



Fall 2017

Volume 16 Number 2

The Disciples' Advocate

Published by Disciples
Home Missions



Charlottesville

~~We Are One in the Spirit?~~

Rev. Sotello Long, President of DHM joins in Solidarity with General Minister and President, Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens in "A Word About Charlottesville."

Sisters and brothers, my heart breaks at the violence in Charlottesville – the loss of life, the dishonoring of children of God, the vile insults hurled and the wounds of history reopened. I pray for the family of the woman who died. I pray in praise of the peaceful demonstrators. We cannot take backward steps fueled by hatred. We cannot be silent when the humanity of black persons is being assaulted and terrorized.

The commandment in 1 John 4:20 calls us to account: "Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate

their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also."

And so let us love one another as we love God. With such love, we are compelled to stand for justice, and walk in peace.

*Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens
General Minister & President*

Long Called as New DHM President

On July 6, 2017, the board of Disciples Home Missions (DHM) approved the call of the Rev. Sotello Long as the next President.

Long was introduced to the full General Assembly on July 11, 2017 and began his position on September 1, 2017 as he transitions from South Carolina.

Long served as the Regional Minister of the Christian Church in South Carolina since 2003 and the pastor of First Christian Church in Aiken, S.C., since 2014. This will not be his first tour with DHM, however.

He was the minister of Evangelism from 1995 to 2003.

He brings prior ministry experience from serving the General Church in evangelism where he coordinated and participated in evangelistic outreach ministries across the country. Long also brings experience as a family life minister, coordinating youth and young adult ministries as well as promoting intergenerational ministry. In addition to his ministerial experience, Long has a background in athletics,

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We Are One in the Spirit

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Sotello Long

Sotello's Inspirations

Greetings and welcome in the wonderful name of Jesus to this edition of your Disciples Advocate!

We are a collection of ministries under Disciples Home Missions with a heart for "Disciples Hands on Mission" in the United States and Canada! As I reflect on this issue's theme, "We are One in the Spirit," let me encourage you to pray for ways to make that oneness that we have in Christ be known.

Let the Spirit of Christ rule in all your interactions. Being "One" in the Spirit starts from within. It begins with that authentic relationship with Jesus, the Christ. It flows in the deeper depths of our being as we yield to the indwelling of God's fullness within us through the Holy Spirit. It becomes evident in the way we live our lives in humble surrender to God's guidance and the leading of our renewed consciousness to God's presence in the people and places we encounter.

The mark of that oneness is summed up in how we love. Many of you know the song – *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*. It is a simple song that power-

fully translates what it means and how to recognize being one in the Spirit. Reflect on these words and live into them.

*"We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity
will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love
Yeah they'll know we are Christians
by our love"*

Being One in the Spirit is being so in tune with the love of God that people know that we must be followers of Christ! The new life we have in Christ is for sharing that life through what God has called us to do everywhere we go!

God's love,



*Sotello V. Long,
President
Disciples Home Missions*



Sotello Long

In the Mail

I have enjoyed your articles and columns over the years and have tried to pass much of that info on to the leaders and congregation at First Christian Church, Anniston, Ala., where I serve as Church Secretary. I will miss getting to read more of your info. Wishing you the best in your retirement.

*Judy Engelhart
First Christian Church
Anniston, Alabama*

Thank you for your contribution to the Memorial Fund at Erlanger Christian Church in memory of Bill Chesnut. Notification of your gift has been sent to the family.

*Erlanger Christian Church
Erlanger, Kentucky*

The "gift" was you – your presence with us on Peace Pole Sunday. My family was elated when you said, "yes – I'm coming to Pasadena."

Your sermon -- so timely, tugging us to move forward, to be the "light" of good news in a new day of changes and opportunity. Our many thanks – from my family to yours!

Blessings as new doors open for you as you retire. Keep us posted.

Hugs and peace,
*The Backstrom Family
Mark, Heather, Melissa, Gary and Taylor*

Thank you for your contribution to the church in honor of Bill.

Love,
*Ruth Chesnut
Florence, Kentucky*

Continued on page 7. See Mail.

Children Worship & Wonder Coordinator Named



Lisa Engelken

"Life is all about Plan B." This is Lisa Engelken's life motto. When you think you have everything planned, organized, and ready to go-God calls us elsewhere. Lisa is the mother of four beautiful children and has hosted three courageous daughters from Germany and Brazil. Her life is wonderfully crazy. In the midst of the chaos of raising children, Lisa was called into ministry to help share the people of God's faithful stories-not just to children but to their families.

Lisa Engelken is excited to serve as Coordinator of Children Worship & Wonder at Disciples Home Missions. She has been a trainer in Children Worship & Wonder for 16 years. Children Worship & Wonder is a Montessori-based worship with children. She serves on a team with 20 other trainers. In July 2015 Lisa became a trainer to train

more trainers.

Lisa is a commissioned minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) serving in the Greater Kansas City Region. In 2003 Lisa was called into ministry through the New Church Ministry and Dick Hamm's 2020 Vision: 1000 new churches 1000 new ways. Lisa combined her passion for Children and Family ministry with the new church initiatives and she has been leading families to explore their faith together through the house church model and intergenerational worship for several years.

*Lisa Engelken
Coordinator for Children Worship & Wonder
Disciples Home Missions*

Yates Named Chaplains' Endorsement Officer



Tom Yates

There are days when I feel as though I am out of breath from the whirlwind of events that have taken place in my life and in the life of our church the last few weeks. We have experienced what one of our military chaplains described as a RIP/TOA in the Disciples Office of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministry. The acronym refers to what happens during the transition from one leader to another—Relief in Place/Transfer of Authority. Chaplain Rev. Steve Doan served our church with distinction and a true servant's heart for twelve years as Disciples Chaplain Endorsing Officer. For that we all are grateful. He leaves large and well defined footsteps to follow. I am both honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve the church and our team of endorsed chaplains and to follow in those footsteps. Thank you.

Although in the church we do not ordinarily use militaristic terms like RIP/TOA to describe ministerial transitions, I do think there is a great deal of powerful

and important symbolism in observing formally these passages. During a wonderful and celebratory retirement party for Doan at the Indiana Repertory Theater we took time for a ritual—a ministerial RIP/TOA if you will. With prayer, reflection, and presentation of stoles we remembered and honored Steve's ministry in our midst. At the same time I received a blessing and commissioning to carry on the important work of supporting our ministers who are endorsed by the church as chaplains. They serve in the military on active duty or in the Guard or Reserves; they serve in healthcare settings such as hospitals, hospice, and care facilities of all kinds; they serve in state and regional prison systems; and they serve as pastoral counselors. Our church is blessed by their service.

RIP/TOA is done—the work begins!

*Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Yates
Chaplain Endorsing Officer*

General Assembly Elects New GMP

Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens elected general minister and president on July 9 with an installation celebrated on July 12 in Indianapolis.

During a business session embedded in worship, paper ballots were distributed and collected, counted

immediately and the answer came back as a resounding "yes" to the election of Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens as general minister and president. She is the first African American to serve as general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the first African American woman to head up the spiritual life and administration of a mainline denomination in the United



Teresa Hord Owens

States.

In her installation sermon, Hord Owens said, "Just as Jesus declared in Luke 4:18 as he read from the prophet Isaiah, we are all called, appointed and anointed to preach the gospel to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, bring liberation to those who are oppressed. It simply must be so that the gospel of Jesus Christ, in which we see the revelation of the love of God, is so important, at the very top of our priorities, that we will not let any division among threaten the integrity of that gospel."

Nominated in late February 2017 by the General Board, Hord Owens was one

Continued on page 34. See GMP.

ADM Invites ALL to 2018 Summer Conference

In 2018, Association of Disciple Musicians (ADM) will be gathering in Oklahoma City, Okla., at the beautiful campus of Oklahoma City University, from July 15 to 20. The annual conference includes opportunities to study, to fellowship, and to increase skills and knowledge in choral singing, congregational singing, handbell ringing, organ and piano, contemporary worship, drama or movement, and visual arts in worship. Clinicians for the 2018 conference include:

- Worship clinician, Dr. Richard Ward, Fred B. Craddock Professor of Homiletics and Worship at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Okla.
- Chorus and choral workshops clinician, Dr. Tim Sharp, Executive Director of the American Choral Directors Association and artistic director of the Tulsa Oratorio Chorus.
- Contemporary worship design clinician, Chuck Bell, worship consultant, composer, arranger and performer.
- Organ clinician, Dr. Melissa Plamann, Associate Professor of Music, and University Organist, Oklahoma

City University.

- Handbells clinician, Nancy Krause, Director of Music Ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Many other sessions will be led by our talented ADM Council members. Visit the ADM website, www.adm-doc.org, for more details and contact information. We hope to see You in Oklahoma City in 2018!

