



The Disciples' Advocate

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Home Missions



Ministry of Presence

Police Chaplains are an Integral Part of Law Enforcement

In the northern Kentucky city of Carrollton, Disciples minister Timothy Polley has served as a police chaplain since March 2015. Rev. Polley also serves as pastor of Carrollton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Prior to serving as chaplain for Carrollton Police Department, he served as chaplain for Benton Police Department, located southeast of

is on their heart and whatever is on their mind and know it's going to stay there. Pastoral confidence stays inside the police car."

In addition to listening, Polley said chaplains must have the ability to roll with the punches.

"If you're a pastor or a layperson, you cannot be easily offended," Polley said. "You are gonna have to understand that the officers are going to swear around you, they may sometimes forget that you're in ministry, and you've got to be able to roll with that. Because if they feel like they cannot trust you and they cannot truly talk to you, then they won't utilize you."

Many chaplains serve more than police officers, Polley said. "I believe the spouse and children are just as involved in the officers'

law enforcement career because they have to live with it daily," Polley said.

The full article can be read at <https://www.klemagazine.com/> and Search for Chaplains and select the 2018 PDF Archive March/April 2018 articles.

*Article written by Michael A. Moore
KLEMagazine, a publication of
Kentucky Law Enforcement*



Rev. Timothy Polley, Carrollton (Ky.) Police Chaplain and pastor of Carrollton Christian Church. Photo by Jim Robertson.

Paducah in Marshall County.

Rev. Polley was highlighted in the March-April 2018 issue of KLEMagazine, a publication of Kentucky Law Enforcement, about the ministry of presence used by chaplains.

In the article Polley said, "Without the ability to establish trust and listen, his chaplaincy would not be nearly as effective. Being a listener is important, but the most important thing is trust," he said. "The officer has to be able to tell you whatever

The Ministry of Presence: Being There for & with Others!

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*Rev. Sotello V. Long
at*

(317) 713-2684

*DHM Equipping Disciples
for Christ*

Sotello's Inspirations

"The Ministry of Presence: Being There for & with Others!" – featuring LIT!

An energized focus of Disciples Home Missions is the ministry of presence. This presence through DHM reflects an extension of Christ in a myriad of services connecting people with the life-changing love of God. It is service in Christ - being there for and with others. The story of the Good Samaritan tells of a man who was accosted along the highway by thieves. He was beaten, robbed and left battered and bleeding on the roadside half dead and in plain view. Religious people of the day, a priest, and later, a Levite, came that way. When they saw him, they passed by on the other side not lending any help at all. But a Samaritan, who was moved by a spirit of compassion at the sight of the man, attended to him giving him the help he needed to recover and accompanied him to a place where he could be made whole.

DHM is a myriad of ministries designed to accompany people to a place where they can be made whole. We design, collaborate with and facilitate ministries encompassing the arc of ministry - from children to adults; from creation care to justice for immigrants; from people in their various communal contexts - the congregation, chapel, social action, or a special community gathering to clergy in their various settings - pulpits, hospitals, military carriers, stations or some specialized ministry.

In this issue, I will highlight a new initiative aligned with the focus of being there for and with others. It is through DHM's Leadership Initiative Team (LIT). **The Leadership Initiative Team (LIT)** designs ministry from the ground up. We listen to you, the active leaders who are engaged in the ministries, of the Regions, Districts, Fellowship communities, and Congregations among other recognized bodies. We listen with intention, to hear how and where God is moving in your ministry context. We listen to hear your needs and help identify what helpful resources may be needed to help your ministries be more

successful. We also listen so that we may be open to receive God's Spirit in response to prayer, dialogue and the expectations of your ministry context. We use the collective resources, connections, skills and mutual wisdom of LIT *in accompaniment with "you"* to design contextual ministry resources. These resources may either be the "Do-It-Yourself" (DIY) type such as especially designed curricula, and targeted resource tools that are facilitated by you, or be a collaboration where you incorporate the gifts of a facilitator, drawing from a member, or members of DHM's LIT "Speakers Bureau".

We are invested, optimistic, and enthusiastic about the Disciples Home Missions (DHM) Leadership Initiative! It is a commitment to living into "*accompaniment leadership*" as a focal point. The plan is simple, yet profound. We have convened a network of diverse persons who excel, and have passion within certain areas of leadership. We gather those in Christ's service, who are "lit" (excel and have passion) around evangelism, women, men, youth, young adults, clergy, technology, social justice, etc. DHM seeks to build relationships among networks through dialogue, as we work toward developing mutual understandings of each member's passion for ministry. DHM and the Leadership Initiative Team (LIT), will work to engage communities collectively, in the service of the church as followers of Jesus Christ, supporting positive Leadership growth within the church and as we share our services in the larger communities... even unto the ends of the earth.

The goal of LIT is to provide support, resources and speakers to compliment the training and development of Disciples leaders throughout the recognized organizations of the church: Regions, Districts, Fellowships and/or congregations among other bodies!

The objectives of LIT are to:

- Listen to leaders of recognized ministries



Sotello V. Long



Continued on page 6. See Inspirations.

Celebration of Life for Former DHM Staff

Rev. Suzanne DeMoss Brown, former Disciples of Homeland Ministries (dba Disciples Home Missions) staff, passed away April 16, 2018. She was born April 23, 1942



in Jackson, Miss., to the late William Ray and Ann DeMoss. Suzanne was a native to Lebanon, Tenn. She graduated from Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., with a Bachelor of Arts Degree; Lexington (Ky.) Theological Seminary with a Master of Religious Education Degree; and McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill., with a Doctor of Ministry Degree.

She was ordained on October 17, 1976 at First Christian Church in Shelbyville, Tenn.

Suzanne has served Disciples congregations, has participated widely in community activities, ecumenical concerns and in Disciples regional and denominational life.

She served on regional committees for Christian education, Christian Women's Fellowship and Christian Youth Fellowship. She implemented the People of the Covenant program among Disciples of Christ congregations, served as DHM's Communications and Development Director as well as Director of Church and Public Relations.

She was married the late Rev. Raymond E. Brown and was a member of Downey Avenue Christian Church in Indianapolis.

Suzanne is survived by her children, Terry Martin (Gwendolyn) and Cynthia Martin; stepchildren, Thomas (Sheila) Brown, Raymond (Rochelle) Brown, V. Cerise Cotton, Ronald Brown, Denola (Phillip) Burton and Michael (Debra) Brown; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

In the Mail

Your check was received in our office. Thank you so much for the faith you put in the National Farm Worker Ministry to partner with you to stand with some of the poorest workers in our country. This commitment to farm worker's right to organize themselves makes you a very important part of our organization.

In 2017, farm workers, as well as many other immigrants who live and work in our country, experienced terrible fear. A large number who have been in the U.S. for many years as part of the established workers in our communities found themselves detained and many continue to live in fear of deportation. We have been working with you to educate the faith community about these concerns and to invite them to join the farm worker organizing groups in supporting them.

We so appreciate your partnership with us and the presence of your representative, Sharon Stanley-Rea, as part of our board of directors. I am personally grateful for her service to us as one of our vice presidents and part of the Executive Committee. Her experience, enthusiasm and leadership are a true asset for our work.

Again, it is much appreciation to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that I write this and thank you for standing with farm workers through the years. The future has concerns for what will happen to these marginalized workers but we live in hope that people of faith will continue to make their voices heard as together we call for justice.

Grace and peace,

Julie Taylor
Executive Director
National Farm Worker Ministry

“Partners for God’s Justice”

I recently attended the “Partnership for God’s Justice” conference in Indonesia with 60 representatives from eleven countries. We gathered in Kupang to share information from each country and context with the opportunity for questions and discussions. It was helpful for everyone involved to see where we have similar struggles but also to get a better understanding of the particular struggles of each country and group. We had time to work in small groups and build networks to grow our relationships. We had the opportunity to visit local churches and for some of us to share a sermon. As part of those visits we also had the chance to see the work being done by those churches in their own communities.

Though I have been working with Disciples Women to combat human trafficking for more than seven years, hearing the stories and circumstances of people being trafficked in Southern Asia proved to be a completely different situation from those we usually encounter. It was a clear reminder of the need to recognize migration as something humans have done throughout history to seek freedom from war, to escape poverty and hunger, to flee political oppression, and to seek new economic opportunities or employment. Today forced migration is often the result of global climate changes that diminish food supplies. Many of the people who become trafficking victims are those who are products of forced migration. For many people they have no desire to leave their home country but there is no alternative if they are to survive. While this has been part of human history it is much more difficult now because of socio-political boundaries. While people who have no work are offering a work force in countries where it is needed, they often find themselves with no right or protections making them extremely vulnerable to traffickers. They are promised wages that are never paid or only paid at a fraction of what was promised. They are sexually or physically abused and often killed. For example, Malaysia has 6-8 million migrant workers from 16 countries who have no

right to work and so are easily exploited. Pregnant women are recruited then their babies are sold. Often, Southern Asian countries deal with a corrupt police force and governments with no political will to protect migrant workers. In some countries because of social and cultural beliefs trafficking is not understood to be a crime. The issue of human trafficking has many intersecting concerns and causes. Learning that part of the ministry being done in southern Asia is meeting the remains of people who have died while being trafficked drew a clear difference in what we often understand of



Attendees from 11 countries participated in the “Partners for God’s Justice” Conference in Indonesia.

trafficking where people disappear never to be seen or heard from again. It is commonplace for trafficking victims to be killed for their organs or used as ‘baby factories’; we have only begun to recognize the barbarity of human trafficking and the extent of its damage and violence.

There is still a great deal of work to be done to curb this atrocity. Together these partners are hopeful that we can improve the situation and reduce the risk of vulnerable people.

*Rev. Dr. Patrica Donahoo,
Executive Director, Disciples Women*



Perspectives of Bi-Vocational Ministry: 'Connections with Community'

Research at Lexington Theological Seminary has identified several common themes through interviews with bi-vocational ministers. One of these themes is 'connection to community.' One bi-vocational minister who reflects this theme in particular is Rev. Jim Midkiff. Jim is the bi-vocational solo pastor of Beech Grove Christian Church in western Kentucky. He has been serving Beech Grove for more than 30 years as either their solo pastor or co-pastor. Though Jim has recently retired from teaching, most of the years he has been pastoring the Beech Grove congregation while also being employed full-time as a public school teacher.

Jim grew up in western Kentucky and as a child he belonged to a small Disciples congregation in Fordsville, a community in a county neighboring that of Beech Grove. Beginning in his teen years, Jim began to help lead worship on Sundays, sometimes preaching, leading prayers, and serving communion. When Jim was in college, the Fordsville congregation closed and Jim continued serving as a leader in another congregation. During this time, one of the regional ministers began encouraging Jim to become a licensed lay minister. After college, Jim began teaching full-time while also continuing his leadership in congregations, and eventually he became a licensed minister.

