



Published by Disciples  
Home Missions

# The Disciples' Advocate



## 2019 General Assembly Brings New Features

### *You said it and planners heard!*

**Study:** Many remind us that Bible study is an important part of the General Assembly. This year we have eight Bible studies posted online from a variety of theological perspectives. One is available in Spanish and one in Korean.



These studies will be referenced during our 8:30 a.m. Bible study times Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the plenary hall.

**Length:** We have a new schedule to address concerns about hotel costs. The General Assembly will begin with a grand celebration at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, July 20. This afternoon session will segue into our first business session and precede the evening meal and worship. On the other end of the schedule, we will be sent out on Wednesday morning, July 24, with the option to head home after the celebration ends around 11 a.m.

**Education:** Folks said they wanted added value for their trip. Education at this assembly has classes that count. In other words, clergy don't have to take an extra trip to get their boundary training and laity don't have to spend an extra Saturday at elder training. You can sign up for sessions at the General Assembly that may be 90 minutes, 3 hours, or 6 hours. This schedule

allows for more in-depth exploration of topics.

**Connection:** You said you wanted connection. It's been a few years since we had a MissionFest but we've brought it back! Congregations will have a chance to network, sharing their best ideas and learning from others in a casual atmosphere in the exhibit hall.

**Preaching:** Planners heard that there are a lot of great preachers out in the Disciples, but we may not have heard from them before. The Call for Sermons last fall netted a stellar sermon from Rev. Nancy Gowler of First Christian, Puyallup, Wash. But there were also more than 30 other great sermons submitted on John 15:1-5. Those other folks' contacts have been forwarded to the pulpit supply committee in hopes we can all hear a sermon on our text Sunday morning.

Where did these ideas come from? In 2015, a General Assembly Futuring Task Force was given the work of reimagining parts of the event for a new era. Using data from an extensive survey in 2012 as well as post-event surveys for 2013 and 2015, the group presented recommendations to the 2017 General Assembly.

**And one more thing...** Tuesday night is not to be missed. The Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale and Rev. Mark Briley are collaborating on a celebration of 50 years of our Design and Merger.

### *Abide in me*

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*Have you considered  
making a gift to*



*in your will?*

*If so, please contact*

*Rev. Sotello V. Long  
at  
(317) 713-2684*

*DHM Equipping Disciples  
for Christ*

# Sotello's Inspirations

Greetings and welcome to this issue of the Disciples Advocate!

Be blessed as you read the articles and gain understanding from the wealth of information packed in this edition that focuses on the theme for our General Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa - "Abide in Me"! Let this resource equip you and reveal stories that inspire you to broader service in Christ.

Disciples Home Missions, in relationships with its partners, equips Disciples for Christ and connects people to the life-changing love of God while facilitating faithful and effective ministry. Let me offer a word of thanks to all our contributors and much thanks to the diligence of Wilma Shuffitt who stewards this wonderful resource on our behalf. Well done!

Now with respect of our theme, here is some insight into one of the spiritual disciplines I use to abide in Christ. I tune into Jesus everyday by listening or reading the Bible. I follow the Bible Reading Guide found in the DHM resources tab at [www.discipleshomemissions.org](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org). It offers a daily reading guide that walks you through the Bible in a year. The Bible says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." I choose to feed my faith every day. I use the Biblegateway app (or [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com))

that allows the entry of five separate chapters at a time to listen to and/or sometimes read along feeding my spirit on the word of God.

As a tri-part being (I am a spiritual being, I have a soul and I live in a body), I believe my spirit is enlivened by meditating on the word. This has been and continues to be a source of strength that allows me to endure the challenges of ministry with a grace and peace that passes understanding. When challenges arise God can more effectively work through me because I've given the Holy Spirit something with which to work. My heart is not a blank slate when faced with a challenge, but rather well equipped for the Holy Spirit to impart and/or draw out what's needed to show God at work.

I encourage you to stay the course in the discipline of feeding your spirit and meditating on God's Word in ways that suit you. If you haven't been, now's a good time to start. Connect with us on social media and let us know how you're doing. We'd love to hear your stories and share with others the many ways Disciples... "Abide in Me!"

God's love,

*Sotello V. Long  
President of Disciples Home Missions*

## Introducing DHM's Leadership Initiative Team (LIT)

**Something Tried and True:** For decades, Disciples Home Missions (DHM) has offered support and resources to regions and congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). From Evangelism to Family and Children's Ministries, DHM offers a toolbox of resources designed to equip leaders for particular service.

**Something New:** Introducing DHM's new program the Leadership Initiative Team (LIT), a collective of diverse gifted and skilled leaders from a cross section of ministry professions. LIT listens to congregations and regions among other organized ministries to discover leader development

needs and provides or designs resources for the development of leaders to address those needs in their context of ministry. The goal of LIT is to provide support, resources and facilitators from its speaker's bureau to compliment the development of Disciples leaders throughout the recognized organizations of the church: Regions, Districts, Fellowships and/or congregations among other bodies! Let me emphasize that - LIT works with you to develop leaders aligned with your focus and context of ministry!

**Something Borrowed:** Time is borrowed; it is before us, we use it, and then is

*Continue on page 38. See LIT.*



*Sotello V. Long*



## DHM Honors Two Former Staff

**The Rev. A. Garnett Day Jr.**, a former Division of Homeland Ministries (currently known as Disciples Home Missions (DHM) staff, passed away on October 13, 2018. He was born in Sweet Springs, Mo., to A. Garnett Sr., and Faith (Coffelt) Day on August 21, 1930. Throughout his life, he sided with justice for the underdog, compassion for those in need and a commitment to peace.

After graduating from Lynchburg College in Virginia, and Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky, Day followed in his father's footsteps and became a minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

In 1963 he accepted the position with DHM. In this role, Day could pursue his commitment to participate in the civil rights movement, anti-war and anti-poverty movements. In the civil rights endeavor over years, Day became the Director of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Moral and Civil Rights Campaign. He served as the denominational liaison to the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Council, spending the summer of 1964 doing voter registration in Mississippi and Alabama, marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma and temporarily living in Washington D. C., helping to coordinate Dr. King's Poor

People's Campaign in 1968.

Day worked on peace and justice issues for thirty-two years in the general offices of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Day's efforts to work on peace and justice issues included numerous trips with Pastors for Peace to take supplies to Cuba in the 1970s and 1980s, serving as an observer in Nicaraguan and Cambodian elections, and peace-seeking efforts between North and South Vietnam in the 1980s. Day served on the Broadway Center Board, a term on the Indiana Civil Liberties Union Board, was a founding member of Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center, and Christians for Peace and Justice in the Middle East. Day served on the National Council of Churches Farmworker Ministry Board from its founding until his retirement. During the summer of 1973 he took his family with him to California to work with Caesar Chavez in organizing farm workers. He was the Director of Disciples Peace Fellowship for ten years and in retirement was honored as the recipient of its biannual Peace Award.

Garnett and his wife, Carolyn had four children. Mark, Stephen, Laura, and David, god-children Marisa and David Schwartz and twelve grandchildren.

**The Rev. Robert Glover**, also a former staff, died on January 26, 2019. He was born on July 31, 1929.

Glover was a sharecropper kid from Arkansas who, with the aid of the New Deal and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), earned two masters degrees from Yale University. An ordained minister, he was a career Christian educator who enjoyed serving the denomination in a variety of roles.

He retired in 1995 as Vice President for Education and Mission of Disciples Home Missions. Before that he served congregations in Arkansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Connecticut and taught at Phillips Seminary. He served on the staff of Yale during the 1960s and became active in the cause of civil rights. Glover was President of a Local NAACP chapter and Vice President of a State NAACP during the assass-

ination of MLK Jr. and its aftermath. He was a member of the Oklahoma Advisory Committee of the US Commission on Civil Rights. A highlight of his ecumenical work was serving on the Translation and Utilization Committee of the National Council of Churches in the translation and publishing of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. He was one of the founders of the Gay, Lesbian and Affirming Disciples association and recognized as a recipient of its Carol Blakeley Award. Bob was also a 20 year volunteer at the Eiteljorg American Indian and Western Art Museum.

A 40 plus year member of Downey Avenue Christian Church, Indianapolis, and past Elder Chair.

Glover is survived by his wife, Linda, They had four children and three grandchildren.



Rev. A. Garnett Day Jr.



Rev. Robert Glover



# Education Sessions at General Assembly

The Ministries of Disciples Home Missions and Disciples Women will be offering valuable resources during the 2019 General Assembly Education Sessions. These particular workshops are listed below. General Assembly always presents wonderful and engaging opportunities for education, sharing ideas with others, and participating in meaningful and resource-building discussion. The link to the complete educational offerings can be found at [ga.disciples.org/education](http://ga.disciples.org/education)



Sunday, July 21, 2019

## Session 1: 1:30–2:50 PM

### Women in Vocational Ministry

Developing networks, peer support groups, and paths for advocacy. Disciples Home Missions (DHM) has a long history of support for women in ministry. This workshop seeks to:

1. Offer time and space for women in ministry to tell their stories and share current issues of need, concern, hope and strength in vocational life that are unique to, and/or present in, the lives of female clergy.
2. Evaluate possibility for re-activating the currently dormant Disciples for Women in Ministry Steering Committee, beginning the initial process of discerning new goals and objectives of such, and soliciting leadership for these efforts.
3. Create a supportive environment in which women clergy can speak to the wider church in a way that empowers and affirms the vitality of women in ministry.

*Presenters: Administrators of "Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Female clergy and friends" Facebook Group*

### Mission as Gifted Relationship

Disciples Volunteering operates from an understanding of mission as being sent by God to be in relationship with others, giving priority to their voice and gifts. Our time will begin as friends we have made on recent missions share stories from our journeys together. Then, conversation will turn to how your congregation can participate in on-going missions and apply the lessons of these experiences to spark new ones.

*Presenter: Josh Baird, Disciples Volunteering - DHM*

### Social Media and the Church

Social media and church are not exclusive: they are mutual partners in creatively sharing a message with opportunities that keep the church relevant. In this hands-on workshop, participants will explore the most popular social media platforms, why they are used, and brainstorm ideas and best practices on use in the church.

*Presenter: Tim Campbell, Strategist, also serves on the DHM Board of Directors*

## Session 2: 3:00-4:30 PM

### Workshop for Military Chaplains

A discussion of current Issues and information provided by experienced Disciples Military Chaplains. Plan to attend if you are currently serving or are interested in learning about opportunities for chaplain ministry in the Army, Navy, or Air Force. Presenters will discuss challenges and blessings of serving in Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard components.

*Hosted by the Disciples Chaplain Association*

### Workshop for Institutional Chaplains

*(Hospital, hospice, other healthcare settings, prison and law enforcement, pastoral counseling, workplace and other specialized settings)*

Presentations and discussion of issues and information related to ministry as a chaplain in a wide variety of community settings. Plan to attend if you are already serving as a chaplain or if you are interesting in learning about opportunities for service and the requirements for endorsement for chaplaincy ministry.

*Hosted by the Disciples Chaplain Association*

### Going Carbon Neutral – Saving Money as We Save God's Good Earth

Learning from congregations who are on the path to carbon neutrality and experts in reducing energy, we will learn how we can meet the call from the 2017 General Assembly for Disciples to go Carbon Neutral by 2030. Congregations are saving hundreds of dollars a month and thousands of dollars each year by making changes to their buildings and habits. Join us to learn how you can be better stewards of the church's money while being better stewards of God's good earth.

*Presenter: Rev. Carol Devine, Green Chalice*

### Bridle, Baton, and Building Blocks

Leadership is a combination of handing over the reins, passing the baton, and building a team of shared responsibility. All of these require connections in one way or another. We will share what has worked and the importance of the timing in using one style over another.