ADM was delighted to participate in the 2017 General Assembly this year. Those who missed or would like more information from our wonderful Worship keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee, can check out her Worship Design Studio website at: marciamcfee.com.

Many who visited the ADM exhibit booth were surprised to learn that anyone interested in creating or just participating in meaningful, inventive worship experiences can benefit from joining ADM -- church musicians, clergy, and lay people. Membership information is easily found on the ADM website, www.adm-doc.org.



Disciples Women Connected as One

Disciples Women offered mission and service opportunities in the exhibit hall at the 2017 General Assembly. Women of the United States and Canada were invited to contribute items to 'blessing bag' health kits for immigrants and refugees locally and working with Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries. 290 completed health kits have been shipped to Texas with an additional two moving boxes of large size products to deliver locally. As always the response from Disciples Women when invited into mission opportunities was outstanding. Additionally, 'blessing blankets' were provided for the children being served by these ministries. Some of these quilts provided the opportunity to "tie a knot and say a prayer" to complete.



Items collected for 'blessing bag' health kits for Immigrants and refugees.



Disciples Women at photo booth during Monday evening's aftersession.



Visitors were invited to write a prayer on ribbons to 'break the chains' that were then tied into chain links. These prayers were to combat human trafficking and to break the chains of fear for vulnerable immigrant families.

Disciples Women, and a few men, gathered as one on Monday evening after worship for an ice cream aftersession. Laughing, singing, and a little dancing were part of the celebration of being together. Hundreds of pictures were taken at the photo booth with groups gathering by regions, events, missions, and learning opportunities.

This reunion time, sponsored by regional women's ministries, provided the chance for women to reconnect.



514 women attended the Disciples Women's luncheon on Wednesday to celebrate women in leadership including historical leaders like Rev.

Lori Tapia, the first woman national Hispanic pastor; Rev Terri Hord Owens, the first African American General Minister and President (GMP);



Disciples Women from left: Chesla Nickelson, Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens, Pat Donahoo and Marilyn Williams.

and a special celebration of Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, the first woman GMP and leader of a mainline denomination. The Herstory tree that is the symbol of the interconnectedness of women was introduced as a reminder that we are joined as one across time, geography, and situation and together we make each other stronger. Nancy Cordova-Molina shared songs about immigrants and human trafficking. Sharon's ministry was celebrated with a special thanksgiving for her twelve years as GMP. Sharon shared her thoughts on her ministry and women in leadership. Together, Disciples Women in the United States and Canada honored Sharon with love and appreciation. The volunteers who support Disciples Women's Ministries make it all possible...special thanks to all who shared of themselves.

*Rev. Pat Donahoo
Executive Director
Disciples Women*

Photo left: Disciples Women's Luncheon held on Wednesday.

"WHAT'S YOUR RESPONSE?"

The events that have transpired across nations the past few weeks have caused much concern and the raising of old fears and worries. At Charlottesville, Va., the deaths of Heather Heyer, a 32-year old woman standing for right and righteousness, two state troopers H. Jay Cullen and Berke Bates, along with 19 persons injured is a sad statement for where we are as a nation. The DNA in the American system of social and historical practices came out in full exposure with the protest of the white supremacists. The spirit of division and racialized fear has certainly increased over the past seven months of presidency of Donald Trump. Yes, I called his name. He is who he is, and as our president he needs our prayers.

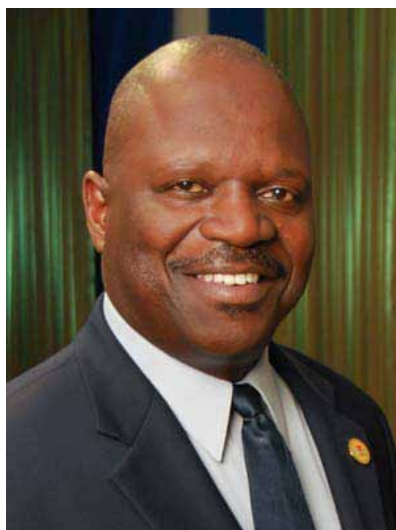
I could join the throng of those who would disparage, trash, bash and even dispatch his name to the dregs of the deplorable. I could take to the streets to confront hate with hate and violence with violence. But I will remember the examples of President Barack Obama and our former First Lady, Michelle Obama, to "take the high road." I was on vacation, yet riveted to the TV, away and incommunicative, while so much was taking place on the home front. But I was encouraged and uplifted, by the response of many of our faith leaders and civic leaders. Particularly, those who are not ashamed to speak words of truth, justice, love, and unity. These are the words needed for such a time as this.

Racism, like war, is one of the primary tools of Satan used to divide and destroy the crown of God's creation, all people made in God's image and likeness. While humanity leads the world's civilization and development with advances in science and technology, we seem to come up short when it comes to improving human behavior.

Persons of different races, classes and religions are prompted by groups that spew out bigotry and hatred, making it hard to just get along. Again, the call to take the high road is resounded as a response that will produce different and perhaps better results.

We can appreciate the fact that it is not a rumor. White nationalism, the Ku Klux Klan, and white supremacy as an ideology, has been exposed with a resurgence of fear and bigotry. It's like the sleeping giant of racism, has been awakened by presidential toleration and a deafening silence from our churches. We must take the high road of prayerful, peaceful protest and nonviolent resistance. We must avail our churches to be those places for prayer and serious sacred critical conversation on the race matters in America and the Church. We must take the high road of Jesus Christ, where love is stronger than hatred, where justice is done because it is

right, and where faith is mightier than fear. To choose to take the high road of response is to choose Christ. Wintley Phipps sang it so beautifully, "In a world of many choices, Amidst the call of many voices; When they all call out and greet me, I turn my eyes to Thee. Cause I found in Him a loving friend, Who stays with me till the very end; Yes I found in Him a Faithful Guide, He calls me His very own. I choose You again and again; I choose You again and again. You mean so much to me, Dear Lord, I choose You again." (Phipps, "I Choose You Again," 1984)



Timothy James

*Timothy M. James
Associate General Minister and President
and Administrative Secretary of the National
Convocation*



"What a Fellowship – Disciples Men Luncheon

The tradition continued as 175 Disciples Men opened their 2017 General Assembly Luncheon with a welcome by President Dan Crawford and singing of the hymn "What a Fellowship." The Disciples Men Luncheon, which is organized and sponsored by the General Conference of Disciples Men, a ministry of Disciples Home Missions, is a regular event held on Wednesday of the General Assembly.

A highlight of the buffet luncheon was the presentation given by the Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Director of the Center for Faith and Giving, who employed the Easter Resurrection story to demonstrate the power of God's stewardship towards humankind.

Following Barkhauer's address, an offering totaling \$2,034 was received and will be used to support efforts of the General Conference's four Mission Centers to feed and support children in their regions.

During the business session that followed, Past President Archie Jenkins presented the Lifetime Member Award to the Rev. Arnold Nelson, Senior Pastor at First Christian Church, Duncan, Okla., and long-time supporter of Disciples Men.

In addition to the award, the General Conference established a Men's Ministries Endowment Fund in Nelson's name. The Rev. Stephen Bentley, Minister for Disciples Men Ministries, installed new officers and Executive Committee members of the Gen-

eral Conference of Disciples Men:

- Brian Burton – President
- Ron Petrick - Treasurer and Member-at-Large
- Irvin Green - Pastor Counselor
- Stuart Price - President-Elect
- Dan Crawford - Past President
- Remmie Crawford – Member-at-Large
- Harvey Anderson – Member-at-Large
- Ken Marston – Member-at-Large
- Arnold Hayes – National Convocation Representative
- Nelson Torres – Hispanic Ministries Representative

Incoming President Brian Burton closed the luncheon with uplifting words about the bright future of Disciples Men and thanked his mentors for their steadfast support. The General Conference is already



Brian Burton

looking forward to General Assembly 2019 in Des Moines, Iowa, and to Sessions 2020 at Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth, Texas."

*Stuart Price
President-elect
General Conference of Disciples Men*

Mail *Continued from page 2.*

From one older codger to a fresh one. You are more appreciated than you can know. Enjoyed General Assembly greatly. Thrilled to see your replacement as Sotello Long. Long term friend from down East N.C. We both played basketball at NC State.

Continuing to enjoy one of your legacy ministers from Alexandria in Chris Furr. Covenant Christian is very blessed.

All of us are needed to counter the idiocy of Charlottesville and it's apologists.

Bless you, and bless us all.

Bob Kennel

For nearly four months, DHM has been taking care of Creation Justice Ministries' finances and HR needs. At the end of April, the number of ministry dollars in our bank account will be higher than every other month since I started in 2015! Thank you for deciding to host us. From the bottom of my heart!