When leaders of the Beech Grove congregation were looking for a new pastor in 1987, they knew they needed someone who would be able to supplement the income they could provide a minister. Jim fit the bill and he became their pastor while continuing to teach full-time. During the years Jim has served Beech Grove, the congregation has cultivated a fruitful relationship within the community where it is located. Jim says,

"Clearly, we are a rural community" as he points out the tractor dealership across the road from the church building. He likes to say to the congregation that Beech Grove is a "small church that does things in a big way."

The congregation's ministry includes significant outreach and neighborhood development. In addition, they have established some signature programs that fit with their community. Many men and women in both the church and the community are hunters,

and in the 1990s the congregation began hosting a breakfast and 'blessing of the hunt' on the Thursday before the beginning of modern gun deer season each year. It's an event where Jim prays for both safety and bounty during the hunting season. A few months later each year, the church hosts

a Wild Game Dinner where members of the community gather together and bring some of the bounty to share.

As a bi-vocational minister, Jim considers his ministry and vocation to extend beyond the walls of the church building. His relationships with students and families within the community are interwoven in his roles as both pastor and teacher. This connection to community is reflected in the work of the congregation where he serves.

For more information about Lexington Theological Seminary's Conversations on Finances and Stewardship grant and its research concerning bi-vocational ministry, contact: kris.bentley@lextheo.edu.

This research is funded by a grant from the Indianapolis based Lilly Endowment Inc.

*Rev. Kristen Plinke Bentley
Project Director, Conversations on
Stewardship & Finances
Lexington Theological Seminary*



Rev. Jim Midkiff with youth who are members and regular attenders of Beech Grove Christian Church in western Kentucky.



Seeking and Finding Inspiration In Solidarity with "Differently Documented" Immigrants

I attended this year's National gathering of Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) for Global Peace with Justice. I went seeking, but not really expecting, to find hope through learning new creative ways that we Christians can respond to the horrible plight of so many migrants and displaced persons today. While the plenary speakers were inspiring in their enthusiasm for the general effort of our faith based lobbying efforts on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst... their enthusiasm did not linger in my heart.

Instead, what really remains with me in the depths of my soul is the simple witness of workshop leaders working on the front lines of this work. They challenged us to consider pursuing a wide variety of ways that congregations can advocate for just and humane policies that protect, and also, accompany "differently documented" immigrants as they face the many challenges of our time.

The workshop I enjoyed the most was titled "From Sanctuary to Solidarity".

It informed me that while there are some

congregations across the country who have boldly promised to provide physical, public sanctuary for persons in their communities who are "differently documented" (a term I learned from a speaker at EAD), there are many other actions members of faith communities can take to build solidarity with differently documented immigrants, and especially the hundreds of thousands of young persons who were brought to this country illegally as children through no volition of their own, and are now at risk of being deported. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced last September that the administration was rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Solidarity is a type of trustworthy relational accompaniment which can only be built upon highly intentional listening and caring relationships in which the persons whom we seek to accompany are given the opportunity to take the lead in telling us their needs and concerns. In addition

Continued on page 8. See EAD.



Bob Perry, Rev. Kate Epperly and Rev. Allen Harris at the Disciples-UCC reception at Ecumenical Advocacy Days gathering in Washington, DC.

Inspirations *Continued from page 2.*

- Listen in community with connected partners for mutual understanding regarding your ministry context
- Listen to God's Spirit in initiating and/or responding to God's activity in your ministry context
- Design resources fit for a specific ministry context
- Share our collective resources for leader development

How do you connect with LIT? Call, email or write DHM, Attn: Ministry Associate, Kathy Watts.

Direct Line: 317-713-2679

Email: kwatts@dhm.disciples.org

Address: 1099 North Meridian Street,

Suite 700, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Briefly communicate your interest. You will be directed to the team member who best serves your interest and/or contacted by a LIT coordinator.

For more details and a current listing of LIT facilitators (<https://bit.ly/2QShwppw>).

We are built to serve in a way that brings out the best in you through accompaniment in Christ!

Let's journey together!

Sotello V. Long, President



Rev. Lori Tapia Elected as First Female National Hispanic Pastor

The 2018 Hispanic and Bilingual Assembly, hosted by the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (Obra Hispana), in Tempe, Ariz., was full of nuevos comienzos (new beginnings).

The event's theme was most evident in the election of Rev. Lori Tapia as the first female National Hispanic Pastor, the executive leader of Obra Hispana.

Tapia reflected on that theme in the final worship service of the event, saying, "New beginnings does not mean that we forget everything we've learned in the processes of the past."

In her report to the asamblea, Tapia celebrated that 2017 ended with Obra's best financial standing in eight years. She also shared that Obra planned to continue its identity initiative #laObra-NOW; develop its own resources, relevant

for Hispanic Disciples and congregations; strengthen connection; and focus on leadership development for young adults.

Tapia served in an interim capacity for this general ministry the last two years. Three search processes were completed without consensus, so the search team proposed overturning an initial requirement that the interim not be permitted to be considered for the permanent position. Both motions passed with overwhelming majorities by the more than 300 attendees.

After the vote was announced, as Tapia and her family entered the room, singing of "Somos Uno" broke out throughout the hotel ballroom. Somos Uno, meaning "We Are One," has been a long-standing mantra of Obra, which serves Hispanic Disciples across the life of the Church.

As the National Hispanic Pastor, Tapia will continue Obra's work with more than 170 Hispanic churches across the United States and Canada, comprising more than 6,000 members – representing every state in the U. S., every Latin American country, and several countries in the Caribbean and

Continued on page 27. See Tapia



General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens leads the installation service for Rev. Lori Tapia, surrounded by her family and colleagues in ministry.



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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 2019 Continuing Education Grants began on September 1, 2018, through **October 31, 2018**. Visit DHM's website for information and eligibility as well as the application form at: <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/scholarships/christian-vocation-continuing-education>

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EAD *Continued from page 6.*

to holding this kind of relational integrity, we who seek solidarity with differently documented immigrants, DREAMERS and displaced persons in particular, also need to become informed about basic human rights and legal responsibilities.

While it is clear that some faith leaders are ready to take major personal risks as part of following their sense of moral responsibility in solidarity with differently documented immigrants (no matter what the legal consequences to themselves), most of us need to be very careful to learn and follow legal standards and protocols. Many immigration lawyers are happy to offer training workshops. They appreciate our help! Tanya Liu Beers is our Disciples Immigration Counsel. Talking to her is a good place to start. The PICO National Network is another good place to start.

There are many ways faith communities can train, organize and act in solidarity with the many families in our communities who are suffering under unimaginable amounts of fear and anxiety as they face the possibility of being broken apart by detention

and deportation. At EAD I learned that the immigration system is severely backlogged so cases can drag on for years. In addition, immigration lawyers are swamped. I found hope and encouragement in the idea that, while I am not an immigration lawyer, that I can learn how to help immigrants navigate specific steps along their often long and arduous journeys through the immigration system.

Where I live (Cape Cod, Massachusetts) I am a member of a recently formed Council of Churches Immigrant Support Group. I look forward to our work because the immigrants and refugees whom I have come to know and love in my many years of ministry have often turned out to be angels at work in the midst of my life. I have been blessed by them in immeasurable ways!

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

*Rev. Kate Epperly, Coordinator
Justice and Advocacy for Families and
Children's Ministries*



Homeless Shelter Finds New Home

For several years, along with The National Benevolent Association, Catholic Charities and several other groups, Mission Behind Bars and Beyond (MB30) has co-sponsored an annual, statewide, day-long conference for faith-based groups involved in prison and jail ministries. Each year our

planning task force gathers and the first question we ask is always, "What is the best venue?" We have moved the Reaching Individuals Behind and Beyond the Bars Conference several times. Cost, convenience, parking, accessibility for people with disabilities and catering availability have all figured into our decision for find-

ing the best location.

This year, we hit the jackpot. Well, as much as dedicated people working with

those in prisons and those returning to our communities consider a jackpot to be. Hotel Louisville was the perfect site. This inspirational, entrepreneurial non-profit branch of Wayside Christian Mission not only met all our needs for this conference but also created a complementary partnership for the work that we all do.

The history of Hotel Louisville is most compelling. Wayside Christian Mission operated two shelters for the homeless in an area in downtown Louisville that developers eye-balled for future gentrification. With help from those in power, Wayside Christian Mission was forced to sell its properties and find a new home.

Finding a home for a homeless shelter is no easy task. After one failed attempt to buy a recently abandoned school, the former Holiday Inn in downtown Louisville came up for auction. With the sale of their properties, Wayside was able to outbid the local community college that coveted the space for more parking. Frankly, no one could believe this. This was a Spirit-led endeavor.

Continued on page 12. See Hotel.

End Gun Violence

What do God and guns have to do with each other? Everything! But if you are in a central channel church these days you wouldn't know it. There have been more than 154 mass shootings in the United States this year alone, and yet how many sermons or faith formation sessions have you heard about the situation? Our society's obsession with power through coercion and violence of all kinds—from school bullying and political rhetoric to mass shootings - is a situation which calls for the theological and moral voice of the church to be heard anew. Our mission is not only to save souls, but lives!

What would it look like for our nation's central channel churches to become engaged with training ourselves, our children and youth to embrace a new sense of intentionality in learning and practicing very specific techniques of non-violent communication and conflict resolution, grounded in the life-transforming power of Jesus's life, death

and resurrection? I believe that faith based reflections on gun violence need to begin by talking about the simplest of notions: Who do we trust, God or guns? How do we best solve problems and combat evil, with coercive violence or relationship building?

Our nation's quest for rational civil discourse as well as empathy and understanding among persons of diverse backgrounds and identities assumes a general belief in the effectiveness of relational power over and above coercive power. Since its earliest manifestations our Christian faith has borne witness to a relational power which goes beyond mere conciliation. This relational power by which Jesus lived and died, rests firmly in the Biblical call to live by the countercultural, non-violent power of God's shalom – peace and justice, healing and wholeness – for all God's children.

The New Testament testifies to the rela-

Continued on page 29. See Guns.



This is the lobby of Hotel Louisville. They call themselves Mission: InnPossible. To learn more, visit their website: <http://wcm1.weebly.com/hotel-louisville.html>



Disciples Public Presence

After trying to organize Disciples clergy to participate in the Standing Rock March in Washington, D.C., Spring 2017, The Rev. Dr. Laurie Feille, with the help and blessing of the Upper Midwest Region created Disciples Public Presence. Months after the Standing Rock March, we heard from clergy and laity across the country, if they had known about the March they would have attended. We realized then that we did not have a broad base way to get the word out about justice and advocacy issues. We created a Facebook group in April 2017. In June 2017 we named the group Disciples Public Presence. During General Assembly we opened the group to Disciples beyond the Upper Midwest Region.

Today we have an advocacy platform that allows us to send action alerts and contact our elected officials. We have posts on a variety of justice issues and we have around 900 members. Our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/search/?q=disciples%20public%20presence>) is



A Ministry of the
Upper Midwest Region

a place to promote marches, rallies, letter writing campaigns and other opportunities for advocacy from across the country. It is a gathering place to discover Disciples who are engaged in justice work and to learn about the issues that impact our communities. We also highlight the important outreach efforts that many of our churches engage in as ways to have a Disciples Public Presence. We believe that a Disciples Public Presence is needed in this world and want to make it easy for Disciples across the country to engage in the opportunities in a variety

of ways.

