Sheila Spencer has multiple roles serving Disciples Home Missions, overseeing Christian Education and Faith Formation as well as serving as Assistant to the President. She also holds a merger staff position of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), responsible for the development and implementation of programs which nurture, specifically, African American congregations.

Christian Education/Faith Formation seeks to ....

- Enable persons to be biblically informed.
- Enable persons to grow as maturing Christians in the journey of faith.
- Enable persons to participate in the life of the Christian community as informed worshipping and caring disciples of Christ.
- To be equipped and supported for living responsibly in the world as faith disciples of Christ.
- Equip persons to be effective leaders in the ministry of Christian education and to assist in the equipping of persons for leadership in other ministries of the church.

Email address: sspencer@dhm.disciples.org
Phone: 317-713-2634
Speaker Bureau Option: Yes
Website: https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/faith-formation/christian-education/

Dr. Catherine Nichols served the church as a mission co-worker for ten years and then transitioned into the role of executive of mission personnel in 2012. Her role in the church is to help those who have felt the call to serve find a match within the global church to serve and accompany our global partners around the world.

Global Ministries seeks to help members and congregations to:

- PRAY regularly for partners, mission co-workers and the world
- EDUCATE its members about the global church from toddlers to adults
- SEEKS JUSTICE for the “least of these” around the world
- RECEIVE the gifts of the global church
- GIVE to the work of global mission
- SHARE the Good News of abundant life
- GROW in sharing the story of God’s mission

We have wonderful opportunities with our partners to serve as short-term volunteers, long-term volunteers, global mission interns, or fully supported mission co-workers. Just send me an email and we will get you connected!

- East Asia and the Pacific
- Southern Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Africa
- Middle East and Europe

Email address: cnichols@dom.disciples.org
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Speaker Bureau Option: Yes
Website: Global Ministries
R. Wayne Calhoun Sr., is the Executive for the Office of Evangelism & Congregational Transformation for Disciples Home Missions and Merger Staff to nurture African American Congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Dr. Calhoun’s major focus is on providing leadership in evangelism, church growth, transformation, and vitality for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Evangelism is the preaching or sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ to all people.

Dr. Calhoun believes that just as important as it is to fit selected resources to specific programs and ministries of the church, is to know the motivation behind their use. It will be important to discern each church’s answers to these questions: Why do we do evangelism? Why do we share our faith? Why do invite people to church? Why do we give to mission? Many people share their faith out of deep conviction. Some evangelize in order to be faithful to the command of Jesus Christ, which tells us to go and make disciples. Others share the gospel in response to a God of love and grace. For some, it is a matter of eternal significance, being motivated by concern for another’s eternal judgment or salvation; for their spiritual welfare.

With the help of DHM’s evangelism team you will find the tools that best fit your ministry. For more evangelism resources and lectionary reflections, visit www.evangelismconnections.org. Evangelism Connections is an ecumenical partnership of mainline denominations, including the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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Phone: 317-713-2650
Speaker Bureau Option: Yes
Website: https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/evangelism/

Kate Epperly is no stranger to DHM’s Family and Children’s Ministries, having served on our team in 2013-2014 as part of an experimental Disciples/UCC Family and Children’s faith formation partnership.

Kate brings to her role as Coordinator of Justice and Advocacy for Family and Children’s Ministries a lifelong commitment to justice and advocacy, and holistic spiritual formation for the wellbeing of families, children and youth. Her ministerial experience includes revitalization of ministry programs with young adults, and congregational revitalization through development of intergenerational worship and faith formation.

Having worked in Church World Service CROP and refugee resettlement and immigration programs for many years, Kate is currently focusing her volunteer efforts as Coordinator of the Cape Cod Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Vice-Chair of the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission. Her focus with Family and Children’s Ministries is developing cross generational, faith-based resources for children and families dedicated to seeking the common good for all God’s children, in our communities, nation and abroad.

Central to Kate’s work is curating resources for families and children seeking to build empathetic, compassionate, and just relationships for reconciliation and wholeness amidst the diverse peoples of our churches, communities and world. Such resources will include core practices of non-violent communication and conflict resolution, arising from an integrative, intergenerational faith formation model of prayerful action and reflection.

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Phone: 508-209-1005
Speaker Bureau Option: Yes
Website: www.disciplesjustice4children.org
Warren Lynn was born the son of a Disciples Minister. After seminary, he served pastorates in Illinois, Washington state and Montana and also served in many regional capacities and for various community organizations until his call in 2002, to become director of the Office of Search and Call for Disciples Home Missions (DHM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Currently, Warren serves in the position of Executive Minister for Christian Vocations at DHM and holds a deep passion for spiritual formation of Christian Leaders. His many personal interests also are reflective of his own personal spiritual formation as well. He maintains certification as an Advanced Labyrinth Facilitator and also plays flute in the Native American style for reflection and relaxation.

