



# The Christian

Spring 2016

A Disciples of Christ (IL-WI Region) Quarterly  
Publication



## New Day 2016

### A New Approach to Spiritual Transformation

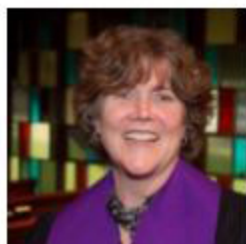
**New Day 2016** is a new approach to spiritual transformation for congregations and leaders. In the midst of decline and anxiety for some church leaders, there is a different way. We're excited about the opportunity to change lives through a deeper connection with God. We're inviting you to be a part of this great spiritual adventure - something that will bless your life and the life of your congregation!

We've expanded New Day 2016 to **include individuals as well as teams** of leaders.

Information about New Day 2016 can be found on our Transformation page on the Regional church website—<http://cciwdisciples.org/transformation/>

Please save the dates for our **training retreats** at Lake Williamson near Carlinville, IL—April 22-25 and July 15-17.

Got questions? Please contact Scott Woolridge—[scott@cciwdisciples.org](mailto:scott@cciwdisciples.org)



## REGIONAL MINISTER'S MOMENT

*Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker*

### **A Year of Reverence: Dreams, Intentions, and Plans**

Plans change. Last Fall, I wrote to tell you I would be on a sabbatical pilgrimage walking the “Camino de Santiago” across northern Spain. The plans had been in the works for a year. In preparation for the Camino I walked over 500 miles. My backpack was packed, tickets purchased, euros exchanged. My brother and I were ready to spend two months together after nearly 40 years of living our own separate lives. It was going to be rigorous and wonderful. We were so excited to be off on this adventure. Plans change.

Five days into the walk a nerve in my left leg became inflamed. I could not lift my foot. I rested for a couple days, tried to walk again and then made it worse with an ankle sprain. I had to come home. I spent several weeks resting, four weeks in physical therapy, many days swimming in the pool and finally my leg is better. Plans change.

As you can imagine, I was not happy about this. I had been dreaming about the Camino for about 18 years. The time I was able to experience on the Camino was life-changing. I received what I needed in unanticipated ways. And, plans changed.

In my free-time at home, I re-read a book that changed my life 18 years ago, *The Awakened Heart* by Gerald May. In the book, May talks about Dreams, Intentions and Plans. Dreams express our deep longings; our hearts desire. They open our vision and give us motivation. My dream in walking the Camino was to be alive again—after a great loss.

Intentions are our attempts to set direction to our dreams. They begin to focus our attention; to move us toward of our dreams. My intention was healing and wholeness. Every choice was made with that intention in mind. If I set off in this direction it will move me toward life again.

Plans are the strategies we work out, the specific steps we will take, concrete time-sensitive actions. May says that dreams and intentions are the two aspects where are most free. It is when we get to plans, even when they are incredibly specific, where we lack the most control. And, often we judge the dream by whether the plans come to fruition. In other words, if our plans don't work out we judge our dreams as wrong. May says that is not true. Our dreams are never wrong, but, our plans may have to change.

He invites us to spend more time with intentions; setting sacred intentions for our lives that are expressions of the deeper purpose (dream) of life. For May, the purpose of our lives is to “bear the beams of love.” Love often surprises us; opens us to unexpected joy; nudges us to be flexible; calls us to be less concerned about efficiency and more concerned about each other. Love changes our plans.

I for one am grateful. The unexpected joy of dreaming of life again, intending toward healing and wholeness, is that I have found love again—I don't even care if it wasn't my plan. Grateful!

This year I invite you to join me in setting an intention of reverence; to seek in every moment to be open to the workings of God—who is love, in our lives, congregations and world.

Finally, we are preparing to jump into New Day 2016—a congregational transformation process rooted in deep spiritual practice. (See related article) Maybe it is time for you to set an intention to let God change your life, too.

Teresa

## Greetings Upper Midwest and Illinois/Wisconsin Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)!

My name is Sarah Page Jones and I am one of the **NBA XPLOR** residents living in the Quad Cities. Over the last five months I have been blessed to be a part of this community here. I have learned so much about myself and about the world we are living in. It would not be possible for me to be here in this program if it wasn't for each individual here in this region! You guys rock!

