bE5IU3
- To read the latest RIM WRAP on Refugee Updates to: conta.cc/2cy2uV1
- To receive RIM WRAP updates, join at: www.formstack.com/forms/?1481425-c0NazlxzyU
- Visit our website at: www.disciplesRIM.org



- Are you an advocate for the Farm Worker?
- Would you like to become a member of the Disciples Farm Worker Ministry?
- Go to www.discipleshomemissions.org/product/disciples-farm-worker-ministry and join with a \$25 or more donation.

Churches Gather School Kits for Refugee Children

The Disciples Women of Oklahoma showed their hospitality for refugees at their recent "Encounter" annual gathering, where they collected multiple boxes of "Refugee School Kits." All women brought their donations, gathered from their local congregations. "We trust that the Lord will bless the children and who use them, and give them some encouragement," said D.W. representative Diana Brown, who will deliver the items to our CWS refugee resettlement affiliate office in Dallas, Texas, called "Refugee Services of Texas." THANK YOU, Disciples Women!!

Also, Central Christian Church in Marion, Ohio, - with an average Sunday attendance of about 40 - purchased and assembled 66 school kits for area refugees

last month!! While buying supplies for the backpacks in Marion, church member Brenda Reish (pictured on the right, with member Patsy Krider on left) reported that the cashier expressed great appreciation for the church's generosity; saying "My husband was himself a refugee from Honduras, and entered this country with absolutely nothing." Reish reflected, "This encounter was very heartwarming, to say the least." The church will dedicate the school kits later this month, and will then deliver them to our CWS refugee resettlement affiliate office in Columbus, Ohio.

Visit the RIM website if your group might also be interested in gathering "Refugee Hospitality Kits" of school items, bedding supplies, and/or bath items!



Multiple boxes of "Refugee School Kits" gathered by the Disciples Women of Oklahoma.



Patsy Krider and Brenda Reish, Central Christian Church in Marion, Ohio.

Standing Rock *Continued from page 7.*

where leading Indigenous academics and theologians speak to justice issues faced by indigenous people of the Americas.

However, when an event like Standing Rock arises, congregations wonder where can we engage? What can we do? Whom do we contact?

Begin by contacting Yakama Christian Mission (YCM). Over the last three years, YCM and Disciples Home Missions (DHM) have worked together to have YCM become a standing organization within DHM's framework. With the support structure of DHM and an intersectional relationship with Disciples Center for Public Witness, Yakama Christian Mission can help congregations support America's indigenous peoples and tribes. You may sign up for YCM's newsletter at the Missions website (www.yakamamission.org).

There are also ten practical ways for congregations to become better aware of indigenous issues and help bring about indigenous justice.

Learn and know about your local tribe(s).

Have an indigenous relations celebration Sunday and honor November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

Attend Winter Talk 2017 at Brite Divinity School (Sarah Augustine keynoting) and learn how the Doctrine of Discovery

is currently damaging indigenous people and what might be done.

Develop an adult book study of Clara Sue Kidwell's "Native American Theology" or Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz' "An Indigenous People's History of the US."

Lead a mission/worktrip and join Yakama Christian Mission on the Yakama Reservation to engage in local justice and Native justice education.

During National American Indian Heritage Month have a movie & meal event, and watch & discuss "The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking The Domination Code."

Have a study group to review and discuss the proposed 2017 General Assembly resolution on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery (<https://yakamamission.org/draft-ga2017-resolution/>) and consider having your congregation as a co-signer.

Include Natives perspectives in pro-reconciliation/anti-racism events.

Stand in solidarity with Native Americans & First Nation people's for protection of sacred sites & the environment.

Donate space for a Red Road to Wellbriety weekly circle.

*Rev. David Bell
Yakama Christian Mission*



Devotional Resources for the 2016 Season of Advent will be available for download in mid October at www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/faith-formationchristian-education/resources/advent

Be on the look out for upcoming resources for the Week of the Laity in early December and Lent in early January 2017. Go to the DHM website at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/faith-formationchristian-education/resources/lent and www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/laity-week

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Freedom and discipleship (John 8:31-38)

Dr. Marti J. Steussy

God creates humans with freedom...and restrictions (Gen 2:15-3:19)

God's promises for those on the margins (Ps146)

Rev. Dr. Katy Valentine

God calls Moses to bring the Hebrews out of Egypt (Exodus 3:1-12)

Slavery in Paul's letters (1 Cor 7:21-24)

Paul's message to Philemon (Philemon)

discipleswomen.org

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Weave Us Together

Association of Disciple Musicians met this summer in Evansville, Ind., at the University of Evansville.

