CCIW's Mission:
Growing Disciples Congregations
for Healthy, Vital Ministry

"The Power of Spiritual Gifts in the Life of the Church"

An Equipping Workshop on
Gift-Oriented Lay Ministry

*The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin*
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Regional Assembly 2006
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin
Wyndham Hotel, Lisle, Illinois
November 12-14, 2006
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Agenda

2:30-3:00 PM  Registration

3:00-3:30 PM  Opening Worship
               Bible Study
               I Corinthians 12
               Romans 12
               Ephesians 4

3:30-4:15 PM  Teaching Time
               Why is this a good idea for your church?
               Process and Overview

4:15-4:30 PM  Break

4:30-5:15 PM  How Do We Take This Home With Us?

5:15-5:30 PM  Closing Worship

Now about spiritual gifts, I do not want you to be ignorant.
I Corinthians 12:1
The Gathering
We have come to remember God’s gracious gifts. Let us open our hearts and our minds to the amazing variety that comes to us every day!

Hymn
“‘Tis the Gift to Be Simple” (printed from the Chalice Hymnal)

Prayer
We thank you, O God, for all that you have given us. As with all valuable gifts, may we be mindful of the care and development of the spiritual gifts that come to us. Help us to pay attention, to realize what you have done for us. We pray in the name of the great Gift of all, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Scripture Gift    Romans 12:3-8
For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (NRSV)

Picture It…..
For a moment, think about how you feel when someone gives you a present.
Are you willing to just look at it?
Are you willing to leave the wrapping intact?
Are you willing to guess what’s inside?
Or….are you ready to unwrap the gift and discover its contents?
Or….are you willing to utilize the gift you have been given?
Or…are you willing to practice, to understand, to put that gift into practice?
God is waiting to see the look on your face when you unwrap
the wonderful spiritual gifts
YOU have been given!

Hymn
“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” verse 1 (Chalice Hymnal)

Prayer
We are ready, God of all good gifts, to discover what you have given. Help us to be ready to act, to be faithful, and to enjoy this life. Amen
'Tis the Gift to Be Simple

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the
gift to come down where we ought to be, and
when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill
be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained to
bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed, to turn, turn, will
be our delight till by turning, turning we come round right.

WORDS: Shaker song (18th century)
MUSIC: Shaker melody; arr. Margaret W. Mealy, 1984
Arr. © 1984 Margaret W. Mealy
Bible Study with Commentary

1 Corinthians 12:1-31*

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.  2 You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak.  3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

How can we tell what is an authentically Christian “spiritual gift” and what is something else? Paul gives a single criterion, expressed first negatively, then positively. Two exclusions and one authenticator. (v. 3)

Question: How do you see these criteria, the negative and the positive, applying in your life, in your church?

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;  5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;  6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.  7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.  8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,  9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,  10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.  11 All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allot[s] to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

This list is one of several representative samples of spiritual gifts, not an exhaustive list. Everything in this list can be found in the Hebrew Scriptures as well as in the Gospels.

Question: What are some gifts (life-giving, church-enhancing abilities, exercised with joy and effectiveness) you can identify in your experience and the historical experience of your community of faith?

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.  13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.  14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.  15 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.  16 And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.
If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

12:12-27 The Body of Christ. The human body, a unity of varied parts, was well known in the Greek and Roman world as a metaphor for a group, city or nation. Paul uses it to good advantage in the context of the Christian church.

The Spirit creates the unity. Organic unity demands a view of Christian diversity of gifts that fits with unity rather than division. No part can dispense with any other part. If one suffers all suffer. If one is honored, all are honored.

Question: What does it take for you to blend your gifts, abilities, efforts, commitments, with those of people who are very different from you in important ways?

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Check the words that immediately follow these in 1 Corinthians to see the gift that gives holy meaning to all the other gifts and abilities. How is that gift being lived out in your life, your church?

[Talbert, Charles, Reading Corinthians; Crossroads Press, NY, 1987]

[6]
Romans 12:1-21

Life shaped by grace

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual (Greek: *logiken*—logical, reasonable) worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

The freely given mercy (compassion) of God provides us with a new way to organize life. Not only is individual life changed, but also relational life in the community. The only reasonable response to this grace (gift) is to let its power transform our lives and our relationships into a shape determined by grace. The rest of this chapter provides some details of this grace-shaped (gift-shaped) life.

Question: What kinds of transformation have you—and your church—experienced with a changing of your mind? What areas of your thought and your church’s thought are you prepared to open to new divine guidance in order to experience transformation in your life, your church’s life?

The Body of Christ

4 For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6 We have gifts (Greek: *charismata*) that differ according to the grace (charis) given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8 the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Another representative--not exhaustive--list of gifts. How do they compare with those in 1 Corinthians 12? Why do you think this is so? What insights come to you from this comparison?

Now, compare the themes and flow of Romans 12 with those of 1 Corinthians 12 and 13.

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
Bible Study with Commentary, continued

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

[Dozeman, Thomas and Kendall McCabe Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary Year B After Pentecost, Vol 1; Abingdon Press, 1993]

Ephesians 4: 4-16

The “Epistle to the Ephesians” is a general letter to the congregations of a wide area—all Gentiles, and part of the second generation of the Church. It presupposes a level of organizational structure and definition of roles that does not appear in earlier writings of the New Testament. It apparently was written by a protégée of Paul. It follows the basic lines of reasoning of Romans, but transposes many illustrations into a more thoroughly Gentile idiom. Note the similarities and differences between this passage and those from Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling. 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. 7 But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." 9 (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) 11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Note that the gifts and the roles named in v. 11 are specific offices of ministry and leadership in the church. Other lists of gifts name gifted abilities of individuals. What implications do you see in this variance?
What is the end product of an apple tree? An apple?* It’s the most obvious and pleasant product, but it is not the end product. The end product of an apple tree is another apple tree. The apple, with its nutrients and succulence, is the vehicle for the seed, which is the essence of a new tree. The end product of a leader is another leader—thus “equipping the saints.” The comfort of the mentoring relationship, the stimulation, the excitement, the challenges, are the vehicles by which gifts of leadership are brought to fruition in other people.

**Question:** What are some things you can do personally, and three things your church can do—to equip people to do the ministry of the church. Now, which of those things will you do?

14 We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. 15 But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

Read the above passage with this question in mind: What is your summation of the importance and purpose of gifts in your church’s ministry? What do you plan to do about it?

[Achtemeier, Paul J Romans: International Bible Commentary Series; John Knox Press, Louisville; 1985]
Stage 5—When members of friends are ready to “go deeper” in their faith, they need help in knowing how to serve and where to serve. The church is to equip persons for service, for ministry. Discovering our spiritual gifts is part of equipping.

