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Home Missions

The Disciples' Advocate



Greetings from Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel!

Over the past year, I have been humbled to provide pro bono legal services to immigrants from the following countries: the United States, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda, India, China, South Korea, and Samoa. It is truly a joy to illuminate some part of their path. Remember that Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel provides advice and counsel to Disciples pastors, seminarians, and members throughout the U.S. If we have not yet connected, please say hi.

Speaking of which, there is a new multilingual website for Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel! Please take a moment to look around when you can. "Legal Updates" provides information on immigration law and policy as things develop with the new administration. Please sign up for the newsletter, which will send these updates directly to your inbox,

and follow along on social media for daily news postings and other announcements.

Finally, I am grateful for all of the kindness from the Disciples community in my first year here. This work would not be possible without the support of the General Ministries, Week of Compassion, Obra Hispana, NAPAD, regional ministries, and other partners. We could not provide the pro bono legal services that are available to our Disciples pastors and immigrant communities without

your support.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your continued support in this journey to "build a bigger table" for Disciples immigrants. I look forward to hearing from you!

Peace,

*Natalie Teague
Disciples Immigration
Legal Counsel*



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**disciples
immigration**
LEGAL COUNSEL



*Have you considered
making a gift to*



in your will?

If so, please contact

Disciples Home Missions

*DHM Equipping Disciples
for Christ*

Connected

This year has been a learning experience. One of the lessons has been the importance of relationships and connections. In the midst of virtual, remote and distance, relationships remained. We are grateful for the ways that Christ has kept us connected in unique and creative ways. In the midst of not physically being with each other, we were still able to connect spiritually with one another. It has been an opportunity to live out *Micah 6:8* in our call to stay connected to God by loving and advocating for justice. Even as the world begins to open up again, let's keep the lessons learned.



Sheila P Spencer

Blessed to be a blessing to you,

Rev. Sheila P Spencer
DHM Interim President

Disciples Women's Ministries is Seeking a New Executive Director

Disciples Women's Ministries Executive Director Rev. Dr. Patricia Donahoo will retire on June 30. Disciples Women's Ministry is seeking qualified candidates to apply for the next Executive Director.

This position will be a lay or clergy woman who is a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As a woman who draws on a deep personal faith, she will articulate and exhibit a passion for women's ministries.



To apply for this position, please send both a letter of interest and an updated resume to IDWMsearch@dhm.disciples.org, by Wednesday, May 26th, 6 p.m. CST.

You will find the position description and responsibilities [here](#).



Disciples Church Extension Fund Seeks New President

Disciples Church Extension Fund President Rick Reisinger will retire at the end of 2021, after 45 years of service with the ministry. DCEF is seeking qualified candidates to apply to serve as the next President. The DCEF President Search Committee would like to invite all interested applicants applying for the position of Disciples Church Extension Fund President to please submit their Letter of Intent and Resume **no later than June 1, 2021**.



You will find the [Position Description](#) here.

Submit Letter of Intent and Resume to search@disciplescef.org.

The Search Committee invites all to be in prayer for the process and for the person God is calling as the next DCEF President.

DHM is seeking Director of Christian Education/Faith Formation

Disciples Home Missions is seeking a Director for Christian Education/Faith Formation. This position is a Merger staff position with the Division of Homeland Ministries (DHM) and the National Convocation of the Christian Church (DOC). Promoting the vitality of Black Disciples, the Director is responsible for the development and implementation of educational ministries which nurture and support the Christian Education/Faith Formation ministries of congregations and regions. Letters of Interest and Resumes will be received **through June 21, 2021**.

You will find the Position Description [here](#).

Submit Letters of Interest and Resumes to kwatts@dhm.disciples.org.



Even During the Pandemic, Blue Theology is Making Connections

Although the Blue Theology Mission Station will not be able to host youth groups this Summer, we have been busy preparing for the future. A third and fourth shower have been installed and the sleeping quarters have had a makeover. We have ample quality air mattresses for our guests and plenty of new sleeping bags for our guests who will be flying in to Monterey Bay next year.

In partnership with Creation Justice Ministries, the Blue Theology Mission Station is pleased to offer two virtual events for youth groups this Summer – for High School youth (grades 9-12) on June 30 and July 1 and for Jr. High School youth (grades 6-8) on July 7-8. The events will be from 9 am until Noon Pacific Time. More information is available at www.bluetheology.com. We are asking each youth group that participates in our Summer events to make a donation to the Blue Theology Mission Station.



Exploring more connections... we will be meeting with several coastal churches on the East Coast, the Gulf of Mexico and Southern California to develop Blue Theology Outposts. The Outposts will also offer Spring Break and Summer learning/serving experiences in Ocean Stewardship in 2022. We will be thrilled to announce our new outpost soon!

“The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it, the world, and all who live in it. For the LORD has founded it on the seas...” We continue to be a presence within the greater church to serve as a place of reminding and inspiring Christians to embrace our

connection with God’s great gift of the Ocean. Come and Sea!!!!

*Rev. Daniel Wm. Paul
Blue Theology Mission Station
Disciples Home Missions*

Julia Was There

During Rev. Dr. Julia Brown Karimu’s decades of service with the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries, she has journeyed with communities and individuals all over the world.

From encouraging influential leaders in South Africa working tirelessly to defeat apartheid to joining in calls for the church to stand alongside the marginalized in El Salvador, Julia was there.

From breaking bread with refugees to sharing wine with Bishops, Julia was there.

From a program with only a handful of mission co-workers to a program brimming with mission co-workers, Julia was there.

From the Disciples ministry of the Division of Overseas Ministries to the shared Disciples and UCC ministry of Global Ministries, Julia was there.

From listening to partners’ deep desire for “critical presence” to creating the policy for Global Ministries to respond, Julia was there.

From witnessing the sacrificial living of mission co-worker David Blackburn to the sacrificial ministry of Rev. Frank Chikane, Julia was there.

From saying “salaam” to saying “au revoir,” Julia was there.

The Division of Overseas Ministries and Global Ministries are grateful for Julia’s leadership and ministry of presence. We are inspired by her lifelong commitment to God’s mission in the world and look forward to continuing her legacy in the years to come.

Rev. Dr. Julia Brown Karimu serves as the President of the Division of Overseas Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries. She will retire at the end of 2021.

*Bethany Guy
Director of Communications
Global Ministries*



Wisdom of Women

Disciples Women connects to their history in this latest volume of Wisdom of Women

Wisdom of Women is a series of video interviews with Disciples women from across the life of the church. The purpose of this series is two-fold: to capture our history so that it is not lost and to enable us to share the wisdom that we have found, learning about who we are as women and empowering us to live into our future. Each interview consists of 45 to 90 minutes of conversation and wisdom.

This is the third in a series of videos that can be found on Disciples Women [youtube](#) channel.

These videos connect us to the women's experiences of the past and how their lives and wisdom have affected who we are today. Some may choose to watch the video in the privacy of home, referring to it for that extra boost of encouragement. Journaling after viewing the video could be especially helpful if

watching it alone. Others may watch with a group of friends, entering into discussion about what was just heard. The video could be the "resource person" for a women's retreat or group gatherings. Still others may play it for a Sunday School class, followed by discussion.

