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Our CCIW mission is - Growing Disciples congregations for healthy, vital ministry.

New Administrative Staff at CCIW Bloomington Office

Lisa Baker joined the CCIW Ministry Team on Dec. 15, 2011 to fill the position being vacated as Beth Zumwalt retired Dec. 31, 2011. Lisa will be staff support



Lisa Baker

for Communications, the Ministry Committee, Search & Call, and Regional Calendar.

Please send news items to her at: lisa@cciwdisciples.org or mail them to the Regional Office, 1011 N Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701.

Connie Henderson began a part-time support position on the CCIW Ministry Team on Dec. 26, 2011. She will be staff support for the Out Door



Connie Henderson

Ministries program, Youth, Summit, and general office work.

We welcome Lisa & Connie to our Ministry Staff and to the CCIW Region. When you come to the Bloomington office, greet them and introduce yourself!



2012 Easter Special Offering

The Easter Special Offering supports the General Ministries of the church. General Ministries serve across the U.S. and Canada and around the world. General Ministries are partners in ministry serving through far-reaching and unique organizations.

General ministries that receive support from the Easter Offering include: the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries; Church Extension; Council on Christian Unity; Disciples of Christ Historical Society; Disciples Home Missions; Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries; Higher Education and Leadership Ministries; National Benevolent Association; National Convocation; North American Asian/Pacific Disciples; and the Pension Fund.

Resources for Lent and the Easter Offering can be found on the [Disciples Mission Fund website](#). The special offering will be received in congregations on April 1 & 8, 2012.



*Rev. Dr. Teresa
Dulyea-Parker*

Regional Minister &
President

Good Morning Church!

Our Disciple Identity statement says, "We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table, as God has welcomed us." I've been considering what that means in light of our history, our present, and our future. As I consider our history, I find it amazing that this movement for "unity" began when our nation absolutely needed it. We point to a Communion Table event, when one of our founders came to a moment of clarity that "tests of faith," that separate and divide, were not what the table of the Lord is about. We point to a handshake in 1832 as a defining moment when Disciples and Christians joined together to lift the cause of Unity. We point to a Cane Ridge revival where 20,000-30,000 people gathered from many denominations, slave and free, women and men, to hear about a loving God and the unity of the body of Christ. They spent 7 days filled with the Holy Spirit, until the food ran out.

John Huxtable, our Pastor at Virden, likes to point out that Stone and Campbell disagreed on two basic tenets of faith---baptism and the trinity--- but chose to stay together. The reason was simple, "I can see that God is working in you." It is remarkable that they could do that, when this nation was preparing to tear itself apart with Civil War. Isn't it a wonder that this movement came into being in this time?

As I consider our present, I find it amazing that we are reclaiming

that we are a "movement for wholeness in a fragmented world." I'm reading a book called The Big Sort by Bill Bishop. The subtitle is "Why the Clustering of like-minded America is tearing us apart." The premise is that in the last 40 years, we have intentionally clustered in neighborhoods and communities and congregations where we can find support for our particular values and view of the world. We are experiencing a new segregation based on whether you think the same way I do, or value the same thing I value, or believe the way I do. We are cutting each other off, shunning each other, rejecting each other---doing violence to one another---in order to protect the preference of my "right" way. In our separate worlds, side by side, we become radicalized because we are unwilling to see that "God might be working in you."

The author suggests one reason the mainline churches have struggled in this time is because of our desire to hold the middle, to live with diversity, to find another way--a way of wholeness and togetherness. It might even be, because "I can see that God is working in you." Isn't it a wonder that this movement is present in this time? You and I are here for this moment, to share a word about wholeness and a Table where all are welcomed.

As I consider the future, I find myself amazed by our young people. I spent the last weekend at Summit with 355 plus young people and their sponsors. They came from as far away as Milwaukee and Metropolis, Danville and Quincy. It was a "mini-Cane Ridge." Our theme was "No Boundaries, No Limits" based on Isaiah 40: 28-31. They heard there is "no boundary or limit" to God's love for them. They heard that when they wait upon the Lord, they will be renewed and strengthened for the work God calls them to do---re-

building the community/church. They heard they have power to choose good things, and influence lives. They heard it in rap, rock, and hymn. It was all about Praising God and answering the call to walk with Jesus. Many made their confession of faith, many re-dedicated their lives to Jesus, many answered the call to ministry ---they wanted to give their whole heart, mind, strength, life to God. They heard us say to them and mean it, "I can see that God is working in you."

Let us be a church devoted to wholeness in a fragmented world; people who can see beyond themselves that God is working in others and in us. Jesus has chosen us for this moment. Do not be afraid. Wait upon the Lord.