*Presenter: Disciples Women*

### Justice and Unity

In this workshop, members of Disciples Peace Fellowship will share strategies for congregational engage-

*Continue on page 32. See GA Education.*

**Come see what's new in  
Disciples Home Missions and Disciples Women!**

*Disciples Women will host a luncheon on Sunday,  
then join DHM for an after-session  
Sunday evening at 8:45 pm*



Disciples Home Missions



Disciples Women

- Search & call
  - Justice & Advocacy
  - Scholarships & Grants
  - Ministry Resources for Women, Men, Children, Families, Youth & Young Adults
  - Missions & Volunteering
  - Congregational Transformation & Evangelism
  - Support for Clergy & Lay Leaders
  - Christian Education and Faith Formation
  - Mission Centers
- And many other ministries!

Be sure to stop by our booth in the exhibit hall to check out all DHM & Disciples Women have to offer! Hang out in the Family Fun area and pick up your free gift!



[WWW.DISCIPLESHOMESSIONS.ORG](http://WWW.DISCIPLESHOMESSIONS.ORG)

#Abide2019

#DHMissions

#DWConnect

# Disciples Women Celebrate 145 Years

Every January the regional representatives for Disciples Women's Ministries gather for networking, training, celebrating, and worshipping God. At this year's meeting, we began our yearlong celebration of 145 years of mission and ministry of Disciples Women. This ministry began with the formation of the Christian Women's Board of Missions in 1874.

Women's ministries has, from its beginning, been focused on addressing the needs that are not already being met by the Church. While women are and have been vital workers in mission and ministry, their gifts have not always been accepted or recognized. As women join together they encourage one another and recognize the strength they share. Disciples Women's Ministries is a conduit for diverse connections empowering each woman to



find her voice and live out her call. Our HerStory tree represents the connections and relationships that women have with one another. We recognize that regardless of where we are in life or what our situation or circumstance may be, we find our strength in the common bond and work we do for the glory of God. While individually we are very different, we find our beauty in our common witness... our witness across the diversity of the church and across 145 years of growing from seeds planted by others and growth nurtured by many women through our history. Our HerStory tree is rooted in the love of God and bears fruit because we abide in God as God abides in us. This year we celebrate the knowledge of the presence of God and the connections to our sisters across 145 years.



**Disciples Women: Let's make 3,000 finger labyrinths for GA 2019**

*Would you like to help make finger labyrinths to be given away at GA2019?*

*All the details, patterns, and instructions are included on pdf file...just follow the link below. When you are finished write your first name, your congregation, and your city and state on the tags and staple one to each labyrinth. This will provide an opportunity for GA attendees to feel the far-reaching witness of Disciples Women.*

**For Labyrinth Instructions:**  
[www.discipleshomemissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/GA19-Labyrinth-Instructions.pdf](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/GA19-Labyrinth-Instructions.pdf)

## Order Your Pins Today!

Office of Christian Vocations is offering Disciples pins for:

- Deacon
- Elder
- Deacon Emeritus
- Elder Emeritus and
- Clergy



The pins are \$5.00 each, plus shipping.

To place your order please go to: [www.discipleshomemissions.org/product-category/christian-vocation/](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/product-category/christian-vocation/)

Office of Christian Vocations is a ministry of Disciples Home Missions

# HAPPY 145th Birthday Disciples Women!

Disciples Women is celebrating our 145th birthday in 2019. This is a celebration marking October 21, 1874, as the day that Caroline Neville Pearre organized the women to address the mission and ministry that was then lacking in the church. Convicted during her prayer time in April of that year, she recognized her call to initiate the Christian Women's Board of Missions (CWBM) that would be organized and managed exclusively by women. One supporter described the CWBM as knowing no distinction between home and foreign missions –its field was the world.

Since then Disciples Women have been organizing and advocating to serve the needs of God's people across time, culture and geography. Please go to [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org) and click on the 145th Birthday link to read more about the history of Disciples Women!

To observe this milestone and to participate in the ministry ahead, Disciples Women invites you to give a gift of \$145. Our goal for 2019 is to have at least 1,450 individuals or groups offer gifts of \$145. We appreciate and celebrate all gifts and hope you will celebrate our birthday with us throughout the year.

Please make all checks payable to **Disciples Women** with a notation in the memo line of "145th birthday" and mail to:

Disciples Women  
P.O. Box 1986  
Indianapolis, IN 46206.

If you prefer, you can give online at:  
**[www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org)**  
Click on "Support Disciples Women"  
and choose 145th Birthday from the drop down menu.



# Disciples Men Announces New Directors

Disciples Home Missions (DHM) is grateful to announce the call of new leadership to offer their gifts among Disciples Men in the persons of Rev. J. Gregory “Greg” Alexander as Director of Disciples Men and Rev. N. Alexander “Alex” Ruth as Associate Director of Disciples Men! Alex began his tenure effective January 1, and Greg started on April 1.

The call to the DHM staff position was extended by President Sotello V. Long after consultation with the Director of Disciples Men Advisory Search Team consisting of four men from the General Conference of Disciples Men executive leadership – Brian Burton, Ron Petrick, Nelson Torres and Irvin Green and three staff persons from DHM – Kelly Harris, R. Wayne Calhoun, Sr., and Lonna Owens.

Six applicants originally applied and three were forwarded for review of additional questions by the team. Given their unique gifts, appreciable passion and their openness to the opportunity President Long exercised the option to extend the call to two candidates.

Read from these transformative leaders in their own words....



Greg Alexander

“Men’s ministry has been a passion of mine for over 30 years. From 1992 to 2004, as Associate Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Kentucky, I had the privilege of developing men’s ministry resources and working with ecumenical men’s leaders both nationally and internationally. My call to be the General Minister of Kentucky required

that I place this vital ministry on the back burner... but my passion for this vital ministry never waned. I am so very grateful to have this opportunity to focus on men’s ministry once more as the new Director for Disciples Men. Rev. Alex Ruth, the new Associate

Director for Disciples Men, and I promise exciting times ahead for Disciples’ men.”

*God bless!*

*Greg*

“My passion for ministry to men stems from my own experiences of struggling to find, understand, and uncover my identity as a Christian man. I have benefited from many great examples of men who live out their faith and masculinity in different, yet life-giving ways. I have been blessed to serve as pastor of Marshfield Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 2006, and have worked with church leaders to develop ministry opportunities for the men of the church to grow and learn together. I am profoundly appreciative of the opportunity to work with Rev. Greg Alexander and the General Conference of Disciples Men as we grow and develop the vital ministry to men in our denomination, and especially in our local communities of faith. Truly, the future is bright for Disciples Men!”

*Journeying together,*

*Alex*

The valued “administry” connection in the Disciples Center for facilitating the ministry of Disciples Men among other integral ministries is Kelly Harris. Thank you kindly Kelly!

We look forward to broadening the connections of Disciples Men with the life-changing love of God through equipping them for leadership; engaging them in acts of compassion, engendering mutual support across generations and promoting justice for all.

*Sotello V. Long*

*President, Disciples Home Missions*



Alex Ruth



## Mission in Des Moines

The mission team of the Local Arrangements Committee has been working overtime to make sure there are plenty of ways to “get dirty for Jesus” in Des Moines. A full list is online and includes clean ups and build outs, blood drives and food collection and distribution, gardening and knitting, letter writing and sorting ... you name it, there is probably an activity for your skill and ability level. See the full list, updated frequently, at [ga.disciples.org/local-mission](http://ga.disciples.org/local-mission)



# Disciples Men on the Move!

## 2019 Men's Luncheon at General Assembly

Sunday, July 21

Speaker:

Filiberto Pereira,

Executive Director,  
Southwest Good Samaritan  
Ministries

The year 2019 will be an exciting year for the General Conference of Disciples Men (GCDM) as our two new directors come on board. Our Annual Meeting kicked off in March, and the 2019 General Assembly draws near. Rev. J. Gregory Alexander and Rev. N. Alexander "Alex" Ruth have been named as Director and Associate Director respectively of Disciples Men.

The GCDM looks forward to working with them to further men's ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

All men of the church are invited to attend the Men's Luncheon during the 2019 General Assembly on Sunday, July 21. Our speaker will be Filiberto Pereira, Executive Director of the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in Los Fresnos, Texas.

The Disciples Men Sessions 2020 is in the planning stage and promotion for the event has begun. Like Sessions 2016, the event will be held at the Texas Christian University (TCU) campus July 10 to July 12, 2020. The theme is: "I AM MY BROTHERS'S KEEPER." The three workshops included in the agenda are: Male Spirituality, Week of Compassion, and Wounded Warrior.

Sessions 2020 speakers include: Rev. Sotello V. Long, President of Disciples Home Missions, Richard H. Lowery, President of

the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and Adjunct Professor at Lexington Theological Seminary, Santiago Pinon, Professor at TCU, and Warren Carter who is presently Professor of New Testament at Brite Divinity School at TCU. In July 2019, he will become Professor of New Testament at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Okla.

Registration for Sessions 2020 will begin at the General Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa, in July.



## MissionFest at General Assembly

Mission is happening all over the Church from congregations to regions to general ministries. We're out to celebrate the many creative and varied ways Disciples are having an impact with and for God's children.

MissionFest is intended for congregational leaders. The focus is on mission models that congregations can either directly engage or create.

We are looking for congregations or ministries who:

- (a) have a model mission or
- (b) a ministry opportunity congregations can participate in.

You can submit YOUR project at [ga.disciples.org/exhibitors/mission-fest](http://ga.disciples.org/exhibitors/mission-fest)



## Earth Day Sunday: Next Generation Rising



Each year, Creation Justice Ministries offers Christian education materials to equip faith communities to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation.

Our 2019 theme is "Next Generation Rising" and focuses on children and youth leading the way for creation justice. This resource features stories such as that of the youth who brought the Our Children's Trust climate change lawsuit against the federal government. You can download this resource at [www.creationjustice.org/nextgeneration](http://www.creationjustice.org/nextgeneration).

leadwithHOPE.org

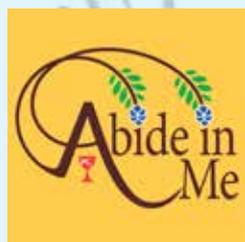


**LEADERSHIP**  
— ACADEMY —

October 7 - 11, 2019

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Activities for Chaplains in Des Moines



The Disciples Chaplains Association (DCA) expects to be well represented at the General Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa. Sunday afternoon, July 21, DCA will be sponsoring workshops – one designed for military chaplaincy and a second for institutional (hospital, hospice, prison, workplace, etc.) chaplaincy ministry.

**Military Chaplains** Alexis Waggoner (Air Force Reserve) and Tiann Morgner (Army) will focus on the challenges and opportunities for ministry as a progressive person of faith in a military context. Following the presentation will be a Q & A session with Chaplains Paul Fritts, Tiann Morgner, Jose Martinez and Owen Chandler. Those considering ministry as a military chaplain are cordially invited to register and attend this workshop.

**Institutional Chaplains** and those interested in hospital ministry are invited to attend a presentation given by Chaplain Sherry Shanks which will focus on the effectiveness of different spiritual and other

interventions on oncology staff resilience. In addition, Chaplain Ana Wilson will present on her work with transgender and intersex patients. There will also be a Q & A session available with Chaplains Annie Grogan and Jonathan Fisher.

Please be sure to register online for one of these workshops when you register for General Assembly at: [ga.disciples.org](http://ga.disciples.org).