Might men also benefit from hearing and discussing the wisdom of women? We certainly think so! However you choose to use this resource, in whatever setting, with whatever participation, your life will be enriched by hearing and reflecting on Wisdom of Women.



Sandhya Jha and JoAnne Kagiwada

*Rev. Dr. Patricia Donahoo
Executive Director
Disciples Women*

HerStory Tree

Imagine a tree with new growth, healthy but vulnerable, susceptible to damage by winds and storms. This new growth sometimes is tethered to hold it up...but only temporarily.

There are willow trees that bend in the wind so they do not break.

There are well-established, well-rooted strong trees.

Together they are all stronger...a new tree growing among stronger, well-rooted trees, has protection from storms. These trees have a network where they share their nourishment. They share their roots and their foundation.

All kinds of trees can grow together: big, small, spindly, bulky, red, white, yellow, black, green, brown. They change through seasons. Some trees drop their colorful leaves...but they are not dead; they are gathering nourishment; they are resting; they are drawing from their roots/their foundation.

Disciples Women grows connections like these trees. We look different. We are at different stages of development. We may each have times when we look dead, yet, we are preparing for something

more—resting and drawing nourishment. We are sometimes weak and sometimes strong enough to support ourselves and someone else. We share the same roots, the same foundation,

The HerStory tree symbolizes the understanding that Disciples Women share common roots but are constantly reaching higher. We celebrate that we are in different seasons of our lives yet joined for greater strength.



Tree planting, nourishing, and connecting is the story of Disciples Women. Our story is about planting seeds and trusting God will provide growth in ways we cannot even imagine. Our shared story and connected

lives provide strength and shelter for one another.

--The HerStory Tree was created by Yeahwa Lee, a Disciples Woman in Texas.

*Rev. Dr. Patricia Donahoo
Executive Director
Disciples Women*

The Christian Church in the Southwest is blessed by so many chaplains in a variety of settings. We are especially grateful for our hospital chaplains who do difficult ministry during easy years. They have elevated their care for patients, families, and staff through this pandemic. Along the way, they have provided guidance and insight for the whole church as we navigate the physical, emotional and spiritual challenges of this pandemic. Thanks be to God for Chaplains!

Andy Mangum, Regional Minister in the SW Region

Thank you for your ministries throughout COVID-19 times. Some of you have been on the front lines offering care for COVID-19 patients and providing a lifeline between patients and families. Others have had to exchange in-person contacts for zoom calls or phone calls, or have had to don hazard gear in order to get close to those you serve. I have seen this in the chaplains of the Northern Lights Region and know it has been repeated across the life of the denomination. Your church is grateful for the ministry you have provided and continue to provide and for your faithful witness to the God of Grace, Compassion and Healing. Thank you!

Sandy Messick, Regional Minister, Northern Lights Region



You have always been an essential part of the ministry. One of the most transformational experiences of my seminary journey was the Clinical Pastoral Education. It gave me a glimpse into the sacred ministry of chaplaincy through the ministry of presence and intentional listening. They have embodied the presence in Christ in hospitals, prisons, convalescent homes, military settings, and countless other places. The pandemic has reminded us that the Church was never intended to be confined between the four walls of a physical place. We, the people, are the Church and are called to bring the light of Christ into every space. Chaplains have been bringing the light into every space long before the pandemic, during the pandemic and will continue. Disciples Home Missions is grateful and treasures the ministry of all of our Chaplains.

Blessed to be a blessing to you,

Rev. Sheila P. Spencer

DHM Interim President

Zionsville Christian Church Scouting Going Strong

During a time when so many Scout units have had to pull back on their program because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is so encouraging to see that some of our Disciples of Christ chartered units are moving ahead and even flourishing. The following is a report from the Cub Scout packs that call Zionsville (Indiana) Christian Church their home. This report was written by Laura Gunderman:

"I am the Charter Organization Representative (COR) for Zionsville Christian Church of Packs 0358, 3582, 3583, 3584, 3585. These packs were split up from our original pack 358, chartered to our church for 74 years, as the pack became too big for meeting spaces.

As the COR, I was able to give one zoom talk about the religious awards to one of the tribes this year in February since we did not have in-person church to allow for Scout Sunday.

The scouts are approved to meet on the church grounds in

the outdoors, but we are still unable to offer any indoor meeting spaces due to COVID-19. We held their crossover ceremony (Webelos to Scouts) in January with 20 Scouts crossing over. In April, our parking lot will be the site for the local Scouting for Food collection effort.

In 2020, we offered 8 high school freshmen the God and Life religious award program. Three of them have now earned the Four Star award by completing all levels of programming available. Their awards were given at the Troop Court of Honor on May 10.

In addition, we offered the God and Family program to the Webelos Scouts (4th & 5th grade). The picture is of my 10-year-old granddaughter Penelope working on her God and Family award, which she has since finished.



Photo above: Penelope granddaughter of Laura Gunderman, Zionsville, Ind.

*Rev. Scott Thayer,
Minister of Agencies Serving Youth
Disciples Home Missions*

Tools for Connection

It's been said that relationship is really important to a lot of Disciples, and we have found that to be heightened throughout the pandemic separations. We have longed to reconnect with one another locally, regionally and generally.

One of the tools of connection that is up and running now is Alex: Data for Disciples. If you are a church administrator, you likely are familiar with the yearbook reporting function in the app, but it is – and will be – a more robust tool as additional features are added.

Echoing the yearbook's function as a directory of congregations, Alex users can find contact information to get in touch with any congregation across the United States and Canada in the congregation directory. Over the next months, we will be finding ways to be able to list active clergy with their congregations or other ministries.

Another feature of the Alex tool is to support congregations in their own tracking of attendance and giving. With a function

to easily enter the attendance, giving, and notes, the trends are graphed so congregations will be able to see changes quickly, rather than an end-of-year analysis.

But, speaking of analysis, even now there is 20 years of data in each congregation's record, so administrators can look at graphs of giving and attendance for any year back to 1999.

Each congregation has an identity in the system based on the PIN, so whomever completed your yearbook report has the information to get in and look at your congregation's record.

Subscriptions to the directory information can be purchased at disciples.org/yearbook.

*Cherilyn Williams, APR
Assistant Vice President and Corporate Secretary
Office of General Minister and President*



Disciples and COVID-19

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has compiled a collection of resources and statements for pastors and congregations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are updating this page with more resources as available. Many of the resources are from the ministries of Disciples Home Missions.