In other news:

Guatemala Partnership Next Steps

Gloria Vincente Canu, our Global Mission Person in Guatemala, will be available in the Spring for visits to congregations. She will be at our Disciple Women's Event, April 14, 2012 at Eureka College. Watch CCIW News for information on signing up to host her at your congregation.

Tentative dates for our first Guatemala visit have been set for May 15-22, 2012.

And, our partners will be attending our next Regional Assembly, Oct. 12-13 at the Marriott in Normal, IL. For more information and updates check our website

www.cciwdisciples.org, or ask to be on the CCIW News email updates, or go to Teresa CCIW at Facebook.com.

Blessings,



Pastoral Changes

Brittany Barber will complete her Interim Ministry at University Place Christian Church, Champaign, IL on Jan. 15, 2012.

Joe Blosser, a June PhD graduate of the Univ. of Chicago Divinity School, accepted a tenure-track position at High Point University in

North Carolina.

Kristine Branaman will begin as Pastor of Univ. Place Christian Church, Champaign, IL on Jan. 1, 2012.

Clinton Collins, an ordained Disciples pastor, has moved to the CCIW Region to work on a graduate degree at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

William Crowl will serve as Transitional Interim for the Christian Church of Arlington Heights, Arlington Hts., IL beginning Jan. 15, 2012.

Noe Godoy, an ordained Disciples pastor, has moved to the CCIW Region to pursue a graduate degree at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL.

Michael Karunas will begin as Sr. Pastor of Central Christian Church, Decatur, IL on March 12, 2012.

Herb Knudsen will complete his Interim ministry with Central Christian Church, Decatur, IL on March 11, 2012.

Jeanette Laws resigned as Pastor of First Christian Church, Olney, IL effective Nov. 28, 2011.

Robert Miner will complete his Interim ministry with Davis Memorial Christian Church, Taylorville, IL on Jan. 15, 2012.

Steve Welker resigned as Pastor of the Christian Church of Arlington Heights, Arlington Hts., IL effective Jan. 8, 2012.

Dana Zartman resigned as Pastor of First Christian Church, Casey, IL effective Nov. 30, 2011.

Deaths in the Region

John David Sturman, ordained Disciples pastor, died August 1, 2011 in Chicago, IL. A memorial service was held August 6 at University Church, Chicago, IL.

Sympathy is extended to **Rev. Evelyn Faye Hale** because of the death of her sister, **Louise (Hale) Wildman** on Oct. 31, 2011 in Decatur, IL.

Sympathy is extended to **Rev. Donald B. & Carol Ann Moseley** because of the death of Carol's mother, **June Marie Nixon**, on December 3, 2011 in Quincy, IL.

New Preacher's Kids

Noah Ross Summers was born Oct. 22, 2011 to Christi & Greg Summers. He weighed 7lbs 4ozs and was 18" long. Greg is Pastor of Arrowsmith & Colfax Christian Churches.

Henry Adam Victor Mills was born Nov. 7, 2011 to Rev. Dawn Victor & Richard Mills in Springfield, IL. He weighed 8lbs 12ozs and was 21-1/4" long. Dawn is a Chaplain at Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, IL.

Congratulations!

Timothy Polley was ordained to Christian Ministry at First Christian Church, Moline, IL on July 17, 2011. He began his pastorate at First Christian Church, Benton, KY on June 1, 2011.



L to R: Ft. Row - Chuck Dorsey, Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker, CCIW Regional Minister, Timothy Polley, Kenneth W. Kline, Beth Rupe. Middle - Sylvia Mae Larssen, Kimberly Brumm. Bk. Row - Ian McMullen, Ivan Fuller, Tom Akers, and Ken Kline.

Rev. Bryan Elliott was installed as Pastor of Community Christian Church, Lincolnshire, IL on Oct. 9, 2011.



L to R: Rev. Dr. Christal Williams, Assoc. Regional Minister, Perry Grace, Rev. Bryan Elliott, and Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker, CCIW Regional Minister & President.



L to R: Jim Yoder, Board Chair, Scott Woolridge, CCIW Assoc. Regional Minister, and Dawn Ingram, Pastor of First Christian Church, Arthur, IL.

Rev. Dawn Ingram was installed as Pastor of Vine Street Christian Church, Arthur, IL on Sunday, December 4, 2011. Rev. Ingram began her ministry with Vine Street Christian Church on Nov. 1.



First Christian Church, Hoopeston, IL, participated in a special Hoopeston Downtown Halloween Celebration on October 25 to share treats and an invitation to the church.

Pictured L to R: Marcia Gossett, Ruth Misner, and Ruth Neathey hand out treats and invitations.

Below: The congregation celebrated World Communion Sunday on October 2, using

six different breads from around the world.