Disciples Public Presence Conference 2018 was held September 16 to 17. This conference was a chance for Disciples to gather together to discern how we can better lead in our Justice Ministry — how we can be a Disciples Public Presence in the world.

*Rev. Dr. Laurie Feille
Disciples Public Presence*

Real Solutions and Service to South LA

Meet Steve Cayetano. Steve's parents face the challenges of low wages and high cost of living. Nevertheless, his parents support and encourage him and his 3 brothers in academia, and connected with All Peoples Community Center YouthSource Program.

He graduated with honors as the Class Valedictorian from NAVA College Preparatory Academy. He applied and has been accepted to Middlebury University in the State of Vermont for Fall 2018. Through his hard work and dedication, Steve was selected for a scholarship from the Stifel Financial Group. All Peoples assisted in seeking a sponsor for Steve's flight to Burlington, Vermont for orientation. The orientation includes Middview Trip-Wilderness Exploration that involves outdoor hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, and camping as part of their student enrollment process.

He participated in community events at All Peoples, his High School and as a Poll

Volunteer in the recent California Primaries. Steve was a student speaker at the Power California event. He discussed the movement he helped lead at his high school to register 200 young voters. Steve was also able to share his high school experience and voice concerns regarding community issues that our young people are facing.

Steve has strong leadership skills and is a great mentor to Youth in the Community. Through Family, Community, available Resources, and Steve's personal resilience and determination, Steve will be the first in his family to attend college. We're proud of Steve and will be supporting and cheering him on as he starts the next chapter of his life at Middlebury University.

*Saundra Bryant, LCSW, Executive Director
All Peoples Community Center
Los Angeles, California*



Standing Rock

Summer 1881 - One-hundred-eighty-six Hunkpapa Lakota people led by Sitting Bull rode south across the US/Canadian border. For the last five years the people lived as refugees in the Wood Mountain area of Saskatchewan, Canada. During those years five different US government parties visited and negotiated for Sitting Bull and the peoples return to US jurisdiction. Having the promise of freedom and self-determination, Sitting Bull and those who would follow him crossed the border into US jurisdiction that July.

Upon their arrival at Fort Buford, North Dakota, Sitting Bull surrendered his Winchester .44 caliber carbine. With its surrender, promises faded, the military confiscated the peoples' horses, and the people were transferred to Fort Yates on the Standing Rock reservation.

Summer 2018 -- On the outskirts of Fort Yates 11 folk amble up to a temporary corral. One Hunkpapa Lakota and 10 non-Natives. Twenty-eight panels make up the corral. Each stands six foot high and ten feet long. Rails are ten inches apart and made of one-inch steel tubing. A 100-gallon black plastic water tank stands on the south end of the corral. Water stands two inches from the tank rim. High gray flat yet undulating clouds mute the landscape on this day a couple months shy of 187 years since Sitting Bull and Lakota people arrived, without their horses.

Four Roans, recently arrived. Noses laid on the backs of one another. Perhaps kisses. Perhaps tails kept flies from one another's faces. Perhaps they were learning of one another after being cut from a larger herd days before. The four are special to this landscape for they are decedents of horses taken from those 187 Hunkpapa Lakota who returned from Canada all those years ago. After 187 years, the dust of 187 people is finally reunited with the spirits of their horses. On this day of return, only one, the Lakota, grasped the depth and honor of this day. The other ten knew the moment as special, but the profundity of meaningfulness could only become part of their spirit with tomorrows—weeks, months, years—thought, reflection, and introspection.

Call it mystical, transcendent, divine, or of God, but what you can depend on, the moment was not fabricated. When folk came together to imagine what it might look like to introduce Disciples youth to the

landscape of the Standing Rock reservation, what it might look like to live out the 6th Be It Resolved of the 2017 General Assembly resolution to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, no one could have imagined this day and this moment. Though not always the case, such instances arise when folk gather for justice.

Justice cannot be forced. Justice is an invitation. Justice is a hand held out with a plea to those who might risk something different and something without guarantee. Justice is formed within the heart of God combined with creational knowledge that existence can be more than it currently is. There is no push, but rather a pull upon the heart of those who imagine the want of a righteousness serving the fullness of creation.

During this first year of living into the 6th Be It Resolved there are Disciples congregations and regions who are working with Yakama Christian Mission to provide opportunities to imagine and to learn the indigenous of the US and Canadian landscape. The Upper Midwest Region's invitation for youth to quiet themselves and spend a week of listening on the Standing

Rock is one instance. Northwest Region youth visited Anchorage, Alaska to work and learn from an indigenous voice of that unique landscape. In 2019, both the Northwest Region (February 1-2 on the Yakama Reservation) and Montana Region (March 2-3 at Cane Ridge West) will present a 2-day Winter Talk where folk will gather to learn and converse about indigenous justice. The Upper Midwest again invites Disciples youth to Standing Rock (June 8-15). Yakama Christian Mission invites US and Canadian Disciples youth groups to the Yakama Reservation for weeklong fall-spring-summer camps where indigenous justice is considered through the lenses of soil, plants, water, race, and economics.

The need to bring awareness to indigenous justice is a priority of Yakama Christian Mission. If your congregation or region can use help toward developing a relationship with your local Tribe and/or Nation, the Mission is available to help. Together we can renew the creational relationship of dust and spirit.

Rev. David Bell
Yakama Christian Mission





2018 Oreon E. Scott Clergy Conference

When

Monday, October 8, 2018 at
5:00 PM EDT

-to-

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at
10:00 AM EDT

Where

Christmount
222 Fern Way
Black Mountain, NC 28711

The 2018 Oreon E. Scott Clergy Conference is coming quickly! There's still room for you!

Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea will be the featured keynote speaker and will lead in lively discussions around immigration, DACA, and what "welcome" really looks like in churches and communities today.

We hope you can make plans to join us. Some scholarship assistance is available.

For more information and to register visit: <https://disciples.org/event/2018-oreon-e-scott-clergy-conference/>

Jennifer Stevens

Christmount

jennifer.stevens@christmount.org

828-669-8977

Hotel *Continued from page 9.*

Hoping to open this 12-story brick hotel as a homeless shelter, Wayside met immediate opposition. Questions arose about zoning and whether a homeless shelter could operate in that location. But what is ordained by God finds a way. The chief operating officer of Wayside is an attorney. To combat the idea that their newly acquired property was a homeless shelter, they called it a hotel and charged guests a penny a night. Genius.

The rest of the story is even more remarkable. According to reporter, E. Tammy Kim, "[A]s expensed mounted and travelers came through its lobby, remembering what used to be a Holiday Inn and seeking a place to stay, Wayside began to make use of its empty rooms. Four years later, Hotel Louisville is in many ways an improbable success, serving addicts and the homeless while turning a profit from hotel guests and banquets...."

Hotel Louisville serves as an interesting hybrid. Several floors are available to outside visitors and hotel guests. Other floors house homeless residents, many of whom are being trained in the hospitality industry. With a restaurant and a ballroom for events and rooms for paying hotel guests, the residents learn all about housekeeping, food service and catering as they are trained

on the site. And this keeps Hotel Louisville going. God's way.

Our conference was a huge success. Over one hundred people were in attendance, including returning citizens, parole and probation officers, service providers and folks dedicating their lives to working with people behind the bars and beyond who are simply seeking a second chance. All the staff were people in recovery or those struggling with homelessness, seamlessly moved throughout the day sharing their gifts of welcome and hospitality. They could not have been more professional or pleasant.

Jesus spoke of transformation. We witnessed that in a most powerful way. Our planning task force knew this to be a Spirit-led convergence. We became partners with an innovative, creative, entrepreneurial enterprise which opened our eyes to possibilities. God's possibilities remind us to never give up, and always to be willing to embrace every opportunity as one in which amazing things can occur. We can't wait to go back next year.

Rev. Dean W. Bucalos, Executive Director, Mission Behind Bars and Beyond (MB3) and Mission Specialist for the National Benevolent Association's Prison and Jail Ministries Affinity Group.



InterGenerate – What it Looks Like to be the Whole Body of Christ!

A few years ago I was invited to be a part of a task force that wanted to bring together both scholars and practitioners to delve into what it really means to actively engage in multi-aged church in all of its forms.

Our call lived into a new verb, “intergenerate.” The first InterGenerate Conference was held in the summer of 2017. The result was a conference that connected voices from many denominations, countries, and experiences. All of us were seeking to make sure all ages were represented in all aspects of what is means to be “church.”

Many of the voices who participated in the keynotes, workshops, and short speakers wrote articles to highlight their part of this experience for those who were not able to attend. The result is a new and significant book, *InterGenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry*.

The leader of the group Holly Catterton Allen and a co-author, Chris Barnett wrote, “For intergenerational ministry to be genuinely transformative, it needs to be more fully understood, more deeply embraced, more genuinely modelled, more intentionally facilitated, and more strategically embedded into the culture of faith

communities.”

There are many people who see “intergenerational” ministry as a sub-category of children’s ministry. This perception is hurting both our children and our faith communities as numbers decline in many churches. Scholar Jason Santos argues, “What we’re seeing are the effects of an increasingly individualistic, peer-oriented society that celebrate personal experience and self-fulfillment over a communal ethos and ethic.”

InterGenerate names and uses the most up-to-date resources and practices to create the intentionality needed for our leaders to motivate those in our pews to truly live in a more Christ-centered community within their worship, programs, mission, and daily home life. The book is a one

stop shop for those who need the language and information to begin the conversations needed to reconcile the damage we have done.

Many are not ready to hear and respond seriously to the needs required by this shift. The longer our leaders ignore the realities that we are not actually serving in a faithful way our entire faith communities, the more the foundations of faith continue to crumble.

So join in! Get the book, and join us at the next InterGenerate Conference in the summer of 2019. (Check out Lisa Engelken’s article for some good starters on page 14).

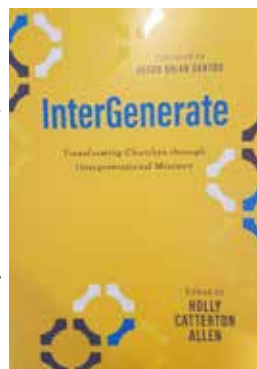
Book Information: *InterGenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry*, edited by Holly Catterton Allen (amazon.com)

InterGenerate Conference will be held at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN, May 20 to 22, 2019 (<http://www.intergenerateconference.com>) and Facebook: www.facebook.com/intergenerate

Rev. Dr. Olivia Bryan Updegrove
Families & Children Ministries

www.docfamiliesandchildren.org

www.facebook.com/ministriesacrossgen



INTERGENERATE

A national conference on
intergenerational Christian formation
to be held next summer at

Lipscomb University
Nashville, Tennessee
May 20-22, 2019

Convened by the InterGenerate Task Force
Co-sponsored by

GenOn Ministries at www.genonministries.org and
Lipscomb's Institute for Christian Spirituality at www.lipscomb.edu/ics

Best Practices in Children's Faith Formation

Recently I have been sharing with the leadership of our denomination through emails to Regional Ministers and churches that Our Church needs to pay attention to the Spiritual Formation of our children. Nurturing a child's relationship with the Holy is a lifelong practice that needs the attention of a least seven important role models in their lives.