Warren’s responsibilities at DHM include:

- Director of denominational Search and Call system including computer program, print resources and clergy support;
- Providing consultative programmatic and resource leadership in areas of vocational ministry, clergy-care, spiritual practice and wellness of church leaders;
- Director of DHM’s scholarship programs for students preparing for vocational ministry;
- Director of DHM’s Clergy Continuing Education Fund for vocational ministers;
- Resource person relating to Search and Call for General Commission on Ministry;
- Ministry records administration;
- Denominational Representative on Professional Church Leaders, a North-American wide ecumenical group of denominational leaders;
- Denominational Program Liaison for The Association of Disciples Musicians; and Web Master and creator of the WellFeed Spirit Website (www.wellfeedspirit.org).

Randy Kuss is a Disciples minister with over 45 years’ experience in congregational, regional, and denominational Christian education, youth, and outdoor ministries. He serves with DHM as Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Consulting Services.

The Young Adult Commission represents Disciples young adults across the life of the church. We strive to build effective communication networks, offer awareness for advocacy opportunities, and encourage congregations to prepare young adults to lead our church.

As the coordinator and consultant, Randy provides support to the General Youth Council, the Young Adult Commission, regional leaders, constituency groups, and others to help organize, strengthen, and extend the ministries of Disciples youth and young adults with a specific focus on spiritual formation and leader development. Randy also served on DHM staff from 1995 to 2003 as Director of Youth Ministries.

Randy is a co-founder of the Disciples Youth Ministry Network and leads spiritual renewal and visioning retreats for youth workers and other church leaders. He is trained as a Labyrinth Facilitator and promotes the use of labyrinths worldwide. Along with his current ministries with DHM Randy serves as Minister of Christian Education and Youth for Speedway Christian Church, Speedway, Indiana.

### Warren Lynn

**Title:** Executive Minister for Christian Vocations  
**Affiliation:** DHM Staff

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| Speaker Bureau Option: | Yes |
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### Randy Kuss

**Title:** Coordinator, Youth & Young Adult Consulting Services  
**Affiliation:** DHM Staff

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| Phone: | 317-201-7095 |
| Speaker Bureau Option: | Yes |
| Website: | [www.discipleshomissions.org/congregations/young-adults/](http://www.discipleshomissions.org/congregations/young-adults/) |
Rev. Dr. Updegrove is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She attended seminary at Lexington Theological Seminary and completed her doctoral work at Claremont School of Theology with an emphasis in preaching. She has worked with kids, youth, and young adults at various stages of her ministry, and has a deep passion for biblical education for all ages as a foundation for deeper spiritual growth.

**docfamiliesandchildren.org** – Our main website of curated resources and programming for leaders, faith at home, curriculum, intergenerational activities, and more. FCM-CWW-logo-transparent

**Children Worship & Wonder:** A worship-centered approach to faith formation for young children.

**FCM-Candle** Light a Candle for Children Prayer Vigil: Our annual prayer vigil takes place in the five weeks leading up to Children’s Sabbath Sunday in mid-October.

**FCM-K2K-logo** Kids to Kids: Hands-on mission resources and curricula for kids to show love to those in need and learn about difficult topics like hunger, poverty, and immigration.

**Disciples Justice for Children:**
Follow Rev. Kate Epperly’s blog to keep up to date and take action on issues of justice and advocacy for children.

**Vacation Bible School:** Our recommendations for curricula (including many free resources) for your summer programming.

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**Olivia Bryan Updegrove**
**Title:** Minister of Family and Children’s Ministries
**Affiliation:** DHM Staff

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Chesla Nickelson
**Title:** Program Director, Disciples Women
**Affiliation:** IDWM

Chesla has worked as a mentor and tutor for the YMCA, volunteered as a Chaplain for spirituality groups for homeless veterans, and continues to facilitate workshops and therapy groups concerning young adult Christians, marital preparation, sexuality and spirituality, social justice and clergy self-care among others. Chesla has been immersed in various aspects of the Christian Church, including Peace fellowship, DU, Hope Partnership and more. As Chesla strives to live out her purpose and calling in a way that pleases God, she lives by a two word command; Love unconditionally.

**Disciples Women’s Ministries is a conduit for diverse connections empowering each woman to find her voice and live out her call. (Micah 6:8)**

As part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Disciples Women welcomes all to the table as Christ has welcomed us. The ministries of Disciples Women are part of the movement for wholeness in a fragmented world by providing opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education, and creative ministries to enable women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of the church. Find out more about Disciples Women through the links on the right.