Stage 6—When a person has known about their own God-given gifts, they find more joy in serving! Equipped by God and the church, they are sent forth to serve. Life has fuller purpose when we serve.
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*Serving from the Heart: Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service*

[Carol Cartmill & Yvonne Gentile; Church of the Resurrection Resources; Abingdon Press, 2002]

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Introduction

You're about to embark on a journey. You may be wondering, "Why am I here? Where is this going to lead?" The fact that you've made it to this point is evidence that the Holy Spirit is already at work in your life. This workbook will serve as your guide as you seek to discover certain truths:

- You are uniquely created by God.
- God has given you significant gifts.
- God has a plan and purpose for your life.
- As a Christian, you have been called to serve.

To take it a step further, you will examine how this knowledge impacts the Church as a whole. God also has a specific design and purpose for the Church - the Body of Christ.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans . . . to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

Let's begin our trek . . .

The S.T.R.I.D.E. book you are holding in your hand emerged out of the collective experience of the Spiritual Gifts Discovery Team at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (COR) in Leawood, Kansas. The Spiritual Gifts Discovery Team is a group of men and women dedicated to helping others discover how God has designed them with the gifts that make it possible for them to be in service within the Body of Christ. As we have taught Spiritual Gifts Discovery over the years, we have heard many stories of how people in our church and others have struggled with the concept of serving God. We have heard persons say:

- I'm not qualified to serve God.
- I couldn't possibly have an impact.
- Serving God is a duty; it's not something that should be enjoyed. After all, didn't Christ say, "deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me"?
- There are so many people, I'm not going to be missed.
- That's the pastor's job!
- I've had a bad experience in the past, and I am not going to do that again!

We grieve when we hear statements like this, because we do not believe that this is the way God wants us to think or feel. God's plan for the church calls for each of us to serve in a way that allows us to be effective and to feel personally fulfilled. God purposely created each of us to be unique - with different gifts, talents, resources, styles, dreams and experiences - so that together, as the unified Body of Christ, we could accomplish God's work in this world. That may sound overwhelming to some of us. If you're feeling intimidated by that notion, imagine how the disciples must have felt when Jesus commanded them to "go . . . and make disciples of all nations."

The Great Commission

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth. God therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

The disciples were a rather rag-tag bunch of
fellows—mostly uneducated, and certainly not the most reliable or confident group. Just a few weeks earlier they had run for their lives when Jesus was arrested! They had to have been full of self-doubt and overwhelmed about what He was commanding them to do. They had forgotten that Jesus had promised to send them a counselor, comforter, teacher, and helper—The Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:4-5).

The Holy Spirit did arrive as promised (at Pentecost—see Acts 2:1-20). The Holy Spirit empowered and equipped the disciples to build the Christian church. This was by intentional design. It was God's plan for starting the early church. It is still God's plan for the way the church should function today. The Bible is our ultimate guidebook for helping us to discover God's will for our individual lives and as members of the Body of Christ.

At the Church of the Resurrection, we have developed a metaphor to help us understand the greatest adventure we will ever experience—the Christian life. Our metaphor is called Spiritual Summits, and it compares the Christian life to hiking in the mountains.

**Spiritual Summits**

_Spiritual Summits_ is a metaphor for our faith journey. Like mountain climbers, we all begin down in the valley (in the world). When we decide to hike a mountain, we choose from a variety of paths one best suited to our level of hiking experience. There is a path that suits every level of hiker. Beginning hikers travel best on gently sloped paved trails. Steep ascents challenge experienced climbers who want to rappel down cliffs. Likewise, when we walk with Christ, different paths and trails fit our level of spiritual experience.

At Church of the Resurrection, we have identified three levels to describe the different maturity levels of a faith journey: Seeker, Explorer, and Guide. Likewise, there are four major types of trails, each one with various levels of paths for us to take: Worship, Grow, Give and Serve.

At every level we WORSHIP God. As we seek to grow in our faith, we choose from different paths on the GROW trail to find one that is a good match for our maturity level. On the GIVE trail, for example, we may move from irregular small offerings, to a regular commitment to giving, to tithing in the Guide stage. In this book, we will look at the SERVE trail.

On the SERVE trail, many different paths are available. The answer to which one is right for you depends on your unique S.T.R.I.D.E. as you hike the _Spiritual Summits._

**S.T.R.I.D.E.**

No two persons are exactly alike. We have different abilities, dreams, and preferences, among other things. S.T.R.I.D.E. is an acronym we use to describe the way Christians are unique as we hike the _Spiritual Summits._ Just as we each choose different paths, we also have unique strides as we make our journey. One person walks slowly, the next walks quickly, and another skips all the way! As Christians, we are expected to use our spiritual gifts to serve others and to glorify God! God has created each of us with a specific purpose in mind, giving us varied Spiritual gifts, Talents, Resources, Individual styles, and Dreams, and incorporating our Experiences in ways that designed to help us extend the "great invitation" and fulfill the Great Commission. In this book, we will examine these six elements of our unique God-design, and seek to understand God's plan for the church as well as God's purpose for our lives.

Now that we've discussed the "what" and "why" of our journey, it's time to head down the trail. Our first, and foundational, step will be to explore the subject of spiritual gifts, the "S" of our S.T.R.I.D.E. And, speaking of foundations, the authoritative foundation for spiritual gifts is God's word—The Bible.
Spiritual Gifts Defined

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. - I Peter 4:10

Let's talk for a moment about the definition of spiritual gifts . . .

Spiritual gifts are special (divine) abilities given to every Christian, by the grace of God, through the Holy Spirit to be used to serve and strengthen one another, and to glorify God.

So, in a nutshell, spiritual gifts are:

- Divine abilities (not something you've learned)
- Given to every Christian (yes, even YOU)
- Given through the grace of God (not something you've earned)
- Given by the Holy Spirit (He chooses which gift(s) you receive)
- Used to serve and strengthen one another (to build each other up, not yourself)
- Used to glorify God (for God's purposes, to God's glory)

By now, you should have prayerfully considered the questions within the spiritual gifts discovery tool and possibly identified your top three spiritual gifts. Written assessments are meant to be helpful tools that assist you in narrowing down the possibilities and allowing you to focus on a few of the nineteen spiritual gifts we enumerate here. Confirmation that you have a certain spiritual gift may come in a variety of ways:

- You will be drawn to use your spiritual gift(s). (You are drawn to do what God has equipped you to do.)
- Others will recognize that gift in you. (Others are benefiting).
- You will be comfortable serving in your area of spiritual giftedness. (This doesn't mean you won't have butterflies!)
- You will be effective when you exercise that gift. (God gets the glory.)

Take a deep breath. It's time to continue our journey! We are really blazing trails now! Our path is leading us to a deeper understanding of each of the spiritual gifts. If you have time, look up the Bible reference noted with each spiritual gift. The Bible is rich with truth for us. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and our guide to understanding what God wants us to know.