In my correspondence I have sent an article titled: "Best Practices in Children's Faith Formation" written by John Roberto and Katie Pfiffner. I want to encourage those in leadership over children to take seriously these Best Practices. If you are still age segregating and teaching around tables in a classroom style-please consider these Best Practices!

To highlight this article I have listed the six best practices here:

Best Practice 1. Effective faith formation with children respects the ways children learn today by offering learning activities that are experiential, image-rich, multisensory, interactive, engaging, and varied in learning style.

Best Practice 2. Effective faith formation with children provides opportunities for children to experience and imagine how their personal story is intertwined with the

Bible and Christian tradition.

Best Practice 3. Faith formation with children provides an environment that allows children to encounter the living God directly.

Best Practice 4. Effective faith formation with children embraces the lifecycle milestones as opportunities for nurturing the faith of children and their families in the congregation and at home.

Best Practice 5. Effective faith formation engages children and their parents in programs that involve the whole family in learning together.

Best Practice 6. Effective faith formation provides opportunities for children to practice their faith through hands-on participation in the life, ministries, and activities of the congregation.

I would love to further our discussion about these practices and how to implement them into the life of your church and family. Please email me at lengelken@dhm.disciples.org or call 913-634-5602 and let's talk.

*Lisa Engelken, Coordinator
Children Worship & Wonder for Family and
Children's Ministries*



Children Worship & Wonder

So What Exactly is Children Worship & Wonder?

Children Worship & Wonder is faith formation worship centered approach with storytelling, ritual, and fellowship that is used with children in churches to help them deepen their relationship with God.

Disciples Home Missions regularly schedules Children Worship & Wonder Story Teller Training events at churches around the country.

See our Story Teller Training Schedule or contact us www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/contact if you are interested in hosting a training for your area.

For a schedule of upcoming trainings and to Register visit:
<http://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/cww-training-schedule>



Political and Prophetic Advocacy

A Brief Meditation on the Word of God from the Scripture Readings for the Tenth Sunday After Pentecost.

2 Samuel 11: 1 - 12:12: The prophet Nathan confronts King David.

Psalms 14: God is a refuge for the poor and vulnerable.

Ephesians 3: 14 -21: The depth of the love of Christ.

John 6: 1-21: Jesus feeds the five thousand and walks on water.

Our religious and political leaders cannot walk on water. Nor can they immediately get us to where we want to go. But they can and should feed the hungry, both physically and spiritually.

Physical needs can be met both by the social outreach of our churches ("according to the power that is at work within us") and by public policies developed and enacted by our elected officials. Spiritual needs can be met both by the liberating proclamation of our churches ("how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ") and by the ethical vision of our political leaders. Only those religious and political leaders who meet these needs contribute in a positive way to our shared efforts to build the Beloved Community—a community that, from a Christian perspective, is an earthly approximation of the reign of God announced by the One who does walk on water.

Thus, when it comes to meeting the needs of people hungering for aid and justice, religious and political leaders can and should try to work together for the common good. But, when political leaders, like King David, abuse their power and then try to cover it up, and/or when they "devour my people as if eating bread," the Church is called to be like Nathan: **we must take a prophetic stance and boldly speak truth to power.**

Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker Langston

Executive Director, Disciples Center for Public Witness

Director, Disciples Justice Action Network



Ken Brooker Langston

A congregation's home is a special, holy place - a place where God and meaningful ministry are the central focus.

Unless they're not. Has your church building – perhaps too large, costly to maintain, in a location that no longer fits – taken center stage away from ministry?

We can help you develop a building and financing plan that enables your congregation to use holy place to serve God's ministry, and not the other way around.

Disciples Church Extension Fund is called to help your congregation use God's House to do God's work.

Let's start planning together today!

For information, contact us at **800.274.1883** • En español **866.534.1949** • info@disciplescef.org



Ministry of Presence: College Chaplains

When we think of college, we often think of books, classrooms, professors, athletic events, and even parties. We don't often think immediately of college chaplains. Yet college chaplains play a vital role on college campuses. College chaplaincy is a ministry of presence in the truest sense of the word and can often feel like a job that requires the person to be on hand 24/7.

A few of the key roles of a chaplain include:

- Coordinate the religious life offerings, including worship, study groups, and service activities
- Offer words of prayer and reflection at official school events and gatherings
- Provide pastoral care and counseling to students, staff, and faculty
- Nurture and support student vocational discernment

A major part of the chaplain's responsibility is coordinating the religious life offerings on campus. This might include weekly chapel services, study groups and fellowship time, or leading students on mission trips during break. The chaplain is also a participant in many campus-wide events. Other than the President and the Provost/Deans, very few college or university officials are called on to be present at more university functions than the chaplain. Prayers at opening convocation; prayers at commencement and baccalaureate services; even prayers at football games and other athletic events; the chaplain is there to be the spiritual voice of the institution.



But the two places where the chaplain is often most present, but perhaps not widely visible, are in providing pastoral care or mentoring students in the process of vocational discernment. From the moment students arrive on campus until the day they graduate, students will face serious personal challenges that lead them to seek out someone to talk to. Students are also looking for someone who can engage them from a faith perspective.

Whether it's struggling with grades and roommates, dealing with the loss of a loved one back home, or trying to figure out answers to questions of faith that are new and unsettling, students look to the chaplain as a pastor. Chaplain at Bethany College, Rev. Cherisna Jean-Marie, had this to say: "The ministry of presence is one of the most fulfilling roles I play as a chaplain. To be a conversation partner, a guide, a sacred and safe place for young people discovering who they are and who they want to be is probably one of the most important things I'll do in my vocation."

Chaplains also serve as mentors to students who are trying to better understand how to best use their talents and how to nurture their gifts. Rev. Bruce Fowlkes, chaplain at Eureka College, offered this perspective on Mentoring:

"Advisers are assigned. Mentors are chosen." Those are a student's exact words, when asked about discernment and vocation. She went on to say that the deeper insights into her sense of call came more from

Continued on page 31. See Chaplains.

Responding to Children Separated from Immigrant Parents

I feel very blessed to have been ordained at Saguaro Christian Church in 1979. While mass media has gone silent on the subject, the Facebook page of Saguaro Christian Church in Tucson, Ariz., is keeping the issue of the ongoing separation of children from immigrant parents alive by continuing to hold 10 a.m. daily prayer vigils for the now more than 75 days that five hundred plus immigrant children have remained separated from their families. This dilemma has not ended and will not end any time soon. Saguaro Church invites us to "continue to pray, protest and be an agent of change and to reach out to those in power and make your voice heard... that the light in this one place can be in all places. Go and be a light in the world!" #familiesbelongtogether

There is much more we – as persons of faith – can and should do to advocate for and support children

separated from their immigrant parents. Of course, one way is to continue to give to Week of Compassion and Reconciliation Offerings which, among various other Disciples ministries, help support and care for these and other children separated from their parents. We also need to address the separation of immigrant families as a moral issue rather than a partisan issue.

Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, another DHM ministry, has continued throughout the summer to actively raise Disciples presence in Washington, D.C., by offering prayer in national vigils, speaking in Press Conferences, and participating in Capitol Hill actions.

RIM also partnered with Week of Compassion this summer to offer Mini-Grants for grassroots engagement in actions around the country; such as

Continued on page 33. See Separation.

Black Minister's Retreat

The invitation extended to the Black Ministers Retreat 2018 read, "Come on in where the table is spread and the feast of the Lord is going on." Over 180 registered participants came to the feast and left declaring that the biblical, homiletical and theological chiefs "put their foot in" every meal that was served.

Each morning the Rev. Dr. Frank A. Thomas established the order of the day with preaching that touched both head and heart. We use to tell preachers who missed the Hampton Minister's Conference who queried how the preaching was, "get the tapes, Reverend; get the tapes." My response to all who missed the retreat or missed early morning preaching, "Get the DVD's Reverend, get the DVD's Reverend." Dr. Thomas' Tuesday morning sermon, "A Grain of Sand" had all of us asking ourselves, "What is my one verse?"

The Rev. Dr. Stephanie Crowder helped all of us to rethink the importance of biblical exegesis. Dr. Crowder had us dreaming dreams and seeing visions as she poetically parceled out new insights from Joel 2:28-32

by sharing, "Dreams with Distractions – Visions from Diversions." Dr. Crowder concluded her exegetical excellence with us by declaring from Acts 2:17-21 that we had "The Power to Act Up and Act Out." Get the DVD's Reverend, get the DVD's Reverend.

The Black Ministers Retreat participants were given VIP treatment on Tuesday, March 6 at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. We were greeted by the Rev. Dr. Brad Braxton, Director of the Center of Religion and Dr. Eric Williams, Curator for Religion. Dr. Braxton gave us a short but very insightful overview of the museum and Dr. Williams served as our tour guide for a portion of the tour.

Space will not allow me to share the powerful ministry changing workshops. Just get the full package of DVD's Reverend and you will get a taste of the feast held at Black Minister's Retreat 2018.

*Rev. Dr. William Lee
Director, Office of Black Ministries*



MLK50 Reflections

It was my distinct pleasure to attend and participate in the MLK50 Commemorations in Memphis, Tennessee, this past April. It was 50 years ago, I was a sophomore in Warren, Ohio, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. I remember the commu-



The Lorraine Hotel as it stands today, a destination for learning and discerning.

nity in turmoil and skirmishes at our high school. We were disturbed and angry because our leader and chief advocate for equality and justice through non-violence came to such a violent and sudden end. The unrest and heart searching from this period led to policy and legislative decisions to improve civil rights and human rights, not only for African Americans, but for all persons impacted by America's oppression. It was emotionally and historically therapeutic to be a part of the throng of people in luncheons, symposiums and in the mall of the Lorraine Hotel.

I was impressed and inspired by the role and participation of African American Dis-

ciples of Christ pastors in this mega event. Dr. Alvin O. Jackson, former pastor of Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church, was one of the Co-Chairs putting on this August affair. It was refreshing to be reminded of so many persons who served and sacrificed to make life better for African Americans then, and who model for us today how to carry the torch for freedom and justice.

*Dr. Timothy M. James,
National Convocation*



Timothy James beginning the tour of the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Hotel.



James Lawson, sharing modern wisdom as the former theoretician and strategist with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Photo left: Rev. Alvin Jackson, acknowledging the support of so many preachers from the Memphis community.



Photo right: Bishop Dr. William Barber, leading the cause for the Poor Peoples Campaign, "We can't stop now!"

Photo right: Rev. Dr. J. Lawrence Turner, calling for justice to run down as waters and righteousness a mighty stream.



Photo right: Rev. Rosalyn Nichols, bringing a word as a "Daughter of Thunder". Rev. Virzola Law, (left) prayed for spiritual revival and renewal of the movement for justice and peace.