Lynnville Christian Church, Jacksonville, IL held a Gleaning party after church on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011. They went to the Gregory family farm and picked vegetables---squash, turnips, potatoes, pumpkins, cabbage, cauliflower---all to be donated to the local food banks.



Look at those children in the fields. Surely the harvest is ready and the laborers are adorable!

Produce is loaded on the wagon to be taken to the local Food Banks.



New Covenant Community (NCC), our Disciples/UCC congregation, housed in the Campus Religious Center (CRC) at 210 W. Mulberry St., Normal, IL, has now become a partner owner & operator of the Campus Religious Center. The CRC was owned and operated by three campus ministries: American Baptist, Evangelical Lutheran, and the United Campus Christian Foundation (UCCF). Due to decreasing funding for campus ministries from our affiliated denominations, the board of UCCF voted to transfer its equity in the CRC to New Covenant Community, which now makes NCC one of three partner-owners of the building. This will take effect January 1, 2012.

Austin Boulevard Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Oak Park, IL held its final worship service on



Christmas day, Dec. 25, 2011. The spirit of Jesus was shared and the faithfulness of generations celebrated.

Austin Boulevard Christian Church was established in 1898 on the corner of Austin and Superior. It was located on the edge of the Austin neighborhood and the new Oak Park community. Austin Blvd was a dividing line -socially, economically and racially. The traffic flow along the street was discouraging to passage (part of a Church Extension report). This congregation was positioned on a boundary line. It is clear that they tried to bridge that boundary with community organizing, outreach and hope. The impact of their ministry ecumenically and interfaith continues in Oak Park. They understood their work in six words: Love God. Love People. Reach Out. It is a legacy to be celebrated, even now as the congregation closes. Thank you ABCC for "Embracing Christ and Serving the World." Pray for Pastor Dwight Bailey and the congregation-May 8, 1898-Dec. 25, 2011. —from facebook.com/teresacciw



Communion Service

Faith in Action—Night Ministry

On Tuesday night May 12 our **Faith In Action group from the Congregational United Church of Christ and Christian Church of Arlington Heights** prepared and served 100 meals within the Pilsen Neighborhood of Chicago. We were sobered by the need we saw, but thankful that *The Night Ministry* is organized to help in so many ways.

We were surprised that it only took ten to fifteen minutes for all of our 100 sandwich bags to be distributed. Betty Peterson's homemade brownies were a great hit. We were all impressed with *The Night Ministry* mobile bus facility. They are equipped for food distribution, as well as basic medical on site treatment & testing. We had the chance to visit with some clients who lingered until the bus left. Our conversations will be long remembered.

We were heartened by all the members of our two congregations who donated the items needed for the sandwich bags, as well as a nearby deli that unselfishly donated some of the items needed. I hope that this Faith in Action project will lead our churches to continue to reach out to those in need.

Faith in Action—Next Steps

The Faith in Action Small Group that served a meal in the Pilsen area is making plans to continue serving meals for *The Night Ministry* at the Pilsen stop on **Tuesdays**.

The hope is to have several small groups (4-6) people preparing and serving meals for Night Ministry at least bi-monthly, and perhaps even more. *The Night Ministry* has routes that run Mon.-Sat. in various places in the city and west and southsides of Chicago.

The next trip is scheduled for December 14th to Wicker Park. We are also taking items for children's Christmas stockings. —from Christian Church of Arlington Heights website.

Weekend Lunch Bag Ministry

One of the ministries offered through **First Christian Church, Benton, IL** is the *Weekend Lunch Bag Ministry*. Started in 2008, the purpose of this ministry is to provide food (via brown lunch bags) to Middle School children whose only source of nutrition comes from school. It was brought to our attention that many children would go home on Friday and not eat again until Monday. The school was their only source of food. Our Young Adult Group decided to act and through the continuous donations from church members and friends, we are able to provide sack lunches to hungry children. —from FCC, Benton, IL website

PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)

United Christian Church, Country Club Hills, IL participates in the South Suburban PADS program, providing shelter on Wednesday nights for women and children. We supply our guests with sleeping accommodations, a hot supper, breakfast, and a sack lunch. These services are performed by volunteers on our sight between 6 pm on Wednesday and 7 am on Thursday.

South Suburban PADS has been providing emergency overnight shelter in the southern suburbs since 1990. It is an ecumenical effort that serves homeless men, women and children with hospitality, compassion and dignity. At shelters located in a number of churches and synagogues in eleven communities, PADS provides food, warmth and encouragement to guests who are in need of shelter during the cold weather months. —from United CC website

2012 Continuation of Ministerial Standing

In keeping with *The Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*, the CCIW Region's Ministry Committee is responsible for the certification of Standing of ministers currently engaged in the practice of ministry within its regional boundaries and for a periodic review of that standing within those policies and criteria. Full texts of all codes, policies, and criteria are available on the regional website under *Clergy Resources*.