We seek to be a network of women committed to the justice-seeking, compassion-focused mission of Jesus Christ with no membership requirements or conditions. Chesla also holds a merger staff position of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), responsible for the development and implementation of programs which nurture, specifically, African American congregations.

Just Women is the official Bible Study resource for Disciples Women’s Ministries.

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**Phone:** 317-551-1032
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**Speaker Bureau Option:** Yes
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Lashaundra McCarty develops social media campaigns, print advertisements and on-line promotions. She writes promotional copy for presentations, advertisements, social media outlets and mass emails. She also designs, plans and executes print and web-based marketing campaigns to support the growth and expansion of the organizations, companies, products and services. In addition, she also conducts seminars and workshops on digital media and leadership, and leads development sessions for social enterprise practitioners. Her certifications include: John Maxwell Team, Everything DISC, 5 Behaviors of a Cohesive Team, Hootsuite and Constant Contact.

McCarty is also able to manage the creative development and production of a broad variety of marketing & communications projects that are in accordance with the marketing & communications plan and any related initiatives and strategies, with an emphasis on copy and art direction and also works to:

- Ensure effective and timely marketing & communications support to all UWJGC staff while following and maintaining consistency with approved plans (e.g. strategic plan, organizational objectives, etc.).
- Provide traffic management oversight, ensuring that all projects are effectively routed for reviews, proofreading and approvals in a scheduled and timely manner, with administrative support.
- Lead the creative development and production for various audio/video needs, including Campaign Video and Radio/TV PSA’s.
- Ensure all marketing & communications efforts adhere to budget and brand guidelines.

Lonnie Graves is a third generation disciple and she has been involved in ministries of the local, regional and general Disciples Church for many years. She has provided communications, leadership and contextual learning opportunities for nearly two decades.

Graves has worked with hundreds of participants, through college instruction, corporate training and through her own Art and Culture leadership and contextual training business. She has been trainer, speaker, presenter and keynoter at many events across the United States. Graves has directed national and local learning/travel experiences for groups within the United States, and outside of the country to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. She has served on various Boards, and on planning teams for national events.

Graves continues as a trainer, communications consultant and curriculum developer in her own business, incorporating contextual learning experiences, while expanding perspectives through Art and Cultural awareness. Contextual learning is designed for the curious and for those who value personal growth through theme related education.

Learning in context translates well into ways of living out a call as a Disciples of Christ. Learning and personal spiritual growth is not limited only to those registered in seminary or in an institution of higher learning. The educational elements of contextual learning are designed to expand a person’s understanding of the world and people around them.

Graves is also a published writer and photographer.
"My ministry currently revolves around cultivating Christian male leaders. As the current Minister to Men at Ray of Hope Christian Church, as well as an at-large member of the Disciples Men Commission of the Christian Church in Georgia, I am tasked with moving men from unchurched to leaders. I have created numerous curricula that touch on a myriad of subjects including Christian male leadership, grace, the importance of legacy, and toxic masculinity, among others. Between preaching, teaching, lecturing, and counseling, I have gained considerable information into why males are not present or not active in churches, and am actively working to counteract these realities.

My approach attempts to deal with men holistically. We touch on the spiritual as well as physical, mental, emotional, and psychological. As male attendance in church continues to dissipate, my research revolves around the phenomenon of male flight and strategies to return them home, not simply to occupy a pew, but empowered to bring about the Kingdom. Through contextual and life-applicable teaching, the formation of a “band” of brothers, and individualized counsel/encouragement from a Christian male leader of respectability, men’s ministries can grow into a vital part of any church. My work builds men’s ministries so they can be fruitful in both church and community."

Is your church in transition, or are you looking to establish a more vital Disciple congregation?

Recognize how your specific call and distinguished gift mix can serve as a dynamic catalyst for visualizing and creating new and alternative pathways of ministry. Discover new ways of ministering to people, using resources God has already placed in and around you.

Considering a new church? Explore essential elements for effective church planting in affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). If you hear God’s call to plant a church and after much prayer, make the important next step to bring clarity an action by developing a Master Plan. Learn essential elements for effective church planting.

Below, find a few areas where McTyer is able to provide support and resources as you structure new approaches for ministry in your church:

- Starting and Strengthening a New Church
- Planting Effective New Churches for Today
- Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did
- A New Church Approach to Evangelism/ Electronic Evangelism
- Return to “Why” – Reassessing and Reapplying your Values and Beliefs

It’s never too late to explore a new path in an effort to return to your first love and rediscover the vitality of your original calling as a follower of Jesus Christ.