NAPAD Elects Leader, Celebrates in Historic Venue

The North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD) elected Rev. Chung Seong Kim to a six-year term as executive pastor at their 20th biennial convocation in Portland, Oregon. Kim has served the past two years in an interim capacity.



The meeting place has historic significance for NAPAD. In 1891, First Christian Church of Portland was the incubator for the first Chinese Christian church sponsored by the Christian Women's Missionary Society. Rev. Jeu Hawk was a leader in spreading the Stone Campbell movement in the Portland area.

The assembly's theme, One in Christ, was based on Ephesians 4:13. With more than 15 ethnic backgrounds represented among NAPAD's congregations, the theme of diversity without dividedness resonated throughout messages

from General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens, Division of Overseas Ministries President Julia Brown Karimu, newly-ordained Rev. Tevita Uesi and the Bible lecturer, Rev. Dr. Seong Hyun Park of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.



One of the highlights of any NAPAD convocation is the cultural night celebration. Members of the NAPAD community bring music and dance from across the globe, sharing the joy of both folk and formal performances. This year, the Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago announced a new scholarship in honor of Rev. Geunhee and Geunsoon Yu. Rev. Yu led NAPAD from 1992 to 2011 with another stint as interim executive pastor in 2016.

Disciples News Service



Photo Left: Rev. Dr. Stacey Spencer, bringing an early word of encouragement.



Photo right: Michael Eric Dyson, hosting the Story telling with many icons from the Civil Rights Movement.



Photo left The Rev. Jesse Jackson, remembering the days of struggle and the day of sorrow.



Photo right: The honorable Congressman John Lewis, a living legend and advocate for peace, justice, and nonviolence.



Photo above: Min. Sheila Spencer, Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Rev. Olivia Bryan Updegrove and Rev. Patricia Donahoo at the Kentucky Disciples Women Retreat.



Photo left: Shantha Ready Alonso, Rev. Terri Hord Owen, Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Rev. Allen Harris, and Rev. Olivia Bryan Updegrove at Black Minister's Retreat in Alexandria, Virginia.



Photo lower left: Rev. Marilyn William, Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Dr. Chrissy Coley, Vice President for Student Engagement and Success; and Dr. Doug Searcy, President of Barton College, at the "Light of Life" Series" Focus on Key Impacts of Refugee and Immigration Policy held at Barton College.



Photo left: Worship Table with symbols of each ministry that participated in the "Partners for God's Justice" Conference in Indonesia. (See article on page 4)



ACT TO END RACISM RALLY was held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., April 4. Disciples were well represented. See photos on page 21.



Photo above: Rev. Dean Phelps, Min. Sheila Spencer and Rev. Debbie Adams Phelps at Second Christian Church in Midway, Kentucky.

Disciples Volunteering

As news of the aftermath of Hurricane Florence is being evaluated, the best help we can offer is always our prayers and financial gifts. Gifts designated through Week of Compassion (<http://www.weekofcompassion.org>) will be directed to support immediate relief efforts, ongoing response, and long-term needs. They are the best way for us to say, to affected Disciples and their communities, that we are with you, we are here for you, we care.

There will be a need for volunteers to help clean out and rebuild homes but that time is not yet. Right now, there is a great need for volunteers in places like Puerto Rico, Texas, West Virginia, Florida, and Missouri

as communities continue their recovery from disasters that took place 1 - 2 years ago (learn more and sign up at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/disciples-volunteering/servants-needed/>).

When a significant disaster strikes, our focus, attention, and support enables life-saving early relief. May we extend our concern and care for neighbors whose disasters have long since left the headlines, recognizing that the need for life-giving support continues.



Josh Baird
Disciples Volunteering





"March for Our Lives could be the biggest single-day protest in D.C.'s history," according to *USA Today*. March for Our Lives organizers estimated 800,000 protesters attended the gun-control demonstration in Washington, D.C., on March 4. Youth, families and teachers from across the country traveled to Washington, to demand gun-sense legislation. Disciples from Maryland to California; Minnesota to New Mexico and in between participated in locations all over the U.S. to say "Not One More."



March for Life in Washington, D.C.



March for Life in Washington, D.C.



March for Life in Minnesota



March for Life in Topeka, Kansas



March for Life in St. Louis, Missouri



March for Life in Albuquerque New Mexico (West Mesa Christian Church)



March for Life in Albuquerque New Mexico (Monte Vista Christian Church)



Wild Women of the West Gathering



Katy Valentine



Raiza Spratt, Murray Hills Christian Church, Beaverton, Oregon; and Krysia Gonzales, First Christian Church, Tucson, Arizona.

In April 2018 over 200 women from six regional churches came together in Scottsdale, Arizona with sisters from four countries and Puerto Rico. Carrying bags made by a sewing cooperative in Mozambique, women participated in worship, learning tracks, service projects, shopped for fair trade goods, and enjoyed conversations with women as young as their teens and over 70 years of age.

Our international sisters from Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Jamaica, and India, along with a pastor from Puerto Rico, helped the event to focus on an international theme of Sisters Connection with one another. Preachers included local pastors from Utah and California as well as Global Ministry Staff, our General Minister and President, Terri Hord Owens, and Bible study leader Katy Valentine. Mary Jacobs, Pastor from Oregon, created multi-lingual worship with music, poetry, and movement

that engaged all of our senses. A pre-event gathering with Sandhya Jha and Cathy Myers Wirt engaged over 70 women in conversation about faith rooted community organizing and a pre-event group visited with a project working to eliminate human trafficking in the local area.

This event followed the long tradition of quadrennial assembly gatherings that started in 1957 and ended with the QA in Atlanta in 2014. The event intentionally incorporated some of what had been traditionally done at QA gatherings with new ideas from a new generation of church leaders.

A planning team is already at work on the next WWOW event – “Seeking Grace in the Desert” June 12-14, 2020, First Christian Church, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Linda Sexton

*Disciples Women's Ministry Coordinator
Christian Church in Arizona*



International sisters attended the WWOW gathering.



Several three generational groups attended the WWOW gathering.



Preachers from left: Daphne Gascot Elrias, Vinnetta Golphin, Catherine Nichols and Terri Hord Owens.



General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens, preaches to the women who attended the WWOW gathering in Arizona.

The Ministry of Presence is the Recognition of Mutual Dignity

An energetic game of tag with a five year old whose father died, a workshop on liminality, resilience or justice, stroll beside a teenager struggling with a decision, a warning about compassion fatigue for pastors in a disaster zone: this is what I do. I accompany fellow travelers on life's path. On the way, I have discovered that dignity is essential to developing a healthy ministry of presence.

"When I respect your dignity, I nurture my own. When you respect my dignity, you nurture your own. Dignity is lived out in community."

Even though I grew up in central México and speak Spanish, I am acutely aware that life in the Mayan highlands of Chiapas is culturally, historically, politically, socially, and linguistically different. I was called to facilitate trauma healing and conflict transfor-

mation processes, but I know that before I can teach others, I have much to learn. I know I must earn my place in the community, not through words, but by attentively walking in humility and solidarity.

Elena, my "tocaya" (a word in Spanish which means we share the same name), has welcomed me into her home where three generations of women weave and embroider threads into collective works of art. They teach me "back strap weaving" in the ancient way of the Mayan women. I listen and learn, dreaming of a dignity tapestry that intertwines identity, understanding, equality, freedom, justice, and hope in culturally recognizable patterns.

*Elena Huegel, mission co-worker,
serving with Global Ministries partner
INESIN, in Chiapas, Mexico*

Presence with Global Ministries

An African proverb states that: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others." Global Ministries strives to go far in mission by establishing relationships of presence with our church partners. We are not involved in mission to merely "do" things, but to journey together so that we can share in faith, love, ministry and hope!

I once attended a meeting with my Basotho colleagues of the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA). An American-based religious organization wanted to donate some blankets and other items to LECSA's Scott Hospital in Morija where I lived. When the visitors arrived they quickly introduced themselves and immediately went into great detail about what they wanted to do and how they were going to do it. When there was finally a pause, the LECSA hospital administrator gently broke in and slowly said: "Can we begin with prayer?" The visitors were noticeably embarrassed. They had been going very, very

fast but had been going very much alone. They had established no relationship with the LECSA or else they would have known that every meeting always begins and ends with prayer. This meeting brought home to me the importance of journeying together in presence and partnership with those we work with.

Another proverb states: "A person becomes a person through other people." Who we are is a reflection of the people who have made an impact on our lives. If we try to go fast and are not open to receiving and understanding the perspective, life, faith and culture of those we wish to serve and work with, we will not get very far and be less of a person than God intends for us to be. Let us be present with others, go with them and go far!

*Mark Behle, mission co-worker,
serving in Lesotho with the Lesotho
Evangelical Church in Southern Africa*



Elena Huegel



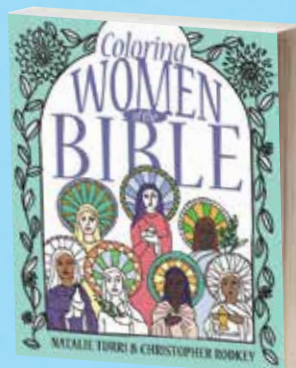
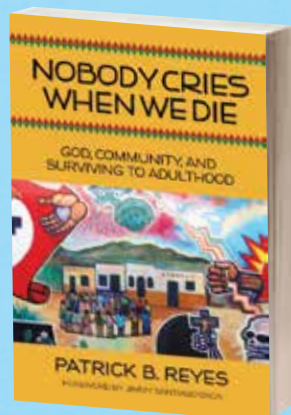
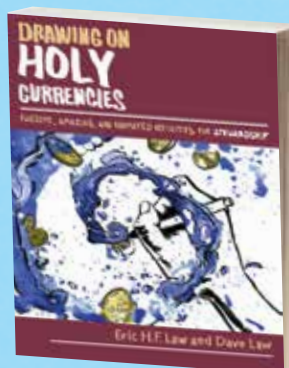
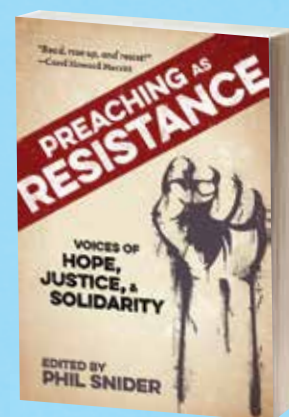
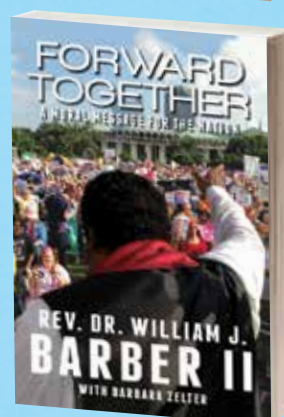
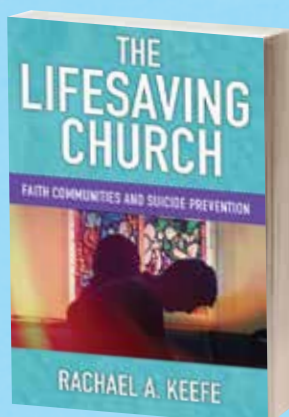
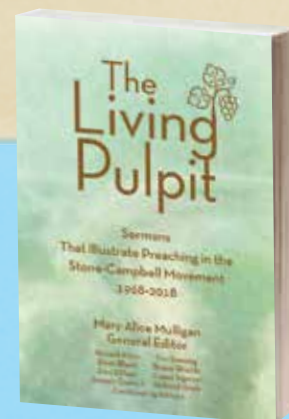
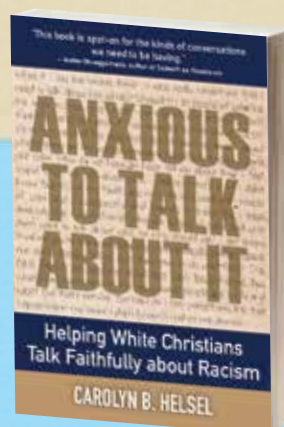
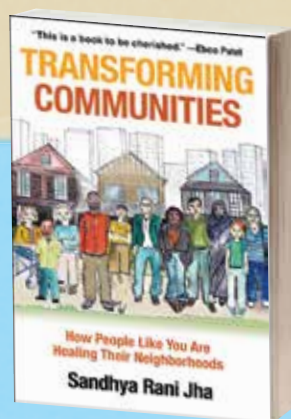
Mark Behle