During my ten months here I spend 30 hours each week at a local nonprofit, Braking Traffik and 6 hours at First Christian Church in Davenport, IA and Braking Traffik. In each of these settings, I am given opportunities to grow in my leadership skills and reflect on the work of social justice. At the church you can find me doing pretty much whatever they need me to do. I do things for the church such as help with Sunday school and youth groups to just helping out singing in the choir some Sundays. I also have helped out in the worship service on Sunday mornings. My housemates and I even lead our own special worship service one Sunday evening to express our own forms of worship that we bring to the table. In the coming months I am excited to start a special Children's Worship service that will be held during children's church time. I feel this is a crucial part to developing a love for church when transforming from a child into a youth and furthermore into a young adult. This is a time to start making children aware of why it is important for themselves to be in church not just because their parents are making them or its "just what my family does". I have a passion to keep our young people in church since so many of my generation have fallen away.

Braking Traffik a nonprofit that is dedicated to eradicating sex trafficking in the Quad City area of Iowa and Illinois. Through education, legislative advocacy and community partnerships, this organization is a mover and shaker in the community and states of Iowa and Illinois. One of the major projects that I am assigned to is Any Kid, Anywhere which is our school program. Each week I am in local area middle and high schools teaching youth about the dangers of human trafficking and why it exists and finally what they can do to help end the demand. If I would have had someone like this come talk to me while I was in high school, I would have been able to make some wiser decisions. With Braking Traffik I have had the chance to meet with local and state task forces that all have a common goal to end human trafficking. I have met with legislators about what they are doing about human trafficking and how we can join together and have a more collaborative effort when it comes to combating human trafficking.

We have been working with our local task force and the DHS (Department of Human Services) to have a training here in the Quad Cities to provide a multidisciplinary approach for Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. This training will be able to provide multidisciplinary professionals with the next step processes when identifying human trafficking. We feel a majority of the Quad Cities area has had the human trafficking 101 training they are ready for that next step training. If any of you are interested in attending this training, feel free to contact me at Braking Traffik at [\(563\) 468-2381](tel:5634682381) and I would be glad to talk with you more about this training and get you some registration information. Braking Traffik is doing great work here in the Quad Cities and even throughout most of Eastern Iowa. I am excited to see what is in the future for this organization due to their continued efforts and diligent work.

On a more personal note being a part of this program has been so important to me and my future. Without XPLOR I would still be a bank teller in Appomattox, Virginia not happy with my job and not knowing what to do about it. This program has shown me that I can enjoy my job and I can make a difference! I can change the world one person at a time. My life has done a total 180-degree spin since I left my hometown. I had never lived away from home and here I was moving to Iowa where I knew no one! I now could never see myself returning to my hometown. There is so much work to be done out here in the world and I needed to step away from my normal and what was comfortable to make me to see it. I am so glad I took this leap of faith and joined this program. Again I would like to thank each one of you because without your support of this program this all would not be possible. So thank you, thank you, thank you! You are true rock stars!

With Love,  
Sarah Page Jones





2016-2017 GMP Search Committee: Top Row (L-R): Bill Jennison, Lori Tapia, Allison Enari, Mary Lou Kegler, Tom Perring, Young Lan Kim, Monique Crain Spells, Tony Rodriguez. Seated Row (L-R): Jennifer Garbin, Susan Morris, Jackie Bunch (Chair), Danny Gulden.

## **General Minister and President Search Committee Communication #1**

**Progress:** In this first communication, we are pleased to inform you that the General Minister and President (GMP) Search Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been approved by the General Board. With a sense of humbleness and gratitude for being called to this important task, the committee met from Jan. 15-17 in Dallas, Texas to begin the search process. During this two-day meeting, we prayed with each other for God's guidance, participated in Pro-Reconciliation/ Anti-Racism training, spent time building covenant with each other, and focused our energies in active listening and engagement. We established a timeline that will take us from writing the position description through interviews and final recommendation of our denomination's spiritual leader and Chief Executive Officer.