Our Disciples Endorsed Chaplain community is invited to attend and enjoy an informal time of gathering and conversation on Tuesday afternoon

at Bubba's Southern Comfort! Please be sure to RSVP at [www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094fa8a823a4fe3-chaplains](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094fa8a823a4fe3-chaplains)

Rev. Thomas A. Yates  
Chaplain Endorsing Officer  
Office of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministry  
Disciples Home Missions



# Do GREAT, while doing GOOD.



**You can, by investing with Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF)!**

For 135 years, Disciples have helped Disciples by partnering with us. Funds invested with DCEF support the ministries and missions of congregations in need with timely loans. In return, we have paid our investors competitive rates on a variety of vehicles, including Demand Plus Notes, Traditional and Roth IRAs, and Educational Growth Notes. **But, right now, the rate is even better!**

**3%** 33-month term note  
\$3,000 minimum new investment  
special limited time rate

For more information, call 800. 274.1883 or visit [disciplescef.org](http://disciplescef.org). **Disciples helping Disciples . . . and themselves**, through DCEF. Invest in your values today, and you'll **do great while doing good.**



*This is not an offer to sell our securities to you and we are not soliciting you to buy our securities. We will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The offering is made solely by our Offering Circular, which you should read carefully before making your investment decision. Like mutual funds or stocks, our securities are not insured by the FDIC or any other government agency. Rates may change without notice. Consult your tax advisor. An investment involves certain risks and a risk of loss as more fully disclosed in the offering circular.*

# Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel: Minute for Mission



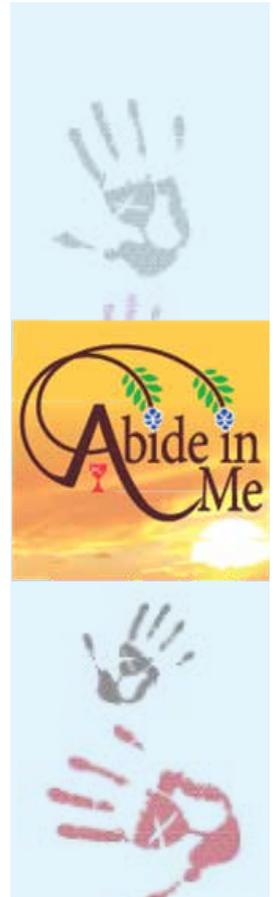
Immigration has never been easy, but there is no question that it is harder now. It is harder to get visas for our Disciples pastors. It is harder for our international seminary students to transition to ministry. There are more delays, more red tape, and more demands from government agencies. Young Disciples face uncertainty about the end of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Disciples who have had Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for decades are facing the end of their status. Constantly we see our families torn apart by deportation.

And yet. And yet we continue to be Church together. As we abide in the vine together, we find ways to love the many branches of our Church. Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel is the part of Disciples Home Missions that meets the legal needs of our immigrant Disciples. Its ministry is to guide and walk alongside Disciples as they go through the difficult processes of immigration. And, despite the challenges, we continue to celebrate opportunities for seminarians, church planters, and pastors whose new visas or green cards allow them to begin their ministries.

Without your support, this ministry would not be possible. Thank you for abiding in the vine.

*Tana Liu-Beers*

*Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel*



## Don't miss these must-know tips for managing your church's finances

- Get church administrators collectively involved in setting the budget
- Learn to identify current debt or financial concerns within the church
- Join in the act of giving and bring the church to a healthy financial state



“Financial Hacks for New and Renewing Congregations,” the next episode in the New Church Hacks webinar series, will help you navigate your way through all of the numbers. New Church Hacks provides practical (and sometimes peculiar) prompts for churches from start to restart. Join host Terrell McTyer (Minister of New Church Strategies) and featured guest Belinda King (Assistant Vice President of [Disciples Church Extension Fund](#)) on April 3 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern. Visit [www.newchurchhacks.com](http://www.newchurchhacks.com) to register and for links to previous webinar episodes, including:

- Marks of a Healthy New Church
- 11+ Hacks for Music in a New, Small, or House Church
- 26+ Marketing Hacks to Move Ministry Forward
- Find Your Church's Purpose with These Hacks
- 26 Vision-Setting Hacks for the New Year

## Building Dedicated to RIM Director

Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) hosted the "Called To Action" fundraiser and building dedication event on November 2, 2018. In 2016, FIRM was able to purchase a new building that was directly adjacent to the then current property. At the event, this building was officially named/dedicated as the "Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea Center"! Through the generous donations of the community and the insurance settlement due to the recent flooding, the Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea Center was remodeled just in time for the event. The remodel included new flooring, new paint, new LED lighting, new branded signage, upgraded fixtures in the bathrooms and more! FIRM's founding Executive Director, the Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea was in attendance for this historic occasion and shared an inspirational message for those in attendance about loving and serving refugees.

The evening featured live jazz music by Fresno State music professor and local jazz musician, Craig VonBerg as well as a

wonderful selection of food from around the world! Tastes of Southeast Asia, Syria, Ukraine and Africa were available and for many attendees, they were trying many of

these foods for the very first time. Guests bid generously on silent auction items that included a beautiful water color by acclaimed local artist Rollin Pickford. We were also able to honor two amazing community servants with the Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea Award. This award goes to individuals that show a passion for serving the refugee community in Fresno. This year's awardees were Jim Call (pictured) and Jackie Holmes! FIRM

hopes to continue to host the annual fundraiser event on the campus in the future as well. We would like to thank everyone who supported the event and everyone who was able to join us!

Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries

[www.firminc.org/fundraiser-building-dedication-on-nov-2](http://www.firminc.org/fundraiser-building-dedication-on-nov-2)



# The Light-Reflections from CW&W Trainers

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won't walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12 (Common English Bible)

When working with the stories for CW&W we as trainers have the blessed opportunity to witness experiences with the Holy. I want to share with you some from the story of The Light.

"I will always remember the impact of the smoke rising into my face as the "Light was changed." I recall the thoughts that went through my mind sitting there in the circle, watching the Light grow and then change. I knew when I left that weekend that I must have this program in my church and for my own two children, who at the time, were 2 and 6." - Elaine Austin

"I always used the story of the light with youth group. At the beginning of the year I told the entire story. Then every Sunday night as we came to prayer time, we lit the candle and had prayers. I always used the changing of the light words to extinguish the candle. One night the prayer time turned to bedlam and I just blew out the light. As I rose to go, the room was silent, one of the girls said....say the words, you have to say the words, please say the words." - Petie McLean

This is one of my favorite stories to hear

and tell. It is powerful for people who hear the story of The Light. I am amazed at the faces of participants as the story unfolds. There are so many times for me that the words (the light in one place can be in all places) floats in my brain through a sunset, a funeral, benedictions, a soup kitchen in the serving. These are powerful words. I often use the entire story in small retreats, at summer camp, at youth retreats. It is a story without bounds.

- Petie McLean

When the children first hear this story, we make an underlay for the story. The

children and adults draw what they see when they think "The Light." Each new child in the circle draws their understanding and adds their name. - Gene Derryberry

When asked I wonder if the Light speaks? One child said - "I heard God say my name." - Lisa Engelken

When I was telling the story of the Light a young girl backed away in the circle when I lit The Light. Then when I lit her light I felt her move closer back into the story. When I asked I Wonder how this story made me feel she wrote a book. She told me that she was initially afraid of The Light but then felt warm and happy when her light was lit. -Lisa Engelken



## 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 at [www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/contact](http://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: [www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/cww-training-schedule](http://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/cww-training-schedule)



Children Worship & Wonder Storytellers at the annual CW&W Gathering in Clover, South Carolina.

## Download the Disciples Home Missions App Today!

### Follow these 3 Steps!

**Step 1:** Go to your Google Play or App Play store and in the search bar type in *Church App– Tithe.ly*

**Step 2:** download and add in the name *Disciples Home Missions*

**Step 3:** click ok to changing the app icon to DHM. And you're all set!



On the app you'll find applicable resources, current DHM events, multiple ways to give and so much more!



## Green Chalice - "Abide"

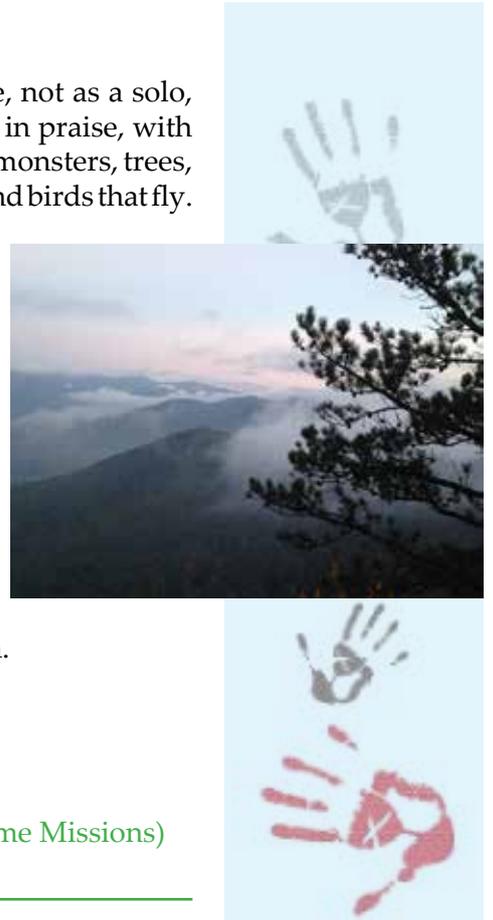
Jesus calls us to dwell in him, to live in him, to inhabit him, to let him be our home or abode. Psalm 104 suggests that the world is God's "lofty house" (v. 3 CEB). Throughout scripture we read that all of creation belongs to God from Genesis 1 where God's spirit went out over the waters to begin creation, in Job, the prophets and reflected in many of the Psalms. We are reminded of God's creativity and deep connection with all creatures, ecosystems, and humans. Psalm 24 says, "The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants too." This invites us protect the earth as home, not only for people including future generations, not only for all plants and animals, rocks and mountains, but for God.

The word "ecology" is formed from the Greek words for "house" (oikos) and "word, purpose" (logos). Creation is the home of God and for God's people, ecology calls us to our purpose in this joint household. Our purpose for living, according to the Psalms,

is to praise God – not alone, not as a solo, but to join our whole being in praise, with the sun and moon, with sea monsters, trees, creatures that creep along, and birds that fly.

We praise God by being who God created us to be, to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God, to love one another, care for the least of these among us, and to protect and care our common home. Revelation 21.3 exclaims, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind." Let us praise God by abiding in Christ and caring for God's good earth.

Rev. Carol Devine and  
Rev Scott Hardin-Nieri  
Green Chalice  
(a ministry of Disciples Home Missions)



## Come See Us in Des Moines

Storytelling is a big part of the General Assembly experience. That's why **Disciples Church Extension Fund**, **Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation** and **New Church Ministry** are giving you the opportunity to hear stories that will challenge and empower, you and your congregation right on opening day. Join us at:

- **Shine 2019 8:30 am to Noon, tickets are \$20 per person.**  
Shine 2019 is designed to empower congregations to think differently about their use of space by showing trends, hearing stories, and creating space for creative thinking. Participants will leave with ideas of what they might achieve at their church. If you're considering attending, you can expect to take a hard look at your building to see if its space has been maximized for mission, cultivate a desire to connect your congregation with the community, view your worship space through fresh eyes, and become inspired to set and achieve your goals within 28 days.
- **The Branch and Vine Dinner, tickets are \$25 per person.**  
Listen to stories of help, hope, and harmony that will inspire you and your congregation. For additional information, visit [ga.disciples.org/meals-and-events](http://ga.disciples.org/meals-and-events)
- **Workshops** -- If you're wondering where we'll be the rest of GA, you can find us presenting more than a dozen workshops on topics including church transformation, leadership, facility use for ministry, and much more.
- **And don't forget to visit our exhibit booth!**



# Pre-Assembly Events



## Clergy Retreat: Resilient Hearts, Leaders, and Communities



**Thursday to Saturday** (a couple of days before General Assembly)  
**Wakonda Christian Church, 3938 Fleur Dr., Des Moines, Iowa 50321**

This retreat is being facilitated by Green Chalice and is born out of a desire to equip and empower faith leaders in Creation Care and to explore compassion and sabbath as a practice. We see compassion, nonviolence and loving our neighbors as key to healing the many divides within the North American context.