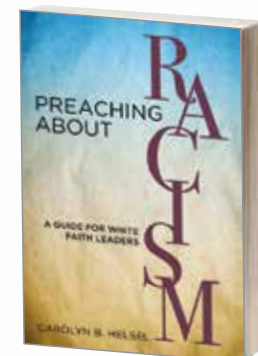


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Congregational Gifts to Disciples Mission Fund Sustain Whole Church

As summer turns to fall, churches prepare for new seasons. We plan holiday worship and organize budgets for next year. In these preparations, we prayerfully reflect on what it means to be present in ministry, to truly be there for, and with, others in our communities and beyond.

When we prayerfully prepare from a sense of abundance, we know that God provides what we need to do the work that calls us. Although we may feel challenged and opportunities for mission are many, Disciples know that by sharing the work, we accomplish what, by God's design, we cannot do alone.

When you include support of Disciples Mission Fund in your congregation's annual budget, you are responding to our call to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) brings the whole Church together, connecting us to the life-giving and life-saving work we have been called to do. It also simplifies giving for congregations and individuals, providing a way to support the entire Church at once. DMF-funded regional and general ministries offer opportunities for Disciples to serve as mission co-workers, attend college or seminary, advocate for the least of these, and so much more.

When you make a gift to Disciples Mission Fund, you share God's love from your doorsteps to the ends of the Earth.



*Find resources
on developing narrative
budgets and annual
campaigns from the Center
for Faith and Giving at [https://
centerforfaithandgiving.org](https://centerforfaithandgiving.org).*

*Find more resources for
church treasurers, worship
leaders, and donors from
Disciples Mission Fund at
[https://disciplesmissionfund.
org](https://disciplesmissionfund.org).*

DISCOVER
DISCIPLES MISSION FUND

*Share your gifts.
Share the story.*

Learn more about
DMF, make a gift,
and find resources
for donors, church
treasurers, and
worship leaders, at
disciplesmissionfund.org.



Ministries and congregations are
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
in their own back yards all across
the United States and Canada.

- **Read stories** on disciples.org and on the Disciples Local Impact Facebook group (DisciplesLocalImpact)
- **Tell your story** in the Facebook group
- **Submit a story** to Disciples News Service via news@disciples.org

Disciples Women are Truly a Ministry of Presence

Disciples Women across the continent are deeply involved in the work of the local church as well as leaders in outreach and mission. Worship, education, Bible study, fellowship time, etc. are all part of what happens when Disciples women are present...truly a ministry of presence.

Understanding that Disciples Women's Ministries is a conduit for diverse connections empowering each woman to find her voice and live out her call underlines that we

are able to do mission and ministry through the support and networking women have done so effectively for decades.

Women are present at the bedside of a friend who is ill or suffering, at the side of a grieving friend, at the home of a woman welcoming a new child into the family, on Capitol Hill voicing opposition to or support of legislation that affects God's people, at the ordination or installation of women in positions of leadership...being present to support, uplift, encourage, and love their sisters.



W2WW 2017 Delegation raised over \$6,000 to cover the cost of a sewing project to train and establish a business for women in Delhi, India

Disciples Women's ministry of presence extends globally to our sisters who we meet on Woman-to-Woman Worldwide journeys where we learn from them what it means to be a woman of faith in their country and find ways to continue to build those connections. Each year a program or programs are selected that are serving and benefitting the needs our global sisters identify that is supported by Disciples Women in North America. Relationships are built that are maintained

through social media where we share information and provide ongoing support for one another. Our ministry of presence is side-by-side and hand-in-

hand as well as technologically attached across miles.

Together we are stronger, better informed, and covered in the amazing love of God. #DWConnect

*Rev. Patricia Donahoo
Disciples Women*

Tapia *Continued from page 7.*

South America. CPOHM also partners with the Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo) in Puerto Rico, which is home to more than 100 Disciples congregations.

Rev. Miguel Morales, general minister for the Disciples in Puerto Rico, was present at the asamblea, and brought a declaration of thanks to the Obra Hispana and Rev. Tapia for their support and prayers after Hurricane Maria devastated the island last year.

Also present was General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples

of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada, Rev. Terri Hord Owens, who preached at the event, and led Tapia's installation service.

Member of the search committee for this position Hector Valasquez introduced Tapia as "a unique leader for a time such as this."

Tapia earned her Master of Divinity degree from Claremont School of Theology and was ordained by the Arizona region in 2017.

Disciples New Service

The Christian Church Foundation works with individual donors and local congregations to determine their passion for ministry and discern, together, the best way they can use their gifts to support ministry.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

Helping Disciples Make a Difference

The Christian Church Foundation can help you or your congregation with:

- Starting a planned giving ministry
- Discerning the best way to create your faithful legacy
- Estate gift planning
- Creating new sources of income for your congregation
- Tax-smart giving options
- Celebrating legacy gifts from congregation members
- Creating permanent funds
- Creating a lasting legacy for a closing congregation
- And so much more!

Contact your zone representative to start planning your faithful legacy today!

Mountain West Zone
Jerry Lang, Vice President
jlang@ccf.disciples.org

South Central Zone
Bobby Hawley, Vice President
bhawley@ccf.disciples.org

North Central Zone
Kirby Gould, Vice President
kgould@ccf.disciples.org

Southwest Zone & Northeastern Region
Marilyn Fiddmont, Vice President
mfiddmon@ccf.disciples.org

Great Lakes Zone
India Bobadilla, Vice President
indiab@ccf.disciples.org

Southeast Zone
Randy Johnson, Vice President
rjohnson@ccf.disciples.org

(800) 668-8016

www.christianchurchfoundation.org

Guns *Continued from page 9.*

tional power of God over and over again. Jesus becomes one of us, experiencing our joy and pain, and healing us through the power of suffering love. Our response to God is based on gratitude and joy. Fear is banished by perfect love and all-encompassing grace. (Philippians 2:5-11). Gun violence is rooted in fear. Love is letting go of fear. Blessed by

God's love in Jesus, we are called to focus not on fear but on blessing others and creating structures of reconciling love and blessing in our homes, schools and faith communities.

From its very beginnings, Disciples of Christ have focused on God's reconciling love and unity amidst diversity. What if we took it a step further to focus on God's non-violent shalom in ways that have traditionally been identified only with "peace churches" such as the Quakers and Mennonites? In so doing, we would be more fully claiming our "countercultural" heritage through

teaching and practicing non-violent communication, non-violent conflict resolution, and yes, non-violent direct action when needed.

For children and youth, the call to renewed trust in God's justice seeking, reconciling love demands that we begin to clearly differentiate between popular swash-buckling fictional heroes and superheroes – who, no matter how well intended, always end up fighting the world's violence with violence – and our very real, non-violent, God trusting, evil-conquering "suprahero" Jesus. Christian faith formation leaders and parents themselves need to teach and live by compellingly different non-violent standards of "heroic" power in the way of Jesus whose inclusive, self-giving love triumphed over the efforts of all his violent detractors, and even death itself.

In short, in light of God's all-reconciling love, the subject of gun violence is best approached by faith communities as a spiritual

matter which has more to do with facing and triumphing over the world's principalities and powers; luring us into fear and away from our core values of basic trust in the love of God and our Savior, and the church's historic mission of concretely saving both souls and lives. The subject of gun ownership, gun safety, and gun violence like many other important, but divisive problems of our time, calls us to engage uncomfortable people about uncomfortable topics without rancor or judgment, as we together seek to learn about where and how it is that diverse people of faith understand, succeed and fail to live out of their trust in the transforming power of God's love in Jesus Christ.

This fall, Disciples Home Missions will launch a resource for intergenerational faith-based conversations about guns, gun safety and gun violence. This resource will outline steps for implementing this sort of non-violent Gospel witness including opening conversations about guns in our society and homes, basic gun safety practices, and at the same time, provide resources for creative conversations about different types of power at work in the world and the difficult journey for young and old alike to choose to trust the transformational power of God's love in Jesus Christ over any other type of power.

This resource will provide links to resources for learning non-violent communication and non-violent conflict resolution along with a child and youth "friendly" theological paradigm of Jesus as our only real "suprahero" over and above all other fictional superheroes. There will be links to stories of true Christian heroes from whose lives we learn and grow. Grounded in scripture, these resources will chart a way beyond incivility and alienation in responding to issues of guns, gun safety and gun violence. Its bibliography will include links to major gun violence prevention organizations such as Faiths United Against Gun Violence and others.

*Kate Epperly, Coordinator
Justice and Advocacy for Family and
Children's Ministries*



Rev. Kate Epperly in The Concert Across America to End Gun Violence tee shirt.



DISCIPLES CENTER for PUBLIC WITNESS

Ecumenical poverty Initiative

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

We're working together to change that.