The theme of the conference was “Weave Us Together”. Throughout this year’s week of music clinics, fellowship, fun and creative expression — a variety of Disciples musicians gathered to learn and grow. This annual event has often been described as a combination of masters classes and summer camp for those who participate in church music programs. If music is a passion in your life, regardless of your level of accomplishment, you are encouraged to consider participating in the Association of Disciple Musicians (ADM) annual conference next year. It will be located in Indianapolis and be integrated into the coming General Assembly activities. Besides the musical education, you are likely to come away with newfound life-long friends, new ideas for church programs, tools for strengthening your congregation’s worship life, at least one new song in your head, and so much more. More information can be found at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/association-of-disciple-musicians.



Copeland-Tune Named Director of Ecumenical Poverty Initiative

The Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune has been named director of the Ecumenical Poverty Initiative (EPI), an anti-poverty ministry housed within the Disciples Center for Public Witness and the Christian Church Capital Area, and led by an active partnership of ecumenical leaders from diverse denominational, geographical, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

She has been serving as the policy analyst and communications consultant for EPI, will fill the position recently held by Rev. Sekinah Hamlin, who accepted a position with an allied organization closer to her home and family in Greensboro, N.C. Hamlin will continue to be involved with EPI as Senior Advisor.

According to Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker Langston, Executive Director of the Disciples Center for Public Witness and a co-convenor of the EPI working group of ecumenical leaders, "We are excited that Dr. Copeland-Tune will help us to continue the important work that the Ecumenical Poverty Initiative has been doing: empowering and mobilizing the ecumenical faith community to bring an end to the scandal of poverty in the United States."

Currently, EPI's work is focused on ending predatory lending practices; advocating for fair and just wages for low-income workers; mobilizing partners to advocate for national, state and local policies and practices that help end poverty; and, an exciting new campaign, "We Say Enough" that is bringing faith and community leaders together to break down barriers to economic justice. In addition, EPI plans to expand its "Pastors Ending Poverty" initiative, which galvanizes pastors to work to end poverty nationwide.

EPI Working Group Convener the Rev. Dr. Eli Burke, who is also Director of Health, Wellness, Men's and Social Justice Ministries for the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, said, "We welcome the gifts and wealth of experience that Dr. Copeland-Tune brings to EPI as an advocate, strategist, communicator and organizational leader. We look forward to moving EPI to the next level under her leadership."

Copeland-Tune has more than 15 years of experience working in the faith-based community. She served as the assistant director for justice and advocacy for the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, where she worked on numerous justice issues including ending poverty, environmental stewardship, domestic violence, human trafficking, affordable

health care, comprehensive immigration reform and racial reconciliation. She also staffed the NCC's Special Commission for the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast, which began after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In addition to her work at the NCC, Copeland-Tune has worked as a consultant for a broad range of faith-based groups, non-profit organizations and corporations including Health Care Without Harm, Faith in Public Life, the Conference of National Black Churches and New Baptist Covenant.

She also formerly served as the director of communications and resource development for the D.C. Baptist Convention. An ordained Baptist minister, Copeland-Tune contributed a chapter on Christian leadership in the book, *Church on Purpose: Reinventing Discipleship, Community and Justice* edited by Adam L. Bond and Laura Mariko Cheifetz. She has a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University, an MBA from the University of Maryland, a master's degree in theological studies from Duke University and a doctorate from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. She also attended Oxford University's Summer Theology Program in England where the focus of her study was on faith in the public square. She is blessed to have two wonderful children.

The Ecumenical Poverty Initiative began as a ministry of the National Council of Churches USA and in July 2013 found a new home at the Disciples Center for Public Witness, which, together with the Christian Church Capital Area, shares this important ecumenical ministry with religious organizations and communities across the nation. Through its work with national denominations, local and state ecumenical bodies, faith-based groups and church leaders, EPI brings faith leaders together to speak and act to end poverty.