- We hope that this time will integrate rest and learning about compassionate leadership, climate science, creation care, and social justice.
- We will connect with one another, have some good food and get outside a bit at the nearby park.

Register and find out more at the Green Chalice webpage:  
[discipleshomeissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/](http://discipleshomeissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/)

**\$50 (\$75 after April 2)**

This retreat is offered through Green Chalice, Christmount Christian Assembly, Disciples Home Missions, Bethany Fellowship, Disciples Family and Children's Ministries, and Blessed Tomorrow.

## Doing and Denying Justice: A History of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Social Justice

**Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. continuing Saturday 9 a.m. to Noon**  
**Iowa Events Center 1 CEU offered by Phillips Theological Seminary**

Because of its origins, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) should have been at the forefront of resisting power structures with systemic injustices. Instead, this denomination born from the backlash against denominational structures in the 1800s found its informal polity prevented the church from becoming a strong voice on many social justice issues throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. However, at the local level, many individuals and churches found ways to use their collective voices for social justice either within the DOC church or with an affiliation to parachurch organizations. Join the Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnett as she leads an exploration of social justice issues from the 1800s to 2018 and how the CC (DOC) emerged as a strong public witness or faltered in its support of justice-making in the world.

Register via the General Assembly registration at [ga.disciples.org](http://ga.disciples.org)

**\$75**

## Shine 2019

**Saturday 8:30 a.m. - noon**  
**Iowa Events Center**

Shine 2019 is designed to empower congregations to think differently about their use of space by showing trends, hearing stories, and creating space for creative thinking. Participants will leave with ideas of what they might achieve at their church.

Outcomes include:

- Participants will take a hard look at their building to see if they maximize space for mission
- A desire for congregations to connect with their community
- Participants will look at their worship space through fresh eyes
- Inspiration to achieve something within 28 days of the event

Registration is via [disciplescef.org](http://disciplescef.org)

**\$20**

Offered by Disciples Church Extension Fund

## gun violence

# What Can We Do about Gun Violence?

Used with permission from Pastor Bob Tiller. Published in January - March issue of Baptist Peacemaker

by Bob Tiller

Mass shootings continue to horrify us, especially in the United States, and they seem to slam us more frequently now. Each new event leads us to bouts of gut-wrenching despair, coupled with anger at our elected officials and at the pro-gun lobby. The massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, last February, was the springboard for marches, organizing, fundraising and more, but the momentum seems to have slowed.

Mass shootings, however horrible, comprise only a tiny sliver of total shootings in the US, and it is vital that we remember all victims of gun violence, not just those from Parkland, Las Vegas, NV (October 2017), Pittsburgh (October 2018) and other high-profile events. The numbers are astonishing: on an average day in the US more than 80 people die from gunshots, and more than 250 are wounded.

Since the beginning of this century, almost 2 million people have been shot in the US; more than half a million of those have died. Take a minute to let those numbers sink in. The figures cover all shootings—including murders, attempted murders, suicides, attempted suicides, accidents and self-defense. Gun violence is woven throughout the fabric of US society.

**Since the beginning of this century, almost 2 million people have been shot in the US; more than half a million of those have died. Take a minute to let those numbers sink in.**

The pro-gun lobby, often echoed by elected officials, is pushing to normalize carrying guns. It strives to assure that guns are everywhere. They want guns in schools, churches, offices, restaurants, shopping malls—in short, everywhere. If their vision comes to pass, the result, of course, will be that guns are used more often and that gun violence becomes even more commonplace, including mass shootings. When something is seen, felt and experienced each day, we come to regard it as usual and normal, even if we once regarded it as beyond the pale. If the pro-gun lobby succeeds, we will all become inured to gun violence.

What can a Christian peacemaker do in the face of all this craziness with guns? At the outset, we must reaffirm that

we live by faith, seeking to follow Jesus, and that our efforts are undertaken in a spirit of love. All change is incremental, and frequently snail-paced, so we will likely not bring about a major turnaround in our lifetime. Nevertheless, our faithful efforts to end gun violence can build small steps toward real change. Here is a list of possibilities. I urge you to pick a couple of them and do what you have the capacity to do.

### What Churches Can Do

1. If your congregation has never had a program or sermon or an event related to gun violence, you can start by having a forum on “What Would Jesus Do (and Say) About Guns?” I believe that Christians ought to consider guns and gun violence as a faith issue, but such consideration seems to have eluded many congregations. Now is a good time to start.

2. National Gun Violence Awareness Day is June 2nd every year. This year it falls on a Sunday, so it is an excellent opportunity to address gun violence in worship. Here are some things your congregation might do:

- Ask everyone to wear orange, the color of gun violence prevention.
- Have prayers and litanies related to gun violence. (You can find many resources online. Look for the BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz Gun Violence Prevention Toolkit at [bpfna.org/mobilize/resources](http://bpfna.org/mobilize/resources).)
- Have a letter-writing table for letters to your elected officials.
- Ask members to give brief testimonies about how gun violence has touched their lives.
- Order gun violence prevention T-shirts with whatever words and art you choose.

3. Your congregation could undertake a process that leads to declaring your buildings and property a gun-free zone, i.e. no guns on the property for any reason. (Some churches make an exception for law enforcement officers who are acting in an emergency or on official business.) Pressing for this in your congregation may engender some difficult discussions—especially in an era when politicians announce that shootings can be prevented by having more people armed—but this should not be an insurmountable barrier.

### What Individuals Can Do

1. Many US states have special-interest auto license plates that promote specific causes and groups (e.g., university

*Continue on page 28. See Gun Violence.*



National Convocation



# Save the Date

2019  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

## HERITAGE DINNER

SUNDAY, JULY 21 | 5:30 PM | DES MOINES, IOWA



### Did you know?

All Disciples have access to free legal services for immigration issues.

Pastors and seminary students, please call directly. Everyone else, please contact your pastor.

*Hablamos español.*

[disciplesimmigration.org](http://disciplesimmigration.org)

## Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel

**GET GEARED UP**

**FOR GA 2019**



Visit our online store before General Assembly (July 20-24) to order gear with this year's GA logo! Ten percent of your purchase supports Disciples Mission Fund.

**STORE.DISCIPLES.ORG**



**2019 General Assembly**

July 20-24

Des Moines, IA

Register NOW at [disciples.org/ga](http://disciples.org/ga)

3Abide2019  
#CCDOC





A promotional banner for Midway University's Preview Days. The top left features a photograph of a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent white clock tower. To the right of the photo is a white banner with the Midway University logo (a shield with a cross and the year 1847) and the text "MIDWAY UNIVERSITY" in blue. Below this, the words "PREVIEW DAYS" are written in large, bold, blue letters. The background of the banner is yellow. On the right side, the date "MARCH 15, 2019" is displayed in large blue font. Below the date is a list of activities: "Take a campus tour", "Meet and get to know faculty and staff", and "Enjoy lunch on campus and more". At the bottom right, there is a blue banner with the registration information: "REGISTER: WWW.MIDWAY.EDU/EXPERIENCE" and "800.952.4122 | info@midway.edu". A small inset photo shows a group of people sitting around a table, and another shows people playing soccer on a field.

**MIDWAY UNIVERSITY**  
**PREVIEW DAYS**

**MARCH 15, 2019**

- Take a campus tour
- Meet and get to know faculty and staff
- Enjoy lunch on campus and more

REGISTER: [WWW.MIDWAY.EDU/EXPERIENCE](http://WWW.MIDWAY.EDU/EXPERIENCE)  
800.952.4122 | [info@midway.edu](mailto:info@midway.edu)



**November 2018 Groundbreaking at Midway University for new Hunter Field House**

*Left to right: Midway Mayor Grayson Vandegrift; behind him and out of photo Jason Walton, Momentum Construction; Nathan Sorrell, Momentum Construction; Kevin Locke, Ross Tarrant Architects; Rusty Kennedy, Midway University, Assistant VP Admissions and Athletics; Dr. John P. Marsden, President; Donna Moore Campbell, Midway University Board Chair; Belinda Metzger, Trustee; Jan Hunter, Trustee; Anita Britton, Trustee; Amy Wickliff, Trustee; Linda Green, Trustee; and Libby Jones, Trustee. Back row left to right: Not seen Ginni Fox, Trustee; Bob Hutchison, Trustee; Dr. Jim Roach, Trustee; Dr. Suvis Desai, Trustee; Rusty Hembree, Trustee; Larry Taylor, Trustee; and Keith Mathis, Trustee.*

# DDH (Vanderbilt) Students Abide Together in a Formative Learning Community

For students moving to Nashville to pursue a call to ministry and theological education at Vanderbilt Divinity School (VDS), Disciples Divinity House (DDH) becomes a home and shelter where community support and conversation supplement the rigorous academics at VDS. DDH students Abide in the Spirit and in Jesus' teachings loving each other in intentional community and digging into difficult theological and practical questions about ministry together.

The newly launched "Practice of Ministry" Program offers varied opportunities to think through the practical applications of theology in conversation with peers and Disciples outside of



*Students at Opening Retreat 2018 got to know Nashville and each other better.*

VDS. "The goal of our Spring 2019 series in Missional and Nonprofit Practice is to get students talking about this aspect of ministry. We're exploring the purpose and application of mission statements, bringing in local nonprofit and Disciples leaders to learn about the nuts and bolts of this work, and hearing what ministers need to know about mission from local church members," says Catherine Demoss, Ministerial Resident for the program.

Learning at DDH is grounded in relationships that become deeper and closer in community. Whether students bump into each other and drop into a meaningful conversation, connect with house alumni

*Continue on page 39. See Vanderbilt.*

## Refugees Receive Help

The first thing I saw on the refugee child was the feet. My modest role at the Respite Center of McAllen Texas, that day was to hand out shoestrings to those of the 150 new arrivals who were wearing shoes that should have laces. U.S. Border Officials take away all belts and shoe laces from the refugees they are processing and retaining at the detention centers. The Respite Center operates with donations and volunteers from many denominations and not-for-profits, including our own Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries. The refugees get food, shelter, a shower, clean clothes, and shoelaces. Then the refugees are launched with a bus ticket and some food for the road. Each asylum seeker is on the way to someone who will sponsor them through the months/years until a judge rules on the case.



*Feliberto Pereira, Executive Director, Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries and Christal Fisher, Disciples' Regional Representative with a sample of donations for the Respite Center.*

Once I see that the refugee child needs shoelaces, I next see her hand reaching out to receive them from me. Then I look into those eyes and smile a welcome. The line moves swiftly, so I only have opportunity to work from the feet to the eyes. Children, men, women. The adjective I would use to describe the eyes I see is MEEK. None of the refugees at this point knows how the quest to make a life in the United States will end, but in the few moments since they got off the border patrol's bus-with-bars,

we don't see fear. There's just a willingness to trust and follow – and hope.



*Marsha at Respite Center accepting donations.*

*Jimmy Mohler, Volunteer  
Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries*

# Perspectives of Bi-Vocational Ministry: Patterns of leadership Development

Research at Lexington Theological Seminary has identified several common themes through interviews with bi-vocational ministers. One of these themes involves how bi-vocational pastoral leadership develops within congregations.