*The poverty experienced by so many in the United States is not God's vision for a just society. Be a part of the movement to end the scandal of poverty in our nation. EPI works with Christians of all denominations to fulfill our faith mandate to care for the poor, sick, vulnerable and marginalized. We educate people of faith about the causes and consequences of poverty, and advocate for its abolition. **Join us today.***

For more information, visit www.faithendpoverty.org

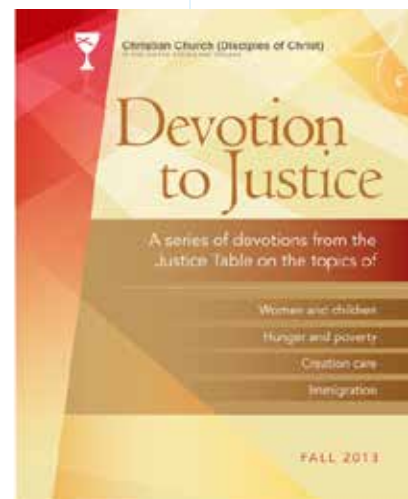
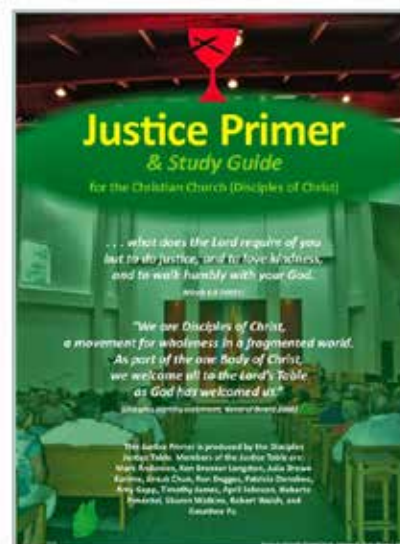
JUSTICE PRIMER: www.djan.net/jp.pdf

JUSTICE DEVOTIONAL: www.djan.net/jd.pdf

ADVOCACY GUIDE for CONGREGATIONS:
www.disciplesadvocacy.net

SUPPORT the MINISTRY of the CENTER:
www.centersupport.org

Disciples Center for Public Witness
c/o Disciples Home Missions
PO Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206
www.disciplescenter.org



Camp Matters Permanent Fund

– for ALL Disciples Camp & Conference Centers!

In collaboration with the Christian Church Foundation, the Camp Matters Permanent Fund will provide grants and loans to camp and conference centers affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to help with facility, programming, and/or staffing needs. Christmount has officially launched a denomination-wide campaign called "I'm In For Ten!" All we're asking is for folks to simply give \$10 each. That's it. Just ten dollars. It's that easy.

Half of your donation will go towards the Camp Matters Permanent Fund, and half of your donation will go directly to the DOC Camp/Conference Center of your choice. Unless otherwise designated, no portion of any donation to the Camp Matters Permanent Fund goes to Christmount.

Once the Fund reaches \$50,000 Christmount will begin accepting applications

from DOC Camp/Conference Centers to receive small grants to help with projects, property, or personnel.

Just think: there are over 600,000 members in the Disciples of Christ. If everyone in the denomination gave just \$10 each, we

would quickly generate \$3 million for the Camp Matters Permanent Fund (foundation for the future) and \$3 million for Disciples Camp & Conference Centers across the U.S. and Canada (gifts for today)!

With the "I'm In For Ten" campaign, your gift makes a difference TODAY and TOMORROW!

For more information, visit www.christmount.org/campmatters. Thank you for joining us in building camp and conference ministries for all Disciples across our nation. We want everyone to know #campmatters!



Chaplains *Continued from page 16.*

mentoring relationships, ones that came with time and trust. Increasingly people are unfamiliar with the chaplain's job, so students might not actively seek you out at those critical vocational intersections they face. I must communicate and demonstrate mentoring skills, and the passion for it, at every opportunity. In essence, it is taking my calling to where students are actively discerning.

The role of the college chaplain is unique. It lies at the nexus of education, ministry, and personal growth. While the public presence of the chaplain is the one that gets noticed most frequently, it is the personal pastoral presence that often has the biggest impact on the life of a student.



List of Chaplains and Church Relations Staff at Disciples Colleges and Universities:

- David Finnegan-Hosey, Barton College
- Cherisna Jean-Marie, Bethany College
- Nancy Brink, Chapman University
- Cisa Payuyo, Chapman University
- Amanda Sorenson, Culver-Stockton College
- Peter Browning, Drury University
- Bruce Fowlkes, Eureka College
- Chris McCreight, Hiram College
- Bill Brown, Midway University
- Angela Kaufman, Texas Christian University
- Lea McCracken, Texas Christian University
- Stephanie McClemore, University of Lynchburg
- Travis Tamerius, William Woods University

*Jonathan Barnes, Director for Higher Education and Communications
Higher Education and Leadership Ministries*

25th Biennial Session of National Convocation

"This experience felt like home, the worship and learning spaces opened up so much for me. My perspective has expanded and I've been blessed more than I could have imagined."

These are the words from someone who attended the Biennial Session for the first time. As they shared about their experience, this Namibian Proverb came to mind.

The 25th Biennial Session of the National Convocation was an opportunity for expansion, inspiration and transformation. The Institute For African –American Faith & Life appreciates the intentional prayers, planning and preparation of the workshop presenters. Our soul and spirit expansion opened up with our Pre-Event Lay and Clergy Leadership Institute. Lay leadership was strengthened by workshops on ministry call, congregational transformation, models for ministry and in depth history of the African American Disciples Presence. The Clergy Institute, facilitated by Dr. William Lee, featured the wisdom of Dr. Clarence Newsome and Rev. Denise Bell. After the official opening of the Biennial Session, the workshops continued on Friday and Saturday.

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words,

and in addition to this, I want to share the direct insights and responses from workshop participants directly after their encounters. We are grateful for the collective learning that took place in this sacred space. The expansion that took place in workshop rooms, worship space, hallways, restaurants and daily encounters. We are blessed and I am grateful.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to come together for worship and education at the Pre-Event Lay and Clergy Leadership Event."

"The Pre-Convocation Clergy Institute was insightful and successful and left us with a personal call to action in our own context."

"I appreciate the authenticity of this workshop."

"This was a life changing experience; the facilitators were passionate about their ministry."

"I have the tools that I need to take back to my congregation and community."

Blessed to be a blessing to you,

Minister Sheila P. Spencer

Dean – Institute of African American Faith and Life

Merger Staff – Christian Education Director



The Ministry of Presence as a Peer Group Convener

Sometimes the hardest work of ministry is just showing up. Not just arriving at a place, but really showing up—being present with individuals who need a safe space to breathe, share



NBA Executive Leaders Peer Group



NBA Marketing Development Peer Group



NBA Prison and Jail Ministries Peer Group

their thoughts without judgment, and grow as they are nurtured by others who seek to understand them. In my experience, this kind of work has its joys and challenges, but it's often the very thing that God does for us time and time again.

For the past two years, I have spent countless hours convening and sharing in several peer groups with amazing Disciples across the life of the church. The National Benevolent Association is taking seriously the ministry of presence by offering Peer Learning and Wellness Groups for Disciples, provid-

ing an opportunity for leaders to engage in peer support and encouragement, mutual dialogue, spiritual renewal, and peer-to-peer learning.

I've worked through case studies with executive leaders of Disciples-related health and social service ministries about navigating organizational transition and sharing resources. In another group, I was blessed to hear the story of someone who found her way back to church after being with others doing similar work and learning how their faith helped them navigate their lives. I also think of prison and jail ministry leaders telling stories in a new way, sharing public narrative videos that shed new light on their ministries and the work Disciples are doing in often very dark places.

There has also been rejuvenation after taking time away from the daily grind to play and work collaboratively with others during our face-to-face gatherings. And every peer group has been able to practice mental health wellness and spiritual renewal through self-care practices and devotional reflections. As the convener, oftentimes, my role was just to be present – to create a space, be open, and welcome anyone who showed up.

Ministry can be lonely sometimes. As a peer group convener, my greatest joy is bringing people together so they know they are not alone, sharing in their joys and challenges, and watching new relationships form that reflect the very presence of God among us. To God be the glory!

Learn more about NBA Peer Learning and Wellness Groups at: www.nbacares.org/connect-ministries.

*Rev. Monica Wedlock Kilpatrick
Director of Connect Ministries
National Benevolent Association*

Separation *Continued from page 16.*

efforts led by Disciples with the Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America in Cleveland, Ohio, and with members of the Northeast Region of Disciples in the New York area. Resources for how you and your local congregation might continue to engage to keep protecting families, as we move through the fall, are updated regularly, and may be found at: <https://bit.ly/2ySsOnI>. You are also invited to subscribe to RIM WRAP to receive action alerts about needs as they emerge to protect immigrant families and children: bit.ly/2D5Ke37.

Commitment to education and advocacy on behalf of

children separated from their immigrant families as a deterrent to immigration abandons the core Christian value of the sacredness of the family and widely recognized understandings of basic human rights. The United Nations recognizes that the separation of children from their parents as an immigration deterrent strategy is a violation of basic human rights. <https://news.un.org/en>

Disciples leaders have weighed in with a state-

Continued on page 34. See Separation.

Separation *Continued from page 33.*

ment issued in July, 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2IgA5zU>). Rev. Terri Hord Owens joined with other denominational leaders in signing a June 8, 2018, letter to Congress urging the Administration to stop its policy of separating families (<https://bit.ly/2xEcdSH>).

Even the American Psychological Association has spoken out against the separation of immigrant families. The trauma of such separations can scar children emotionally, and sometimes physically, for life (<https://bit.ly/2xwHnhm>).

Now, it is our turn to do what we can to support not only children and youth who have been separated from their parent, but who WILL BE separated from their parents due to our current immigration policies. Separation of immigrant families is going on every day in communities throughout the United States as the Immigration Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) continues to conduct raids which all too often separate legal citizen children such as DREAMers or DACA recipients (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) from their immigrant parents.

In the midst of these stressful times for immigrant families (both documented and un-documented) racism and xenophobia is on the rise and people of diverse immigrant status are being lumped together by persons ignorant about the distinctions between "official" refugees, formal and informal asylum seekers, Temporary Protection Status (TPS) immigrants. Many persons already carrying huge burdens of pain and anxiety fear that they or their family members will be returned to countries where life threatening gang violence and poverty dominates.

Putting partisan politics aside, it is time for persons of faith to become better educated and more involved with immigration issues and compassionately involved with supporting immigrant families – particularly their children and youth – during these very stressful times for our immigrant Americans and their families, whatever their immigrant status may be. We also need to continue to bring to the attention of our government officials the moral imperative to keep immigrant families together.

When the disciples rebuked people for bringing their children to Jesus for his blessing and healing touch, Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. (Luke

18:16)

Did you know that new government initiatives in the offing will make it harder for legal immigrants to receive green cards or permanent citizenship if they, or any one in their households ever benefitted from our government's various safety-net programs such as the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), food stamps? In the wake of these restrictive policies, children's lives will hang in the balance.

Even without family separation being eminent, our immigration lawyers are swamped with cases. The average duration of pending immigrant cases can be 6-8 years. Ever increasing fear and anxiety are causing immigrant families (both documented and un-documented) to retreat from exercising the rights and services which, in many cases, they are owed. They do not want to draw attention to themselves because of fear of persecution. Christ calls us to extend our hands in friendship and support to our hurting brothers and sisters,

and especially to children and families. We are called to actively do all we can to advocate for and support the children of immigrant families in our communities.

How, you ask? At this year's "A World Uprooted" Ecumenical Advocacy Days, I learned offering a wide range of support services about a wide range of efforts we can initiate ranging from prayer vigils and collections of special offerings, caring notes, personal hygiene items and small soft toys for detainees to vigils and protests at detention centers themselves. Some bold congregations are installing showers and offering their church buildings as places of "sanctuary" for families or individuals who are actively being sought for deportation (<https://bit.ly/2Oam4Jv>).