Relative to retired ministers, it reads: *Ministers with standing at the time of retirement retain this standing except when the minister no longer meets the personal qualifications for admission to the Order of Ministry. Upon retirement standing is certified annually by the region in which the minister holds participating membership in a recognized congregation in the community, when feasible.*

2012 Request for Continuation of Ministerial Standing Forms were mailed to all clergy currently having Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL & WI in December, 2011. There is also a [fillable Adobe .pdf form](#) on the regional website if you would like to send the form electronically. By completing and returning this form prior to the deadline of January 30, 2012, you enable the CCIW Ministry Committee to affirm

your ministry and certify your standing. **As a minister with Standing, your name will then be listed in the Ministers Directory of the upcoming Yearbook and Directory of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).** Further, as a minister with Standing, you then have voting privileges in General and Regional Assemblies; may call upon church offices and agencies for such support and services as search and call assistance, ecclesiastical endorsement, and scholarship aid; and meet IRS requirements for housing allowance provisions. Your Ministerial Standing is something you want to protect and maintain as current. Reinstatement of lapsed or terminated standing can be a frustrating and lengthy process. NOTE: This is an annual process; thus, any two sequential years of non-completion of this form means automatic lapse of standing.

CCIW Ministry Committee Meeting Dates

- Feb. 4, 2012**—Ministry Sub-Committee on Standing Regional Office, Bloomington, IL — 9am—4 pm
- Feb. 26-28, 2012**—Meeting for Commissioning, Ordination, and In-Care—Carmelite Center, Darien & Disciples Divinity House, Chicago, IL
- June 4-6, 2012**—Meeting for Commissioning, Ordination, and In-Care— Regional Office, Bloomington, IL
- Sept. 23-25, 2012**—Meeting for Commissioning, Ordination, and In-Care— Eureka, IL

MISSION ACTIVITIES

Congo Connections

Jean Wallace

Thank you for the wonderful response you gave to the Women-to-Women's pre-trip service project. You as a church, region, and friends assembled enough sewing kits to fill four boxes, each weighing almost 50 lbs., plus a suitcase, which weighed about 45 pounds.



With great joy, the Women's Department of the Community of Disciples of Christ in the Democratic Republic of the Congo received these supplies. One of the priorities of the women's department is the socio-economic development

of local women, so a school for seamstresses has been opened in Mbandaka by the many Disciples churches in that city. The kits are used by the women who enroll. Actually, the response to our project was so great that we were able to distribute the kits to a much larger group of women than the initial plan anticipated. Each of the women from the DRC who came to the national meeting of Disciples Women held in Mbandaka in conjunction with our visit was given a kit.

A member of the Ray of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Atlanta blessed three of my boxes. The fourth box had already been sent to

Africa with our leader, Sandra Gourdet, when she went a week early to make final preparations for our visit. The battered suitcase, which held another 45 pounds, was still in my room to go it as checked luggage.

Christian friends, we outdid ourselves. And I still have two sewing machines and more sewing kits that will be sent as soon as the political unrest due to the presidential election dies down and a container can be arranged for the transportation of these things.

Good work! God bless you!
Jean Wallace



Ray of Hope Christian Church, Atlanta, GA member blesses 3 boxes of kits.



IL Valley Cluster Mission Trip to Slidell, LA

Six volunteers from the IL Valley Cluster of Christian Churches traveled to Slidell, LA October 8-15, 2011 to continue hurricane relief work. Upon arrival, they were assigned to a home off of Canal Street, very close to the French Quarter. All had specific jobs to do...Larry and Geraldine Runkle of First Christian Church, Peoria worked on tiling bathrooms and Rev. Karen Merrick sanded and painted moldings and stairway spindles. Karen reports on their conversation with the home owners and an update on work in the area:

"The owner of the house shared his story of watching the water rise and being trapped on his second floor with his wife and 80+ year old mother. Occasionally, he would climb out onto the roof and try to flag down passing rescue boats."

"What we soon understood was that everyone had a flood story...a story of evacuation or of rescue. Everyone knew folks who had not survived, sometimes a next-door neighbor. What we also found out was that New Orleans is still only 65% restored and that the vast majority of the work done and the organizations left to continue the work are predominantly through the Church."

"The parting words from the project manager were, 'We know there have been other disasters that need attention; but please don't forget us. We have so much more to do.' -Karen Merrick, FCC, Peoria, IL Newsletter, Oct. 26, 2011

Mackinaw Christian Church, Mackinaw, IL sent a group to **Joplin, MO** on a mission trip Dec. 11-15, 2011. What did we do? We got dirty for Jesus! We spent Monday - Wednesday doing work for South Joplin Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which is one of thirty-nine churches that were damaged by the tornado that hit Joplin. From May 22nd until November 6th they had to worship at a different location.