Opening CW&W Centers During COVID-19



Before Children Come into the Rooms. Here are some areas to Consider:

1. Adequate Space. Does your Children Worship & Wonder room have adequate space to keep the children 3 ft. apart? Remember it is ok to keep family groups close together. If you need to move to a larger space, you might need a microphone and speaker system so children can hear you.
2. Supplies to consider for purchase: thermometer, latex gloves, face shields for storytellers, disposable masks for adults and children, hand sanitizer, Lysol spray/wipes, disposable arm bands in various colors.
3. Consider clearing the room of soft objects. Because germs tend to stick on soft surfaces longer and harder to clean, we recommend removing pillows and rugs. Replace the rugs with yoga mats. Helpful Hint: Buy inexpensive yoga mats and cut them in half for each child. Yoga mats are easy to wipe down and store. If you are using towels in your center, designate someone to wash each week.
4. Vaccinations. Does the CW&W team have vaccinations? What is the policy of the leadership team in your church regarding vaccinations? To protect those most vulnerable, do you want to recommend vaccinations before your team works with children?
5. Art Trays. Greeters will need to have prepared art materials on a tray or tub for each child/family unit. This will eliminate children using the same materials that have been handled by others.
6. Safe Space. Please remove any manipulatives that might have been used with Safe Spaces. (Unless you have a greeter that will sanitize between each child that uses the space). Many children might experience some social emotional signs of distress. This past year young children have been with a parent or caregiver 24/7, so you might see some separation anxiety. Have your safe space comfortable for those that might be sad or missing mom and dad/grandparent/foster parent. We recommend having a greeter assigned to the safe space.
7. No mask break space. This is what it says, have a space dedicated to the child or volunteer having a moment to removing their mask. We also recommend having a greeter assigned to the No Mask Break space. This could be the same one dedicated to the Safe space.

Welcoming Children into the Room. Here are some practices to consider:

1. Letter to Parent or Caregiver. When you announce the opening of your CW&W Centers or spaces, please send a letter to the families to let know of the new practices that will take place. You might invite the families for a tour or open house to introduce them to new space and or practices. Create a video that they can watch together before they come back to church. Introduce new storytellers or greeters.
2. Greet your families and children with a warm greeting and have them check in with temperature checks and hand sanitizing and a phone number you can reach the parents/caregivers. Your center may want to introduce an arm band system.

For Example: Red/Pink arm band means My family is of a strict no touch practice. We have immunocompromised members that need protection. We can do air hugs or air high fives.

Green/Blue: My family can have limited appropriate touch. Our family is ok with some limited touch with fist bumps or high fives.

3. Churches might start reopening with a sign-up system so you may not have everyone at your CW&W centers at the same time. We recommend a condensed re-orientation at the beginning of each session for a few weeks. Please adapt into your worship schedule any changes you have made and introduce those changes to the children in the worship center.

Here is language that you can use:

The worship center is a very special place. It is a special place to be with God. In this place we have all the time we need. So we don't need to hurry. We can walk more slowly. And we talk more softly, because someone might be talking with God, and we do not want to disturb them. This is a special place to be with God, to talk with God, to listen to God and to hear the stories of God. So we need a way to get ready to be in such a special place. You can get ready all by yourself. You do not need me to tell you to get ready. But I can show you how to get ready to be with God.

Quietness come from inside you, not from someone telling you to be quiet. You can get quiet all by yourself. (pg. 71-72, session 4, Young Children and Worship)

4. If you are going to practice the feast, have each child hand sanitize with sanitizer or wipes before feast. We recommend to not have any passing around of offering trays or children handing out feast materials. The greeters will need to have pre-prepared feast materials ready to pass to the children. If you choose not to practice feast/communion, maybe use these words for feast time: "Let us feast/share with one another about our week....."

Have feast foods, cheese, apples, and/or crackers in a single container for each child. Proportion out individual servings in disposable or recyclable dixie cups.

5. If you have more than one session for multiple church services, you will need the storytellers and greeters to sanitize between each session the yoga mats, and any heavy traffic touch surfaces.

After the children leave, practices to consider:

1. In studies now it seems that the virus does not live more than 72 hours. If stories are only used one day a week you would not have to re-clean. Your worship center may have a 'used' or 'to be cleaned' shelf that the Greeter or volunteers can sanitize.

Use ¾ cup of bleach and one gallon of water mixture (follow the directions on the bleach for mixture) or bleach wipes. Use this to spray or wipes on items that need to be sanitized. Air dry or leave on for several minutes.

Lysol spray can be used on the sand in the desert box, felt pieces, and any other materials that cannot be wiped or sprayed down with the bleach mixture.

Please do not use the bleach or Lysol spray together or in the presence of children.

2. Your center probably needs some system of tracking attendance with an eye on contact tracing.

Rev. Lisa Engelken

Coordinator for Children Worship & Wonder

Disciples Home Missions

Children Worship & Wonder Virtual Trainings and Workshops

CW&W Training - Virtual

July 9-10, 2021

Friday 6pm - 9pm CST

Saturday 9am - 12pm CST

Trainers: Lisa Engelken and TBA

Cost \$75.00 per person



CW&W Training - Virtual

September 24-25 2021

Friday 6pm - 9pm CST

Saturday 9am - 12pm CST

Trainers: Elaine Austin and TBA

Cost \$75.00 per person

For a complete list of training and workshops go to

<https://www.docfamiliesandchildren.org/cww-training-schedule>

If you are interested in your church hosting a training, or learning more about CW&W contact:

Reverend Lisa Engelken at:

Email: lengelken@dhm.disciples.org

Phone: 913-634-5602

Meet the 2021 Peace Interns

Marisa Black (she/her)

A Junior double major at Wichita State University, Marisa studies Special Music Education and Music Performance (flute).

A member of First Christian Church in Wellington, Kansas, she grew up attending camp at Disciples Center at Tawakoni. In fact, after completing her time as a camper, Marisa has returned to Tawakoni as a summer staff member, leading Challenge Courses there.

One of her references described her like this, "The church is Marisa's deepest love. She has known such love within the walls and spaces of the church that she can't help but seek more opportunities and to share her convictions."

More than anything else, she hopes to share the full welcome and inclusion of a loving God with everyone she meets this summer.

Fun fact, Marisa's hometown of Wellington, Kansas, is known as "The Wheat Capital of the World!"



Kate Myers (she/her)

Kate will graduate in December with a degree in Ethics and Social Change (with concentrations in Sociology and Religion) from the University of Evansville.

She grew up at First Christian Church in Bloomington, Indiana, and in her application noted that "the idea that I could get paid to travel around the country and teach children and adults about social justice sounds like a dream come true to me!"

Kate has a passion for justice and a heart for creating meaningful dialogue. Intending to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker focused on therapy work, Kate hopes that this internship will help her develop her skills as a small group leader and facilitator of difficult conversations.

Fun fact: Kate is taking a Jewelry Making Class as an elective this semester and she hopes to keep up with it even after the class is over!



Ashlyn Baldwin (she/her)

Ashlyn grew up attending church camps in the Alabama/Northwest Florida Region, and Peace Interns were a huge part of our faith development. "I thought that they were amazing and their passion inspired me to be more conscious about social justice topics. I have always loved hearing the stories they had and learning what they knew," she says.

Ashlyn has a strong desire to be a change agent in a broken system, and a heart for reforming institutions from the inside.

2021 will be a huge year for Ashlyn: In December she will graduate from the University of North Alabama with a degree in Criminal Justice and in August she is getting married!

Fun fact, Ashlyn has a cat named Loki, another cat named Calamity, a dog named Meeko, and a bunny named Tennant all named for her favorite movies, shows, and video games!





RIM SEEKING “HOPE BUILDERS” AMBASSADORS

In Support of the Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Refugee and Immigration Ministries equips Disciples to respond to Jesus' call to welcome the stranger and partner with migrants through refugee resettlement, supporting rights of immigrants and asylum seekers, and raising our faith voices in advocacy. We provide worship and education resources for your congregation, connections for relationships with immigrant networks, and opportunities for hands-on mission and justice work.