In the section that follows, we've provided a list of nineteen spiritual gifts referred to in the Bible. A transliteration of the Greek word used in the New Testament for the spiritual gift is given, followed by a definition. Then we offer our best understanding of the spiritual gift. Bible references to each spiritual gift is given, followed by space for you to reflect on where and how you see each specific spiritual gift around you or within you today.
“Spiritual Gifts Defined”

“Spiritual gifts are (Divine) abilities given to every Christian, by God’s grace, activated by the Holy-Spirit, to be used to empower, strengthen and serve one another, and to bring God glory.”

Apostleship - A delegate, a special ambassador of the Gospel, officially a commissioner of Christ, a messenger, one who is sent.”

Discernment of Spirits - “The divine ability to recognize what is of God and what is not of God. To distinguish between good and evil, truth, and error, and pure & impure motives.”

Evangelism - “The divine ability to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ so that unknowing persons respond with faith and discipleship.”

Exhortation - “The God-given ability to encourage, help, intercede for, and be an advocate for others in a way that motivates others to grow in their faith and urges them to take action.”

Faith - “The Divine ability to recognize what God wants done and to act when others are in doubt.”

Generosity - “The God-given ability to give material wealth freely and joyfully, knowing that spiritual wealth will abound as God’s work is advanced.”

Healing - “The divine ability to bring wholeness-physical, emotional or spiritual to others.”

Interpretation of Tongues - “The divine ability to translate the message of someone speaking in tongues.” People with this gift enable the gift of tongues to build up the church, by interpreting God’s message for the people.”

Leadership/ Administration - “The spiritual gift of administration or leadership is the God-given ability to organize and manage information, people, events and resources to accomplish the objectives of a ministry.”

Mercy/Compassion - “The God-given ability to see and feel the suffering of others and to minister to them with love and understanding.”

Effecting of Miracles - “The Divine Ability to perform miracles that testify to the truth of the Gospel.”

Pastor/Teacher - “The Divine ability to guide, protects, and cares for other Christians as they experience spiritual growth.”

Prophecy - “The God-given ability to proclaim God’s truth in a way that makes it relevant to current situations and to envision how God would want things to change.”

Teaching - “The divine ability to understand and clearly explain God’s truths and to show how we can apply these in our lives.

Tongues - “The divine ability to speak a message from God to the people in a language one has not naturally learned. The gift of tongues is a sign to unbelievers showing the power and the glory of God.”

Utterance of Knowledge/Word of Knowledge - “The God-given ability to understand, organizes, and effectively uses information to advance God’s purposes. The information may come either from the Holy Spirit or from sources around us.”

Utterance of Wisdom/Word of Wisdom - “The God-given ability to understand and apply biblical and spiritual knowledge to complex, contradictory, or other difficult situations.”

Adapted from “Serving From the Heart”
Serving From The Heart - Curriculum Outline
Six 2-hour sessions

Session 1: Introduction and Chapter 1 (Spiritual Gifts: The Biblical Foundation)

Session 2: Take the Spiritual Gifts Discovery Tool and discuss

Session 3: Chapter 2 (Spiritual Gifts Defined)
This discussion will continue in Session 4

Session 4: Finish Chapter 2
Chapters 3 & 4 (Talents & Resources)

Session 5: Chapters 5 & 6 (Individuality and Dreams)

Session 6: Chapter 7 (Experiences) and Chapter 8 (Conclusion)
Including taking The Ministry Profile

Serving From The Heart
Schedule of Homework for Participants

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<tr>
<th>In preparation for Session 3:</th>
<th>During Session 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read Chapter 2. Read assigned Scriptures and answer questions.</td>
<td>Discuss Chapter 2 (Spiritual Gifts Defined). This discussion will continue during the next session.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In preparation for Session 4:</th>
<th>During Session 4:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read Chapters 3 and 4.</td>
<td>Finish discussing Chapter 2 (first hour). Discuss Chapters 3 and 4 (second hour).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In preparation for Session 5:</th>
<th>During Session 5:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read Chapters 5 and 6 and answer the questions in each chapter.</td>
<td>Discuss Chapters 5 and 6 and share answers to the questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In preparation for Session 6:</th>
<th>During Session 6:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read Chapter 7 and complete the Strengths Bombardment (pg 51). Read Chapter 8.</td>
<td>Discuss Chapters 7 and 8. Individuals complete a copy of the Ministry Profile to be collected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ministry Profile
Request Consultation

Name________________________________________________ Day Phone:_____________________
E-mail:____________________________________ Evening Phone:_____________________
INSTRUCTOR:________________________________ Class Ending Date: ____________________

SPIRITUAL GIFTS - My three highest scoring Spiritual Gifts (in order) are:

____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

TALENTS - _________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

RESOURCES - _________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

INDIVIDUALITY - I believe my style is:

____________________________________________________________________________________

DREAMS - I sense I have a Passion for: ________________________________________________

EXPERIENCES - ___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

THREE POSSIBLE AREAS OF MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

I AM ALREADY INVOLVED IN THE MINISTRY AREA OF -

_________________________________________________________________________________
How do we take this home with us?

How do we help the members and friends of our congregation discover and use their God-given spiritual gifts?

The path for your congregation might include-

1. **Gather more information**—what do we need to know in order to move forward?

2. **Share a vision** of what our church would be like if we are living in the fullness of God's gifts for us.

3. **Get organized** for the first spiritual gifts group.

4. **Recruit leaders and participants**, share vision of the group with them, emphasize a high commitment to the group.

5. **Pick a day and time and place** that works for the group.

6. **Buy the books**—participant’s books and leader kits.

7. **Start the group**—be prompt, be positive, be a great listener, end on time.

8. **Keep the minister and other church leaders informed**. Ask for prayer support.

9. **Create a full list of all jobs/tasks** in the congregation's life. What spiritual gifts would help someone enjoy each work of ministry?

10. At the group's final session - talk about tasks, collect Ministry Profile Sheets.

11. **Build an information file** - names, spiritual gifts, styles, ministry tasks

12. **Help people connect their gifts with ministry**—be/recruit a spiritual gifts counselor.

13. **Make a plan for a sustained ministry** in spiritual gifts + small groups. Keep multiplying the groups.
As a group, address the following questions together. Write your answers here.

1. What do we need to know in order to move forward?

2. Who needs to hear about this opportunity for ministry and how it can help our people? How do we plan to share this information and our enthusiasm?

What we need to know in order to move forward—

List of who needs to hear this—

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

How can our church use spiritual gifts to be more faithful? What would we look life if we were fully living in God’s gifts for us?

What is a good way of sharing this information with others?
3. Is there a committee or ministry team in the church that needs to know about this and can help make this happen?

Should we form a new group/team to lead this?

Who will lead the first group, a pilot group? Co-leaders or leader plus assistant leader? What will they need in order to serve effectively?

**Who will be invited** (personal invitation) to the first group, second group?

List of who will be invited to the first group— List of who will be invited to the second group—

_________________________________  __________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________
_________________________________

Circle the ones who may be the leaders of future groups.

4. Who will recruit these participants and leaders, sharing with them our vision for the group?
For each group to decide—items 5-8—

5. **Pick a day and time and place** that works for the group.