**Communication:** It is important that we engage everyone in the church. Everyone – from the folks in the pews through the General Church. With this communication, we invite you to walk this journey with us. We have established a GMP Search Committee informational page which will serve as a way for you to communicate your thoughts and ideas with us. A questionnaire will be provided to solicit your input and we will be sending updates throughout our process. If you would like to take part in this questionnaire and receive updates, please sign up on our web page.. <http://disciples.org/ogmp/search-committee/>

**Request for prayer:** Finally, in recognition of the central role God plays in our process, we have committed to be in prayer with each other on Wednesdays, sometime between the hours of 6 and 10 am. Regardless of where we are physically located, this prayer time will spiritually bond us. We invite you to join us in this prayer life.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN  
ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN  
PRESENTS THE 2016  
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

*\*\*Registration Materials will be made  
available on the CCIW website in the  
coming weeks*



Friday—Saturday October 21-22  
Springfield, Illinois

**FRIDAY** ~~~

- *Regional Clergy Luncheon*
- *Assembly Registration*
- *State of the Region*
- *Assembly Banquet*
- *Worship with Rev. A. Denise Bell  
preaching*

**SATURDAY** ~~~

- *Gathering Worship*
- *Workshops*
- *Assembly Lunch*
- *Mission First*



**Rev. A. Denise Bell**



Rev. A. Denise Bell was ordained in December 1988, at Park Hill Christian Church Disciples of Christ (DOC) in Denver, Colorado. Prior to her ordination she was commissioned as a Jr. Lieutenant in the United States Navy as a Chaplain Candidate, where she spent one year in service.

Rev. Bell has served churches as Associate Pastor, Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor and Regional Minister. She has served in Portland, Oregon, Memphis Tennessee, Reston, Virginia and Georgia. In March 2014 she was unanimously affirmed and called to serve as Regional Minister and CEO of The Christian Church in Georgia by the 66 DOC churches represented in Georgia.

Her ministry is woven together by her faith in a faithful God. She is God's daughter, God's servant and a messenger for Christ. She loves the Lord and has a love for God's people as God has called her to be Christ incarnate to a world that needs to know that God loves and calls us according to God's purposes.

## Stepping Into Stewardship Conference

The United Church of Christ Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Center for Faith and Giving are pleased to announce "**Stepping into Stewardship.**" This event represents a developing partnership with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in areas of stewardship education and generosity. The event will take place *March 30, 31, and April 1, 2016 at the Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at Sea World in Orlando, Florida.*

*These workshops will energize you and the work that you are called to do by God!*

- ◆ Personal Finances: Money Sense
- ◆ More Than Enough
- ◆ Blessings: Generation to Generation
- ◆ Over and Above: Raising Funds for Special Projects
- ◆ Get Your Assets on Mission
- ◆ You Can Do It: How to Ask Donors for Money
- ◆ Raising New Revenue to Fund Ministry Vision
- ◆ Financial Best Practices as a Catalyst for Generosity
- ◆ Preaching Stewardship
- ◆ The Prophetic Power of the Ask and the Grace and Blessing of the Give
- ◆ Mission Possible: The Importance of Major Gift Donors
- ◆ Confessions of a Reluctant Fundraiser
- ◆ Narrative Budgeting: Telling the Church Its Own Amazing Story
- ◆ Digital Giving Strategies for Your Church
- ◆ Building a Legacy: Setting the Groundwork for a Planned Giving Campaign