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Ken Brooker Langston

*Executive Director, Disciples Center for Public Witness
Director, Disciples Justice Action Network*

*Justice Advocacy Consultant and Public Policy Advisor,
Disciples Home Missions and the Office of the General
Minister and President of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.*



Leslie Copeland-Tune

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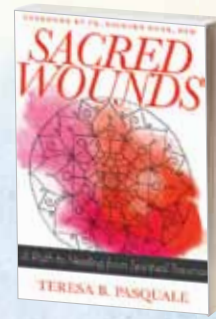
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National Benevolent Association Welcomes 23 New XPLOR Residents!

In August, the National Benevolent Association welcomed 23 new NBA XPLOR Residents to begin living and serving in six

host sites across the country: Golden Gate (Oakland/Bay Area), Calif.; North Hollywood, Calif. Tucson-Marana, Ariz.; Dallas, Texas; St. Louis, Mo.; and Hiram-Mantua, Ohio.

NBA XPLOR is a prophetic movement of and for young adults who are considering lives of care and service. The 10-month Residency provides professional development and vocational discernment opportunities for 21- to 30-year-

olds to live simply in community and engage in direct service and justice work. Through NBA XPLOR, these young adult leaders partner with Disciples congregations, regional and general ministries, and the communities in which they serve—living out NBA's vision of creating communities of compassion and care.

Read more about the 2016-17 NBA XPLOR Residents at www.nbacares.org/xplor-residents, and stay tuned as we'll have more to share about this year's host teams, congregations, and community engagement sites throughout the year. The application for the 2017-18 NBA XPLOR Residency will open in November 2016. Learn more and apply at www.nbacares.org/xplor.



NBA XPLOR – NBA XPLOR residents, spiritual companions, and staff, August 2016.

Swing Moments

Reach Beyond Mission is an alternative mission trip program for middle and high school youth focusing on service and justice education. Each summer we select college students to lead our mission weeks about food justice, affordable housing, and advocacy.

One of our summer staff members, Kristen Jackson from Hiram, Ohio, reflects on her experience.

In *Make the Impossible Possible*, Bill Strickland describes: "Swing is a term used by jazz musicians to describe those transcendent moments of

musical alignment when rhythm, harmony, and melody all fall into a sweet convergence." This summer, I experienced many swing moments—times that made me feel alive and reignited my flame and passion for service and justice. I saw our books and curriculum, the youth, and my passion all intersect, and in those moments I felt a transcendent swing.

We traveled around the country, meeting groups of middle and high school youth

and teaching them the injustices in today's world. Each week I witnessed youth become passionate about creating a lasting change. Each week I was assured that Reach Beyond Mission isn't your typical mission trip experience.

I've gone on trips in the past, fixed houses, and left with a full heart and a greater appreciation for the life I live. Reach Beyond Mission provides so much more than that. The structure of the week helps youth to grow and learn, and at the end of the week, they're asked, "How can you take the things you've learned and apply them to your community? What can you do to reach beyond this week of mission and live a life of service and justice?"

After a summer of contemplation and discovery, there was one overarching answer I found to this ultimate inquiry throughout my journey—we must show the world radical love. With that, we can create a more just world.

Reach Beyond Mission is an affiliate ministry of the NBA Incubate Initiative. Learn more at nbacares.org/incubate.

*Rev. Mary Lu Johnston, Executive Director
Kristen Jackson, Summer Volunteer Staff*



Reach Beyond Mission - Reach Beyond Mission 2016 Summer Staff: Back left: Libby Dusenberry, John Mata, Sarah Jones, Kristen Jackson. Front, left: Claire Freeby, Josh Mata, Caroline Nelson.

Garden to Foodbank Project

Scene one: Hoes and shovels turned soil. All morning. Morning sun turned to afternoon heat and youth began planting seeds. Mid-afternoon, shovels and hoes are stored again in the barn. Now, water and wait.

Scene two: They lift one box of squash after the next from the back of the pickup and deliver them to the homeless shelter. Afterwards deliverers take a seat next to the drawn and toothless. Nothing is fixed, nothing is more right.