With deep gratitude,

*Shantha Ready Alonso
Creation Care Ministries
Washington, D.C.*

Continued on page 14. See Mail.

DHM Moments at General Assembly

Disciples Home Missions is committed to equipping disciples for Christ and connecting people to the life changing love of God. This 2017 General Assembly was an opportunity for the entire DHM staff to celebrate ministry and live out that life changing love of God by serving the community.

We began with the Retirement Celebration Dinner of Rev. Ron Degges for his faithfulness to DHM and to more than forty years of ministry. Green Chalice Ministry provided connections /tools to empower churches to care for God's people and creation. Disciples Volunteering helped coordinate blood drives, food drop and constructing frames for new homes. Young Adult Commission sponsored after sessions and collected supplies to fill backpacks.



Sheila Spencer & Ron Degges

We supported General Assembly Resolution 1723 – On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation. We also celebrate the resolutions on Carbon Neutrality and Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery that were adopted by the Assembly.

Our Ministries gathered together in solidarity for a Disciples Rally 4 Family Justice on Saturday, July 8th and marched to Indiana State Capitol Grounds. The Family and Children Ministries created family friendly spaces in the Exhibit Booth and Worship Hall.

DHM celebrated the ministry of Rev. Steve Doan, who retired as Chaplain Endorser. Our DHM Dinner honored the Rev. Dr. Norman Reed with the Distinguished Leadership Award for his commitment to ministry and service.

During the General Assembly Report, the entire assembly honored Ron for his service and he introduced the incoming president the Rev. Sotello Long. Disciples Home Missions continues to be committed to equipping Disciples for Christ and connecting them to the life changing love of God that we may become ONE.



On Friday evening of General Assembly DHM and friends celebrated the retirement of Ron Degges as president of DHM. Photos top left: Ron Degges with Todd Adams, President of Pension Fund and Candyce Black-Wells, DHM Board Chairperson. Photo top center: Ron Degges with DHM Staff. Photo top right: Ron Degges. Photo bottom left: Ron Degges. Photo bottom left center: Sharon Stanley-Rea presenting Ron with a hard hat. Photo bottom right center: Marilyn Williams presenting Ron with a quilt from Disciples Women. Photo bottom right: Ron Degges.





We are One: Addressing Climate Change through Action and Covenant

On Monday, July 10, 2017, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada adopted GA-1724, Resolution Concerning Carbon Neutrality. The resolution calls upon Disciples of Christ congregations, organizations, ministries and institutions to “address climate change through action and covenant” through worship, study, repentance, advocacy, and rest and delight in “God’s good creation.”

GA-1724 was brought to the Assembly by Christmount National Camp and Conference Center, Week of Compassion, Ministries of Disciples Home Missions’ Green Chalice, Disciples Volunteering, and General Youth Council, and Global Ministries/Division of Overseas Ministries (sponsor). The General Assembly affirmed the resolution’s challenge for all Disciples of Christ to work to reduce carbon output, to become carbon neutral by the year 2030,

and to be climate positive by 2035.

These three goals require wise energy use and conservation, using clean and renewable energy, offsetting any energy sources that cannot be reduced or replaced, urging policy makers to champion clean energy choices, and supporting our churches and our brothers and sisters to do the same.

In support of GA-1724 and in response to requests from the floor for financial assistance for carbon reduction projects, Disciples Church Extension Fund quickly revamped its Green Loans offerings. From now through the end of 2017, congregations can receive up to \$150,000 for qualifying greening projects at 2.99% for 5 years and 3.50% for 10 years. For more information on Green Loans or to learn about DCEF’s building planning and evaluation services, call us at 800.274.1883, or visit us on the web at www.disciplescef.org.



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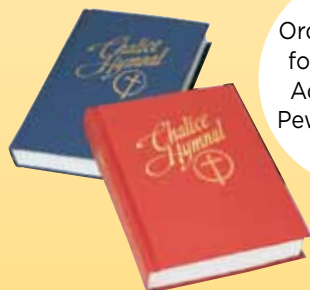
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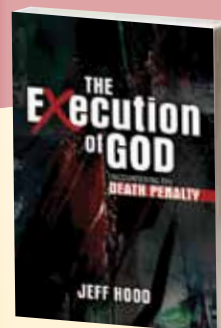


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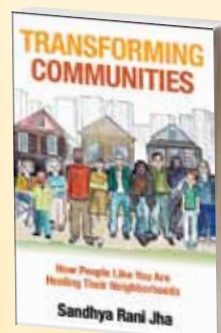
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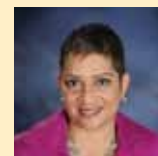


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Global Ministries Celebrates the Commissioning of Eleven Mission Co-Workers

At General Assembly in Indianapolis, Global Ministries was pleased to present eleven mission co-workers to the assembly for commissioning.

- Michael Joseph to serve with the Justapaz in Colombia
- Loren McGrail to serve with the YWCA in Palestine
- John Campbell-Nelson to serve with Arthura Wacana Seminary in Indonesia
- Karen Campbell-Nelson to serve with the Evangelical Church in West Timor
- Nikotemo Sopepa to serve with the Pacific Council of Churches in Fiji
- Jerri Handy to serve with Las Memorias Hospice in Mexico
- Phyllis Byrd to Serve with the Organization of African Instituted Churches in Kenya
- Debbie and Larry Colvin to serve with the

Evangelical Protestant Church in Ghana

- Chimiste Dorsicar to serve with CONASPEH in Haiti
- Joani Adorno to serve as a Global Mission Intern

In the service the Mission Co-Workers pledged to endeavor to be faithful to their duties, and to strive to

work among the people with humility and patience, remembering that they are invited as colleagues eager to learn, as well as to serve. Those present also pledged as representatives of their congregations across the United States and Canada to support them in God's mission. Rev.



Dr. Sharon Watkins than presided over the commissioning prayer.

We ask that you would continue holding up these Mission Co-workers, and those already serving, in your prayers.

Disciples Health and Social Service Ministries Lead In-Demand Workshops

Participants in the Justice and Transformational Leadership & Innovation Learning Tracks had the opportunity to engage with several Disciples health and social service ministries and National Benevolent Association staff in workshops held on Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of General Assembly. Presenters from NBA's Mental Health Initiative, Prison and Jail Ministries Affinity Group, and Incubate Initiative offered workshops on faith-rooted organizing; mass incarceration and solitary confinement; breaking the stigma of mental illness in the church; loving your congregational neighbors; introducing innovation into congregations; discerning the call between starting a church or nonprofit; and more. Many workshop rooms were standing room only and brought about great conversation and learning between presenters, panelists, and attendees.

If you missed General Assembly or a specific workshop, several of these presentations will be made available on the NBA website, searchable at nbacares.org/care-resources.



NBA workshop on Mental Health



NBA workshop on Mass Incarceration

Mail *Continued from page 7.*

First let me tell you how grateful I am for your leadership and wise counsel to me during my time with the Disciples Men. Your friendship and the light you used to light my path will always be a fond memory.

Thank you also for your leadership of DHM. I do believe that you are leaving the ministry much better than you found it.

Happy trails in your retirement however long that may be before you throw your hat into another ring. One thing I will miss is looking forward to early Sunday mornings reading your post on DHM Updates.

Thanks again you mean a lot to me and to so many others in the Disciples Church.

Archie Jenkins

I have written you before about how much I enjoy your short pieces from DHM. Now that you are about to retire, I wanted to tell you again that I will miss them greatly. I am a life-long Disciple, but now that I am living in Philadelphia (in a retirement community to be near two of my sons, one here and one in NYC,) there is no viable Disciple church for me to attend. I go regularly to a nearby Presbyterian church, which is OK but does not measure up to the Disciples. I moved here from Louisville and was a member of Beargrass, which is a very special church. I was very active there but now that I am 88 and involved in this community, I cannot be very active in the church. Your writings connect me to the Disciples. I wish you all the best in your retirement. Please know that you have brought much inspiration and comfort to people by your writings.

Sincerely,

Janet Graff

Continued on page 27. See Mail.

National Benevolent Association Launches New Mission and Ministry Grant Program

NBA Grants: Find the full press release, FAQs, online application, and more information about the NBA Mission and Ministry Grant Program at nbacares.org/grants. For additional questions, you can email grants@nbacares.org.

Older adults and at-risk children and youth have been a primary part of NBA's ministry since our founding 130 years ago, and are communities that NBA continues to advocate for and accompany. In late June, the NBA was excited to launch a new Mission and Ministry Grant Program, drawing from purpose-restricted funds to support Disciples projects working with older adults and at-risk children and youth across the life of our church!