Now, we did not work on the church itself, but on a Quonset Hut that has served as a youth center. The church has decided to convert it into a Mission Station. The plan is to create living quarters with bathrooms, showers, kitchen, and housing for thirty-six. Our group worked on this conversion as we carefully tore out panels, cleaned, added insulation, returned the panels, and then put up frames for the walls. They hope to begin housing mission groups March 18th, 2012 for the next five years. This is how long they expect to need to receive groups doing mission work to repair the damage done by the tornado.

We felt blessed by being an instrument of God. We used our hands and feet to be Christ to this church and helped enable them to do what they feel God is calling them to. But as the debris has been cleared, people are seeing the virgin land, they are seeing others come in as the hands and feet of Christ, and they are beginning to have hope. That is something worth being a part of, don't you think?
—Pastor Dave Jassman, Mackinaw CC

of CCIW Churches

JOPLIN, MO MISSION TRIP 2011

The mission team including Judy Blessing, Nancy Barnes, Julie Robinson, Jim Underhill, Henry Sur, Brian Metz, Lonnie Southern, Mark Johnson and Mike Robinson left the Bloomington, First Christian Church (FCC) parking lot at 7:00 am on Wed., November 16th after a prayer circle and send off from Michael Fitch, Bob Trefzger and Deb Underhill. Caroline Herbert from San Benito, TX joined us in Joplin. We used a van from FCC and Lonnie Southern drove his new pickup truck with our tools and luggage.

Upon arrival in Joplin at our host church, Wildwood Baptist, we were greeted warmly and shown around the facility. Wildwood and other churches of the area have graciously opened their doors to mission teams without charge. We settled in and then went to dinner.

On Thursday we left early and went to the Joplin Family Worship Center (JFWC) for breakfast and our instructions. The JFWC is one of the centers for victims of the tornado to come to for help, for food, clothing or replacing/remodeling for their homes, volunteers to have a free breakfast and lunch, job assignments and supplies. We met with Mike Luther, the coordinator for job assignments, and he gave us instructions for two assignments. Our first was for the Dickenson family who had just about finished their home with the help of previous groups but were on a time crunch to get out of their temporary housing due to the holiday. All ten of us tromped into their house to an upstairs bedroom and cleaned up the bedroom of their 2 sons; we boxed everything up and prepared for some drywall work in the dormer of this room. They also asked Mike to look at the toilet upstairs as it had not worked properly since the tornado. The men accessed the needs and we went back to JFWC for lunch.

Our next assignment was a roof repair for a bedroom that was in a former garage. Upon arrival this seemed like an overwhelming task. There were several layers of old shingles and a few holes in the roof from flying debris and rotten wood. So we divided up into teams: Henry and Lonnie worked on the toilet at the Dickenson house, Jim and Brian worked on the drywall repairs, Mark, Judy, Nancy, Caroline, Julie and Mike went to the Bauersfeld garage and began the task of removing old shingles. The homeowners were so excited. They had waited six months for help. They jumped right in to help.

On Friday Nancy and Caroline worked at JFWC in the kitchen (we had also helped there on Thursday). The rest of the team set out for the roof job. A lot more shingle removal and hauling the old ones to the curb. New OSB was added after repairs to the holes and rotten areas.

On Saturday a family from Morrisville, IN joined us to finish the roof. They had driven down on Friday with a box truck full of furniture that was donated. They had three men that were able to join our men and get the roof shingling done. They had some experience and many hands made the work go faster. As a team they had guys laying

shingles out, nailing, keeping shingles and nails supplied, working on the ground cleaning up or handing things up to the roof as needed. As we put the last nail in and the gut-
 tering on, the sun came out! God was pleased.



View of the finished roof .—Mark Johnson

Saturday night we invited the Bauersfeld family to have dinner with us at Wildwood. We had a simple buffet dinner and afterward had a worship and time of sharing our experiences. Everyone was changed by the trip and the family was so grateful. Eric, the father, stated: "we received more than a garage roof, and that is true for all involved."

The family wanted to share their story with us and here is a little of what they experienced:

The tornado came in pretty quickly and many ignored the warnings, stood on their porches and watched or went on about their business. Eric went outside to watch but he quickly realized this wasn't a small storm. He watched furniture, clothing and various stuff fly by. Their older daughter and granddaughter lived in another part of town so Eric went to check on them as soon as he could. He arrived to find the top story of their house gone. He found their daughter and the 18 month old baby under a staircase. The baby was sup-



Long Overdue Smiles!

posed to be napping in the upstairs that had blown away but was fussy and wouldn't sleep. The baby did suffer hearing loss from the pressure of the storm; they are hoping that her hearing can be restored. It was clear to us that the damage was far more than physical; it was very emotional. The family had tried many times to get help but had fallen through the cracks. We know that God sent our team to them to help them recover and let them know that others care. We all signed a bible for them and encouraged them to go to church. There is a DOC church only blocks away.