6. **Buy the books**—participant’s books and leader kits.

7. **Start the group**—be prompt, be positive, be a great listener, end on time.

8. **Keep the minister and other church leaders informed.** Ask for prayer support.

9. **Create a full list of all jobs/tasks** in the congregation's life. What spiritual gifts would help someone enjoy each work of ministry? Who will create this list of ministry tasks?

10. At the group's final session - **talk about tasks, collect Ministry Profile Sheets.**

11. After the group’s final session, **build an information file** - names, spiritual gifts, styles, ministry tasks

12. **Help people connect their gifts with ministry**—be/recruit a spiritual gifts counselor. Who would be a good person for this? What spiritual gifts should they have in order to be joyful and effective in this ministry of helping others connect with their gifts?

13. **Make a plan for a sustained ministry** in spiritual gifts + small groups. Keep multiplying the groups. What plan do we need to put in place so that these groups multiply? Leaders and participants in the early groups/classes can be the leaders of future groups.

Need help? Call your Area’s Associate Regional Minister....see page 37.
HOW WE ARE USING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Becky Ingram, pastor at Coldbrook Christian Church in Cameron, offers this witness for the study of spiritual gifts.

1. What materials did you use when talking about/studying spiritual gifts with your congregation?

2. What is a key learning?
   A key learning in unveiling spiritual gifts is that each and every person has at least one; some people do not think they have any, when in fact, most have several gifts.

3. How has this study impacted your church?
   Members who have participated now understand where to focus their service to be the happiest in their work. Additionally, we have a “Connection Central” in the development stages which will help people match their areas of giftedness to needs in the congregation and community.

4. What worked and how did you implement this?
   Initially, I led the members of our eldership through the material, then they each chose a lesson to teach/co-teach. We have presented the class twice: once in an all-day seminar and the other in three evening sessions. We plan to offer it a third time this summer as an adult Sunday School class elective.

5. What would you do differently and what would you recommend to other churches?
   The key to the study is to have one-on-one sessions with participants to help them determine if their areas of giftedness match their areas of service. In the upcoming session, we are going to connect areas of service to each particular spiritual gift to empower people to serve in their areas of passion.

Dr. Edward Morris, senior pastor, Parkway Garden Christian Church, Chicago, shares these results:

We began the Spiritual Gifts inventory and gifts based ministry during the time of my preparation for my Doctoral work. The Elders who were involved were so moved by it they felt it would be useful with the congregation.

Prior to doing the spiritual gifts inventory piece, I preached from and did a Bible Study around Rick Warren's "Purpose Driven Life." This helped to prepare the congregation for the next stage of discovery. In the next phase we did a study called "Serving From the Heart" by Carol Cartmill and Yvonne Sentile (Abingdon Press) which includes a Bible-based spiritual gifts inventory. Those who wanted to go deeper participated in a Myers-Briggs style personality survey from the Book, "Please Understand Me" (Kirsey & Bates).

From this we prepared a file of profiles of the membership and utilize it to help them find their place in the ministry of our church. It made way for an easier fit. Many were surprised to find themselves very satisfied doing things they did not know they had an unacknowledged passion for. We have recently made the spiritual gifts inventory a part of our eight week New Member's class.
First Christian Church in Janesville, Wisconsin embarked upon the path of Spiritual gifts nearly seven years ago. This was an idea that did not come from the Pastor. It came from the heart of a member, whose experience was peaked in another congregation. After much discussion, the proposal was sold to the Elders as a useful tool and guide to help members find their gifts and places in ministry!

The initial focus on the gifts was for a year, and over 50% of the congregation took the inventory and were excited! Finally, seeing the movement and work of the Holy Spirit in action prompted folks to revisit how decisions were made, and who actually made them. First Christian Church was eager about having members feel empowered without the pressures structures can sometimes add. At the end of the process, members of the congregation had a true sense and feeling that they had many gifts to offer.

What Works
■ Having a name to what was being done already!
■ People actually viewing what they do as ministry.
■ People seeing that they really do have gifts.

What Did We Do Right?
We provided multiple streams of opportunities to take the class on Spiritual gifts. We offered two 4-hour classes, and once a week for eight weeks.

What Would We Do Differently?
We would continue with on-going discussion about the process. We would also have had a nine-month follow-up to keep the commonality and excitement fused!

Comments from Members

"It was a worthwhile investment!"

"Recognition of the Spiritual gifts leads to acknowledgement and strong affirmation of the Holy Spirit at work! Not only in the lives of individuals, but the entire Body of Christ."
How We Used Spiritual Gifts in Our Church
Natural Church Development Experience
Shared by Kathy Frus, Interim Minister at Sunnyland Christian Church, Washington, IL

Early in May 2002, board members of the Sunnyland Christian Church attended a Cluster workshop at the Glen Oak Christian Church to explore the possibility of using NCD as a tool for renewal and revitalization. Later in the spring the General Board did vote to implement NCD, and formed a Task Force of six persons including the minister. The summer was spent introducing NCD to the church through the different groups, committees, and Sunday School classes. By the fall, members had taken the NCD survey to determine their minimum characteristic out of the eight quality characteristics for a healthy church. On October 23, 2002, Scott Woolridge met with the church to report the result of the NCD survey and to guide the church in the process of responding to their minimum characteristic, which was “Quality Characteristic #1: Empowering Leadership.”

In order to empower their leadership, the Task Force determined the church needed a gift-oriented ministry. Members and friends of the church filled out a questionnaire from Team Ministry, A Guide to Spiritual Gifts and Lay Involvement by Larry Gilbert during Saturday morning classes on spiritual gifts. By the fall of 2003 two members of the Task Force became “gift counselors” who reviewed each person’s questionnaire with them.

The Task Force interestingly discovered that, for the most part, persons’ areas of work and leadership in the church matched with what their gifts turned out to be. More importantly, the spiritual gifts questionnaire validated what members and friends thought about their gifts but couldn’t articulate. It brought forward the idea that “I really am gifted in this way,” taking the wondering over their gifts away and giving people permission to use their gifts.

When the members and friends started talking about their gifts, the Task Force noticed a higher level of participation in all areas of the church. For example, more people attended worship; more women helped in CWF work days; and more children attended the after-school program as well as more adult volunteering to help with the program.

Currently, the Elders are continuing to develop leadership strength as they learn new tools with which to empower themselves and then empower the congregation.
Discovering our Spiritual Gifts at
Eureka Christian Church

How do you know what you are “called” to do in the church? What excites you and fulfills you? What are your gifts and strengths for ministry? These are some of the questions asked by the elders of Eureka Christian Church in an attempt to move from filling positions and jobs in the church with workers, to helping people match their God-given gifts with the ministries of the church.

These conversations led to the elders dividing into several smaller groups to do a study of the book Serving From the Heart: Finding Your Gifts and Talents in Service, published by Abingdon Press. The study, as well as the small group experience, was seen as a very positive experience. It encouraged insights for individuals about their own gifts and style, and allowed participants to get know one another on a more intimate level than they had before.