For many bi-vocational ministers, their employment as a minister begins as a response to a specific congregation's need. They often speak of their employment in the church as following their other employment; often they are contacted as potential bi-vocational ministers when they are already employed within the community. Also, many begin serving a congregation and providing pastoral leadership before, or while, pursuing theological education. While this pattern contrasts with a more common one where theological education precedes pastoral leadership in a congregation, it is a familiar pattern within bi-vocational ministry.

This pattern is evident at Second Christian Church in Mayfield, Ky. Rev. Dennis Gray has served as the lead pastor of the congregation for most of the past twenty years. When Dennis began serving at Second Christian he already was an experienced radiation worker and mechanic at United States Enrichment Corporation in Paducah, Ky. He chuckles that he likes to think of God calling him into ministry at a later age in life because "the Church needed a mechanic to fix some things." When Dennis began serving at Second Christian, some of the members of the congregation also were co-workers at United States Enrichment Corporation. Dennis looks back on his experience as a bi-vocational minister and he knows that his employment outside the church meant he has been able to continue serving Second Christian for many years, even amidst economic downturns that impacted the Mayfield community. As all ministers do, Dennis learned along the way; he also engaged in continuing pastoral education offered through the Christian Church

in Kentucky and became a commissioned minister.

The pattern Dennis followed is also reflected in the ministry of Antonio Sherrill, who serves as youth minister and assistant minister at Second Christian Church. For the past several years Dennis and the congregation of Second Christian Church have been mentoring Antonio into pastoral leadership while Antonio has also been employed full-time as a fifth grade teacher in Mayfield. Antonio has been teaching for 10 years; it might also be said that he was teaching and learning as he 'grew up' at Second Christian, where he was baptized at the age of twelve. Antonio is on track to become a commissioned minister; he is pursuing his theological education and leadership development through the Christian Church in Kentucky's Academy for Church Leadership and through coursework at Lexington Theological Seminary.

At Second Christian Church, in Mayfield, Ky., Dennis Gray and Antonio Sherrill make up a collaborative team of ministers who are living out a pattern of bi-vocational ministry that emerged within congregational life and in response to congregational needs. They both would say this is part of God's plan to lead them into ministry and service within the world which God loves.

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

*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](mailto:kris.bentley@lextheo.edu) This research is funded by a grant from the Indianapolis based Lilly Endowment Inc.*



*Photo above: Bi-vocational ministers of Second Christian Church in Mayfield, Ky., From left to right: Antonio and Kristen Sherrill; Sue and Dennis Gray.*



## Students travel to New Orleans for service-learning, cultural experiences

During winter break, a team from the University of Lynchburg traveled to New Orleans, where they helped rebuild homes that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. The group, led by communication studies professor Dr. Jimmy Roux, partnered with Youth Rebuilding New Orleans (YRNO) for the service-learning project.

YRNO was founded after Hurricane Katrina. The nonprofit purchases and rebuilds hurricane-damaged homes and then sells them to local teachers who want affordable homes in a revitalized neighborhood.

The Lynchburg team consisted of 13 students and Dr. Roux, a New Orleans native who has taught at Lynchburg for 20 years. It was the third time in the past four years that Dr. Roux has taken students to his hometown to work with YRNO and experience the city's unique culture.

He began the tradition in 2015. "It was the 10-year anniversary of Katrina and we wanted to do something. I also wanted to get more involved in nonprofits," Dr. Roux, director of Lynchburg's Master of Nonprofit Leadership Studies program, said. "I wanted to offer

students an opportunity for service, so they could use it on their resumes. I want them to be well-rounded and get outside of Lynchburg."

Dr. Roux added that the service-learning and cultural experiences gained in New Orleans also align with high-impact learning, an important component of the University's strategic plan, Vision 2020.

The group left for The Big Easy on December 27. They traveled in two rental vans, funded with a \$1,500 grant from The Macauley Foundation. The foundation, as described on its website, give grants to causes "that exemplify compassion for humankind, and are committed to improving lives the world over."

While in New Orleans, the students learned various skills, including hanging drywall, installing vinyl siding, pouring cement, and painting.

Christa Walker '20, a communication studies major who describes herself as "not really handy-dandy," said learning new things was "really exciting."

*Continue on page 39. See Lynchburg.*



## DDH (Chicago) Celebrates 125th Anniversary

The Disciples Divinity House (DDH) of the University of Chicago will celebrate an historic anniversary on May 24 to 26, 2019. Clark Williamson and JoAnne Kagiwada are Honorary Co-Chairs for the three-day event.

Speakers include Teresa Hord Owens, Sandhya Jha, Clark Gilpin, Cynthia Lindner, Stephanie Paulsell, Larry Bouchard, Julian DeShazier, Ayanna Johnson Watkins, Lee Hull Moses, Santiago Piñón, Vy Nguyen, Garry Sparks, Yvonne Gilmore, Rebecca Anderson, and more. Drew Powell and Gaylord Yu are Masters of Ceremony for the celebration dinner.

"Grateful for what is to come," the anniversary theme, will echo throughout the weekend. At a time when the future may seem particularly uncertain, critical awareness of the past and present is especially crucial. For if the past

is acknowledged with recognition of the unexpected gifts and hard-won knowledge that constituted it, and the present received as an opportunity to respond with gratitude for these past gifts, then the challenging unknown of the future might elicit sage and courageous ministry, scholarship, and leadership. The point is not to be more optimistic, but rather to engender gratitude, thought, and action.

Founded in 1894, the Disciples Divinity House is committed to excellence and vision in theological education in conjunction with MDiv, MA, and PhD programs at the University of Chicago.

As DDH celebrates its 125th anniversary, we give thanks for its remarkable legacy and for those who have made its legacy possible. And in that spirit, we are also grateful for what is still to come. Learn more and register at [ddh.uchicago.edu](http://ddh.uchicago.edu).



# Renewing Disciples Mission Fund Support Allows for Rebirth

Spring is a time for renewal and rebirth. As we begin this new season, we prayerfully reflect on what it means to abide with one another in ministry. When we abide in each other, we are more able to achieve our shared work and look for opportunities for rebirth.

Supporting Disciples Mission Fund – as congregations and as individuals – is an important way we all abide with our wider Church. Our gifts represent us in the work that cannot be completed alone. Our gifts fund regional and general ministries that save and change lives in our communities and beyond.

Disciples Mission Fund, and your gifts, make our shared vision possible. Thanks to your renewed participation this year, Disciples students will receive educational

scholarships through Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM), and the 14 Disciples-related colleges and seven theological institutions.



Because of you, the Disciples of Christ Historical Society preserves our Church's legacy and that of the wider Stone-Campbell movement. Our Church is also growing and evolving, with your support, through the New Church Ministries as a part of Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation.

Your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund connect you and your congregation to these ministries and so many more. When you give to Disciples Mission Fund, you share God's love from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

*Find resources for church treasurers and worship leaders, and give online, at [disciplesmissionfund.org](http://disciplesmissionfund.org)*

## Congregations Abide with General Ministries at Easter

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." - John 15:5 NRSV

As Disciples, we all benefit from the fruit, the gifts, of our general ministries. These fruits are made possible only through the connections and support that grow in collaboration with our regions and congregations. This Easter, let us reflect on the transformative ways that we have been impacted by those ministries, and by the fruits of our shared work.

Disciples Home Missions' fruitful branches include Disciples chaplains offering the touch of Christ beyond the Church walls, Refugee and Immigration Ministries offering refugee resettlement and advocacy for immigrants, and Disciples Volunteering

connecting with local mission destinations.

Our general ministries provide other critical resources to Disciples congregations, like stewardship campaign materials, resources for congregational renewal, and space for community building around shared values and traditions.

Our ministries can bear these fruits because of our shared root system. We are rooted in Christ. As one branch of our vine grows, we can share more fruit with more people, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

This Holy Week let us give of our own fruits to tend to the whole. Our ministries grow through your tending, nurturing, and caring. Your gifts to the Easter offering can transform our shared work.

*Find more stories from our general ministries and Easter worship resources at [disciplesmissionfund.org](http://disciplesmissionfund.org)*

SHARE YOUR GIFTS. SHARE THE STORY.

# DISCOVER DISCIPLES MISSION FUND



LEARN MORE ABOUT DMF, MAKE A GIFT, AND  
FIND CONGREGATION RESOURCES AT  
**[DISCIPLESMISSIONFUND.ORG](http://DISCIPLESMISSIONFUND.ORG)**.



# Keeping Our Community Healthy

All Peoples Community Center is increasing healthy eating and behaviors through community led solutions. In 2017, in partnership with American Friends Service Committee's Roots for Peace Program, All Peoples brought together community members, donors, volunteers, and staff to start building a Community-Farm across the street from All Peoples in an empty lot donated by Meta Housing Corp.

The Community-Farm is vital to the South Los Angeles community because everyone has the right to access healthful foods that are affordable. The knowledge and resources provided through the Community-Farm will help the broader community grow their own food and validate a community food system that harbors homegrown food production, keeping local dollars for local produce. This is one strategy for a community, plagued by preventable chronic diet-related disease to meet health, nutritional, medicinal, physical, social and spiritual well-being currently unmet by the food sources offered.

The Community-Farm is a platform for organizing around food policy and environmental justice initiatives. It will increase good food access, with space for families in the neighborhood. Fifteen to twenty individual families will have plots of roughly 100 sq. feet. Members will receive training for sustainable urban agriculture to produce pesticide free food for their families and the neighborhood. Children will be supported to engage in food growing and eco learning on the farm. Culturally relevant urban agriculture trainings will be provided. Resources will be centralized and shared. It will be a cultural hub in South Los Angeles, a model training site and resource center for food growers in the neighborhood.

*Sandra Bryant, Executive Director, All Peoples Community Center (a mission center of Disciples Home Missions)*



## CYF Activities at GA

For details [ga.disciples.org](http://ga.disciples.org)

### Saturday

1:30–4:30 pm All Assembly Opening Ceremony – Arena  
 Dinner On your own  
 7 - 8:30 pm All Assembly Worship – Arena  
 8:45 – 10 pm CYF/Chi Rho Ice Cream Social

### Sunday

9 – 11:30 am CYF/Chi Rho Worship led by GYC & YAC  
 Lunch On your own  
 1:30 – 3 pm CYF/Chi Rho Scavenger Hunt – Exhibit Hall  
 3:15 – 4:30 pm Mock Business Session  
 Dinner On your own  
 7 – 8:30 pm All Assembly Worship – Arena

### Monday

8:30 – 9 am CYF/Chi Rho – GYC Testimony  
 9 – 10 am Workshops (includes one for adult sponsors)  
 10:15 – 11:30 am Workshops

### Lunch

On your own  
 1:30 – 4:30 pm CYF/Chi Rho – Onsite Mission Project  
 Dinner On your own  
 7 – 8:30 pm All Assembly Worship – Arena

### Tuesday

8:30 – 9 am CYF/Chi Rho – GYC Testimony  
 9 – 10 am Workshops (includes one for adult sponsors)  
 10:15 – 11:30 Worships  
 Lunch On your own  
 1:30 – 4:30 pm CYF/Chi Rho – On Site Mission Project  
 Dinner On your own  
 7 – 8:30 pm All Assembly Worship – Arena  
 8:45 – 10 pm CYF/Chi Rho – Closing Presentation & Reception

### Wednesday

9 – 11 am All Assembly Sending Out & Celebration - Arena

# Mission Pilgrimages: Abiding in the Love of Jesus

After her first mission pilgrimage to the Dominican Republic, a friend once said, "I have never felt so connected with people I have just met, in a country I am visiting for the first time, and in a language I do not speak. We are truly one people. Love binds us together." I will never forget those words. What a true statement that was!