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley Rea, Director, Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries



The goals of RIM are to:

1. Educate, advocate and build partnerships for justice and the empowerment of refugees, asylum seekers, farm workers, and all immigrants
2. Invite congregations to respond to the call of scriptures to “welcome the sojourner”
3. Encourage strengths and voices among immigrant communities, and increase solidarity among refugees and immigrants with regions and congregations
4. Build hope in a time of unprecedented needs and opportunities for congregations to restore and strengthen welcoming among refugees and immigrants



Ambassadors for RIM are critical in supporting the ministries of RIM.

We are in search of individuals who are:

1. Committed to Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries
2. Willing to serve as a contact for RIM in your congregation or Region
3. Willing to promote RIM and refugee/immigrant ministries at churches & events

As an Ambassador, you would support RIM with hands-on mission work by speaking out against anti-immigrant attitudes, sharing opportunities for welcome and relationships with refugee and immigrant partners, lifting up Refugee Welcome Sunday/World Refugee Day, promoting devotional and educational materials that focus on immigration issues, and more!

If you desire to become a RIM “Hope Builder” Ambassador, a virtual, 1 hour training will be provided. Contact Rev. Dr. Robert Perry at rwp1108@aol.com, Elder Nancy Solomon at nancybravesolomon@yahoo.com, or Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea at sstanley@dhm.disciples.org if interested!



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www.disciplescenter.org
www.centerblog.org
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.....
 To find out more about how **DCEF** can help,
 call 800.274.1883 (866.534.1949 en español),
or visit disciplecef.org or newchurchministry.org.

Engaging in Equity: Meet Héctor Hernández Marcial, Director of Community Engagement

Get to know the Director of the National Benevolent Association's new Community Engagement program, Rev. Héctor J. Hernández Marcial!

The NBA would like to introduce the new Director of Community Engagement: Rev. Héctor J. Hernández Marcial.

Héctor was part of the 2015 NBA research and design team on mental health and congregational care, which helped launch NBA's Mental Health & Wellness Initiative. In 2016, he joined the NBA to serve as a peer group convener for NBA's first Peer Learning & Wellness Group. Héctor was then called in January of 2019 as the full-time NBA Connect Coordinator, organizing all the NBA Peer Learning & Wellness Groups.



Héctor J. Hernández Marcial

"Héctor brings many talents to this role, including his training and skills as pastor and mental health advocate, coupled with his ability to connect that work to justice issues and community involvement," says Rev. Monica Wedlock Kilpatrick, Vice President of Organizational & Leadership Development. "Héctor has been proactive in developing partner relationships across the Disciples community, as well as seeking ways to involve other

community partners and organizations. NBA has benefited from Héctor's unique ability to identify with diverse communities and cultures, ensuring work is contextually appropriate, and amplifying the diversity of voices among those communities."

In this new role, Héctor's primary responsibility is to identify, establish, and deepen collaborative relationships that strengthen all of NBA's programs. He works with NBA staff to design, implement, and evaluate programs with specific attention given to leadership development, advocacy, activism, and initiatives that entail community organizing. Additionally, Hector collaborates with all of the NBA's program areas in our organizational commitment to ensure diverse voices are included and heard equitably.

Get to know Hector in his own words by visiting bit.ly/Meet-Hector-Hernandez!

Brittany King
Senior Marketing Associate
National Benevolent Association
St. Louis, Missouri

Thanks Giving

This is an excerpt from a newsletter by Global Mission Intern, Abby Fate. Abby served at the US/Mexico border as a GMI in 2020.

In Nogales, Mexico, I lived in a community of nuns. We took turns preparing our morning and evening meals. Whoever cooked dinner would spend several hours preparing the meal, which typically included multiple delicious dishes, salad, and fruit. We'd invest well over an hour at the dinner table, laughing and talking and eating.

Slowly, I came to see these meals as the core of our shared community. My turn to cook felt like a loving act of service for my housemates. Each meal, and the time we spent together enjoying it, was a manifestation of our love and care for one another.

On Thanksgiving, Sister Tracey (from the U.S.)



Abby Fate

and I prepared a traditional dinner, incorporating foods from both of our families. The sisters gamely learned a prayer in English that Tracey's family says every year at Thanksgiving. We each listed what we were grateful for and dug into the turkey, potatoes, and stuffing.

As we were eating, I realized that I didn't feel so sad that I wasn't with my family. I didn't feel quite so hopeless about the pandemic. I felt content. I was full – brimming with appreciation and love and laughter. Despite the hardships that we witnessed every day at work, we could still gather and joke. Despite missing my family and friends, I could still enjoy Thanksgiving dinner. We still had reasons to celebrate.

Bethany Guy
Director of Communications
Global Ministries



A Work of Hope

This is an excerpt from the spring newsletter by Global Ministries mission co-worker Emmanuela Loccident. Emmanuela and her husband, Fritz-Gerald Joseph, serve with the Evangelical Protestant Church of Morocco.

We are so grateful that despite the pandemic, the church has been able to help the ones in need.



Emmanuela Loccident

Most people the church serves are migrants coming from countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Most are tired, hungry, and in desperate need of help. The programs include urgent aid (food basket, medical aid, medicine, clothes, etc.), professional training

for those who plan to stay in Morocco, grants for those who wish to go back to their homeland, and funds for those who want to start businesses. This is the work of the church

in “normal times!”

With the pandemic, the needs grew enormously because everybody needed help! Thanks be to God, many partners of the church were compelled to send funds, and many locals were pitching in. As a result:

- Funds were sent to local parishes to help people pay for their rent.
- Funds were sent to share food baskets so people could eat.
- Funds were sent to support migrants who did not have an income.

Although the church members were in crisis and confined, the church has never been this united.

When we look at all the work that needs to be done and people who need assistance it can feel overwhelming. No, it is overwhelming! But we have seen God provide in this crisis and I know that we will see God's great light shining through!

Bethany Guy

Director of Communications

Global Ministries

Engaging in Equity: Introducing NBA's Community Engagement Program

The National Benevolent Association is excited to announce its new Community Engagement Program.

Since the NBA's founding in 1887, there has been a central theme to our mission work: to accompany Disciples as they create communities of compassion and care.

Over the last several years, NBA has heard and responded to many calls for justice, equity, and healing. In 2014, as part of the Disciples Church response to the shooting death of Michael Brown by former Ferguson police officer, Darren Wilson, NBA worked to support clergy and community activists in their ongoing efforts for justice and racial reconciliation. Community forums were held and resources for advocacy and learning were produced including the documentary, *Injustice Anywhere*. We brought together community organizers to form an Activism & Advocacy Peer Learning & Wellness Group. We lead a delegation of pastors, organizers and Disciples leaders to San Diego, California, and Tijuana, Mexico, for an Immigration Detention Immersion Trip that highlighted prison and jail,

mental health, and immigration issues at the border.

The work of supporting communities engaged in social justice work doesn't just exist in these moments. These instances of injustice are daily struggles and NBA is committed to doing this work in intentional, consistent ways. That's why we launched the Community Engagement Program this year.

NBA's Community Engagement Program consists of three emphasis areas: Leadership Development, Advocacy & Activism, and Collaborative Partnerships.

Each of these emphasis areas allows NBA to address the vastness of accompanying congregations, health and social service ministries, and local organizers as they engage in justice work. Read more about this exciting new program at bit.ly/NBA-Community-Engagement.