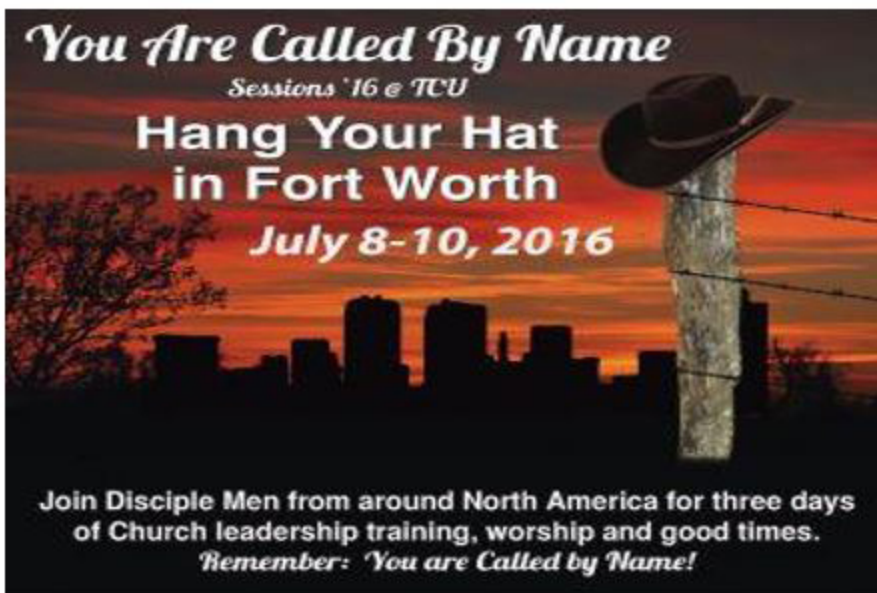
For further information go to <http://disciples.org/stepping-into-stewardship>

Contact Melina Higbee, Coordinator, Donor Relations 216-736-2156;

[higbeem@ucc.org](mailto:higbeem@ucc.org)

Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Minister for Faith and Giving, Center for Faith and Giving,  
317-713-2404; [bbarkhauer@disciples.org](mailto:bbarkhauer@disciples.org)





You are a man, active in leadership in a congregation, or you would probably not be reading this. You may be wondering, "Is it worth the trip?"

We, the General Conference of Disciples Men, know that it is. We all struggle with many of the same problems in our congregations and we know the value of fellowship, Bible study, exploring our calling as leaders, hands-on mission, and having fun while doing all that.

The Sessions agenda includes hearing about "Being a Man in the Local Church" from Todd Adams and "Three Big Mistakes Churches Make" from Newell Williams.

There will be workshops both introspective and practical, repeated so all can participate. We will learn about "Soul Care" with Rita Nakashima Brock and "Fiduciary Responsibility" with Todd Adams.

We will hang our hats out and about with optional activities, a bus tour of Fort Worth, a walking tour of the TCU campus, or a mission project at a local food pantry.

Alvin Jackson will rally us at the beginning and lead us in Sunday morning worship with proclamation and hope as we set off for home knowing that we have been called by name and with new experiences to share where we hang our hats.

The program starts with dinner at 6:00 pm, Friday, July 8 and ends after 8:30 am worship on Sunday, July 10.

Come and see—God is calling!

For further information go to our Website: <http://sessions2016.org>



## Disciple Women's Spring Event "Women: Then and Now"

**Chiara Center**  
**4875 Laverne Road, Springfield, IL**  
**April 2, 2016**

Cost of the Event is \$35.00 if paid before March 1, 2016. Registration form can be found on the CCIW website. [www.cciwdisciples.org](http://www.cciwdisciples.org)

### An Overview Of Our Day Together

9:30—10:00 am	Registration
10:00—Noon	Gathering & Prayer Women Then—Encountering Rachel Women Now—Encountering our Sister in Guatemala & Around The World
Noon—1 pm	Lunch
1:00—3:00 pm	Women Then—When God Saw Women Now—Standing in Solidarity Celebration and Thanksgiving Our Charge

### **Keynote Speaker:** The Reverend Dr. Lisa Wilson Davison

She is the Johnnie Eargle Cadieux Professor of Hebrew Bible at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK. She is an ordained Disciples Minister and has served the church as pastor of congregations in Texas and Kentucky, a Chaplain at Culver Stockton College, Dean at Lynchburg College, and professor at Lexington Theological Seminary. Her knowledge and expertise in the field of Women's Studies is matched by few.