This summer, the NBA has been accepting online applications from Disciples congregations and health and social service ministries for funding ranging from \$1,000 Catalyst Grants to \$20,000+ Impact Grants. All applications are due by September

18, 2017. A Grant Committee composed of NBA staff and trustees will review all applications and make funding decisions annually. For this cycle, grantees will be notified by mid-November, and funds will be distributed by early December for use in the 2018 calendar year.

This significant infusion of direct dollars to Disciples ministries would not be possible without the generosity and foresight of NBA's faithful donors over the past several decades. We are so grateful to facilitate this new granting program and eager to see what growth, learning, and impact are possible with the help of these funds. These grants are just one way NBA and the wider church continue in covenant and collaboration together to care for "the least of these."

Rev. Rebecca Hale

NBA Vice President for Mission & Ministry

NBA's Shared Exhibit Space Features Disciples Ministry Partners and Virtual Reality Solitary Confinement

Thanks to all who connected with the National Benevolent Association at the 2017 General Assembly! Again this year, the NBA offered shared exhibit space with Disciples health and social service ministry partners from across the life of the church. Attendees were invited to explore clustered "neighborhoods" and visit with ministries organized by mission area, including anti-poverty; peace and justice; older adults; children; youth and young adults; people with disabilities; mental health and wellness; and prison and jail ministries. Find Disciples health and social service ministries near

you at nbacares.org/directory.

The prison and jail ministries area also featured the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) and its virtual reality experience of solitary confinement. This nine-minute VR presentation was an

immersive way to see, hear, and feel the negative impacts of solitary confinement. Upon finishing the video, participants debriefed with NRCAT staff and shared their initial reactions to the experience.

"Afraid. Alone. Helpless."

"I lost myself in there."

"I felt like a caged animal."

"Despair. Sorrow."

"Wow. So intense."

"This is not okay."

"This must end."

NBA joins with NRCAT and other Disciples ministries to advocate against the prolonged use of solitary confinement, in continued response to Resolution GA-1525. Learn more at nbacares.org/prison-and-jail and nrcat.org.



Mark Anderson at the NBA exhibit booth at General Assembly.



NBA folks at the NBA exhibit booth at General Assembly.

A Bridge of Hope for a Homeless Family

When I was a pastor in Lancaster, Pa., I became aware of an especially effective Christian ministry for ending homelessness one family at a time called "Bridge of Hope." It is now a national organization and, since joining the staff of Disciples Home Missions I have learned about a number of positive experiences Disciples congregations have had using the Bridge of Hope Church Based "Neighborhood of Support" three-way partnership model. My colleague, Rev. Marshall Dunn, coordinated the ministry at University Christian Church in Hyattsville, Maryland, with the help of his wife, Barb, and a social worker who was also a member of the church. After two years successfully helping one single mom and her young daughter become independent, he reports that the congregation is ready to move on to helping a second homeless family.

The program usually involves six to ten (from University Christian Church there were 12) people from the church working together to leverage resources to provide tangible support, encouragement and relationship to a family facing homelessness (typically a single woman and her children) and a case manager, who is a professionally trained social worker (often employed by a Bridge of Hope location). If you would like to

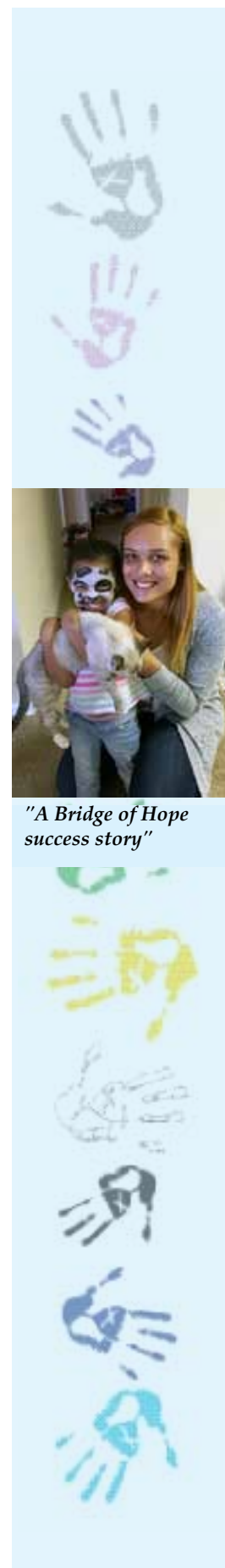
start a Bridge of Hope ministry at your congregation, please go to bridgeofhopeinc.org/make-an-impact/start-a-bridge-of-hope.

Dunn reports that when they interviewed four homeless single moms to see if one of them was just the right "fit" for our new ministry and our unanimous (and we believe God led) choice was a young woman named Mary (not her real name) who had just turned 21 and had an adorable 8 month old daughter. Mary was a wonderful mom who had experienced a very difficult path in life and was living in her car unless a friend let her and her baby stay the night. Now, she has a job as an assistant manager at a retail store, is taking a dental assistant course and is clearly motivated to do all she can to make a good life for her little girl.

"We ultimately found an apartment that would take her with our promise of rental assistance (and an up-front advance of three month's rent). Folks from the church donated furniture, pots and pans, etc. and we helped her move in. Over the next 24 months she met regularly with our social worker and had a monthly meeting with the "neighboring volunteers" from our church. She and I also talked often by phone and in person," says Dunn.

Dunn concludes, "The journey was at times rocky with many ups and downs, but we learned so much about what it means to be poor, and have no family for support. Mary has her own place now, a good job and her daughter is thriving. She is very grateful for all the church and her neighboring volunteers did to help her achieve her goals. The team of 12 recently went to witness her baptism in her Baptist church where she and her daughter are active."

*Kate Epperly
Minister for Justice and Advocacy
Family and Children's Ministries,
Disciples Home Missions*



"A Bridge of Hope success story"



Disciples Home Missions Office of Christian Vocations is now offering

Disciples Deacon and Elder Pins, intended for active lay persons serving in those ministries. The pins are \$5.00 each, plus shipping. To place your order please click: www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/search-call/online-store

Disciples Peace Fellowship: “Keeping alive the passion for peace and justice”

In Indianapolis, Disciples Peace Fellowship (DPF) gathered around breakfast tables as Michael Kinnamon spoke of oneness that arises from just peace where fear-created borders are transformed by the holy proclamation, “Do not be afraid!” DPF works toward this hope-filled oneness guided by a passion for peace and justice.

We expressed this at breakfast, in a workshop planned by DPF and the Council on Christian Unity, in the exhibit hall and at a shared peace vigil. For 82 years, DPF has focused Disciples on keeping the passion for peace and justice alive in our churches, on our streets, within our nations and beyond our borders, so that we stand alongside each other as God’s family committed to the well-being of every person.

The DPF Peace Intern program emphasizes this mission as we train and commission young adults to serve at Disciples camps and conferences. In 2016, DPF partnered with Global Ministries to bring two additional Peace Interns from Palestine to deepen our oneness with our Palestinian sisters and brothers as they shared their struggle for peace and justice.

2017 DPF intern, Joe Heidenescher, considers this oneness in his blog, Crossing Borders: My Week at Loch Leven:

A crossroads—an intersection... a place “sin fronteras” without borders (Gloria E. Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: the New Mestiza*).

The camp became “a crossroads of culture, language, and differences. Real diversity was present, and our differences met in a spirit of worship, discussion, and unity. There were youth from China, ... from Mexico, ... from Southern California, second and third generation immigrant youth, youth of different sexual identities, and youth from various faith traditions (or no faith tradition).”

As the week went on, worship began to resemble and model what the camp began to look like... a crossroads—a borderland without borders.”

Discover more about DPF at www.dpfweb.org.

Mary Jacobs
Portland, Oregon



Loch Leven: Our hike up to the waterfall required real teamwork—crossing water barriers and personal barriers at the same time.

Long *Continued from page 1.*

education and vocal music. He is a former Atlantic Coast Conference basketball guard at North Carolina State University, a junior high teacher at Kinston Jr. High in North Carolina and a collegiate choir member at North Carolina State University. He is married to the lovely and gifted Elsie Dee Long who has her own career and is called to ministry of her own.

The search committee was impressed with Long’s ministry in South Carolina and with his passion and vision for the ministry of DHM. He began his ministry at DHM on August 21, 2017 working with DHM President Rev. Ron Degges who retired on August 31, 2017.

A personal quote from Rev. Long:

“I have the heart of an encourager and a passion for sharing the gospel! I have been given a voice for Christ and the opportunity to serve as a partner in preparing people to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, witnessing and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth and from the ends of the earth to our doorsteps. Let’s grow up in Christ by the word and the Spirit of God. Let’s meet the challenges ahead with God’s grace. Let’s walk in love and in obedience to God’s voice for ‘the just shall live by faith!’”