After the elders completed their study, several people volunteered to lead members and friends of the congregation in similar small groups based on Serving From the Heart. Several formats were created, meeting at various times for different lengths of time. Currently, there are approximately 60 people who have taken the class. We hope to find leaders and dates and times on an on-going basis to accommodate others who would like to participate in the class.

We are looking ahead at how to further implement the benefits from these small group experiences. We are creating a database with information from individuals, including their spiritual gifts, resources, talents, etc. We have developed a list of ministries in the church in order to cross-reference spiritual gifts needed and those with matching gifts.

In order to fully implement this “spiritual match-making” a coordinator is needed to talk with persons and help them make decisions about the ministries they are “called” and equipped to do. In this light, the elders will be previewing the companion book to Serving From the Heart called Leadership From the Heart: Learning to Lead with Love and Skill.

There is a deeper understanding of the abundant spiritual gifts that bless our congregation as a result of so many people experiencing these small groups based on discovering one’s giftedness. We look forward to “going deeper” and sharing this experience with others, as we journey together as individual followers of Christ and as a faithful congregation.
"Well over 60% of our members have completed the courses and know their spiritual gifts . . ."

Interview with Rev. Roger Jenks, Pastor
Grace Community Christian Church, 2770 Montgomery Road, Aurora, IL 60504-4001
Contacts: Church Phone: 630-898-7990; Roger's e-mail: <fvdisciple@aol.com>

How would you describe the "character" or "culture" of Grace CCC?

From the very beginning, we have sought to establish an expectation for members that they will grow and serve. Therefore, all of our programming - and this in particular - has a goal of helping to equip people in being a follower of Jesus Christ.

Please describe your program on spiritual gifts and leader development:

We have designed and provide three basic courses to help equip our members for membership and ministry. We offer them as single courses on Sunday mornings and during the week as well as an occasional workshop retreat. Originally, my wife and I taught them. Now others are also teaching the classes. The courses are:

1. Discipleship 101: What God Sees in You that You Don't
2. Discipleship 102: People Using Gifts to Help Other People
3. Discipleship 103: An Ephesians 4:1 Christian lifestyle

We use these insights now as primary criteria for our various ministries, especially leadership - asking does a member have a perceived spiritual gift for this ministry, a temperament for it, and the experience or trainability for it. Now we approach people saying "This is what we see in you and why are asking you for this task." No longer do we have the desperation attitude of "Nobody else will do this job, will you?" Our invitations to service have a much higher value and positive response - people are getting "plugged into the right holes." Our church life feels much more spiritual, energetic, and healthy.

What materials are you using for helping discern spiritual gifts?

We've been doing for about five years now. Basically, I have adapted the Network materials from Willow Creek Community Church ["It's concepts are right, but the 'insider language' needed lots of interpretation, so I re-wrote most of it."] and have coupled it with the Keirsey-Bates Temperament Sorter (MBTI) and the BFS Work Style Questionnaire. We comparatively put all these alongside one another and people then begin to see God has not designed us arbitrarily, but intentionally, synergistically, and abundantly. We're seeing when we do things together and with our gifts, we accomplish much more and are not exhausted. I remember on one retreat we put a big boat with oars on the wall. Each oar was a spiritual gift. After completing the gift assessments, we asked people to take a sticker, put their name on it, and then place it on an oar. We soon discovered God had put every needed gift among us and they were also fairly well-balanced. Everyone visually saw the abundance of God's blessings.

What are your "growing edges" or what would you do differently?

I would have built in a mentoring or coaching program into the process much earlier. This stuff does need follow-up. We also need to develop a Teacher's Manual, instead of it being so dependent on me.

Can people contact you with questions?

Sure! I'm happy to share whatever I have, like the profile test we use. Just know I don't have a Manual!
"...since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church"
-I Corinthians 14:12b

"...because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction . . . therefore, encourage one another and build up each other. . ."
-I Thessalonians 1:5, 5:11

Helpful Resources
For Understanding Spiritual Gifts

**Featured Resource in CCIW Leader Equipping Workshop -**


~The resources has a Leader's Guide and a Participant Workshop~


~Also has three separate NCD Implementation Guides to accompany book.~

For Discovering One's Own Uniqueness and Personal Giftedness


**In Community and Small Groups, Helping Others Confirm Their Giftedness**

**Spiritual Discernment**


**Holistic, Small Groups**


**Willow Creek Community Church's NETWORK Program**


**Implementing a Gifts-Mobilization Program and Process**

**In Your Congregation**


McIntosh, Gary L. *One Size Doesn't Fit All: Bringing Out the Best in Any Size Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming Revell, 1999.


Empowering Leadership - Effective leadership begins with an intimate relationship with God, resulting in Christ-like character and a clear sense of God's calling for leaders' lives. As this base of spiritual maturity increases, effective pastors and leaders multiply, guide, and equip disciples to realize their full potential in Christ and work together to accomplish God's vision.

Leaders consider it as one of their most important tasks to help Christians develop greater degrees of empowerment. They equip, support, motivate, and mentor individuals to become all that God wants them to be.

Gift-Oriented Ministry - The Holy Spirit sovereignly gives to every Christian spiritual gift(s) for the building of God's kingdom. Church leaders have the responsibility to help believers discover, develop and exercise their gifts in appropriate ministries so that the Body of Christ "grows and builds itself up in love."

The role of church leadership is to help its members identify their gifts and integrate them into ministries that match their gifts. When a person lives according to their spiritual giftedness, they are no longer working in their own strength, but the Holy Spirit works in them. Studies show that most Christians are either not involved in ministry or they function in a ministry that does not match their gifts.

Passionate Spirituality - Effective ministry flows out of a passionate spirituality. Spiritual intimacy leads to a strong conviction that God will act in powerful ways. A godly vision can only be accomplished through an optimistic faith that views obstacles as opportunities and turns defeats into victories.

The important issue here is not the way spirituality is expressed, but the fact that faith is actually lived out with commitment, fire and enthusiasm. The methods a church used are really a secondary concern. A church that lives its faith with passionate fervor will experience success with many a method.

Functional Structures - The Church is the living Body of Christ. Like all healthy organisms, it requires numerous systems that work together to fulfill its intended purpose. Each must be evaluated regularly to determine if it is still the best way to accomplish the intended purpose.
**Inspiring Worship** - Inspiring Worship is a personal and corporate encounter with the living God. Both personal and corporate worship must be infused with the presence of God resulting in times of joyous exultation and times of quiet reverence. Inspiring worship is not driven by a particular style or ministry focus group - but rather the shared experience of God's awesome presence.

Is the worship service an inspiring experience for those who attend? It is not whether our services target Christians or non-Christians, whether they celebrate "in the language of Canaan" or in a more secular language, or whether we worship using a liturgical or a more free-flowing approach. Inspiring worship services are often described as "fun."