Brittany King

Senior Marketing Associate

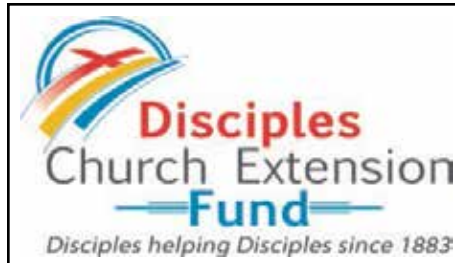
National Benevolent Association

St. Louis, Missouri

DCEF Exceeds One Billion Dollars in 'a little timely help'

On Thursday, December 17, 2020, Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) surpassed one billion dollars in the total amount of loan approvals extended to congregations in need. Now in its 138th year, DCEF has provided financial aid in the form of 13,670+ congregational loans with more than half of this dollar amount -- \$565.7 million -- being approved for 1,509 loans just since the year 2000.

"We are so proud to have reached this milestone with our denomination and our partners in ministry by serving churches in every region of the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico," notes Erick D. 'Rick' Reisinger, Disciples Church Extension Fund President. "For six generations, Disciples have been helping Disciples through the services we offer, including investments which fund our low interest loans. In this way, Disciples invest in their future and their faith."



The Church Extension Fund was founded in 1883 to offer a 'little timely help' to congregations in need. Today, the Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) offers a variety of services in addition to congregational loans and investments, including building and capital services like capital fundraising, building evaluations and disaster response services; ministry re-envisioning programs through Hope Partnership Services; and, support for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

new church movement through New Church Ministry. To learn more about these and other DCEF services, or our one billion dollar ministry milestone, visit disciplescef.org.

*Joe Whitman, APR
Director of Marketing - Strategy and Messaging
DCEF, Hope Partnership & New Church
Ministry*



Bethany College

FIVE PATHWAYS. ONE BOLD FUTURE.

APPLY NOW AT [BETHANYWV.EDU](https://bethanywv.edu)

HELM and Global Ministries Partner to Facilitate Student Connections

HELM's Leadership Development Program aims to develop leaders through an intentional focus on four major areas during an undergraduate's years of study. In their first year, Fellows focus on the nature and purpose of Christian community, including what it means to build and sustain authentic community. During the second year of the program, they learn about social trans-



Fellows visiting MLK Center in Havana



Being hosted by the Peace Commission of the Evangelical Council of Colombia



Dinner with a pastor in Meknes, Morocco

formation and reflect on the way faith compels us to work for justice. The third-year focus is on global awareness and involves an international trip to visit Disciples' partners who are working on grassroots issues related to justice, peace, equality, and human rights. Finally, Fellows in their fourth year learn about mentoring and the life-long practices of spiritual and vocational discernment.

The year three focus on Global Awareness has allowed HELM to partner with Global Ministries, a common witness

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, in connecting with international partners. Thus far, different cohorts of Fellows have visited Disciples' partner organizations in Cuba, Morocco, and Colombia. In 2020, plans were in place to visit partners in Cuba again; however, the global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented this trip from taking place. Chris Dorsey, President of HELM,

says that when the global awareness theme was added as part of the Leadership Development Program, "We did it as a way of ensuring that participants in the program would have a chance to connect with people and places around the world, and understand the principles of solidarity and accompaniment as a key approach to mission."

The work of partnering together has been facilitated by Global Ministries' People-to-People Program, which assists in planning and preparing those who are engaging in cross-cultural pilgrimages. Lorna Hernandez, the Director of the program, believes deeply in the importance of these encounters: "When people from different backgrounds and cultures seek to listen and learn from each other, it is a sacred space. Whether by sharing a meal, worshipping, or exploring challenging issues, listening to each other's stories changes the hearts, minds, and attitudes of those willing to come out of themselves into the world."

Reflecting on the connection between HELM and Global Ministries, Hernandez notes that "The ongoing collaboration has created intentional spaces of transformation for college students at a time of academic, leadership, and ministry development. The knowledge, experience, and connections shared with international partners will increase intercultural awareness in students, understanding of their own contexts through a global lens, and willingness to take action on social issues to promote peace with justice." Dorsey echoed the importance of this connection, sharing that "We are grateful that the global awareness trips we take the students on each year give us a chance to work closely with Global Ministries to make it a successful part of the curriculum."

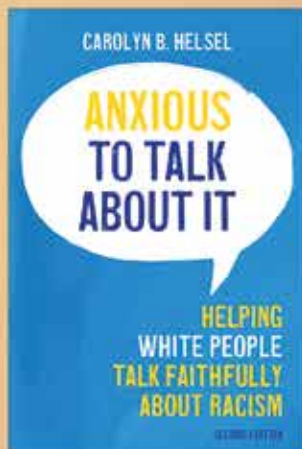
While HELM anticipates providing international connections and experiences for Fellows in the future, the many travel restrictions currently in place make international travel difficult. As a result, this year's trip involves connecting with Disciples serving in Alaska. During this experience, Fellows will learn about the legacy of colonialism, the struggle for indigenous rights, and the effects of climate change and ongoing conservation efforts, as well as meet Disciples who are on the front lines of addressing these challenges.

To learn more about the Leadership Fellows Program, visit helmdisciples.org/leadership-programs/leadership-fellows/.

Jonathan Barnes, MDiv, PhD

*Director for Higher Education and Communications
Higher Education and Leadership Ministries*

Read the Change You Want to Be

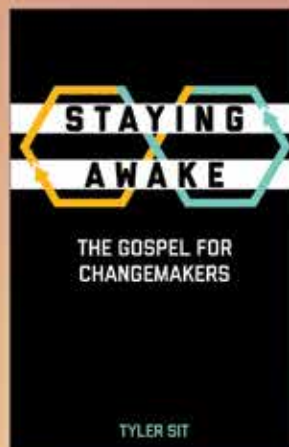


9780827200999

Anxious to Talk about It Second Edition

"A much-needed guide to white self-awareness on the switchback-ridden journey to becoming anti-racist."

— Sharon E. Watkins
Former General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

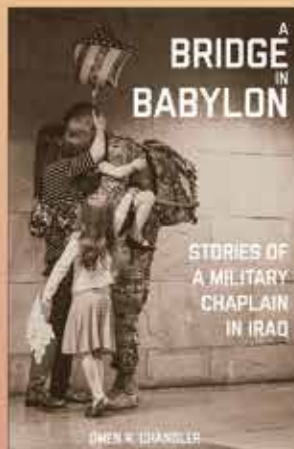


9780827235526

Staying Awake

"So smart, so fresh, and so bursting with energy for Spirit-led justice that it makes me want a do-over at being Christian."

— Barbara Brown Taylor
author, *Holy Envy*

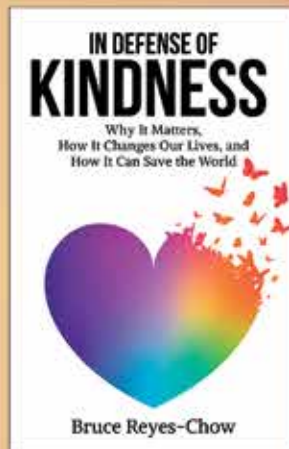


9780827203174

A Bridge in Babylon

"A must-read for every church leader whose congregations and classrooms include veterans, military reservists, and military family members."