Journey Toward Wholeness

Disciples of Christ are becoming more welcoming and supportive churches for people who have mental health disorders.

Since I wrote the resolution in 2015 calling churches to be more welcoming and supportive, a group of us has worked with the National Benevolent Association (NBA) to make it happen. I was on a panel at the NBA workshop Speaking into the Silence during this General Assembly, comprised of clergy with a mental health disorder discussing how to live into the resolution. I was glad to see the room full of people interested in the topic.

Disciples have now published two books about mental health disorders. The latest, my autobiography "Journey Toward Wholeness" was published by Disciples Home Missions. It is the story of my life, my personal struggles with depression, two psychiatric hospitalizations, and my recovery. It began as a collection of stories about times that God had been present in my life like when God enabled my family and I to escape from Vietnam in 1975. The focus of the book

changed because I felt called, as clergy, to share my journey toward wholeness. It is my hope that sharing my story will bring people hope that recovery is possible, further fight stigma and open discussion about mental health.

The study guide in the back of "Journey Toward Wholeness" can be used in congregations to open a discussion about mental health disorders. It includes the following topics: facts about mental health disorders, mental health among children and teens, a Biblical perspective, how to be supportive of another's recovery, how to promote your own recovery, how churches

can promote inclusion, and a resource list.

The book can be purchased from Disciples Home Missions online store at disciple-shomemissions.org for \$15 plus shipping.

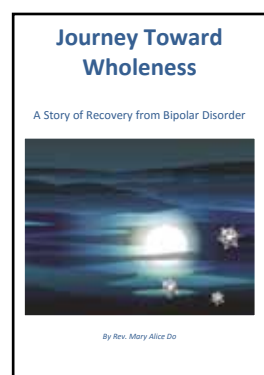
*Rev. Mary Alice Do
Tucson, Arizona*



Ron Degges with Mary Alice Do author of "Journey Toward Wholeness."



Mary Alice Do, author of Journey Toward Wholeness at the DHM exhibit booth at General Assembly.



To order "Journey Toward Wholeness" go to DHM's online store.

Continuing Education Grants

Disciples Home Missions (DHM) seeks to support ordained and commissioned clergy in their commitment to a process of life-long learning. Those who take advantage of available educational experiences often discover that there are benefits of such experiences for themselves and the people with whom they are in ministry.

The application window for the 2018 Continuing Education Grants will begin on September 1, 2017, through October 31, 2017. Visit DHM's website for information and eligibility as well as the application form at: discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/scholarships/christian-vocation-continuing-education

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General Assembly Adopts Immigrant Welcoming Resolution

On July 10, thousands of Disciples voted their overwhelming support for a resolution "On Becoming Immigrant Welcoming Congregations." The sense-of-the-assembly resolution was drafted by National Benevolent Association, Refugee & Immigration Ministries (a ministry of DHM), and the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (Obra Hispana) and supported by Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel (a ministry of DHM), Iglesia Alas de Salvación in Arizona, Iglesia Cristiana Emmanuel in Texas, National Convocation, and North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD).

In light of current anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies, the resolution encourages members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to consider standing with immigrants in three main ways:

1. Healing – by providing mental health training and support, particularly for immigrants facing immigration-related trauma.
2. Prevention – by facilitating legal help and preparedness for immigrants at risk of

deportation.

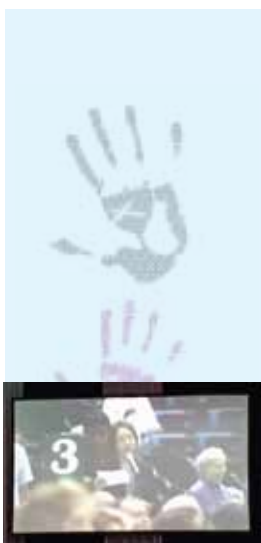
3. Protection – by offering sanctuary and community protection for immigrants facing detention and deportation.

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II spoke in favor of the resolution, recounting the story of Pastor José Chicas who is in sanctuary in North Carolina. He said, "They can't arrest us all. Let ICE come to the communion table and arrest our brothers and sisters while they are holding our hand."

Congregations seeking to live into these commitments are encouraged to contact Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director of Refugee & Immigration Ministries or Tana Liu-Beers, Disciples Immi-

gration Legal Counsel, and find resources at: disciplesimmigration.org and disciple-shomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries.

*Tana Liu-Beers
Disciples Legal Counsel
Disciples Home Missions*



Tana Liu-Beers (above) and Sharon Stanley-Rea (below) speaking in favor of the resolution.



Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II speaking in favor of the resolution.

Photo below: Resolution GA-1723 "On Becoming Immigrant Welcoming Congregations. The resolution was adopted by the 2017 General Assembly.



Tana Liu-Beers and Sharon Stanley-Rea leading a workshop on "Welcoming Immigrants & Refugees: Hearing Affected Voices, Understanding Changes, Acting Beyond Rhetoric." The workshop connected with the two resolution that passed on "Immigrant Welcoming" and the emergency "Refugee Welcoming."

Thank You Mission Servants!

Mission opportunities were abundant at General Assembly, and Assembly goers responded in force! **Thanks to all who stepped up and offered your time and talents in service.**

A special thanks to Brooks Barrick, local missions coordinator, and his team for enabling these service opportunities and to Brenda Tyler, Disciples Home Missions (DHM), Ministry Associate, for her support. Disciples were busy during GA, making an impact on Indianapolis as we answered the call to Get Dirty for Jesus Together!

- High school youth served breakfast at two Ronald McDonald houses on Sunday morning.
- Middle school youth assembled 120 backpacks for area homeless.
- 82 Disciples donated blood.
- More than 22,000 pounds of potatoes were sorted for distribution through the local food bank.
- A 3 bedroom house was framed and stood up in less than five hours inside the Convention Center, then taken down and transported to a local home site where it will be completed in the coming weeks.
- Youth spread mulch (in the rain!) at a local elementary school.
- Over the course of two shifts, several hundred pounds of food was sorted at Gleaners Food Bank.
- In the convention center, Disciples also learned about Bread for the World and wrote letters advocating for food security;
- knit more than 200 hats for babies; and
- made 90 hero capes for premature babies in a local NICU.



More than 428 Disciples were involved in these acts of service. In addition, Disciples Women donated and assembled

- 290 health kits and
- tied quilts for immigrants and refugees.



Disciples truly made an impact on Indianapolis and beyond as they served in Mission!



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(800) 668-8016

DHM Summer Mission Intern Program takes a fresh look

The 2017 season marked a substantial shift for the Disciples Home Missions (DHM) Summer Mission Intern Program. Rev. Josh Baird, Director of Disciples Volunteering, which oversees the program, reports, "We were thrilled to collaborate with Disciples Peace Fellowship and Global Ministries this year, in training and in deployment, as we test the waters of what's possible."

"Collaboration is consistent with who we say we are as Disciples; and responding to changing realities is just good sense. With those things in mind, we're once again re-shaping the intern program," Baird said.

Collaboration has always been at the core of the program.

Disciples Home Missions has long trained and deployed young adults for service with Disciples' historic mission centers. Those centers – Yakama Christian Mission, Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, Inman Christian Center, All Peoples Community Center, Kansas Christian Home, plus Disciples Disaster Recovery sites, and later, UrbanSpirit – would provide work and educational mission opportunities for youth groups from congregations across

the denomination; interns would help lead, while they themselves learn about service in the larger church. The intern program has been formative and transformative for scores of young people, now working as pastors, lawyers, social workers, teachers, artists, political leaders, youth ministers.

With the changing needs of those centers, changing travel patterns of Disciples' groups, and the growing trend of congregation-based interns, Baird, Director since 2010, and Rev. Deb Conrad, Intern Coordinator since 2007, have been shifting the focus of the intern program.

"For several years, we've been deepening the training week to create a broad-based

leadership event for young church leaders, including greater emphasis on understanding privilege, racism and economic injustice, as well as higher self-awareness and increased group facilitation skills. We believe this is an opportunity for the church to create leaders beyond a summer of service and help young people find their own voices and test their vocational interests."

In 2017, the intern class included two congregational interns and one Global Ministries intern, as well as one student who was identified through typical DHM channels.

In recent years, the placement list has grown to include Urban Mission Inn, a ministry of Union Avenue Christian Church in St. Louis, Ft. Worth Connect, a ministry of Ridglea Christian Church; and community partnerships through Woodside Church of Flint, Mich.

So, what is your congregation imagining, and how can DHM help?

Deb Conrad
UrbanSpirit



DHM Summer Mission Interns from left: Mason Wagner, Kelsey Cobbs, Bailey Cannon, and Juan Manuel Martinez Ramirez.