**Holistic Small Groups** - Holistic small groups are disciple-making communities which endeavor to reach the unchurched, meet individual needs, develop each person according to their God-given gifts and raise leaders to sustain the growth of the church. Like healthy body cells, holistic small groups are designed to grow and multiply.

Growing churches have developed a system of small groups where individual Christians can find intimate community, practical help and intensive spiritual interaction. In the groups, not only is the biblical text discussed, but they apply biblical insights to everyday issues.

**Needs-Oriented Evangelism** - Need-oriented evangelism intentionally cultivates relationships with pre-Christian people so they can become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who are actively participating within the life of the church and community. Using appropriate ministries and authentic relationships, believers can guide others into the family of God.

Growing churches are not "pushy" or "manipulative" in the way they share the gospel. Rather, their secret is to share the gospel in a way that meets the questions and needs of pre-Christians.

**Loving Relationships** - Loving relationships are the heart of a healthy, growing church. Jesus said people will know we are his disciples by our love. Practical demonstration of love builds authentic Christian community and brings others into God's kingdom.

Unfeigned, practical love endows a church with a much greater magnetic power than all the marketing efforts of this world. Growing churches manifest a measurably higher "love quotient" than stagnant or declining ones.

**NO QUALITY CHARACTERISTIC CAN BE MISSING!**

*The shortest stave determines the amount of water the barrel can hold.*

REFERENCE:  *Natural Church Development* by Christian A. Schwarz; Carol Stream, IL: Church Smart Resources, 1996.
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin

Purpose Statement
Answers the Question: Why do we exist?

In *The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*, the purpose of Regions is twofold - (1) to extend the ministry of Christ in mission, witness and service among the people and social structures of the Region; and (2) to establish, receive and nurture congregations in the Region, providing help, counsel and pastoral care to members, ministers and congregations in their mutual relationships, and relating them to the worldwide mission and witness of the whole church.

Vision Statement
Answers the Question: What do we believe God is calling us to be? It is our greatest aspiration and deepest longing.

The Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin is composed of healthy Disciples congregations filled with fully devoted followers of Christ, engaged in vital ministries and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

Mission Statement
Answers the Questions: How and What are we doing to achieve our Vision?

CCIW's mission is growing Disciples congregations for healthy, vital ministry.

In this calling to be disciples of Christ, our intentional growth activities will include:

♦ Seeking always to do God's will by focusing our ministries, discernment, and decision making through a vigorous use of prayer, scripture study, and the spiritual disciplines.
♦ Calling congregations to a life beyond themselves by resourcing and enlarging the congregations visions of mission and ministry.

CCIW LRPV Statement - Adopted Feb 2001
Aggressive leadership training at all generational levels of the church and focused around issues of congregational health and vitality.

Planning and organizing awesome, inspirational events whenever we gather together.

Being inclusive, tolerant, and diverse in all we do; and specifically, focusing on issues and attitudes about racism.

Recruiting and nurturing our most gifted people into a full-time vocation of ordained ministry.

Calling special attention to the needs of children and youth.

Strategically planting exciting new congregations.

Continually evaluating our ministries and asking ourselves how we might better extend the life and vitality of Christ's Church.

And, as our priority legacy, cherishing Christ's Church for our children and our children's children.

---

**Core Values**

Answers the Defining Questions of "Who uniquely are We?" and "What do we Value?"

1. **OBEDIENCE TO GOD**: seeking always to do God's will in the challenges and opportunities we have in mission and ministry.

   Matthew 6:33 - "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
   
   Proverbs 29:18 - "Blessed are those who keep God's law."
   
   Acts 2:1-21 (Joel 2:28-32) - "God declares . . . 'I will pour out my spirit on all . . . your old shall dream dreams and your young shall see visions . . . and it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"
   
   Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect."

2. **SHARING CHRIST**: being the Good News of Jesus Christ and witnessing to the Gospel in positive, loving ways with our neighbor and world.

   Becoming a "go and tell" people in our congregations as we intentionally seek to invite the unchurched into a life-empowering relationship with God through Christ.

   Planting new congregations in growing areas of our geography to reach new persons for Christ.

   Psalm 79:4 - "We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done."
   
   Matthew 28:18-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples . . . teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."
   
   Luke 4:18 - "The Spirit of the Lord . . . has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free."
   
   John 21:17 - "Do you love me? . . . Feed my sheep."
   
   Acts 1:8 - Jesus to His disciples: " . . . you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem . . . and to the ends of the earth."
   
   II Timothy 2:2 - "What you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well."
   
   Hebrews 12:1-2a - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run the perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfector of our faith."
3. **UNITY IN CHRIST:** celebrating diversity and teaching oneness in Christ.

   John 15:1-17 - "I am the vine, you are the branches . . . abide in me . . . love one another as I have loved you."
   Romans 8:5b - " . . . those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit."
   Galatians 5:22 - fruits of the Spirit
   1 Corinthians 12:12-26 - "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body . . . and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many."
   Ephesians 4:1-6 - " . . . be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all . . . ."
   1 Peter 2:4-5 - "Come to him, to that living stone . . . and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood . . . ."
   1 John 3:18 - " . . . let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth."

4. **SPIRITUAL DEPTH:** building an ever-deepening relationship with God by actively spending disciplined spiritual time with God that we might be open and obedient to God's leading.

   ♦ Maintaining an active prayer life.
   ♦ Disciplined devotional life and scripture reading.
   ♦ Regular practice of the inner, outer, and corporate spiritual disciplines.

   Micah 6:8b - "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God."
   Matthew 5:48-6:34 - "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
   Philippians 4:4-6 - "Rejoice in the Lord always . . . in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving . . . And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
   1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 - "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances . . . do not quench the Spirit."

5. **HEALTH AND VITALITY:** striving for wholeness and health

   ♦ Recognizing the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional systems in our life together are inter-related and dependent upon one another for our well-being.
   ♦ Working for justice, fairness, equality, and peace among God's people.

   Deuteronomy 30 - "I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore, choose life, that you and your descendants might live."
   Matthew 22:37 - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."
   Ephesians 4:11-14a - " . . . come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."
   Colossians 3:1-17 (1 Corinthians 12:4-14; Romans 12:1-8) - "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."
   2 Peter 1:3 - "Christ's divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness."

6. **DISCIPLES LEGACY:** participating in the living legacy of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denominational history and tradition, and as such we cherish:

   ♦ Our unity in the essentials of faith, our liberty in the non-essentials, and a spirit of love for one another in all things.
   ♦ Having no creeds by Christ.
   ♦ Biblical literacy and the importance of Scripture.
The centrality of the Lord's Supper in our worship and the openness of the Lord's Table to all.

The reasonableness of faith, yet maintaining an openness to a leading of the Spirit.

Loving respect and a peaceful, just regard for all of God's children and creatures.

All persons knowing and using their spiritual gifts for ministry.

The importance of the ministry of the laity.

The equality of men and women, valuing the gifts of each for ministry.

A well-educated and trained church leadership.