We returned to FCC on Sunday, Nov, 20. God blessed all of us and we are very grateful for all the support from FCC of Bloomington. Thank you for being a mission church!

Joplin, MO mission team- November 2011

The King's Carpenters
 Mike & Julie Robinson

Coming Events



Mid - Winter Youth Retreats

for
Grades 6-12

Jan. 28 - 29, 2012
Sat., 1:30 pm
to Sun., 1:30 pm

At two locations:

First Christian Church

1357 County Rd 1200 E, Sullivan, IL 61951
and

Pilgrim Park Conf. Center

26449 1340 N Ave., Princeton, IL 61356

Cost: \$35 per person at First CC
\$50 per person at Pilgrim Park

[Click](#) for registration form and more info.
Registration Deadline - January 13



Mid-Winter Pastor Retreats

Jan. 31 - Feb. 1, 2012
or
Feb. 7-8, 2012

Jan. 31-Feb. 1 - [Urban-Metro Area](#) - Techny Towers
Conf.

Center, Techny, IL

Feb. 7-8 - [Northwest Area](#) - Pilgrim Park Conf. Ct.

Clergy Educational Opportunity (CEO)

Transformation

with Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm

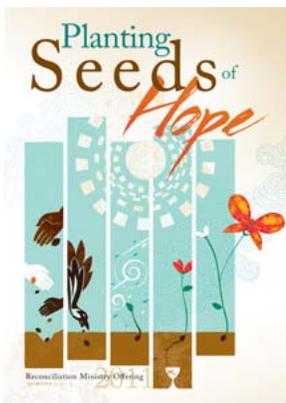
April 22-24, 2012

Sunday, 7pm - Tuesday, 2pm

Central Christian Church, Danville, IL

Mark the date on your calendars!

2012 Clergy Ethics / Healthy Boundaries



Seeds of Hope

Pro-Reconciliation /
Anti-Racism
Training

With

Chris Hobgood
&
Marcus Leathers

Core Trainers, Reconciliation Ministry
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

March 14 - Mattoon, Marshall Ave CC
March 15 - Jacksonville, Central CC
March 16 - Galesburg, First CC
March 17 - Aurora, Grace Comm. CC

For more information and a registration form,
[click here.](#)

CCIW Regional Assembly

October 12-13, 2012
Friday, 6pm - Sat., 3pm

Marriott Hotel ,
Normal, IL

*Come, Join Us....
...on the way with
Jesus*



Close to Amtrak Station &
Children's Discovery Museum.

Early Registration begins 1/15
Late Registration begins 6/12
Registration ends 9/12
Pre-Assembly Clergy Luncheon with Dr. Bill Lee
at 12 Noon, Friday, Oct. 12

Look for Registration Form on the regional website.

CCIW - Outdoor Ministries
**Christian Church in Illinois & Wisconsin
Outdoor Ministries**
Summer Camping Program 2012

CAMP EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 15

CAMP LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 16-MAY 15.

ALL CAMPS ARE CLOSED ON MAY 15.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORM.

Camps begin on Sunday (check-in from 4:00-5:00 pm).

Camps conclude on Saturday (check-out from 10:00-11:00 am).

FAMILY CAMP/ CWS 50 TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION KICK-OFF.....	May 25-28
POST-HIGH WEEKEND #1 (Pilgrim Park).....	June 15-17
JYF #1 (Pilgrim Park).....	June 17-23
POST-HIGH WEEKEND #2 (Camp Walter Scott).....	June 22-24
CYF #1 (Camp Walter Scott).....	June 24-30
BEGINNERS CAMP #1 (Camp Walter Scott).....	June 24-27
GRANDPARENTS & ME #1 (Camp Walter Scott).....	June 27-30
BEGINNERS CAMP #2 (Pilgrim Park).....	July 1-4
CHI RHO #1 (Pilgrim Park).....	July 1-7
CYF #2 (Pilgrim Park).....	July 1-7
GRANDPARENTS & ME #2 (Pilgrim Park).....	July 4-7
JYF #2 (Camp Walter Scott).....	July 8-14
CHI RHO #2 (Camp Walter Scott).....	July 8-14
BRIDGE BUILDERS (TBA).....	TBA
CYF #3 (Camp Walter Scott).....	July 15-21
8 TH GRADE CAMP (EUREKA COLLEGE).....	TBA
ADDaM CAMP (FCC-BLOOMINGTON/IWU).....	TBA
JYF #3 (Camp Walter Scott).....	July 29-August 4
CHI RHO #3 (Camp Walter Scott).....	July 29-August 4
LABOR DAY FAMILY CAMP @ CAMP WALTER SCOTT.....	August 31-September 2

General Church News

Small Business Tax Credit for Church Employers

On December 2, 2010, the Internal Revenue Service announced that the Small Business Tax Credit included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is available to churches and other small employers that obtain coverage through self-funded denominational church health plans like Churchwide Health Care.