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



In the Mail - All Peoples Happenings

2017 is in full swing!

We are proud to report that in the summer of 2016, Camp Joe Ide went through an ACA accreditation process in which we scored 100 percent – meeting and exceeding expectations of health, safety, program and human resources standards that demonstrates that our camp is a safe and a fun place for children. Having an ACA accreditation is the best proof for parents that our camp is committed to health, safety and the well-being of the campers. We are proud to say that our Camp Joe Ide program has been running strong 67 years, and we look forward to another great summer camp in 2017.

Along with Good Sunday a lot of wonderful and amazing things have/will happen to All Peoples this Month. Our Annual Wellness Convention Health Fair was a success. We had a handful of agencies and clinics come and share their information with our families and community members. We give a special thanks to the local business owners that helped promote our health fair. It is an exciting month for your youth as well. Volleyball season has started, and many of our youth just had their first Volleyball game on April 1. We hope the youth have a wonderful time playing on a team and learn more of the sport.

We sincerely thank you for your friendship and all of your continued support. It is because of your donation of \$1,434.00 that we are able to continue our mission to provide social services and programs to empower individuals, promote community respect, and encourage self-determination within our community. We are more determined than ever to continue with our mission in 2017. Our work has just begun.

Sincerely,

Saundra Bryant
Executive Director
All Peoples Community Center

All Peoples YouTube Channel

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR



We're happy to announce that All Peoples now has a YouTube Channel! Please subscribe to stay up to date with Community Events. You can subscribe here: All Peoples YouTube Channel



Urban Adventures Summer Day Camp 2017 has just wrapped up. From Mondays to Thursdays our Youth participated in activities such as English, Math, College Readiness, Science, Art, Theater, Sports, Team Building, & Cooking/Nutrition!



Teens in the FamilySource Center Teen Program had the opportunity to mentor youth in the Summer Day Camp! Photo from All Peoples Community Center.



All Peoples Community Center is a beacon of hope in South Los Angeles committed to improving the lives of youth and families. We invite you to support us on Thursday, October 19, 2017, for our 75th Anniversary Fundraiser "A Diamond in the Rough" at USC Radisson. The festivities will include dinner, dancing, awards and a silent auction.

Chautauqua Comes To Christmount

Christmount will present a Chautauqua event modeled after the Chautauqua Institution experience. This Festival of Mind, Body and Spirit will be held October 23-27, 2017.



Dr. Robert Lee Hill

"Uncommon Ground: Cultivating Justice in Soils of Diversity" is the theme for this event. Featuring speakers and workshop leaders versed in issues of eco-justice, social awareness, and community-consciousness.

Dr. Robert Lee Hill will be the speaker. He is Minister Emeritus of Community Christian Church, Kansas City, Mo., where he served for more than 30 and a half years until his semi-retirement in 2015. He is currently a Community Consultant with the Kauffman Foundation (regarding community engagement with public education), What U Can Do (focusing on voter registration and citizen engagement), and the Health Care Foundation of GKC (coordinating a community dialog project).

For more information and registration visit www.christmount.org/chautauqua.

Recreation and Leisure Programming for People with Autism

Camp Lakey will be hosting a workshop September 26 to 28, 2017, on "Recreation & Leisure Programming for People with Autism." This 3-day course is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the unique learning style of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as a foundation for supporting these individuals in recreational and leisure settings. The content of this course is based on the use of the UNC-CH TEACCH Autism Program's principles of structured teaching. Strategies for teaching communication, independence, relaxation and social/leisure skills will be emphasized.

The course includes PowerPoint presentations, hands-on experiences with children and adults with ASD, and small group discussions.

The Tuesday - Thursday course is being hosted by the historic Christmount Retreat, Camp, and Conference Center in Black Mountain, N.C. Participants and "campers" will participate in structured hikes, adapted indoor and outdoor activities, and "music and motion" in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

For more information and to register, visit www.camplakeygap.org/workshop



Disciples Summer Internships

Christmount is now accepting applications for Disciples Summer Internships. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2018. Positions will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Special consideration will be given to Disciples organizations new to the Disciples Summer Intern Program at Christmount or who have not participated in recent years.

Positions are available for Disciples Peace Fellowship, Disciples Volunteering, Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries, Disciples Home Missions, HELM/Disciples on Campus, NBA XPLORE, Reconciliation Ministries, Green Chalice, Outdoor Ministries, SERF, GYC Adult, and Bethany Fellows.

This is an exciting adventure in re-framing how summer camp operates! By combining specialized interns from a variety of Disciples organizations, we are creating a rich atmosphere brimming with opportunities to collaborate with one another in developing summer programs that connect the "Disciples-dots" like never before.

For more information about Summer Internships and to receive an application form, contact Rob Morris, Executive Director or Jamie Brame, Program Director at 828-669-8977 or by email at: rob@christmount.org or jamiembrame@yahoo.com

What is

Disciples Mission Fund

Disciples Mission Fund is the common fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Disciples Mission Fund supports 72 ministries of wholeness as close as your local congregation and reaching around the globe.



Find out more at
disciplesmissionfund.org



Photo left: DHM honors Rev. Steve Doan, Chaplain Endorsing Officer, at a retirement celebration during the 2017 General Assembly at the Indiana Repertory Theater in Indianapolis.



Photo above: Steve Doan, and Owen Chandler.



Photo below: Steve Doan, and Robin Stallings.



Photo above: Steve Doan, and Russ Boyd.

Mission First report presented at General Assembly

"Sometimes we just need a new perspective, a new direction or way of seeing the world around us, a purpose, a focus to make that difference that we all yearn to make as God's people."

The opening video for the Mission First progress report (posted online: <http://disciples.org/ga/toolkit>) invited Disciples into thinking about how we focus our mission efforts across the life of the Church.

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, Tony Rodriguez and Sue Morris shared the immense progress made since the idea surfaced in the 2014 General Board meeting. An effort to both lighten the load of the governance of the Church and tighten the focus of our mission, the whole Church was invited to pray and listen.

In 2015 and 2016, prayers for Mission First were offered every Friday. More than 80 mission gatherings, including both the United States and Canada, in settings from regional assemblies to board meetings, occurred. In December of 2016, the first Mission Council took the results of the gatherings and listened for the voice of the Spirit.

The emerging focus for Mission First! includes

- Responding with compassion to the vulnerable
- Creating communities of inclusion and learning

- Overcoming oppression, especially racism
- Partnering with at-risk children and youth

Many Disciples are already deeply involved in addressing these foci and they can inspire all of us to join. Tutoring programs, feeding programs, camp scholarships, contributions to Disciples Mission Fund that support wider church programs, letters to editors on local issues—all of these are ways Disciples are making a difference.

Inspiration abounds on the Mission First Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/docvisionformission/>) but you don't have to look far outside your door to find a place to begin your response.

Mission First is Disciples making a difference!

***A Bible Study for
Mission First!
Visit:***

missionfirst.disciples.org/MissionFirst2017BibleStudy.pdf



Rev. Gilberto Collazo, President of Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation, served as emcee for the Mission First! game show.



The contestants on for the Mission First! game show included from right, Regional Minister Nadine Burton, 2016 Mission Council Member Sarah Page Jones, Regional Minister Bill Spangler-Dunning and 2016 Mission Council Member Jaclyn Oden-Peace.



General Youth Council meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., February 17 to 20, 2017.



DHM President, Ron Degges, thanking the congregation of Fremont, Neb., for its gift to provide scholarships to Ministerial Students. Katrina Palin, Regional Executive for Nebraska, Kirby Gould, Vice President of the Christian Church Foundation, and members of the Cotner College Board of Directors participated in the celebration!



Disciples Center staff participated this summer in a 5K walk sponsored by Family and Children's Ministry, a ministry of Disciples Home Missions. From left front row: Marissa Ivey (DHM), Ann Marie Moyars (DHM), Karen Johnson (CCF), Emma Brown (CCF), and April Johnson (OGMP). Back row from left: Erin Cody (DHM), Kathy Watts (DHM), Pat Donahoo (DW), Sierra Resnover (CCF), Linda White (CCF), Ron Degges (DHM), Christy Stratton (CCF), and Sheila Spencer (DHM).



Photo above and below: Disciples Home Missions and Disciples Women Staff walk the Labyrinth during the August DHM's Pro Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Retreat, held at the Benedict Inn and Retreat Center in Beech Grove, Indiana.



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Rev. Sotello V. Long

at (317) 713-2684

***DHM Equipping Disciples
for Christ***

Mail Continued from page 14.