However, thanks to the Garden to Foodbank Project (developed thanks to Disciples Home Missions (DHM) "Remember there are no Undeserving Children in the World Fund" grant) there would be fresh vegetables in the

evening meal rather than canned. And, for at least a while, youth visiting the reservation on their summer worktrip would converse with folk struggling with alcohol, drugs, family estrangement, and homelessness.

Conversation may not seem much. Yet, for a while, weathered folk who struggle with inner and outer demons know they are not alone and others are interested in their lives. For a moment they are no longer other, but someone's daughter, someone's father, someone's sister, and one who has meaning.

Throughout the summer of 2016, the Garden to Foodbank Project distributed roughly a ton of fresh food—locally planted, grown, and harvested thanks to DHM's grant—to three reservation foodbanks, the only reservation homeless shelter, and one off reservation foodbank. According to folk managing those institutions, the first year of the Garden to Foodbank Project provided food to roughly 65 homeless people, 700 families, and over 1,400 children.



One repeated comment from foodbanks about the Garden Project's food is its freshness. Picking and delivery of all Garden Project food occurred the morning of a foodbanks giveaway. Arriving vegetables were cool due to the previous night's chill.

Yakama Christian Mission is currently raising funds to provide Garden to Foodbank vegetables for the summer of 2017. If you are looking for an opportunity to help feed those who hunger on the Yakama Reservation, please contact dave@yakamamission.org or (509) 969-2093.

*Rev. David Bell
Yakama Christian Mission*

Kim *Continued from page 1.*

he would like to tackle is to review the administrative structure to support the ministries. It should include a coordination of NAPAD staffs with regional and ethnic representatives. By developing clear ideas on responsibility and roles, so that the work together can



Installation of Chung Seong Kim at the NAPAD Convention.

be done more efficiently. The second thing will be to review the budget and develop reasonable financial planning and discipline in all operations. To develop a clerical system to ensure transparency and efficiency.

The third thing will be to nurture good relationships with the General church as partners of NAPAD's ministry. To recover (if somewhat lost) and strengthen (if weakened) trust between NAPAD and diverse general church units. "This should be a critical and essential part of my task in early term," said Kim. He continued, "I hope significant advance in these three areas may be achieved by the end of the remaining term of my interim. Successfully achieving these objectives will be a good foundation for the next phase of this term."

*Rev. Chung Seong Kim
Interim Executive Pastor of NAPAD*

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Ecumenical poverty Initiative

Millions of children and adults in the U.S. live in poverty in the wealthiest nation in the world. There's often not enough to eat or enough money to make it from paycheck to paycheck.

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For more information, visit www.faithendpoverty.org

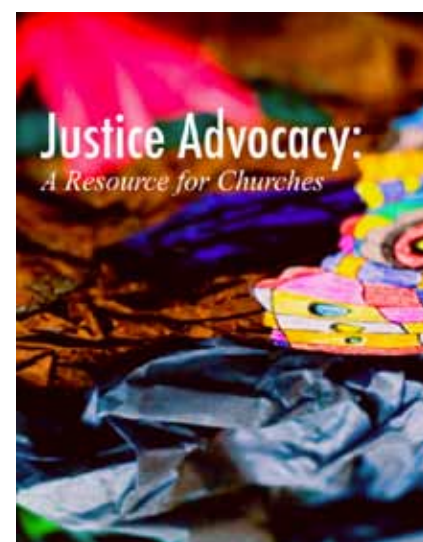
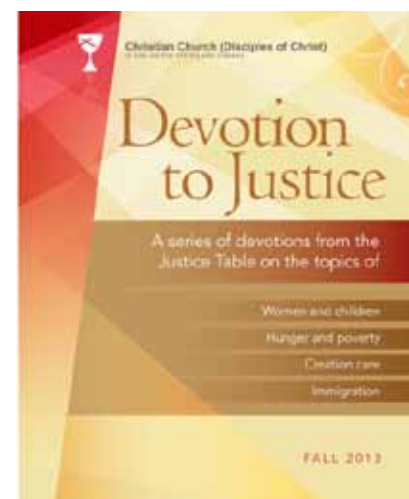
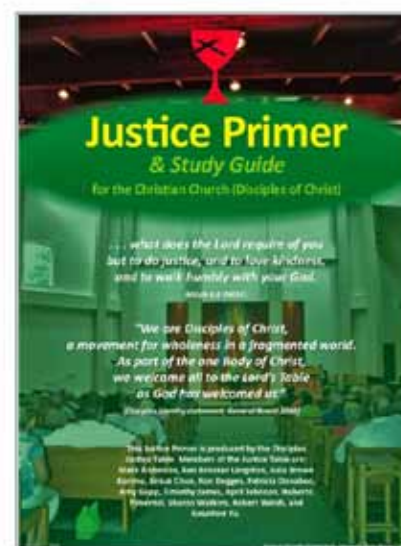
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Reservation Work trip Leads to New Term