— Kyle Fauntleroy
Captain, Chaplain Corps, USN (Ret.)



9780827216761

In Defense of Kindness

"...a serious balm for our personal and political lives and the social justice struggles of our day."

— Liz Theoharis
Co-Chair, Poor People's Campaign

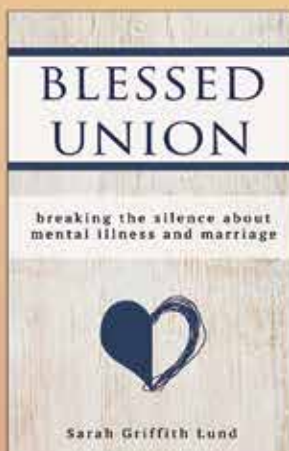


9780827235496

Something in the Water

"A wake-up call to Americans in general and the church in particular."

— *Publishers Weekly*



9780827203143

Blessed Union

"A must-read book for clergy, pre-marital counselors, married folk, those of us who know we live with mental health challenges and those of us who don't."

— Monica A. Coleman
author, *Bipolar Faith*

New release and bulk discounts as well as free group resources available at ChalicePress.com

 **chalice press**
You Want to Change the World. So Do We.

Chalice Press Publishes First Children's Book

Chalice Press is proud to announce its first book for children, *Remember Me When...*, written by Todd Williams and illustrated by Ciara Compton, both Houston-area Disciples.

Remember Me When... helps parents, grandparents, and others holding special places in the hearts of youngsters recognize those often-overlooked everyday moments that will someday bring smiles to the faces of those same children years later.

"A few years ago, I was meeting with one of my hospice patients," Williams says, "and she asked if I knew of a book that she could read to her grandchildren about death, dying, and how she would like for them to remember her.

I remember her telling me, 'You know that feeling you get when you reach the very top on a swing, just right before you fall back the other way? That's how I want my grandchildren to remember me.' That was when I began to think of

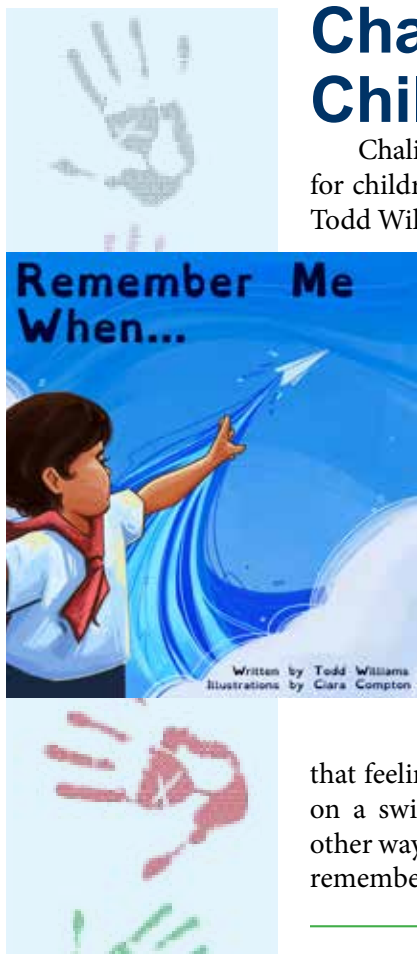
my own grandchildren and how I wanted them to remember me."

An ordained Disciple and hospital chaplain, Williams contacted Compton, a member of First Christian Church in Texas City and a spring graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design, about illustrating the book.

"We fell in love with this book the moment we saw it," says Chalice Press president Brad Lyons. "Developing a children's line has been a goal for several years, and we're delighted that *Remember Me When...* will launch that line."

Remember Me When... will be available from ChalicePress.com and everywhere books are sold.

*Brad Lyons
President and Publisher
Christian Board of Publication*



DMF DAY

Imagine
WHAT
OUR GIFTS
CAN DO

June 24, 2021

DMF Day is a one day giving event to support
Disciples Mission Fund
www.disciplesmissionfund.org

Raise Your Voice for Refugee Resettlement:

Following the decimation of the US Refugee Resettlement program in recent years--as the Presidential Determination number of US refugees was reduced over 80% over the past four years)--NOW is the time to help restore and re-grow our long term heritage of welcoming refugees in the United States!

Refugee resettlement started over 40 years ago in the US, and Disciples have been active participants throughout history, as we celebrated [here](#) in our recent “#40for40” campaign. Resettlement, throughout history, has enjoyed strong bi-partisan support--as exemplified as Disciples especially through 5 time Iowa Governor and Disciples elder, Robert Ray (see image).

Our support for a restoration of refugee resettlement in recent months was underlined when Rev. Terri Hord Owens, our General Minister and President, was among key speakers at a gathering of ecumenical leaders and CWS partners. There, she, Rev. Vy Nguyen from Week of Compassion, and RIM's Director Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea met with Biden administration representatives and signed a new [Ecumenical Declaration to Expand Welcome](#). This declaration fell well in line with our previous [General Assembly's statement](#) of support for refugees. In April, RIM's Director and several Disciples clergy from Texas joined hundreds of refugees and advocates from around the US to express our love for refugees!

Yet, many challenges remain. In this fiscal year when less than 1,800 refugees arrived in the first 6 months, faith leaders (including Rev. Hord Owens) celebrated when President Biden finally announced on May 3 a new refugee goal for this year of welcoming 62,500 refugees. Now, there is the need to rebuild our decimated U.S. refugee program to bring them in--and also to urge for

a higher refugee target goal for FY2022 (starting 10/1/21) of 125,000.

There is so much we can do to help refugees!

See [here](#) our Disciples Refugees Welcome toolkit with top 5 ways to take action for refugees!

Also, click [here](#) for Disciples refugee graphics--and share Disciples' support for refugees! See [here](#) for ways you can volunteer if your church is located near a Church World Service refugee resettlement office. And, if your congregation is elsewhere, contact RIM Director, Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, for other connections you can make with refugees in your area!

Additionally, World Refugee Day is held every year

on June 20th --and this year falls on a Sunday. We hope you'll celebrate Refugee Friendship Sunday on that day or a day near to it, and you can find resources [here](#) for your congregation's work and witness. A host of Worship, Bible Study, Devotional, and other resource information related to refugees



can also be found [here](#).

We thank you for considering how your family and congregation can join with enthusiasm to “welcome the sojourner” as God commands!

*Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea
Refugee and Immigration Ministries*



Protect Tobacco Farmworkers



support for tobacco farmworkers who have endeavored for years to gain the freedom to organize. This letter will go to the board meeting of the tobacco organization, called British American Tobacco, which now owns Reynolds Tobacco in the US, to share how strongly our faith calls us to seek justice for farmworkers to improve their working and living conditions! Please sign & share with others!