On behalf of Inman Christian Center, we would like to thank you for your charitable contribution of \$1'434.00 which we received from the Disciples Men "Cookin' for Mission" offerings. The generous financial support of organizations like yours makes it possible for Inman Christian Center to thrive and offer much needed resources to the community. Please share our thanks with all the organizations that participated in "Cookin' for Mission." We would like everyone to know how much we appreciate their support.

Inman Christian Center strives to invest resources in the surrounding community in order to enhance the lives of children, families, and also elderly and disabled individuals and your donation helps make that possible. Your commitment to Inman Christian Center will enable us to fully support the community through our child development center, housing, food pantry, social services, and summer recreation program.

We greatly appreciate your dedication and continued support and truly appreciate the gifts you've bestowed to our organization and the faith you have in our mission. Please feel free to contact us throughout the year to inquire how your donation has been utilized by our organization to fulfill our mission.

Sincerely,

Amber Aquino

Inman Christian Center Director

Thank you for Disciples Home Missions' recent gift of \$500 to ecoAmerica.

Your donation will support the 7th Annual American Climate Leadership Summit (ACLS), the nation's largest gathering to broaden and activate climate leadership across sectors, and galvanize support for solutions.

The 2017 gathering will bring together more than 300 influential leaders from health, faith, higher education, business, government and local communities to share ideas, prioritize opportunities, and collaborate to advance concrete strategies for engaging the missing middle of America on Climate solutions. It will also include a press moment for us to spread the news that climate leadership is expanding, accelerating, and diversifying.

Be sure to check out our Recommendations Report and highlights video from the 2016 American Climate Leadership Summit here: <https://ecoamerica.org/summits-forums/>.

ecoAmerica could not do any of this without the support of partners and friends like you. Thank you, again, for your commitment to ecoAmerica and the 2017 American Climate Leadership Summit!

Sincerely,

*Bob Perkowitz, President
ecoAmerica*

Continued on page 33. See Mail.

Book Corner

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| • An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States | Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz |
| • Ferguson & Faith | Leah Gunning Francis |
| • Journey Toward Wholeness | Mary Alice Do |
| • Lies My Teacher Told Me | James W. Loewen |
| • Room at the Table | Sandhya Jha |
| • The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian | Sherman Alexie |



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helmdisciples.org/SemCon

Thursday 19 to Sunday 22 October, 2017 | Indianapolis, IN

Registration is now open for this year's Seminarians Conference. The gathering will take place in Indianapolis, Ind., beginning on Thursday October 19, 2017 at 5 p.m. and ending on Sunday October 22, 2017 at 12 p.m. This is a great opportunity for Disciples seminarians to learn about various aspects of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including information about general ministries, opportunities and programs available for ministers, and additional resources. The Seminarians Conference is also a wonderful opportunity to meet, network, and fellowship with other current Disciples seminarians.

Disciples students working towards a Masters of Divinity degree at any accredited institution in the United States and Canada, who have completed at least one year of their program, are eligible to attend. If you graduated in 2017 but have not attended a

Seminarians Conference before, you are also eligible. If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact Rev. Eli Rolón Jeong via email [erolon@helmdisciples.org].

The cost of registration is only \$75.00; however, deferred payment is available. The registration fee will cover admission to all programs during the conference, double occupancy accommodations (if needed) at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel (3 nights - Thursday, Friday, and Saturday), and meals during the conference. Participants are responsible for arranging and purchasing their own transportation; however, transportation subsidies will be available (more information will be available soon).

Visit www.helmdisciples.org/Sem-Con to register. Or, please share this information with Disciples M.Div. students who are eligible.



What's Happening in Higher Education & Leadership Ministries

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) has been working alongside Disciples related institutions of higher learning as well as General Ministry and global partners, partnering together as one as we seek to develop and nurture Christian leaders who

are transforming church, society and world.

On April 20 and 21, HELM hosted a gathering of leaders, staff and faculty from colleges and universities related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Participants gathered to discuss

what it means to be a Disciples related school as well as to identify opportunities for working together and with various General Ministries in ways that are mutually beneficial. During the summit, participants were reminded that non-sectarian education has been a priority for Disciples since the beginning of the movement and today that difficult yet vital work continues.

From May 27 to June 3, six participants in the HELM Leadership Fellows Program

traveled to Cuba to visit Disciples partners and learn about the country's cultures, history, and religious and political life. This was the first international trip for the Leadership Fellows Program and partner visits included the Martin Luther King Center, the Cuban Council of Churches, the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas, and Sunday worship with a local congregation of the Pentecostal Church of Cuba, all partners through Global Ministries/Division of Overseas Ministries. Participants were reminded that despite differences in culture and context, we are united in our calling to be one in Christ.

And at General Assembly, HELM hosted a dinner on Monday, July 10 where the topic of discussion was "Leadership Development and the Call to Do Justice." A panel consisting of Dr. Leah Gunning Francis (Dean of Faculty at Christian Theological Seminary), Dr. Robert Wilson-Black (CEO of Sojourners), Rev. Linda McCrae (pastor of Central Christian Church, Indianapolis), and Cris Marin (HELM Leadership Fellow at Eureka College) shared from their experiences as leaders. The discussion included numerous comments and questions from those in attendance and all went away with much to consider in our calling as people of faith to do justice in our world.



Leadership Fellow Trip to visit partners in Cuba



Leaders from Disciples Colleges and Universities with General Ministry Staff

DHM Board Confirms New President and Honors Outgoing Members and Staff



Ron Degges honoring outgoing DHM Board Members, Donna Davis and Valerie Melvin. Photo right: Ron is presenting Valerie with a stole from DHM Board and Staff.



Photo left: Donna Davis and Valerie Melvin modeling their new stoles given by Ron Degges.

Photo right: Ron Degges, presenting new DHM President to Board and Staff.



Ron Degges presenting Robert Thornton with parting words upon his retirement as the Director of Scouts Ministries for DHM.

Photo right: Rev. Sotello Long speaking to Board and Staff after his introduction from Ron Degges.



Everyone has a Story – Reconciliation Ministry

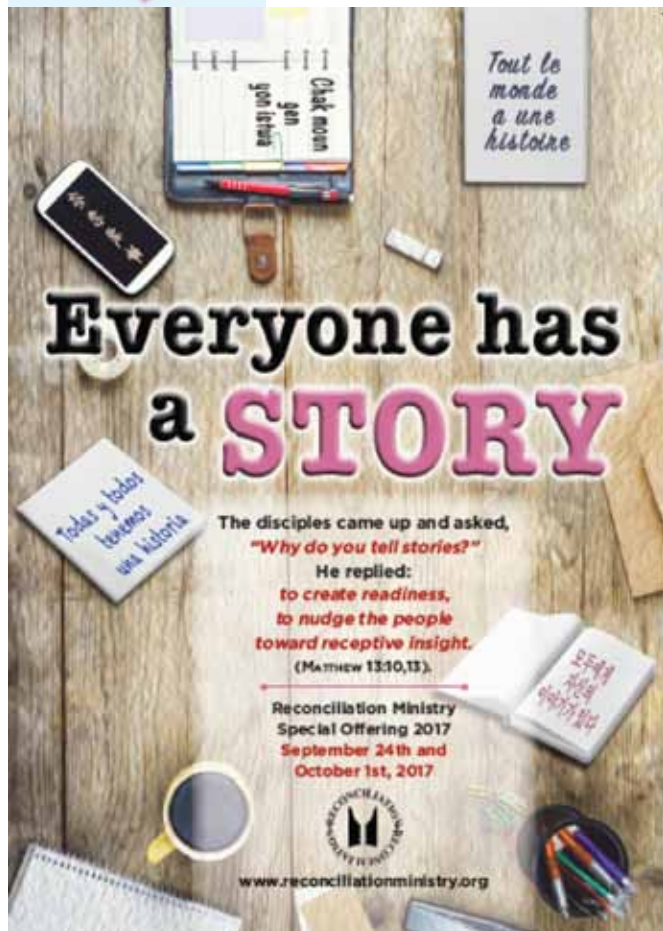
One of the most important human activities is the ancient tradition of telling stories. We shape our life and construct our worldviews based on the stories we hear. It is through storytelling that people's lives and experiences gave form to the book that tells the story of salvation, the Bible; Jesus' ministry was grounded in storytelling, and he highlighted the importance of telling stories. We read in Matthew 13 that after having heard Jesus preach multiple times, and frequently using ancient stories as essential parts of his sermon moments, the disciples ask him "why do you tell stories?" and he replied, saying, "to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight" (Matthew 13:10, 13 MSG). Jesus deeply believed in the power of story, he was not only keen to tell stories, but he also made time to hear other people's stories; Jesus' ministry created safe spaces everywhere he

went, spaces that healed, empowered, united and liberated. However, today, the stories that permeate our social media and news networks are harrowing and disheartening, far from stories that liberate and heal, these are stories of divisionism, supremacy, oppression and death. Evil is trying to dominate the daily nar-

rative of our world; however, in Reconciliation Ministry we believe that everyone has a story to tell, and that somehow, in one way or another, the telling of our story and hearing of other people's stories will contribute to create readiness for change and to nudge people toward receptive insight to address the evil and sin of racism, so that the story of salvation may be experienced at its fullness in all of God's diverse creation. Jesus calls us to not be silent, because our stories matter, because our stories are powerful forces that when told and heard can tear down the walls that divide us.