Something very special happens when you participate in an international mission pilgrimage. Participants are transformed by sharing themselves and receiving God's love through the people they meet. Stepping out in faith to visit ecumenical international partners provides an opportunity to become active participants in love and unity with one another, to abide in the love of Jesus.

The Global Ministries' People-to-People Pilgrimage Program invites churches to meet international partners face-to-face to receive and share in mutual love, abiding and bearing fruit in unity while working for justice, reconciliation, and peace in com-

munities around the world. Through this program, your congregation can:

- Embrace new people, places, and cultures
- Draw on the expertise and guidance of our area executives and mission co-workers
- Explore possibilities that best match your interests, gifts, and goals
- Receive reflection and orientation materials
- Receive guidance on advocacy efforts upon return

Contact Lorna Hernández for more information at [lhernandez@dom.disciples.org](mailto:lhernandez@dom.disciples.org), or visit our website at [www.globalministries.org/people\\_to\\_people\\_pilgrimages](http://www.globalministries.org/people_to_people_pilgrimages) to learn more about mission pilgrimage opportunities and to obtain the People-to-People Guide for Leaders and Guide for Participants.

Lorna B. Hernández, Director  
People-to-People Pilgrimage Program  
Global Ministries



## Good Times! Des Moines General Assembly

The Upper Midwest Region is excited to host the General Assembly and show off their Midwest hospitality. The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) has been meeting for more than a year to make sure you have the best experience possible.

Besides the full slate of mission opportunities and gathering volunteers for registration, communion and other hospitality, the LAC is sponsoring some additional fun and offers some suggestions for other things to do. You can get the details on the "Good Times" page on [disciples.org/ga](http://disciples.org/ga)

- Yoga on the Riverfront
- Bike rides
- Farmers Market meet up
- East Village scavenger hunt
- Brew tour



And here's a bonus! The Iowa State Fair's butter carving champ is a Disciple. She has offered to create a butter Chalice for display next to MissionFest in the exhibit hall. After years of creating butter cows, this chalice should be a piece of cake!

## Gun Violence *Continued from page 18.*

Now available is a new Gun Violence Prevention Ministry Resource Booklet, written by Rev. Kate Epperly, Coordinator for Justice & Advocacy for Family & Children's Ministry. Download: [docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/436844\\_c367ba4ac39b4e86b005b9a1a4063dcb.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/436844_c367ba4ac39b4e86b005b9a1a4063dcb.pdf)

alumni or pet spaying). In Virginia, a dedicated group researched the complex process and recently succeeded in getting license plates available that say "Stop Gun Violence." They had to work with both the state bureaucracy and the legislature, and they had to obtain advance commitments from people who would pay an extra fee for the plates, but they got it done. You can research the requirements in your state and gather a group to work on it.

2. Creative initiatives around gun violence have popped up in states and cities across the US, and you might find opportunities to get the ball rolling for your ideas. For example, in New Haven, CT, the city government announced that it would buy back guns and turn them into garden tools. As a result, 141 weapons of death were recently purchased by the city and duly made into tools for the production of flowers and vegetables. The symbolism alone is worth the effort.

3. You can join a vigil to commemorate the December 14, 2012, massacre of school children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT—or organize a vigil if there is none near you. A major annual vigil/worship is held in Washington, DC, every December, drawing people from all over the country. Churches, synagogues and secular groups in all 50 US states hold gun violence vigils and events in the first half of December.

In some locations, a vigil is held on the 14th of each month, not just in December. If you are within a few hours' drive of Washington, DC, you can join the monthly vigil at NRA headquarters, always at 10:00 a.m. on the 14th of every month, rain or shine (except it is at 2:00 p.m. when the 14th is a Sunday).

4. The fall election brought the US a new Congress, which convened on January 3rd. Although many issues will compete for attention on Capitol Hill, we can expect some interest in gun matters. US readers can write to your representative and your two senators to tell them your concerns about widespread gun violence across our country, and urge them to support specific legislative initiatives. The best way to write to them is to use each one's website.

Here are **five topics which might gain some traction in Congress** this year:

- A requirement for background checks on all gun sales (not just on some),
- An end to the loophole that allows some men convicted of domestic violence to own guns (probably as part of the Violence Against Women Act),
- A federal ban on the purchase and sale of assault weapons (similar to the ban in place 1994-2004),
- A resumption of allowing federal funds to be used for research on the causes of gun violence, and
- A federal ban on 3-D printed guns, which one observer termed "downloadable death."

Here are **four more topics which are unlikely to gain traction in Congress**, but which elected officials nevertheless need to hear about from their constituents:

- Enacting a mandatory waiting period for all gun purchases,
- Ending the loophole that allows a gun sale to proceed without a completed background check if the FBI does not respond within three days,
- Overturning the decision by the Secretary of Education to allow federal school aid to be used for purchasing guns for teachers, and
- Enacting a federal ban on "open carry" of guns.

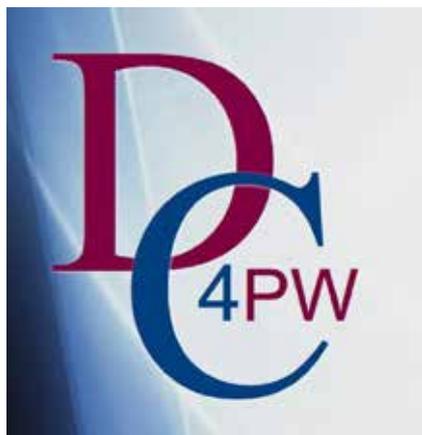
Here are **two top federal priorities for the pro-gun lobby** that you might urge your members of Congress to oppose:

- Loosening the federal restrictions on gun silencers so that they can be more widely available, and
- A requirement that all states grant "concealed carry reciprocity" (which would, in effect, usurp and eliminate all state laws banning "concealed carry"). The "open carry" issue will likely be in the news this year because the Supreme Court is expected to rule on whether the Second Amendment protects the right to openly carry a gun in public, or whether a state can prohibit open carry. When Hawaii's ban on open carry was overturned in federal court, it appealed to the Supreme Court. The newest Supreme Court justice, Brett Kavanaugh, has shown over his years on the federal bench that he is closely aligned with the pro-gun lobby, so he could provide the pivotal vote on a divided Court.

5. In many instances, state legislatures, city councils and county councils are more willing than Congress to consider gun legislation. Advocates for thoughtful restrictions on guns have found that reaching their state and local elected officials is much easier than reaching their members of Congress, and they have achieved numerous successes. You can work with your state and local officials on some of the topics mentioned in the Congressional list above, such as: banning assault weapons, banning 3-D printed guns, banning people convicted of domestic violence from owning guns, banning open carry, and a mandatory waiting period for all sales.

We who follow Jesus care about both the long-term and the short-term. Each day we try to be faithful to him and to our Christian calling, praying that God will bless our peacemaking efforts. We have no guarantee of success, but we act in faith to reduce the violence in our midst. One day our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will look back and give thanks for our vision and courage. They may even wonder what took us so long. Let's get started.

— Bob Tiller, who lives in Silver Spring, MD, is a longtime member of the BPFNA and a former member of the BPFNA ~ *Bautistas por la Paz* Board of Directors. He is a frequent and award-winning contributor to the pages of Baptist Peacemaker.



# DISCIPLES CENTER for PUBLIC WITNESS

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

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

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in the United States and Canada .*



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**July 21, 2019 | 9AM | Iowa Convention Center**



## **Leadership Fellows Program and PhD Scholarships**



**HELM IS NOW ACCEPTING  
2019 APPLICATIONS**

**LEADERSHIP FELLOWS PROGRAM  
PHD SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Leadership Fellows Program is a leadership development program for Disciples undergraduate students. Each year of four years of undergraduate education has a different focus: Community, Transformation, Global Awareness, and Mentoring. To learn more about the Leadership Fellows Program, please visit [www.helmdisciples.org/leadership-programs/leadership-fellows](http://www.helmdisciples.org/leadership-programs/leadership-fellows).

For Disciples students pursuing a PhD in the field of religion, HELM offers two scholarships, the William Gilbert and Florence Leonard Jones Scholarship and the Ann E. Dickerson Scholarship. For more information on these scholarships, please visit [www.helmdisciples.org/theological-education/graduate-scholarships](http://www.helmdisciples.org/theological-education/graduate-scholarships).

All application materials for both the Leadership Fellows Program and PhD scholarships must be received by April 30, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Barnes at [jbarnes@helmdisciples.org](mailto:jbarnes@helmdisciples.org).

## Justice Advocacy: An Abiding Witness

The theme of this year's General Assembly is "Abide in Me" (John 15:1-5). If we abide in Christ, then Christ abides in us; and he does so in such a way as to shape every aspect of our life and to direct the way we approach life in general. This includes public life.

Therefore, one of the ways to understand the role of the Church in public life is to do so in and through Christ. And one of the ways to do this is through the Christological lens of Christ as priest, king, and prophet.

As "priest," the Church that abides in Christ blesses that which is good in society. In a democratic society such as ours, this

means the affirmation of basic democratic institutions, processes, and practices: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of association, free and fair elections, and the right to active civic participation.

As "king," the Church that abides in Christ prayerfully and thoughtfully evaluates, influences, and even helps shape the laws and public policies that shape our lives in each community, in each nation, and in the created order itself. Thus, when it comes to issues of war and peace, hunger and poverty, care for creation, worker justice, racial justice, immigration, and so many more, the Church speaks to public officials and policy makers from its heart—the heart of Christ—on behalf of the hurting, the suffering, the abused, the oppressed, the strange, and all who are the victims of injustice and inhumanity.

As "prophet," the Church that abides in Christ speaks out faithfully against the injustices and harmful laws and policies and activities of the political, cultural, and economic powers within our democratic society. Examples include the legalization of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery, slavery, segregation, tearing apart immigrant families, mass incarceration, wage theft, and environmental degradation.

When we no longer abide in Christ in our public life, the Church often blesses institutions and practices. Likewise, the Church actually promotes unjust laws and policies. When this happens, that part of the Church that still abides in Christ must turn to internal criticism, calling to prophetic account not only the society in which we live but also the Church itself.

*Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker Langston*  
Executive Director, Disciples Center for Public Witness  
Director, Disciples Justice Action Network  
Justice Advocacy Consultant and Public Policy Advisor, Disciples Home Missions and the Office of the General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada



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

- **Read stories** on [disciples.org](http://disciples.org) and on the Disciples Local Impact Facebook group ([DisciplesLocalImpact](https://www.facebook.com/DisciplesLocalImpact))
- **Tell your story** in the Facebook group
- **Submit a story** to Disciples News Service via [news@disciples.org](mailto:news@disciples.org)

## GA Education *Continued from page 4.*

ment in justice issues. Though we sometimes think of justice and unity as being at odds, we will consider how they are actually two sides of the same vision of God's shalom. We will discuss how to navigate potential congregational resistance and bring people together to do the work of God.

*Presenter: Rebecca Littlejohn, Disciples Peace Fellowship*

### Monday, July 22, 2019

*(Workshops on Monday and Tuesday will be featured during both Session 1 and Session 2)*

**Session 1: 1:30–2:50 PM**

**Session 2: 3:00–4:30 PM**

#### Examining Your Role as Elder in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

*(continues in next session)*

Historically, the various functions of Elders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have been, and continues to be significant. In this workshop we will examine the role of Elders, who are called to be primary in church leadership, along with service as teachers, and shepherds. Most importantly, and with great significance Elders participate in the service at the Lord's Table. This workshop will examine the roles of Elders in many capacities and offer education, training and resources to strengthen leadership within the church.