In the Spirit of Saguaro Christian Church in Arizona, I invite you to continue to pray, advocate and be agents of change for just mercy for our immigrant brothers and sisters and their children. Reach out to those in power and make your voice heard -that the light in this one place can be in all places. Go and be a light in the world! #familiesbelongtogether #DH-Missions

Rev. Kate Epperly, Coordinator, Justice and Advocacy for Families and Children's Ministry



Disciples clergy from the Tucson and Phoenix, Ariz., area attended the UCCSouthwest Conference's "Week of Faithful Witness at the Border."

**Association of Disciple Musicians invites ALL to their 2019 Summer Conference
at
Webster Groves Christian Church, Webster Groves, Missouri, July 7-12**



In 2019, ADM will be gathering in Webster Groves, Missouri at Webster Groves Christian Church on July 7 – 12. 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 2019 conference are:



Many other daily options will be led by talented ADMers. Visit the ADM website, www.adm-doc.org, for more details and contact information. *We hope to see You in Webster Groves in 2019!*

Even after 57 years of existence ADM is still unknown to many in the Christian Church and other denominations. Our goal, as always, is to spread the word about ADM and make it known 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 and additional conference information is easily found on the ADM website, www.adm-doc.org.

Stop Refugee Resettlement from Being Dismantled

Urge Congress to Refuse the Administration's Refugee Admissions Goal of 30,000 & Instead Seek 75,000

On September 17, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the administration's intent to set a refugee admissions goal for fiscal year 2019, beginning October 1st, of 30,000. This number represents the lowest level by far in U.S. history; and is LESS THAN ONE THIRD of the number of refugees resettled on average each year by the U.S. & our churches for decades!

The announcement came at a time when there are nearly 3 million more refugees in the world this year than in 2016--making more than 25 million refugees worldwide. It came at the end of a year when the government had already set a historic low from last year of 45,000 refugees; and yet has allowed less than 21,000 to actually enter.

But refugees are more than just a statistic. They represent families torn apart. More than half are children who have experienced horrific violence. They are all seeking a chance to rebuild their lives. Resettling refugees allows us to fulfill our faith calling to welcome the stranger. And it encourages our international partners--including our global ministry partners--who are often shouldering millions of refugees within their bounds.

Rev. Terri Hord Owens, GMP for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) joined other faith partners in responding. She made this video (https://youtu.be/izbOW_9Zz_Y). and also said:

"Our nation should be resettling at least 75,000 refugees....God's mandate to love the vulnerable and sojourners was repetitive, and Jesus' own experience fleeing violence and danger made possible a world transformed by grace and compassion. Our congregations, and refugees themselves, remain ready for healing and welcome today—and we will not stay silent if our nation squelches our value of hospitality or denies our opportunity to lead the world in resettlement."



What Top 5 Things Can We ALL Do to Help Refugees?

1. Add your video to Rev. Terri's to encourage 75,000 refugees be resettled!

Share your personal story & prayer for refugees in a 90 second video, and urge Congress to re-settle at least 75,000 refugees in FY2018! See examples from other Disciples Regional Ministers, Pastors, and Church Members at: discipleshomemissions.org/pray4refugees. Be sure to tag #Pray4Refugees and #Welcome75k, and send to Refugee & Immigration Ministries, Week of Compassion, and Disciples News so we can post and help you share!

2. Urge conversations between the Administration & Congress before any number is finalized!

It is a requirement for the Administration to consult with Congress--especially with House & Senate Judiciary Committees--before finalizing a refugee resettlement goal. But this has not yet happened! Chair Chuck Grassley, Dianne Feinstein, and leaders from all viewpoints together are urging this process to occur immediately!

3. Call your Congressional leaders TODAY to urge your support for 75,000, and share your stories of love and support for refugees!

Communicate your faith value of welcome! Go to greateras1.org/saverefugeeresettlement to be connected to your 2 Senators and 1 Representative, and see a sample call script bit.ly/2NA4jnr.

4. Tweet at your Senators & Representatives to share your love for refugees through your messages and videos!

Find sample tweets bit.ly/2NA4jnr. Find Twitter handles for crucial Judiciary Committee members bit.ly/2pyOMOV, and find for all other leaders bit.ly/1MQE7bI. (We may not use Twitter so much in church circles--but legislators follow these messages constantly, it's a good way to ensure our voices are really heard!!)

Host a Prayer Vigil or Press Conference in Your Community:

Invite refugee leaders to tell their stories, together with faith leaders, business leaders & elected officials. Invite the media to show a strong message of support to welcome refugees. Visit bit.ly/2Ohjp0N for our interfaith #Welcome75k Toolkit which has sample media advisories and steps to host a public witness event. Find worship resources, images for signs, & refugee stories bit.ly/2Odq8IO --and listen to the Disciples videos about refugees for further inspiration! (discipleshomemissions.org/pray4refugees)

Revamped Schedule and More for the Des Moines Assembly

The 2019 General Assembly in Des Moines, IA, is taking shape with new features and a new schedule. Thanks to the work of the General Assembly Future Task Force, we will be trying out some new ways of gathering.

First, the schedule: We will begin our time together with a grand celebration on Saturday afternoon, July 20, in the arena. Plans include an Olympic-style procession and recognition of mission. Our time together will end on Wednesday morning with a sending-forth keyed by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. If you live within driving distance, you can be home that night, saving a night's hotel charges.

Second, the learning: One of the comments we hear often in the general church is that congregations want to learn from one another's practical experience. Well, here's your chance! A Mission Fest will be offered in the exhibit hall where you can talk to others about what has worked in their context and maybe even brainstorm about how you can take their ideas to your own community.

Another kind of learning will occur before and during the event. Beginning in November, eight Bible studies written by Disciples will be available for download. Each will focus on the theme text of John 15:1-5. And during the event, morning Bible study

sessions will be back to center us in the Word Monday through Wednesday.

In addition, there will be a variety of practical workshops and classes ranging from elder and boundary training to Worship and Wonder and Disciples history. Some classes may be 90 minutes, others may stretch across several sessions depending on the subject matter. The full schedule will be posted online in time for registration.

And speaking of registration – it will open on Nov. 1, 2018. This will allow organizers time to get as many learning and fellowship opportunities set as possible so you can get a good look at all that will be available. By registering before Dec. 31, you can spread cost over two budget years. By registering before March 31, you will still get the discounted rate.

So, note on your calendar to get online Nov. 1 to see all the 2019 General Assembly has to offer. And as an added bonus, Nov. 1 is also the date planners will announce the Sunday night preacher, chosen based on their sermon submitted to the worship planning team and a panel of homiletics professors.

Des Moines is waiting. The Local Arrangements Committee is busily planning. **Mark your calendar now to be at the 2019 General Assembly July 20-24!**



Friendship Ministries Offers New Dementia Inclusive Faith Formation Resource

Many of us are familiar with Friendship Ministries (www.friendship.org) as a dynamic faith formation and congregational inclusion resource which strives to promote the ideals of equality, interdependence, compassion, and hospitality for persons both with and without intellectual disability within the Body of Christ.

Now, their primary small group curricular resource TOGETHER - which focuses on small group faith development and community building - has been expanded to include a second, parallel track that is appropriate for use with any small group that would like to include a person or two who have intellectual disability, including dementia and others who, for whatever reason, can no longer read.

As children of God, whatever our capabilities, we

all need spiritual, social, emotional, physical and intellectual nurture in ways that deepen our relationship with God and each other in our community. Friendship Ministries provides consultation for gathering congregational support, step-by-step start up guidance and training of mentors.

Friendship Ministries believes it is good stewardship of God's gifts to do all we can to eliminate barriers impeding persons from enjoying a lifetime of redemption, worship and service to God.

These same values are reflected in the fact that Friendship Ministries is the only Bible study program published in Spanish for people with intellectual disabilities.

Rev. Dr. Kate Epperly, Director of Justice and Advocacy for Families and Children's Ministries

Newsletters, Publications and Resources

Disciples Home Missions Updates -- bimonthly e-newsletter from the president. Sign up at: www.discipleshomemissions.org.



Disciples Home Missions online store -- Online shopping includes items from Disciples Women (DW), Christian Vocations and Family and Christian Ministry. Membership dues for Association of Disciple Musicians, Disciples Chaplains Association and Farm-worker Ministry.

Christian Vocations offers deacon, elder, deacon emeritus, elder emeritus and clergy pins. Blessing Boxes from DW and women clergy, president and vice president pins. Long sleeved shirts with DW logo and Herstory Tree t-shirts and much more.

Books available from Family and Children Ministry include "Children at the Lord's Table," "Following Jesus" (Korean), "Young Children and Worship" (Korean), and "Journey Toward Wholeness." Music CD "What Will We Say to the Children and VBS CD "Journey to India." Find the online store at: <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/shop>

Disciples Thumbnail Sketches and You Are Series -- These handouts are available from Chalice Press in downloadable electronic PDF format that allows unlimited printing for up to one year after purchase. These resources have been developed by Disciples Home Missions. Visit Chalice Press at: www.chalicepress.com. EPDF ISBN: 9780827206618 and EPDF ISBN: 9780827244283.

Family & Children's Ministries E-newsletter -- bimonthly e-newsletter. Sign up at: <http://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/newsletter>

Green Chalice News -- monthly creation care e-newsletter. Sign up at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice>.

Immigration Legal Updates -- Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel provides timely updates on changes to immigration law and policies that impact Disciples congregations and families. Sign up at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/legal-help/>.

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

Refugee & Immigration Wrap -- periodic updates about what is happening around immigration issues, refugee resettlement and Farm Worker Ministry. Sign up at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries>

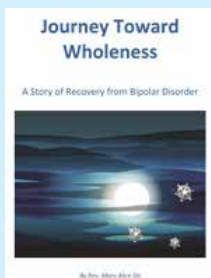
The Well-Fed Spirit -- Visit: www.wellfedspirit.org.

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

Book Corner

Rocking Chair Conversations by Rev. Lonnie Graves.

To order visit: <https://lonnie-artandculture.com/>. Select shop now!



The autobiography *"Journey Toward Wholeness: Story of Recovery from Bipolar Disorder"* by Rev. Mary Alice Do is a book about mental health disorders. It is the story of her life, personal struggles with depression, two psychiatric hospitalizations, and recovery. It began as a collection of stories about times that God had been present in her life. When God enabled her family to escape from Vietnam in 1975. The focus of the book changed because Rev. Do felt called, as clergy, to share her journey toward wholeness. It is Mary Alice's hope that sharing her 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 the book 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.

Journey Toward Wholeness is available from Disciples Home Missions and can be purchased online at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/shop/>

October 10 is World Mental Health Day

Donate

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Disciples Home Missions' Office of Christian Vocations is offering Disciples Deacon, Elder, Deacon Emeritus, Elder Emeritus

and Clergy Pins. The pins are \$5.00 each, plus shipping. To place your order please go to: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/product-category/christian-vocation/>



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John 15: 1-5