The autonomy of each congregation, yet also being connected in covenant with others for support, witness, accountability, and service.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 - "And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart, and you shall teach them diligently to your children . . ."

Psalm 133:1 - "Behold, how very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity."

Jeremiah 31:33 - "I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Matthew 16:18 - Christ saying, "... and on this rock (Peter) I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

7. CONGREGATIONALLY FOCUSED: nourishing shared relationships with others through the Regional Church and the ministries it offers to congregations:

- Leadership development toward enhancing congregational health and vitality in service of Christ.
- Being pastorally available in times of congregational crisis and transitions.
- Assistance during the search for and calling of new pastoral leadership.
- Quality camps, conferences, and significant events for children, youth, and adults.
- Promoting the unity of Christ's Church across congregational, regional, general and ecumenical manifestations.

Exodus 18:19-23 - "... it will be easier for you, they will bear the burden with you. If you do this, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace."

Nehemiah - the story of shared work in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

Matthew 20:25-28 - "whoever would be great among you must be your servant."

Acts 6:1-6 - as the church began to grow, the labors were divided.

Ephesians 4:11-17 - "And his gifts were that some should be . . . for the work of ministry, for the building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

I Peter 5:1-11 - "So, I exhort the elders among you . . . tend the flock of God that is your charge . . . willingly . . . eagerly . . . being examples to the flock . . . "
**Regional Staff E-Mail Addresses**

**Regional Office, Bloomington**
Herb Knudsen, Regional Minister & President  
cciwrmp@aol.com  
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**Regional Administrator, Bloomington**
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**Urban Metro Area Office**
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**Regional Clergy, South Office**
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Beth Zumwalt (Communications & CWF)  
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Marilee Beach, Clerk

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Becky Lewis, Camp Manager  
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**Regional Moderator**
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rbculvr2@OTBnet.com

**Christian Church Foundation Representative**
Deborah Wray – Phone: 800-668-8016  
dwray@ccf.disciples.org

**Global Mission Partners**
Bruce and Linda Hanson, Honduras  
Hondurashansons@mac.com

**General Ministry Partners** - Division of Higher Education
CCIW Staff
Area Liaison Assignments
as of March 1, 2006

A-Blackhawk
B-CDU North
C-CDU South
D-Decatur Area
E-East Prairie
F-Illinois Valley

Cluster Codes (1972-2002)

(W) Western Area

Staff—Beth Dobyns
Abingdon, CC (AA)
Barry, First CC (PA)
Bryant, CC (JA)
Cameron, CC (AB)
Cameron, Coldbrook (AC)
Canton, First CC (JB)
Carthage, First CC (PK)
Chandlerville, CC (JC)
Chapin, CC (HB)
Clayton, CC (PB)
Cuba, CC (JD)
Dixon, First CC (MA)
East Moline, First CC (AD)
Frederick, CC (PC)
Galesburg, First CC (AE)
Gerlaw, CC (AF)
Hamilton, First CC (PM)
Havana, Central CC (JE)
Ipava, CC (JF)
Jacksonville, Central (HE)
Jacksonville, Lynnville CC (HF)
Keithsburg, First CC (AG)
Knoxville, First CC (AH)
Lewistown, Illinois St CC (JG)
Lomax, CC (PN)
Macomb, First CC (PO)
Moline, First CC (AI)
Mt. Sterling, First CC (PE)
New Bedford, CC (MC)
Petersburg, First CC (HG)
Pittsfield, First CC (PF)
Polo, Pine Creek CC (MD)
Princeton, First CC (ME)
Quincy, First CC (PG)
Rock Falls, First CC (MF)
Rock Island, 15th Ave (AJ)
Rock Island, Memorial CC (AK)
Rushville, First CC (PH)
Sterling, First CC (MI)
Tallula, CC (HK)
Timewell, CC (PI)
Ursa, CC (PJ)
Walnut, First CC (MJ)
White Hall, First CC (HM)
Winchester, First CC (HN)

(U) Urban/Metro Area

Staff—Christal Williams
Arlington Heights, CC (BA)
Arlington Heights, Chicago CC (BP)
Arlington Heights, Evergreen CC (BR)
Aurora, Grace Community CC (CN)
Blue Island, Family of Hope (CO)
Chicago, Hometown CC (CB)
Chicago, Jackson Blvd. CC (BD)
Chicago, Catching Life CC (BF)
Chicago, Park Manor CC (CD)
Chicago, Parkway Garden CC (CE)

(E) Eastern Area

Staff—Herb Knudsen
(E) Lincoln/Douglas
Arrowsmith, CC (IA)
Bellflower, CC (IB)
Bloomington, Centennial CC (IC)
Bloomington, First CC (ID)
Carlock, CC (IG)
Colfax, CC (IH)
Cooksville, Union Church (II)
Flanagan, First CC (IK)
Lexington, C of Christ Uniting (IM)
Long Point, CC (IN)
Normal, New Covenant Com. (IL)
Normal, University CC (IO)
Pontiac, First CC (IP)
Stanford, First CC (IR)

(S) Southern Area

(E) East Prairie

Staff—Burley Herrin
Albion, First CC (OA)
Arcola, First CC (GB)
Arthur, Vine St CC (GC)
Atwater, CC (LA)
Bement, First CC (DN)
Benton, First CC (NA)
Benton, Native Am. CC (NE)
Bethany, First CC (GE)
Blue Mound, First CC (DB)
Bourbonnais, Central CC (EI)
Cairo, First CC (NB)
Carbondale, First CC (NC)
Casey, First CC (GO)
Centralia, First CC (NH)
Champaign, Univ. Place CC (EA)
Charleston, Old State Rd CC(GF)
Cissna Park, Union Church (EC)
Danville, Central CC (ED)
Decatur, Central CC (DC)
Decatur, Crestview CC (DD)
Decatur, Prairie Ave CC (DF)
DuQuoin, First CC (ND)
Gibson City, First CC (EG)
Girard, First CC (LD)
Grant Park, Sherburne CC(CJ)
Harristown, CC (DG)
Hillsboro, First CC (LF)
Hoopeston, First CC (EH)
Illiniopolis, CC (DH)

(L) Lincoln/Douglas

Lawrenceville, First CC (OD)
Litchfield, Barnett CC (LB)
Litchfield, Union Ave CC (LH)
Maroa, CC (DI)
Marion, First CC (NF)
Mattoon, Marshall Ave CC (GJ)
Mechanicsburg, CC (DJ)
Metropolis, First CC (NG)
Mt. Carmel, Barney Prairie (OE)
Mt. Carmel, First CC (OF)
Newman, First CC (OK)
Niantic, CC (DK)
Olney, First CC (OG)
Oreana, CC (DL)
Palestine, First CC (OH)
Paris, First CC (GL)
Rantoul, Bethany Park CC(EL)
Robinson, First CC (OI)
Sandoval, First CC (NJ)
Shelbyville, First CC (GM)
Springfield, First CC (HI)
Springfield, Korean CC (HC)
Springfield, Parkway CC (HJ)