Since 1967, Disciples of Christ's Reconciliation Program now Ministry has funded church wide and community programs intended to provide justice and inclusion for all, creating spaces for everyone to tell their story. In our efforts to combat racism and oppression, we understand that we cannot afford anymore to be silent. It is through developing relationships across our perceived differences, listening to each other's story that we break down the barriers that separate us from each other and from God. This year's Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering theme celebrates the rich diversity of our Church and our land. Everyone Has Story connects to our mission to recognizing God's diverse creation in gifts and voices that tell stories reflecting our common humanity. Through your generous giving which funds our mission; grants, educational opportunities, leader development and diverse camps and conference opportunities we continue to write the gospel story of Christ's love for all of God's children. The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering will be received in congregations on Sundays, September 24th and October 1st.

If you want to engage in this mission beyond the special offering, and want to be part of the story of reconciliation, please, contact April Johnson at ajohnson@disciples.org or Bere Gil Soto at bgilsoto@disciples.org. We would love to partner with you!



Everyone has a STORY

The disciples came up and asked, "Why do you tell stories?" He replied: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight. (MATTHEW 13:10,13)

Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering 2017 September 24th and October 1st, 2017

www.reconciliationministry.org



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www.discipleshomemissions.org/black-ministers-retreat



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Organizing Pastor
Freedom's Chapel Christian
Church (DOC)
Memphis, TN

Rev. Marvin J. Owens Jr.

Senior Pastor
Michigan Park Christian
Church (DOC)
Washington, D.C.



Rev. Dr. Stacy L. Spencer
Senior Pastor
New Direction Christian Church
(DOC)
Memphis, TN

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale

Founder & Senior Pastor
Ray of Hope Christian
Church (DOC)
Decatur, GA



Rev. Dr. Frank A. Thomas
Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller
Professor of Homiletics
Christian Theological Seminary
Indianapolis, IN

Continuing Education Institute

Preston Taylor Institute

Session #1 Joel 2:28



Rev. Dr. Howard John-Wesley
Senior Pastor
Alfred Street Baptist Church
Alexandria, Virginia

Session #2 Acts 2:17

Rev. Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder
Dean/Associate Professor
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February 03, 2018

For more information visit our site: www.discipleshomemissions.org/black-ministers-retreat



Mail *Continued from page 27.*

This is Helen Tucker from Fayetteville, N. C., First Christian saying "hi."

Right after the last time we talked, I saw an ad that you would be retiring. I was thinking of that happening and just thought it was still referring to Sharon Watkins. Later I got other notices and thought I needed to pay more attention. Sure enough, it's you! I'm happy for you, but not for the rest of us. I have enjoyed you so much and appreciated having someone we could call when we needed expert help.

We have a retired Major in our church who is a pilot and he retired a few years ago, but still works as a pilot for a contracting firm. He has made many trips to Afghanistan and Iraq and for the past year, I guess, he has been going to Africa.

He flies three months and then comes home for a couple of months. Every time he goes back to Africa, we send clothes by him. The last time he was home, I told him we should let you know he was doing that and I wished he would write a little about himself. He thanked me, but being the kind

and generous person that he is, I never did get any particulars. We just this minute received this e-mail from him. He sends us so many pictures of the people in Africa and once a whole bunch of new puppies, and while he was home, his friends that were near the puppies sent us pictures of them growing. I wanted to forward you his letter in case you could see fit to use it.

When our new minister came for a first visit, he was home and took him on a tour of Ft. Bragg. The minister had been in the Navy Intelligence for 12 years. When are you leaving? We are looking for a new Regional Minister, as you may know. You can see from Rob's letter, he will be home for awhile on June 25. My goodness, I just now realized there are several pictures here. I didn't know that. If you can use this or need any info, let me know. You can see his e-mail address below.

*Blessings,
Helen Tucker
First Christian Church
Fayetteville, North Carolina*

Hi Everyone,

Here are pictures of clothing from First Christian Church that I brought to our local friends here in Niger. Things are organized and fairly distributed once I get them out of my aviator kit bag. Everything is greatly appreciated by recipients and they extend their sincere gratitude to everyone!

I'm well and home 25 June. Hope to see you all soon! Best wishes from Africa!

Rob Gates



GMP *Continued from page 4.*

of more than 40 individuals nominated or recommended to the search committee after the May 2016 posting of the position. Applications were due July 10, 2016 – one full year prior to her election – followed by screening and October and February interviews.

Hord Owens' resume includes more



Teresa Hord Owens

than 20 years in corporate America leading diverse teams in data management before she entered seminary. For the last 12 years, she has been the dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School, shepherding a varied student body in both

background and theology and for the past 8 years, simultaneously pastor of a congregation in suburban Chicago.

Hord Owens comes to the position in a time of renewed emphasis on the issues of race, particularly in the United States. Her election comes just before the 50th anniversary of the Merger Agreement uniting the African-American and largely white branches of the denomination.



Teresa Hord Owens and Sharon Watkins

The election of Hord Owens follows the 12-year tenure of the Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, who was the first woman to lead a mainline denomination in the United States upon her election in 2005. Hord Owens' term is six years with an option for re-election in 2023 for an additional six-year term.



From General Minister and President Teresa Hord Owens' installation sermon

"Our striving for unity is perhaps the most powerful way in which we bear witness that the love of God is real and present in the world. If we can hold one another in community, even in the presence of tensions that result from human differences of various dimensions of identity, socio-economic status, geography, theology and politics, we can be an example to the world to say that we believe the gospel of Jesus Christ and his church are so important that we can work together despite those differences to ensure that God's message of love is shared and lived out in the world. This is, I believe, what Jesus prayed for, and it is what I believe we are called to live out as disciples/Disciples of Christ.

Imagine what it can look like---looking at a community of believers who have placed the love of God and neighbor above all else, who do not demonize differences as deficient but seek to understand one another in light of our uniqueness and diversity; who are willing for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ to stand shoulder to shoulder, working through differences in priorities, opinions, methods and goals—always yielding to the vision of how the world might be able to see real love among us and through us. This is not an easy vision, and it will take not just the best of what is in us, but it will also take the best of what God can do in and through us. It is a beautiful, gritty, necessary vision that we must pursue, empowered by the love of God, led by the example of Jesus Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit. We will need to learn how to have difficult conversations, to go beyond the standard training sessions, to sit with one another, be uncomfortable at times, and learn how to hear one another fully, to place ourselves in one another's shoes and honor each other's identity and lived experiences."



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July 19-22, 2018 - Birmingham, AL



A Call to Action: Onward Christian Soldier

**Be strong, and let us fight bravely for our people
and the cities of our God...**

2 Samuel 10:12

**Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when
the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...**

Ephesians 6:13





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of the Christian Church
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Start...Sustain...Soar! at Leadership Academy

Hope Partnership's Leadership Academy is returning to Indianapolis September 18 – 22 at a new location, Speedway Christian Church. The five-day training event brings together clergy and lay leaders from across the United States and Canada to learn from leading innovators, experienced church planters, and church transformation experts.

This year's Leadership Academy features three different tracks:

- Start (Pre-launch) Track is designed to empower leaders whose new church projects have yet to launch. During this track led by Rich McCullen and Joey Cotto, you will discern your missional purpose, develop your future story and prepare for launching a new church.
- Sustain (Post-launch) Track is designed to empower leaders whose projects/church starts are less than ten years old. During this track led by Terrell L. McTyer and Kate Penney Howard, you will develop strengthening practices to

grow and maintain a sustainable ministry. This track is also perfect for core teams, congregation/lay leaders and newly-affiliated churches.

- Soar (Transformation) Track is designed to empower church teams to revitalize and transform congregations to do God's mission and make deep connections with their community. During this track led by Rick Morse and Michael Whitman, you will tackle issues of future vitality and prepare a ministry-planning process.

Attendees will also participate in DOCTalks, joint sessions that address missional transformation inclusive of every stage of leadership and LEADLabs,

interactive workshops designed to help leaders imagine new possibilities for mission and ministry.

For more information or to register, call 800.274.1883 or visit www.LeadWithHOPE.org.



Indianapolis, Indiana, September 18 – 22, 2017