Disciples have worked with farmworkers for 50 years this year-and have been asked to READ & SIGN ON [HERE](#) by the end of May to show our

Support Pathways to Citizenship for Essential Workers

Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries has a new [Toolkit](#) to support Citizenship for Essential Workers for faith partners to use in urging the Biden administration and Congressional leaders to include a pathway to citizenship for essential workers and their families, farmworkers, and people with DACA or TPS in any and all upcoming recovery

packages. This is a key step towards securing citizenship for all. **As part of this effort, we invite you to share [this joint faith letter](#) with your US Senators and Representatives, to underline the support of faith communities for pathways to citizenship for immigrant groups.**



Help Migrants and Children at the Border

In case you missed it, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries invites you to see this webinar on A Faithful Response to the Border, in partnership with Interfaith Immigration Coalition. Also, see the new Faith Welcoming Migrants Toolkit [here](#) for many resources—updated regularly—for ways you can pray, learn, advocate, and directly assist migrant children and others at the border!



And as always, PLEASE stay in touch for the latest information!:

Sign up [here](#) for "RIM WRAP" News Updates:

<http://bit.ly/RIMWRAP>

Here is our website: <http://bit.ly/DisciplesRIM>

Follow us on our Facebook: <http://bit.ly/RIMFacebook>

Faith on the Phones: <https://bit.ly/FaithonthePhones>

Follow us on Twitter: [@StanleyRea](#)

Midway University Launching Computer Science Degree Fall '21

Midway University will begin offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science this fall. The school received official notification from its accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), that it has been approved to start the new degree program. Computer Science will be added to the majors available to Midway's traditional undergraduate, on-campus student population.

"This is great news and a much-needed degree program to add to our offerings," said Dr. Carrie Christensen, Interim Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs. "When adding new majors or minors, we look to what the demands are in our region and job opportunities available to our students once they earn their degree. The area of Computer Science and technology-based programs shows good growth opportunities and matches our career-focused education."

The new Computer Science degree program will be available to students starting this fall and offered fully in-seat. Courses will include topics such as programming, networking, cybersecurity and platform technologies, as well as a strong foundation of mathematics. Like every major at Midway University, there is a capstone project and internship required. Of the 120 credit hours required to earn the degree, 54 hours are specific to com-

puter science.

"Midway University is committed to our mission to serve students who seek a personalized, supportive environment for their education," said Dr. John P. Marsden, President, Midway University. "Not only are we attentive to having the right mix of majors for students to choose from, but we remain steadfast in making college affordable for our students," said Marsden. "We are one of the most affordable private universities in Kentucky and have held our tuition steady for many years now."

Midway University announced earlier this year that tuition would not increase for the 2021-22 academic year, the fourth straight year of no tuition increases.

For students and families interested in learning more about Midway University, they can register for a campus visit or virtual admissions meeting online at www.midway.edu/experience or reach out to the Admissions Office at admissions@midway.edu or call 800.952.4122.

Ellen D. Gregory
Vice President, Marketing & Communications
Midway University



Jarvis Christian College Becomes a Community Center for Coding and Creativity

JARVIS will help bring workforce development opportunities to students and the broader HAWKINS community.

In celebration of Computer Science Education Week, Jarvis Christian College announced it will become a Community Center for Coding and Creativity as part of Apple's Community Education Initiative and Tennessee State University's HBCU C2 initiative designed to bring coding and creativity experiences to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and their communities.

"As skill sets in data analytics, computer science and cyber security have become more desirable by today's employers, it is our responsibility to prepare our students for this new trend," stated President Lester C. Newman. He further shared that "Becoming a Community Center for Coding and Creativity enables us to provide that career pathway for our students. We are very appreciative of the partnership with Apple and Tennessee State University."

Faculty leaders from Jarvis will participate in Apple's

ongoing Community Education Initiative Learning Series to learn about coding and app development. As part of that ongoing professional development, departments will explore innovative ways to engage with learners using Apple's comprehensive curriculum, which utilizes its easy-to-learn Swift programming language.

As part of its Community Education Initiative, Apple is supporting Jarvis with equipment and professional development to help the college become the pre-eminent HBCU C2 community center to bring coding and creativity to the Hawkins Community.

About Jarvis Christian College: Jarvis Christian College is a historically Black liberal arts, four-year institution affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Find out more at www.jarvis.edu.

Olivia Mathis, Director of Public Relations
Jarvis Christian College
Hawkins, Texas

Midway University Announces It Will Return to Regular Operations for Fall 2021

Midway University is planning for an exciting fall 2021 semester, the school announced. The University is actively planning for a more typical year which means more activity and gatherings on campus.

Midway University students were on-campus and in the classroom during the entire 2020-21 academic year, but things were different – classroom capacity was decreased, occupancy in the residence halls was lowered, masks were required, on campus events had limited attendance or were held virtually, and physical distancing was required in common spaces throughout campus to adhere to safety protocols due to COVID-19.

“While we will follow all guidelines and protocols, as we have throughout the pandemic, our faculty, staff and students are looking forward to bringing back the attributes of a personalized learning environment,” said Dr. John P. Marsden, President, Midway University. “Whether it is a gathering to collaborate in the classroom, sitting together in the dining hall or attending a sporting event, our campus community craves that time together for those shared experiences that were dramatically impacted over this past year.”

While exact plans will continue to evolve over the next few weeks and months, students can expect to see more campus housing available, more classrooms getting back to typical seating and occupancy, as well as dining hall seating, spectators at sporting events and more in-person

events throughout the year.

“I wish to commend our entire Midway University community for everyone’s help in combatting the spread of COVID-19 by wearing their masks, social distancing and following all campus procedures,” said Marsden. “It has taken everyone’s dedication to keep our campus safe.”

Before the pandemic caused a disruption to operations, the University had just opened its Hunter Field House and the newly renovated Marrs Hall. “Although thankful that we had these new facilities and the extra space to use and spread out, there have been limitations and altered usages of those spaces during COVID-19,” said Marsden. “Marrs Hall, which is the Administration Building and home of the new Ann J. Bowling Welcome

Center, had its lobby and large conference spaces converted into classrooms while the Hunter Field House had limited access due to required contact tracing and health protocols. We look forward to more regular usage and events in the Hunter Field House next year for our students.”

More information as it relates to safety protocols, classes and University housing will be shared with students throughout the summer months as they prepare to return to campus for the start of the fall semester on August 23.



Ellen D. Gregory
Vice President, Marketing & Communications
Midway University

DHM Updates

Sign up at:
www.discipleshomemissions.org

DH M Disciples Home Missions

Connecting people to the life-changing love of God.

Podcasts and Three-Minute Thoughts That Stir the Heart and the Mind

As COVID-19 settled in across eastern North Carolina in 2020, Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina, branched out to reach its constituencies through new avenues when annual lecture series were postponed on the cultural arts calendar. This included Religion Lectures and the newly established "Light of Life Series" Lectures.



Photo image used for the Podcast webpage.

These lecture series have continually connected Barton College with Disciples of Christ churches in the region and with its ecumenical colleagues. Instead of live or recorded Zoom lectures during the pandemic, Dr. Rodney Werline, Leman and Marie

Barnhill Endowed Chair in Religious Studies and director of the Barton College Center for Religious Studies, chose to begin a series of podcasts to stay in touch with Disciples in the North Carolina Region and across the United States.

New podcasts, gathered under the heading "At the Center Resource Series," come in two forms. First, "Three-Minute Thoughts" consist of short reflections or insights that arise from observations about the surprising spiritual experiences of everyday life. The second set of podcasts, the "Light of Life Interviews," complement the "Light of Life" Lecture Series,

initiated by President Douglas N. Searcy to address matters of contemporary importance to the church.