Youth settled in after a day of working the foodbank garden. Unlike days of indoor painting or handicap ramp repairs, the open, treeless field of the garden made for a rather warm day. The afternoon shade of willow trees were inviting. The workgroups afternoon conversations were on issues of justice—what is justice or injustice? What does indigenous injustice, economic injustice, race injustice, cultural injustice, environmental injustice, look like?

Justice is a heavy afternoon conversation after a morning of hard physical work. However, on this day, came a term I have used ever since. It came



from a simple question. “Tell me a little about the landscape where your people come from.” Answers: “My great-grandparents came from Ireland.” “Mine were from Norway.” “My mother came from Poland and daddy was born here.”

Answers indicated a fairly Eurocentric group. Then came the answer that sifted the conversation to one of justice, “My people are American.”

“American?” “Yes.” A little silence. A little thought. “Many if not most folk in the United States identify as ‘American,’ as you do. However, is ‘American’ what you mean?” The response is



a questioning look, maybe even a little fearful. Having your answer picked out of the many can be hard for anyone, certainly for one in her or his mid-teens. What I am asking is, are your people from Canada? Or Mexico? Or Costa Rica? Or Brazil?” The questioning look remains. “After all, are not all of those folk from nations of the Americas?” Okay, at this point, if teenage eyes

could take you out, I’ve just been condemned to some *Where do you get off calling on me bell!* “Well, I guess,” she said, “I mean my folk are USA’n’s (U-



S-A-in).” Well, I am floored. A perfect response!

For the next hour, we talk about how folk in the US speak about themselves singularly and exclusively as *American* and how that may or may not be cultural injustice. There came no absolute answer, rather many more questions—questions the group could work on long after leaving the reservation. However, one absolutely great term came from the conversation. A term that is descriptive of what US people mean when they say American. And one I now use often. USA’n.



Work trips to the reservation change lives in many ways. For some, they receive the charity of food from the Mission garden or a patched roof or a repaired handicap ramp. For others, they learn their worldview may not match their justice ethic. Others learn justice is not always simple or easy. And for some, they learn new terms and delve into deep ideas, and new ways of thinking.

If you are looking for a place for next spring or summer work trips, where mind, emotion, heart, and spirituality are engaged as deeply as the body, consider visiting the Yakama Christian Mission (www.yakamamission.org) on the Yakama Reservation. We need your help, value your thoughts, respect your risk taking, and treasure your terms!

*Rev. David Bell
Yakama Christian Mission*



David Bell is the Minister for Indigenous Peoples Concerns for the Yakama Christian Mission. For nearly two decades, David has provided workgroup experiences on the Yakama Reservation as well as leading workgroups to Alaskan Native communities. The Yakama Mission provides a work trip best described as a Learning and Serving experience where participants learn as much about themselves and their communities and they do about the landscape of the reservation. Next summer's chores: House painting, Duck Count, Vegetation removal, Homeless shelter, Salmon Count, Foodbank Garden—planting, harvesting, and delivery. If you are interested in leading a workgroup to the Yakama reservation, please contact dave@yakamamission.org or (509) 969-2093.

Climate Leadership Summit

The photos below are from The Climate Leadership Summit held at the Milken School of Public Policy at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., September 14-15, 2016. Sharon Watkins, Ron Degges, and Ken Brooker Langston represented the Disciples. Ron Degges offered opening comments and a blessing for the gathering of leaders from industry, higher education, corporations, public health, physicians, faith communities, and other not-for-profits. Sharon Watkins participated in a panel discussion of faith leaders in the Blessed Tomorrow segment of the meeting.



Photo left: Rev. Ron Degges, President, Disciples Home Missions.



Photo right: Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, Disciples' General Minister and President.