*Presenters: Leadership Initiative Team of Disciples Home Missions*

#### Becoming Immigrant Welcoming Congregations *(continues in next session)*

This workshop helps your congregation bring to flesh and life "On Becoming Immigrant Welcoming Congregations," the GA-1723 Resolution passed at our last Disciples General Assembly. Part 1 will provide a context of historical exclusionary laws and current challenges such as cuts to DACA, Temporary Protected Status, family separation policies, border practices, enforcement increases, legal immigration limits, and refugee changes that frame the immigrant rights and advocacy landscape today. Those challenges will "gain a face" through the voices and stories of directly impacted communities from multiple backgrounds of Hispanic/Latinx, AAPI, and undocumented Black populations. Participants in this workshop will then review the Disciples "Immigrant Welcoming Congregation" movement, hear a testimony from an initial "IWC," and learn how their congregation can start the process of becoming a Disciples "IWC," too! The second half of the workshop will build upon Part 1 and answer the question, "What can I and my congregation DO?" by offering key models of immigrant community protections, healing, and relationship building needed

in today's context of racism and anti-immigrant policies and pushback. Participants will hear from leaders about meaningful practices such as centering leadership among directly impacted partners, mental health trauma care, family emergency planning, accompaniment and rapid response, networks for solidarity, and advocacy campaigns to support refugees and immigrants in this time. *Participation in both workshops will help move churches towards "Immigrant Welcoming Congregation" identity.*

*Presenters: Lori Tapia, Sharon Stanley-Rea, Tana Liu-Beers, Chung Seong Kim*

### Tuesday, July 23, 2019

**Session 1: 1:30-2:50 PM**

**Session 2: 3:00 – 4:30 PM**

#### Making a Difference with our Dollars in Human Trafficking, Earth Care, and Israel-Palestine

This workshop will offer participants an overview of human trafficking, Earth care, and the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, and how money management intersects with these issues. Come learn about how our church is responding to these important topics and how we – individually and communally – can make a difference.

*Presenters: Carol Devine, Pat Donahoo, Gary Kidwell, Peter Makari, and Marilyn Fiddmont (Moderator)*

**#LC2** *(continues in next session)*

As the Church seeks to live out the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18 – 20), we can only do so by first equipping God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (Esp.4:12). #LC2 is a workshop designed to bring together lay and clergy leadership in a shared learning environment to explore the topics of shared leadership between lay and clergy, crafting a ministerial Letter of Call, conducting a productive pastoral evaluation, and creating engaging and efficient board meetings.

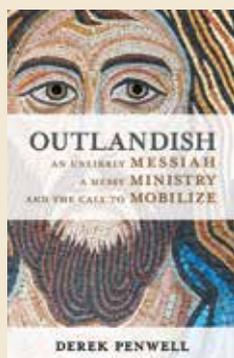
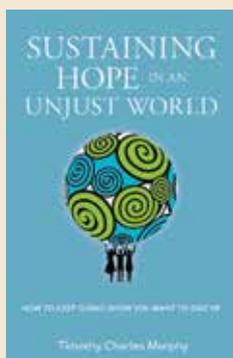
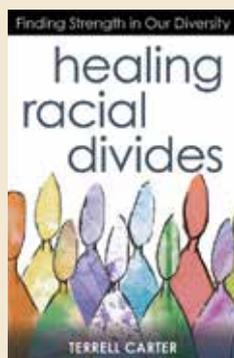
*Presenters: Jackie Bunch, Rev. Mary Lou Kegler, Rev. Marilyn Fiddmont, Rev. Dale Braxton and Others*

#### Bringing All Ages Together in Worship and at Home *(continues in next session)*

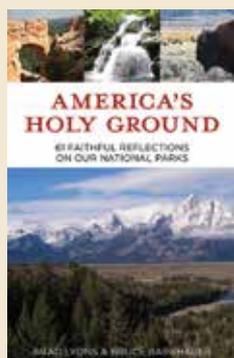
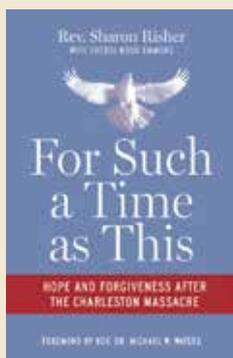
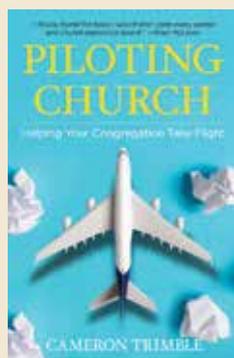
1 out of every 10 teenagers will still be in the church in their twenties. Why? What happened? What didn't happen? What can we do to change this trend? Who stayed? Why did they stay? Over the past 15 years lots of research and study has been done to help explain the reasons behind those leaving the church building and those leaving their faith entirely.

*Presenters: Rev. Olivia Bryan Updegrave, Lisa Engleken – Family and Children's Ministries*

# You Want to Change the World. So Do We.



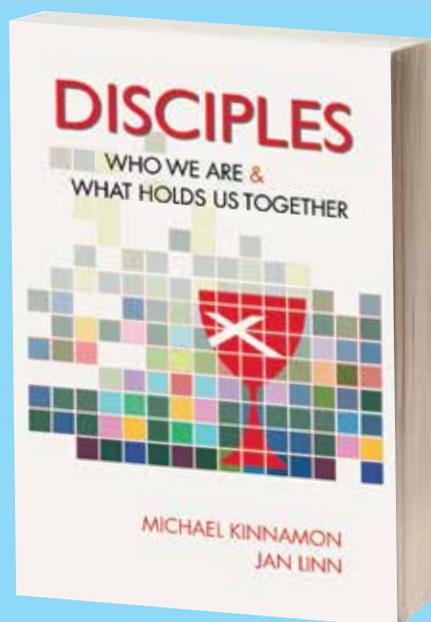
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Actual chalice & paten may vary.



## DIG IN DEEPER

### Disciples: Who We Are and What Holds Us Together

What does it mean to be part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) today?

A denomination that intentionally unites Christians who have different ideas about what it means to be a Christian is bound to struggle to agree on its core values and beliefs — but respected Disciples Michael Kinnamon and Jan Linn believe unity is possible through reforming worship, relationships, and mission. A timely update of their landmark book, *Disciples* identifies common ground and continues the conversation started by Stone and Campbell two centuries ago on the American frontier.

Publishing July 16, 2019

**“Being Disciples”**  
two-day class at  
General Assembly  
Monday, July 22, 1:30 pm  
Tuesday, July 23, 1:30 pm



ChalicePress.com 800-366-3383

# Global Ministries at General Assembly

*Connecting Disciples with global partners*

## International Dinner

Celebrating the launch of the new Southern Asia Initiative

Speaker:

**Rev. Dr. Mery Kolimon**

Human rights activist and feminist theologian  
Evangelical Church of West Timor (GMIT), Indonesia

Monday, 5:00 - 6:45 pm

Hilton Downtown Des Moines

Tickets available at [ga.disciples.org](http://ga.disciples.org) for \$25

## Exhibit

Open daily with opportunities to meet global partners, mission co-workers, and Global Ministries staff

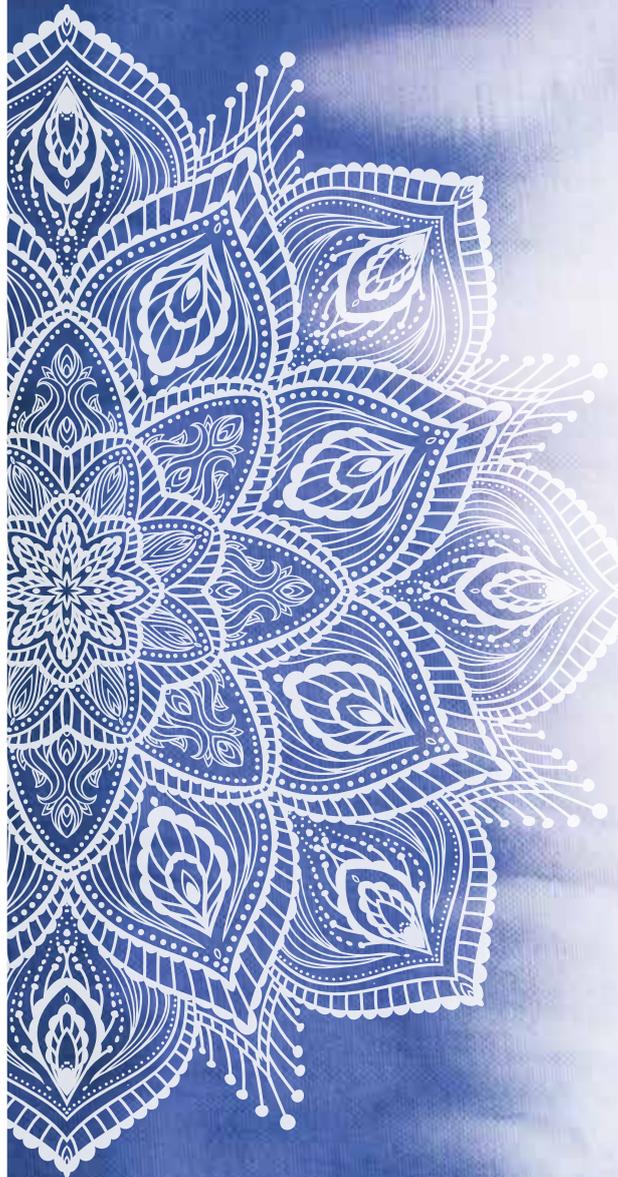
## Workshops

**Southern Asia Initiative Introduction**

Sunday 3:00-4:30 pm

More workshops are listed at [www.globalministries.org/GA2019](http://www.globalministries.org/GA2019)

To see the full list of opportunities to engage with Global Ministries, global partners, and mission co-workers, go to [www.globalministries.org/GA2019](http://www.globalministries.org/GA2019)



**Southern  
Asia Initiative**



# Young Adult Leadership Development: Intersections and Intersectionality

*Join NBA, HELM and Obra Hispana for Dinner at General Assembly, Monday, July 22, 2019 5 to 6:30 p.m., Iowa Convention Center (\$25) to register, add this meal to your General Assembly registration at [ga.disciples.org](http://ga.disciples.org) See ad on page 35.*

Leadership and spiritual development with young adults happens in a variety of ways and is done by a number of ministries across the life of the Disciples church. In the last few years, the ministries of Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM), Obra

Hispana, and National Benevolent Association (NBA) have collaborated on several occasions through their programs, such as HELM's Leadership Fellows, which offers scholarships for Disciples young adults in undergraduate programs; NBA XPLOR, a faith-based, volunteer service program; and the Leadership Experience for Young Adults of the Obra Hispana. Yet, connections have also been made more personally, through conversations with and by young adult leaders about the realities of cross-cultural identities and the place of faith and church on justice issues today.

"Young adults are a locus of wisdom in this church," says Rev. Rebecca Hale, NBA Executive Vice President. "Accompanying them as they shape and name what a faithful spiritual life can look like in the church and world for this day is a sacred task. It is a great joy to be part of the shared efforts of HELM,

NBA, and Obra Hispana." In thinking about developing young adult leaders, Rev. Lori Tapia, National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries, added that "Investing in the development of young adults is not a privilege, it is a moral and spiritual responsibility of the body of Christ. What is a privilege, however, is building relationships with and working alongside such vital voices, gifted and talented individuals, and passionate, justice seeking followers of Christ. The sustainability of the church is at stake, and we must take this sacred work seriously."

