

Winter 2016

# The VOICE of Disciples Men



## West Virginia Disciples Men Celebrate Evangelism and More

The Disciples Men of West Virginia gathered at Cedar Lakes Conference Center the weekend of October 2-4, 2015. The theme of the weekend was "Telling your Faith Story." Joel Potts led the Retreat with the help of Rev. David Chafin and Rev. Kenneth Hardway. The retreat consisted of several men who had been previously be asked to prepare and share their faith story. "How did they come to know Jesus Christ and why do they still participate in his church?" At the end of each one's testimony, there was time for questions and answers. The stories were all different and let were familiar as we heard our own faith story in the stories we heard from those who shared. It was a great way to teach about sharing your story to bring others to Christ.



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At this retreat, the Disciples Men were asked to bring the money their local Disciples Men's groups had raised for their Regional Mission of "Bucks for Beef" which feed the hungry all over the state of West Virginia. The congregations shared their stories as well: Collecting donations at grocery stores, cooking meals, parking cars . . . and the stories went on and on. Saturday afternoon, after all the monies had been totaled, the men gathered to share all they had done collectively. Altogether, men of West Virginia raised (Drum Roll) \$20,404.43. There is always some friendly competition among the Disciples Men's groups but it was the Men's Group from First Christian Church in McMechen, WV who raised \$7000.00 and took away the Buffalo Bob award. The Buffalo Bob award goes to the local Disciples Men's group that raises the most money for this Regional mission project. Congratulations to the Disciples Men of West Virginia on your mission work in West Virginia.

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## **Ohio Disciples Men meet around the theme "Black Lives Matter"**

Ohio has suffered three recent incidents where unarmed blacks were shot and killed by police: one in Cincinnati, one in a Beavercreek Walmart and one a twelve year old boy in a Cleveland park playing with a toy gun. Rev. Dr. Timothy James, Disciples of Christ Associate General

Minister and Administrative Secretary for the National Convocation, led the retreat around this important theme that is a priority for both the General and Regional Church. One fourth of those attending were men of color which allowed us to break into groups and listen to and share stories of prejudice and privilege.

Ohio Disciples Men met for their Fall Retreat at Camp Christian around the theme “Black Lives Matter.”

One of the statements that became clear during the retreat was, “Yes, All lives Matter! But All live Matter only if all Black Lives Matter.” It was a great opportunity to build relationships around this important topic. The Disciples Men of the First Christian Church in Kent, OH shared in their experience of sharing in an ecumenical march and worship at the local AME Church for Black Lives Matter. They encouraged relationship building with congregations of differing ethnicities as a way to build trust and friendship.



## Nebraska Recharge – Igniting the Fire!

“Igniting the fire!” was the theme of the Nebraska Recharge at Kamp Kaleo. Rev. Stephen Bentley, Minister of Disciples Men led the retreat discussing ways of revitalizing Men’s Ministry at the local and regional church.



Workshops were held around the themes of Building Relationships: to God, to each other, and to the wider community.

This group loves to sing and had opportunities for inspirational worship. Saturday afternoon was spent doing mission work around Kamp Kaleo and then enjoying fellowship while tubing down a local river.

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## **Kansas Disciples Men launched a new initiative**

This last August, the Kansas Disciples Men launched a new initiative for teens, their father-figures and men in general who desire to become more like Christ in their everyday life. This initiative has been named the “Men’s Odyssey Project,” and it began with an inaugural retreat that saw 17 men participate ranging from 12 to 75 years of age. It was such a positive experience for those who came that plans are already underway for a second all region Men’s Odyssey Retreat, which is planned for August 12-13, 2016.

This new men’s initiative intentionally targets teen boys and their father figures and invites them to begin an intentional journey of developing Christ-like character, but it can also be utilized by any man. It will have three phases to it: Annual Father/Son retreat, monthly Men’s accountability groups and a daily rule of life guide for individuals or teens and their father-figures. Right now curriculum is being developed for daily “Rule of Life” devotional guides and monthly Men’s Odyssey Accountability groups for local congregations. The goal is to have this curriculum ready for use by the end of the year, if not sooner.

# *You Are Called By Name*

*Sessions '16 @ TCU*

## **Hang Your Hat in Fort Worth**

***July 8-10, 2016***

**Join Disciple Men from around North America for three days  
of Church leadership training, worship and good times.**

***Remember: You are Called by Name!***

## **SESSIONS 2016 - COME AND SEE – GOD IS CALLING!**

You are a man, active in leadership in a congregation, or you would probably not be reading this far. You may be wondering, “Is it worth the trip?”

We, the General Conference of Disciples Men, know that it is. We all struggle with many of the same problems in our congregations and we know the value of fellowship, Bible study, exploring our calling as leaders, hands-on mission, and having fun while doing all that.

The Sessions agenda includes hearing about “Being a Man in the Local Church” from Todd Adams and “Three Big Mistakes Churches Make” from Newell Williams.

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There will be workshops both introspective and practical, repeated so all can participate. We will learn about “Soul Care” with Rita Nakashima Brock and “Fiduciary Responsibility” with Todd Adams.

We will hang our hats out and about with optional activities, a bus tour of Fort Worth, a walking tour of the TCU campus, or a mission project at a local food pantry.

Alvin Jackson will rally us at the beginning and lead us in Sunday morning worship with proclamation and hope as we set off for home knowing that we have been called by name and with new experiences to share where we hang our hats.

The program starts with dinner at 6:00 pm, Friday, July 8 and ends after 8:30 am worship on Sunday, July 10.

Come and see—God is calling!

For further information go to our Website: <http://sessions2016.org>

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