Since churches usually do not file tax forms with the IRS, paperwork is required to receive the credit. Information and detailed instructions are available at www.pensionfund.org. —Disciples News, Dec. 14, 2011

2012 Laity Sunday Resources Available

Week of the Laity, January 22-28, will continue the 2011 General Assembly “Tell It” theme. Resources include a Bible story library, music library, worship models and video examples.

Laity Sunday celebrates the diverse gifts laypeople bring to ministry both within and outside the walls of the church. To download Laity Sunday resources from Disciples Home Missions, see:

www.discipleshomeissions.org/pages/CE-LaitySunday —Disciples News, Dec. 14, 2011

Gillett Installed as Seminary’s 17th President



Charisse L. Gillett

Observing that hope “is more than wishful thinking,” the Rev. Charisse L. Gillett called upon those who work in and alongside Lexington Theological Seminary to support its efforts to meet the needs of students and congregations. Gillett’s remarks came during her installation service as the seminary’s 17th president, on December 4, 2011.

To read more about Gillett’s installation, go to: www.lextheo.edu/2011/12/dr-gillett-installed-as-seminarys-17th-president/

—Disciples News, Dec. 14, 2011

Disciples Name New Communication Staff

General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins announced today the call of Cheryl Williams as Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communication. She will join the staff in Indianapolis in January.



Cheryl Williams

Williams has held many public relations and communications positions. She also served on the General Board of the Christian Church, the

Mission Alignment Coordinating Council and as moderator of the Northwest Region of the Christian Church.

For more about Williams, visit: www.disciples.org/DisciplesNewsService/tabid/58/itemId/1104/Disciples-name-new-communication-staff.aspx

—Disciples News, Dec. 14, 2011

The National Benevolent Association Announces Sale of ECHO Land

The National Benevolent Association (NBA) announced the decision by the Board of Directors to sell the Emergency Children’s Home (ECHO) nine acres campus located at 3055 North Euclid Avenue, St. Louis, MO.

Beginning in 1907, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and NBA joined together to provide ministry on the campus in north St. Louis. ECHO, formerly St. Louis Children’s Home, was originally founded to serve orphans and widows. While the need for an orphanage ended, the mission for ECHO continued to focus on children in need by providing residential therapeutic treatment for those who had been abused and neglected. Although care and services for children continued to be in the forefront for NBA, the government funding for such intensive residential treatment had decreased drastically, thus forcing NBA to eliminate this ministry on the ECHO campus in 2008.

“As NBA has been engaging in strategic conversations with our Board of Directors, our affiliated agencies, and Disciple congregations around the country,” said Rev. Belva Brown Jordan, NBA Board Chair, “it has become clear that it is no longer feasible, both financially and physically, to maintain a campus where there is no longer a Disciples’ presence. And although this has been a very difficult and painful decision,” she continued, “the Board of Directors believes that in selling the property the ministry of ECHO will be transformed.” Once the property is sold, the proceeds will be able to support a variety of health and social service ministries throughout the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). —Disciples

The Christian Donations

October 20—December 31, 2011

Thanks to all who have so generously donated to the publication of *The Christian*. You may receive a printed copy of *The Christian* or an e-mail notification when it is posted on the regional website.

Those wishing printed copies mailed to them should request an annual subscription. **Subscription donations have not matched the number of printed copies being mailed in the last couple of years, so please check to see that you have mailed in your renewal subscription. Thanks!**

If you have subscriptions mailed to congregational members or leaders of your church, check to see that your annual church subscription has been renewed. Thanks!

If you have news for *The Christian*, send articles to: lisa@cciwdisciples.org or hard copy to *The Christian*, CCIW, 1011 N Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701. Pictures may be sent as .jpg attachments to e-mail or print copies. Thank you!