In this shared event, our ministries seek to offer an opportunity for reflection and meaningful conversations from leaders, in particular Disciples young adults. Following a meal, we plan



for a moderated panel discussion by representatives from the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, and the National Benevolent Association. The panel will focus on three themes: leadership development as culturally contextual, the importance of intersectionality, and the role of service and justice work in leadership development.

Join us as we share our stories and fellowship together!



HELM Morocco Trip



NBA XPLOR Reunion Group



# National Benevolent Association

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## JULY 21: COME TO PLAY! TRIVIA NIGHT

Who Wants to Be the Smartest Disciple?

Join us downtown for a trivia night after-session, benefiting NBA!

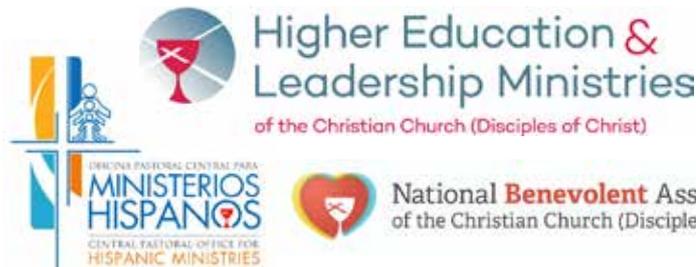
Sunday, July 21 \* 8:45 p.m.  
River Center  
[nbacares.org/trivia](http://nbacares.org/trivia)



## JULY 22: DINE WITH US! YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Intersections and Intersectionality

Co-hosted by  
*Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, National Benevolent Association, and Obra Hispana*



Monday, July 22 \* 5:00 p.m.  
Iowa Events Center  
[ga.disciples.org](http://ga.disciples.org)



## Abiding with Neighbors in Morocco

I am responsible for the national communications of the Evangelical Protestant Church of Morocco (EEAM). I manage a team that is passionate about communicating in the most efficient and effective ways possible.

To understand the extent and complexity of this work, one must understand the EEAM's structure. The church is present in 11 cities all over Morocco. Each church has its own reality, people groups, students, professionals, families, young people, older people, etc. For example, the churches in Marrakech, Casablanca, Rabat, and Fez count more families that are established in Morocco. Whereas in Agadir, Meknes and Oujda, you will see a community mainly of students. Therefore, the priorities, interests, and communication can vary from one church to another. We are challenged

to focus on what unites us as we try to understand what it means to be one body. By doing so, we can affirm what everyone brings to the table.

One thing that unites EEAM, is that all 11 churches welcome people who are seeking asylum. I am thankful to God for EEAM's presence in this ongoing crisis of migration here in Morocco. Many people are desperate to find a better life. Daily, we are facing this phenomenon, which creates a high level of despair, hunger, scarcity... and hope.

This is what gives me the strength to do my work here. We must not forget that we are all part of the same family, where all are welcomed and allowed to rely on one another.

*Emmanuela Loccident,  
Mission Co-Worker in Morocco*



*Emmanuela Loccident*



## Abiding with Southern Asia Neighbors

Global Ministries is excited to announce the Southern Asia Initiative. This initiative will launch at General Assembly and will have many opportunities to abide with Asian partners.

Despite a complex history of cultures, spiritual traditions, growing economies, and emerging technology, Asia is also home to a significant number of impoverished people. This has made the region susceptible to dictatorships, terrorism, fundamentalism, bigotry, human rights violations, and caste-based violence.

However, Asian churches, mostly as fragmented minority communities, find themselves at the crossroads of being rooted and relevant, while also remaining connected with their faith traditions. Despite limitations and differences, most churches aim to stand together in response to human need and suffering while upholding the causes of justice, peace, and human dignity.

"It isn't easy or popular to be a Christian in Southern Asia," Rev. Julia Brown Karimu, President of the Division of Overseas Minis-

tries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries, said. "Yet the church continues to respond to the challenges of ministry and gather as a faith community."

Being present is often the best support, emphasized Rev. Dr. James Moos, UCC Associate Minister of Global Engagement and Operations and Co-Executive of Global Ministries. "I had the sense in Bangladesh, for example, that there is a feeling of isolation in the Christian churches. Our partners told us 'it is your presence with us that makes a difference.' We are the only outside Christian church presence they have."

Global Ministries invites you to participate in the Southern Asia Initiative as we walk together in hope.



**LIT** Continue from page 2.

returned. What we do with it is that which is most significant. Jesus modeled ways for us to do this.

We have been informed that the church is the bride of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:6-8). The bride must prepare for a very special day. We, who are followers of Jesus Christ



are the church. To prepare the church, we must have leaders, equipped to use their gifts to glorify God, and get the work of ministry done (Acts 6:1-10).

The equipping of leaders within the church requires support, direction, preparation, mentors and appropriate resources to be successful. Leaders in the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) also need to be able to understand, articulate and incorporate the principles of the movement as followers of Jesus Christ, that are found in the preamble of the church, and it's significance you can find in Acts 6.

Regions, congregations, and other entities are open to the collaborative development of the leadership tools that will allow them to thrive and grow in their ministries. Recognizing the growing need for this type of support, DHM has been proactive in prayerfully creating a team, dedicated to spreading the news of Jesus Christ offering their ministries, callings and gifts in various ways, on the Leadership Initiative Team (LIT) in support of such an initiative. Because of its unique prayer, faith and follow format; with the intention to follow where God is leading, LIT is an unfolding work in program design, based on the needs of each region or group engaging LIT's support.

The objectives of LIT are to:

- Listen to leaders of recognized ministries.

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

The first request for assistance came from the Georgia Region, asking for leadership and facilitation training for their Regional Elders and Board of Directors and other leaders as they were kicking-off their LIFT initiative to Love everybody; Inspire all generations; Focus on Jesus Christ and Transform Communities.

DHM's Leadership Initiative Team (LIT) is accompanying the Georgia Region in unfolding of their LIFT program as they have



identified five key Regional Strategies on which to focus: Evangelism; Clergy health; Congregational health; Outreach/Mission; and Social Concerns. LIT services include customized online preparation, event workshop and resource guidance and continues to be on-call as their ministry efforts unfold.

LIT is seeking ways of offering some of the same resources and support to other regions as we move forward as a team. Stay-tuned as the Leadership Initiative Team "grows" forward, prayerfully, in faith, listening for Gods call.

In the matchless name of Jesus Christ,

*Lonnie Graves*  
*DHM Leadership Initiative Team (LIT)*  
*Ministry Liaison*

**The LIT Team includes:**

*R. Wayne Calhoun Sr.*  
*Executive for*  
*Evangelism &*  
*Congregational*  
*Transformation*

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

*Lonnie Graves*  
*LIT Ministry Liaison,*  
*Curriculum Design/*  
*Inter-personal*  
*Communications*

*Randy Kuss*  
*Coordinator, Youth &*  
*Young Adult Consulting*  
*Services*

*Warren Lynn*  
*Executive Minister for*  
*Christian Vocations*

*Lashaundra McCarty*  
*Social Media &*  
*Communications*  
*Consultant*

*Terrell McTyer*  
*Minister for New*  
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*Hope Partnership*

*Cathy Nichols*  
*Executive, Mission*  
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*Program Director,*  
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*Olivia Updegrove*  
*Minister of Family &*  
*Children's Ministries*

*Richard Williams*  
*Consultant for Men's*  
*Ministry, Georgia*  
*Region*

## Lynchburg *Continued from page 23.*

"I learned how to do side paneling, which was super fun, and we got to repave sidewalks, too," Walker, of Lynchburg, Virginia, said. "That was one of the best moments on the trip to me. It was so humbling to rebuild what was destroyed several years ago during Hurricane Katrina."

Dalton Hoppe '19, who has been to New Orleans three times with Dr. Roux, said it's inspiring to see homes he's worked on in past years being enjoyed by their new owners. "It feels great, especially knowing the people are living in them now," Hoppe, an accounting major from Buchanan, Virginia, said. "I hope that they enjoy them. It looks like they enjoy them. It feels nice to know that I did something to help them."

For most of the students, it was their first trip to New Orleans. "This was my first time going on the NOLA trip and my expectations were completely blown out of the water," Walker said, using a common nickname for New Orleans. "There were two things that attracted me to the trip: the opportunity to do service and exploring another place I have never been to."

A highlight of the trip is having dinner

with Dr. Roux's family in the city's Garden District. "We go to one of their houses and feast," Dr. Roux said, referring to his cousins and a sister who live in New Orleans. "They cook and tell Katrina stories. Their stories are phenomenal. I think they should write books."

For Walker, this experience was just one more example of Dr. Roux's dedication to his students. "Spending time with Dr. Roux and his family only certified [for] me how amazing he is," she said. "Roux truly values his students and his work, and it showed a lot when we were in his hometown. He encouraged us to try new things and to explore. Roux was one of the key ingredients to making this trip a success."

To read about the students experiences on this trip, go to the University of Lynchburg's website at: [www.lynchburg.edu/news/2019/01/students-travel-to-new-orleans-for-service-learning-cultural-experiences](http://www.lynchburg.edu/news/2019/01/students-travel-to-new-orleans-for-service-learning-cultural-experiences)

*Bryan Gentry  
Director of Communications  
University of Lynchburg*

## Vanderbilt *Continued from page 21.*

or Disciples congregations and ministers through programming and mixer events, or simply have fun -- with Dinner at the Dean's, karaoke and game nights, or a group trip to an escape room, for example -- DDH provides a space for practical learning in community that informs students' ministry and lives wherever they may be called.



*Photo above: Disciples Divinity House students participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day March this year with the Tennessee Poor People's Campaign.*

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram (@ddhvanderbilt) or Twitter (@ddh\_vandy) to see what we're up to, or visit our website ([DisciplesHouseVandy.org](http://DisciplesHouseVandy.org)) to donate. We will also be at General Assembly with a booth and hosting our alumni and friends luncheon. Hope to see you there!

*Rachel Cooley, Communications  
Disciples Divinity House*



*Photo above: Local clergy visited the house and chatted with students for the fall Middle Area Ministers Retreat.*

# 2018 DHM Donor List

With gratitude and appreciation, Disciples Home Missions lists the people and organizations who made donations to our mission work. With our general ministry partners, we promote diversity, growth, renewal, and leadership throughout the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These gifts make our work possible.

Donations to Disciples Home Missions in 2018 were also received for the following ministries: Association of Disciple Musicians, Black Ministers Retreat Scholarships, Chaplains, Disciples' Advocate, Disciples Appalachian Scholarship Ministry, Disciples Immigration Counselor, Disciples Men and Cookin' for Mission, Disciples Volunteering, Disciples Women, Disciples Women Social Action for Human Trafficking, Farm Workers, Women to Women Worldwide Project, Family and Childrens Ministry Kids to Kids, Green Chalice, Refugee and Immigration Ministry, Star Supporter Fund, Yakama Christian Mission and Young Adult Commission. A separate list of donations to Disciples Peace Fellowship follows on pages 44 to ?.

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Continue on page 41. See Donors.

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*Continue on page 42. See Donors.*

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**Continue on page 44. See Donors.**

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# #LC<sup>2</sup>

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



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**Monday Evening**  
*Rev. Reuben del Pilar*  
*Community Worship Center*  
*Gardena, California*



**Sunday Evening**  
*Rev. Nancy Gowler*  
*First Christian Church*  
*Puyallup, Washington*

**Tuesday Evening**  
*Rev. Mark Briley*  
*Harvard Ave. Christian*  
*Church*  
*Tulsa, Oklahoma*



**Tuesday Evening**  
*Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale*  
*Ray of Hope Christian*  
*Church*  
*Decatur, Georgia*



**Wednesday Evening**  
*Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II*  
*Co-chair, Poor People's*  
*Campaign: A National Call*  
*for Moral Revival*