(4) 4th Illinois Valley

Chicago, Spanish CC (BG)
Chicago, University Church (CF)
Chicago Heights, First CC (CG)
Country Club Hills, United CC (CH)
Downers Grove, First CC (CI)
Evanston, New Hope CC (BQ)
Gurnee, First CC (BO)
Janesville, WI, First CC (MB)
Lincolnshire, Community CC (BH)
Maywood, First CC (BK)
Milwaukee, WI, United Church (BL)
Milwaukee, WI, Iglesia Cristiana (BE)
Oak Park, Austin Blvd CC (BM)
Rockford, First CC (MK)
Rockford, Washington Pk . CC(MH)
Rockford, Second CC (MG)
University Park, Pilgrimage Protestant Congregation (CM)
Villa Park, CC (BN)
Waukesha, WI, Pilgrim CC (BB)

Staff—Scott Woolridge
(E) Illinois Valley
Creve Coeur, First CC (FA)
Eureka, CC (FB)
Henry, First CC (FC)
Mackinaw, CC (FD)
Pekin, First CC (FE)
Peoria, Faith Alive (F-)
Peoria, First CC (FF)
Peoria, Glen Oak CC (FG)
Peoria, Memorial CC (FI)
Washington, Sunnyland CC (FL)
West Peoria, United Disciples CC(FM)

Sullivan, First CC (GN)
Taylorville, Davis Memorial CC(DM)
Urbana, DOC Community (EB)
Vandalia, First CC (NK)
Virden, First CC (LJ)
Watska, First CC (EM)
IMPORTANT DATES OF ALL THE CCIW REGIONAL ACTIVITIES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2006

CLERGY ETHICS SEMINARS "Legal Issues Clergy Face";
Facilitator will be Ms. Carla Fletcher, an attorney in the St. Louis area as well as an M. Div. graduate student at Eden Theological Seminary. She has led a very popular workshop on legal issues congregations face at many General Assemblies. Registration will begin at 9:00, workshop 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM; lunch provided

August 23 - First Christian Church, Macomb
August 22 - First Christian Church, Vandalia

September 14 - First Christian Church, Maywood
September 15 - First Christian Church, Gibson City

YOUTH MINISTERS AND LEADERS GATHERING - May 17, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Bloomington

LICENSED MINISTERS & MENTORS WORKSHOP - May 20, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Centennial Christian Church, 1219 E Grove St., Bloomington
Dennis Landon, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, will be guest speaker.

INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY
St Louis, MO

"Worship in Times of Transition" Fall Conference October 4-5, Starved Rock, Utica.
Facilitator will be Marin Tiribassi. All Clergy are welcome to attend.

CCIW CAMPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp</th>
<th>Start-End</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genesis</td>
<td>June 5-7</td>
<td>Grandparents N Me July 6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exodus II</td>
<td>June 11-17</td>
<td>Disciples July 9-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shalom</td>
<td>June 12-17</td>
<td>Leadership July 9-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charisma</td>
<td>July 10-15</td>
<td>Logos July 17-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha Omega</td>
<td>June 19-24</td>
<td>ADDaM July 23-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exodus I</td>
<td>June 25-July 1</td>
<td>Bridge Builders August 9-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Koinonia</td>
<td>June 26-July 1</td>
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</tbody>
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"Mix in '06" DISCIPLES / UCC WOMEN'S QUADRENNIAL Indianapolis, Indiana, June 21-24
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) HISTORY AND POLITY CLASS - July 24-28 on the campus of Eureka College. Course instructor will be Amy Artman

WOMEN'S WRITING RETREAT - July 25-27, Eureka College

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS WOMEN'S RETREAT - September 23-24, Camp Walter Scott

CLERGY WOMEN'S RETREAT - October 9-11, Bloomington

CCIW REGIONAL ASSEMBLY Join a Healing Journey, Becoming God's People, November 10-12 at the Wyndham Lisle Hotel, Lisle.

2007 - LICENSED MINISTERS EVENT - "The Practice of Ministry" September 15, Crestview Christian Church, Decatur. Registration fee $30 by August 1. Guest speakers are Ellen Rechenbach, CCIW Moderator-Elect and Scott Woolridge, CCIW Staff person for New Church Establishment, Missions and Redevelopment.

Watch the Mission Opportunities Packet, The Christian, the CCIW Website as well as the CCIW Web-Watchers e-mails for more information and registration forms.
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois & Wisconsin provides several opportunities for you to receive news of the CCIW Region.

This quarterly newsletter contains news about all the CCIW events and activities in a booklet format. There is no fee for a subscription to this journal; however, donations are accepted. To begin a subscription, contact Beth Zumwalt by calling 309-828-6293 or e-mailing her at bethz@cciwdisciples.org.

### Mission Opportunities Packet

The "MOPS" is a quarterly packet of information that is sent to all clergy, board chairs, CWF representatives, youth leaders and persons who purchase a subscription. Yearly fee is $15. The packet contains flyers, brochures, registration forms, workshop / seminar / continuing education opportunities as well as camp information, Women's News, Assembly News, the Regional Calendar and Regional Directory. To purchase a subscription, contact Dana Jumper by calling 309-828-6293 or e-mailing her at dana@cciwdisciples.org.

### CCIW Web Site:

www.cciwdisciples.org

The CCIW Web Site contains all the information you might need about any of the events and activities going on around the Region. Many of the pages are in pdf form for easy printing. Categories you will find include: Regional Calendar and Directory, Ministry Committee Required Documents, Congregational Resources, Educational Resources (equipping workshop materials), Women's Ministries, Youth and Camps, Continuing Education, Demographics, Capital Campaign, News Between the Issues and Special Events. Check us out. The web site is updated every two weeks. To become a "CCIW Web Watcher", e-mail Dana Jumper at Dana@cciwdisciples.org and ask her to be put on the list.
Notes
Closing Worship

**Hymn**  
“Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary  
Pure and holy, tried and true,  
And with thanksgiving, I’ll be a living  
Sanctuary for you.

**Scripture Gift** Romans 12:9-18

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (NRSV)

**Writing Thank You Notes**

Women: We’ve opened the presents  
Men: We are so pleased with the gifts!  
Women: These gifts are just what we wanted.  
Men: Now we just have to figure out how to use them well.  
All: Thank you, God, for the presents!  
Encourage us, teach us, lead us, so that we can be faithful receivers.

**Benediction**

Send us forth into the world, God of all creation, Giver of all gifts.  
Send us forth in delight, in love, and in thanksgiving.  
Send us out into the world so that we might use the wonderful gifts we have received.  
Thank you, thank you, thank you, loving and gracious God! Amen!
...and God Adds the Growth
Acts 2:1-2, 47b

2006 Pentecost Special Offering
Supporting the Disciples New Church Movement

This special offering, part of Disciples Mission Fund, is received and distributed for Disciples through Church Finance Council.