Thus far, Dr. Werline has interviewed Dr. Zachary Moon, Associate Professor of Theology and Psychology at Chicago Theological Seminary, on honoring veterans and moral injury, and Dr. Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte, Professor of New Testament at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on Revelation.

Future podcasts will include conversations with North Carolina authors, historians, artists, as well as other theologians.

Will you be back on the road this summer? You can pass the miles by connecting to Barton College's Center for Religious Studies webpage <https://www.barton.edu/center-for-religious-studies> and finding the podcasts on the "At the Center Resources" page at <https://www.barton.edu/center-for-religious-studies/at-the-center/>

*Kathy Daughety, Director of Public Relations
Barton College
Wilson, North Carolina*



Aileen and Bill Parish Plaza at Howard Chapel.

Jarvis Christian College Holds Grand Opening for Student Food Pantry

Jarvis Christian College celebrated the grand opening of its student food pantry with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 11, 2021. Brookshire Grocery Company donated \$5,000 in gift cards to stock the pantry. The Company also generously donated 100 - \$50 gift cards to the College to distribute to students facing food insecurities and a \$25,000 scholarship endowment as part of their "Focus on the Future" scholarship program. The pantry is located in the Ronald Hay Building and will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Students expressed their desire for a food pantry during a meeting initiated by the College's Administrators to determine how to enhance campus life. "We understand that food insecurity is a real issue and

we are very grateful to Brookshire Grocery Company for providing the funds to make this food pantry a reality for our students. We also appreciate the \$25,000 scholarship endowment that will decrease the financial burden of our students so that they may continue to pursue their academic goals. We were delighted to have Mr. Joe Stephens, District Vice President of Brookshire Grocery Company, here with us to represent the company during this grand opening," said Dr. Lester C. Newman, President, Jarvis Christian College.

"We are very excited to launch the "Focus on the Future" program which will help thousands of students achieve their dreams for years to come," said

Brad Brookshire, Chairman and CEO for Brookshire Grocery Company. "We support our local communities



Everick Murrell (Mr. Jarvis), Joe Stephens (District Vice President, Brookshire Grocery Co.), Mrs. Gloria Newman (First Lady, Jarvis Christian College) and Dr. Lester C. Newman (President, Jarvis Christian College).

See Food Pantry on Page 26.

Bethany College Strategic Plan Emphasizes Advancement, Honors History

Bethany College has outlined a strategic vision for solidifying its approach to a liberal arts education.

Bethany Connect, as the vision is known, is designed to navigate a modern academic environment while staying true the foundation set forth by Alexander Campbell when he chartered the college in 1840.

The college retains its mission of creating leaders who develop big ideas, pave uncharted paths and create the strategies needed for a successful future. To do so, Bethany has identified five pathways: global engagement; scholarship and research; responsible citizenship; robust networking; and leadership development.

The key to the successful of making the vision a reality is fostering connections among classmates and alumni.

College leadership recognizes that education extends beyond the classroom and encourages students to seize opportunities in athletics, student government, the arts, service organizations, and Greek life. Bethany is partnering with AlumniFire to virtually connect students and alumni to employment, service,

and mentoring opportunities, and to keep them up-to-date on college news.

The college is strengthening its STEM offerings by using the 1,300-acre forest surrounding campus as a living-learning lab and a partnership with Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in nearby Pittsburgh.

Bethany has established a footprint in public health, hiring an infectious disease expert and prioritizing adding an epidemiologist to its faculty. Upgrades to several science labs are planned.

The college aims to increase its international student enrollment, and recognizing its increased diversity on campus, Bethany hired an executive director of diversity,

equity, and inclusion.

*Shannon E. Kolkedy
Communications Specialist
Bethany College
Bethany, West Virginia*



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Home Missions*

online at

discipleshomemissions.org

DHM App

or

*mail your gift to:
DHM*

*PO Box 1986,
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986*

Young Adult Connect
4th Thursday's

Connection. Empowerment. Authenticity.

8pm EST / 7pm CST / 5pm PST

Meeting ID: 833 1198 9601
Passcode: 073309

OBRA Hispana

Being the New Church, Together

Relationships have proven to be vital for many of us working from home and practicing physical distancing in these past 14 months. Through webinars, fellowship opportunities, and support for church planters and their congregations, [New Church Ministry](#) has shared resources to maintain and strengthen bonds with others.

Disciples have registered for our ministry's [New Church Hacks](#) series in record numbers, where our episodes on [creating and continuing connections](#) and [managing change](#) taught attendees how to sustain communities of faith. (Save the date for June 9 when season 3 begins!)

With [Water the Plants](#), intercessors have been able to pray for the new church movement and come together on Zoom at the first-ever virtual [Prayer Summit](#). Make sure to join us at the next event on [June 5](#).

And last but not least, our [Impact Report](#) highlighted the 2020 Vision and how pastors, chaplains,

and others have helped our denomination form more than 1,000 faith communities since 2001.

To ensure the continuation of this work across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, please consider making a gift to the Pentecost Offering, collected in most congregations on May 16 and 23. Half of this Special Day Offering goes to Regions for new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders. By participating, you ensure the viability and vitality of local new church plants and those in states, provinces, and territories far away.

To contribute, visit: <http://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost>.

Debbie Williams

*Director of Marketing - Production
Disciples Church Extension Fund*



Food Pantry *Continued from Page 24.*

and value education which is one of our top philanthropic efforts. So many families and individuals have been financially impacted by



the pandemic. We are proud to be able to help those aspiring towards their dreams."

With the help of Brookshire Grocery Compa-

ny, the Office of Institutional Advancement, the Office of Student Services, and Jarvis Christian College's Circle K International Chapter, the food pantry was organized and fully-stocked with a variety of items that are available to students free of charge.

The food pantry is a small example of how the College identifies with the needs of its student body. "The food pantry is a good addition to the campus, because we have a place to obtain food without having to leave campus," said Elysia

Gordon, a freshman at Jarvis. "The Administration has definitely responded to our request."

"As I walked around and looked at the food pantry, I was in awe," said Mr. Stephens. "The partnership that Brookshire Grocery Company has with the College is awesome and this is something we want to keep on for years to come. We just want the town of Hawkins and Jarvis Christian College to know that Brookshire Grocery Company is here to continue to serve them."



In addition to Mr. Stephens, the grand opening was attended by members of the local community, faculty, staff, and students.

About Jarvis Christian College: Jarvis Christian College is a historically black liberal arts, four-year institution affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Find out more at www.jarvis.edu.

*Olivia Mathis, Director of Public Relations
Jarvis Christian College
Hawkins, Texas*



2020 DHM Donors 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 2020 were also received for the following ministries: **Disciples Chaplains Association, Disciples' Advocate, Disciples Appalachian Scholarship Ministry, Disciples Farm Worker Ministry, Disciples Volunteering, Disciples Women, DW 145th Birthday, DW Just Women, Family & Childrens' Ministry, Green Chalice, Refugee & Immigration Ministry, and Yakama Christian Mission.** A separate list of donations to Disciples Peace Fellowship follows on pages 30 to 31.

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Saturday, August 7, 2021

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NOTHING
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ROMANS 8:31-39

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