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Sarah Augustine is the co-director of Suriname Indigenous Health Fund, a private international charity, and Professor of Sociology at Heritage University. Co-Author of the World Council of Churches statement of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery, Sarah has spoken to the United Nations Forum on Indigenous Affairs.

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Immigration Legal Updates -- Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel provides timely updates on changes to immigration law and policies that impact Disciples congregations and families. Sign up at: disciplesimmigration.org.

Just Women magazine -- quarterly-issued resource material for Christian women published by Disciples Women's Ministries. Place your subscription or have individual copies delivered to your door. Contact Just-Women@dhm.disciples.org.

News and Notes -- monthly newsletter that is sent out to Disciples Chaplains. Contact Anne Marie Moyars at: amoyars@dhm.disciples.org.

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Refugee & Immigration Wrap -- periodic updates about what is happening around immigration issues, refugee resettlement and Farm Worker Ministry. Sign up at: <http://www.formstack.com/forms/?1481425-c0NazlxyzU>

The Well-Fed Spirit -- Visit: www.wellfedspirit.org.

The Voice of Disciples Men -- e-newsletter from the Disciples Men. Sign up by contacting Kelly Harris at kharris@dhm.disciples.org.

Umoja -- newsletter *Umoja*, which translates to Unity-Oneness-Harmony, created by and produced for the Disciples Women of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and edited by the Disciples Women program staff and merger staff position. Visit: www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/disciples-women-newsletters/ or contact: odw@dhm.disciples.org.

Next Issue



**Recommitment
to Reconciliation**

Deadline: Feb. 1, 2017

Have you considered making a gift to



in your will?

*If so, please contact **Rev. Ron Degges***

at (317) 713-2684

DHM Equipping Disciples for Christ

Mission Interns Reflect on Summer of Service

Rachel, Tania, and Selys served as Mission Interns this summer. Each spring, Disciples Volunteering places Interns in a variety of mission settings. Young adults age 20-26 are strongly encouraged to apply – please help us spread the word! More information is available at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/mission-internships

From training in Flint, Mich., to my summer at UrbanSpirit in Louisville, Ky., I found myself thinking about the overlap in social justice issues. With mission groups and through my service, I saw the way



Rachel Cooper, Tania Diaz and Selys Rivera

issues of poverty intersected with issues of race. As a middle class Hispanic raised in America, I feel I have the duty to use my privilege to contribute to fixing the system that we're in. This summer taught me that showing God's love to our neighbors is about creating a system and a world that is just. I hope the experience this summer will help me to never lose sight of God's vision.

*Selys Rivera, Iglesia Discipulos de Cristo
Orlando Oeste, Orlando, Florida*

I spent my summer learning about racism, justice, economics, and privilege and how every one of them is a factor in the system of our society. I was born in Mexico and came to the US with a visa at

age twelve. This summer made me see how the system works in disadvantage of many. It also challenged me to grow in my faith and to use my voice. Many people don't see the real struggles communities are living under. Having the opportunity to be at

UrbanSpirit and "live it" first hand was eye-opening. I was able to define my calling and the importance of advocating for others.

*Tania Diaz, Iglesia
Alas de Salvacion,
Chandler, Arizona*

I experienced an eye-opening summer in which my worldview was challenged and changed.

I learned a lot about social issues and privilege, about myself and the church. I love that as a denomination we are mission focused, but are we focused on the right mission? The church believes strongly in confronting issues and has a desire to serve, but most times it stops at that. We get charity and sustainability confused. This summer, I learned that the role of the church in the world includes opening doors to better understanding – and I want to be an active participant, offering my gifts to affect change as God leads me.

*Rachel Cooper, First Christian Church,
Atchison, Kansas*



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INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Available for free on the web (PDF) or by mail in print form. Go to the DHM web site and complete the subscription or phone 317-713-2639. Donations welcome.

www.discipleshomemissions.org

BULK CHURCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

For approximately \$1.95 per copy we will ship your congregation copies of the Advocate. Place your congregation's bundle subscription order with Wilma Shuffitt at wshuffitt@dhm.disciples.org or call 317-713-2639.

www.facebook.com/discipleshomemissions

Mission Pilgrimage

Churches send teams in mission throughout the year, but summer is the busiest time for such experiences. Whether intended for youth, adults, or an intergenerational mix, where some travel and overnight housing is involved these groups are said to be making a mission trip. The focus of a traditional mission trip is usually a specific task which is aimed at "doing for" others – for example, building or repairing houses or conducting a Vacation Bible School. Right now, in the fall, is the time when most groups begin planning the logistics of their trip, including the seemingly never-ending task of fundraising. Winter and spring are for working out specifics, sharing information, gaining commitments, and, of course, more fundraising. The culmination of all this work, then, is the trip itself, often followed closely by a Sunday morning report to the congregation and a period of rest before the planning (and fundraising!) starts all over again.