Jeanie Griese, Dennis Neuhaus, Lois Jean Janssen and Wanita Trader

Regional Calendar

January 2012

- 2 Reg. Office Closed
- 5 Interim Min.-RO, 10am-3pm
- 7 Constit. & ByLaws—RO, 10am
- 9 L&M Clergy - RO, Noon
- 12 Reg. Elders - RO, 10am-2pm
- 14 Finance Comm.-RO, 10am
- 14 Outdoor Ministries Marketing, RO-10am
- 15 Retir. Party-Eureka CC-3-5pm
- 25-29 Church Women Staff Fellowship - Atlanta, GA
- 28-29 Mid-Winter Youth Retreats ChiRho & CYF (6-12) Sullivan First CC & Pilgrim Park Camp
- 30 Clergy Standing Forms Due!
- 31-Feb 1 Urban-Metro Clergy Ret. at Techny Towers

February 2012

- 4 Ministry Sub-Comm. on Standing - RO, 10am
- 6 L&M Clergy - RO - Noon

- 7-8 Northwest Clergy Ret.-Pilgrim Park Camp
- 9 Healthy Cong. Reunion Train.
- 11 Disciples Wm's Cab.-RO, 9:30am-3pm
- 11 PRAR Team—Country Club Hills CC, 10 am
- 18 Camp Directors - RO, 10 am
- 26-28 Ministry Comm., Carmelite Ctr., Darien & DDH

March, 2012

- 1 Interims Min.-RO, 10am-3pm
- 5 L&M Clergy -RO, Noon
- 8 Reg. Exec. Comm.-RO, 9am
- 10 Outdoor Min.—RO, 10 am
- 10 PRAR—RO, 10 am
- 14-17 Healthy Boundaries/Ethics — PRAR Training—9am-3pm:
- 14 Mattoon, Marshall Ave. CC
- 15 Jacksonville, Central CC
- 16 Galesburg, First CC
- 17 Aurora, Grace Community CC
- 24 Regional Board—RO, 10am—4pm

April, 2012

- 1 Palm Sunday
- 2 L & M Clergy—RO, Noon
- 8 Easter Sunday
- 14 Wmn's Spring Event—Eureka College, 9:30am-2:30pm
- 14 PRAR—10am at Country Club Hills CC
- 17 Reg. Assembly Pl. Comm. at Marriott—Normal
- 20-21 Camp Directors & Counselors Training at PP
- 22-24 Clergy CEO Event—Transformation with Dick Hamm -Danville Central CC
- 27-28 Camp Directors & Counselors Training at CWS
- 29 IL Valley Elders Workshop - at Peoria First CC, 1-3:00pm with Teresa Dulyea-Parker

For Information or Assistance Call:

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 Regional Office, Bloomington Fax..... 1-309-829-4612
 Regional Clergy—Urban/Metro Area..... 1-630-291-7651
 Camp Walter Scott.....1-217-739-2332
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 Camp Website: <http://www.campwalterscott.org>
 Regional Web Site: <http://www.cciwdisciples.org>

Next Issue: **Spring 2012**
 (April, May, June, 2012)

Deadline for news:

March 1, 2012

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 Rev. Dr. Vitalino Similox, Exec. Director

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2012 Week of Compassion Special Offering

Sharing Brings Joy!
To us. To others.
To God.

Week of Compassion is our Disciples emergency world-relief, rehabilitation, and development ministry. Assistance given this year:

Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance

California, food ministry
Philippines, typhoon relief
Haiti, post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction
Colombia, emergency assistance

Development & Long-Term Recovery & Rehabilitation

DR Congo, education and community development
Zimbabwe, water wells
Botswana, women's economic empowerment
Peru, opportunities for political ex-prisoners
Peru, scholarships for political prisoners
Palestine, health awareness and women's education
Bangladesh, community development
Sri Lanka, ecumenical institute for study and dialogue

Disaster Responses

Africa
East Asia & the Pacific
Latin America & the Caribbean
Middle East & Europe
Southern Asia
North America

Global, poverty relief for older persons

For a complete listing of all assistance given, go to the [Week Of Compassion website](#).

SOMETHING NEW!

Week of Compassion and Disciples Volunteering are thrilled to announce the launch of a **Disaster Response Mission Station in Joplin, Missouri**. After a number of lengthy conversations with different partners, arrangements are being made to host volunteers beginning in March 2012.

Our Disciples response in Joplin is unique from other responses because we have undertaken our work and witness there in partnership with the United Church of Christ. While so much of the work of Week of Compassion and Disciples Volunteering, including partnering with Church World Service and Long Term Recovery Committees, is rooted in deep ecumenical commitment, this is a new undertaking. In working together with the UCC, we will be able to stretch our resources and make better use of the gifts with which you entrust us, including the time volunteers offer to this recovery effort.

We thank you for all of your donations throughout the year. Your sharing has truly brought joy to us, to others, and surely to God! **The 2012 Special Offering for Week of Compassion will be received in congregations on February 19 & 26, 2012.** Thank you for sharing!!