For next summer, Disciples Volunteering invites you to consider something a little different: make a mission pilgrimage

instead. More than a difference of semantics, this requires a change in perspective. While a mission trip traditionally focuses on achieving certain outcomes, usually by way of our giving to or doing for someone else, a mission pilgrimage recognizes that the experience is a sacred journey. The primary focus of this journey is on relationships – especially our relationship with God. By approaching a mission trip as pilgrimage, we affirm that while giving we also receive; we understand that we are not doing for, but doing with; and we move from trying to control the experience to being open to how God is moving within our group and those we serve with. We also gain fresh perspective for God's activity in our own community and our world and we are invited to continue the mission when we return home.

To learn more and find communities or organizations you might make a mission pilgrimage with, visit Disciples Volunteering on-line: www.discipleshomemissions.org/disciples-volunteering

Devotional Resources



Devotional Resources for the 2016 Season of **Advent** written by the Reverend Leah D. Jackson will be available for download in late October at www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/faith-formationchristian-education/resources/advent.



Also be on the lookout for additional resources for the **Week of the Laity** in early December and **Lent** in early January 2017. Go to the DHM website at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/faith-formationchristian-education/resources/lent and www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/laity-week

And NEXT summer...

Many Disciples spent time in 2016 connecting with each other at assemblies and gatherings of all sorts and having a grand time. So, just imagine how much inspiration and connection you can get with Disciples from ALL OVER Canada and the United States when we gather in Indianapolis July 8-12, 2017!

And the 2017 event will indeed be pivotal in the life of our faith community. We will:

- hear the results of the Mission First! process, our effort to listen for God's call on Disciples in this time.
- elect a new General Minister and President to be pastor and guide.
- be inspired by eloquent preachers including Rev. Jose Morales, Jr. of the Disciples Seminary Foundation, Rev. Dr. Serene Jones of Union Theological Seminary and Rev. Virzola Law of Lindenwood Christian Church in Memphis – all Disciples.
- learn more about transformation, worship, stewardship and justice through the learning tracks as well as a varied menu of Sunday workshops.
- learn what General Ministries have been doing on our behalf across the continent and across the globe.
- hear from several task forces working on aspects of our life together

from future assemblies to governance.

But most of all, we will have a chance to connect and reconnect with our sisters and brothers from all sizes and shapes of



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JOHN 17: 20-21

Disciples congregations, regions and ministries, learning from one another and realizing that we are ONE in our love of God and our mission to follow Jesus.

Register now at ga.disciples.org. Early registration discount is good through March 31, 2017.

Plan a 5th Sunday General Assembly promotion Sunday Oct. 30, Jan. 29 or April 30 with materials available at ga.disciples.org/promotion



Disciples Home Missions is now on Facebook!



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- Congregational Transformation
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- Faith Formation & Education
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 Sustainable congregations with a
 heart for God's ministry and mission

Disciples Church Extension
Fund and Hope Partnership
are honored to help our partners
solve this equation.



For more information about services that help your congregation **create, re-create, fund** and use **Holy Places** for ministry, visit www.disciplescef.org.

For more information about services that **empower and equip** leaders to guide congregations through formation or transformation, visit www.hopepmt.org.

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Disciples
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Community Navigators Training Webinars



Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel and Refugee & Immigration Ministries began training Disciples to be Community Navigators in early 2016. See how you can become a Community Navigator.

- Community Navigators serve as resources to individuals facing immigration issues.
- They provide reliable information about the immigrant system,
- help protect others from scams, and
- empower their communities.

Community Navigators do not provide legal services.

For more information and to register for a training:

www.disciplesimmigration.org/resources/community-navigators/