# CCIW OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

## CAMP DATES FOR 2016

### FAMILY WEEKENDS

CHURCH FAMILY REUNION MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (CWS) *Jane Cahill* MAY 27-30  
CHURCH FAMILY REUNION LABOR DAY WEEKEND (CWS) *Jane Cahill* SEPTEMBER 2-5

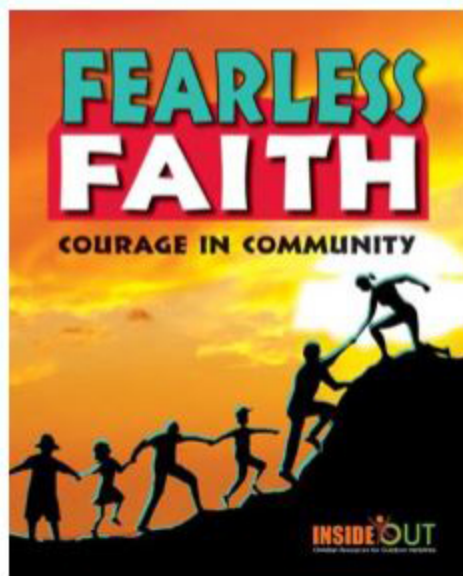
### JUNE

CAMP ACTS 20:35 (CWS – WORK WEEK) *Jackie Summers* JUNE 5-11  
CYF (CWS) *Amy Gillespie and Jim Summers* JUNE 12-18  
CENTER STAGE (FCC-PEORIA) *Mason Fitch and Evan Williams* JUNE 19-26  
GRANDPARENTS & ME (CWS) *TBD* JUNE 19-22  
BEGINNERS (CWS) *Kris Light and Ed Taylor* JUNE 22-25  
JYF (PP) *Jonathan Grant and Terri Grove* JUNE 26-JULY 2

### JULY

BEGINNERS (PP) *TBD* JULY 3-6  
CHI RHO (PP) *Randi Grodjesk* JULY 3-9  
CYF (PP) *TBD* JULY 3-9  
JYF (CWS) *Nichole Fauser and Mason Fitch* JULY 10-16  
CHI RHO (CWS) *Tracy Armstrong and Jared Reno* JULY 17-23  
POST-HIGH WEEKEND RETREAT (CWS) *Tim Akers* JULY 29-30

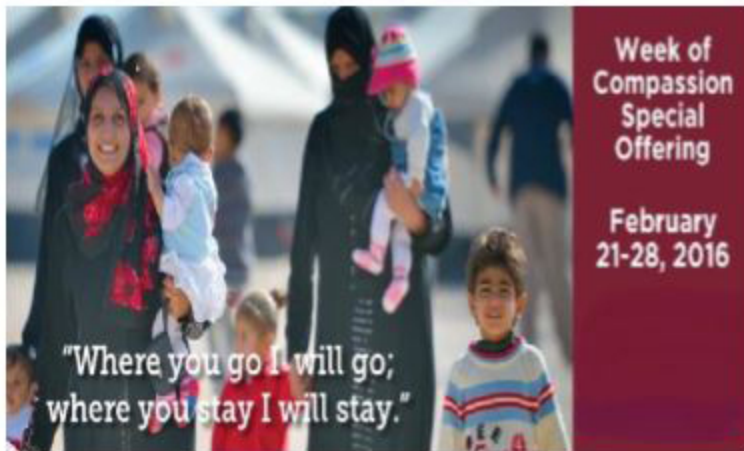
CWS – CAMP WALTER SCOTT  
PP – PILGRIM PARK  
FCC - FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, PEORIA



#### DAILY THEMES

- Together the Courage to Show Up
- Together the Courage to Trust
- Together the Courage to Forgive
- Together the Courage to Stand
- Together the Courage to Do Justice
- Together the Courage to Change
- Together the Courage to Connect

## Week of Compassion February 21-28, 2016



**Fact:** By the end of 2014, 59.5 million individuals have been forcibly displaced across the world, which breaks down to 19.5 million refugees, 38.2 million internally displaced persons, and 1.8 million asylum-seekers.

**Fact:** Nearly 1.5 billion people in developing countries live in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 a day, and lack basic sanitation and clean drinking water.

**Fact:** 1 in 8 people still go to bed hungry in our world. Every day, almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. We seek to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities.

Week of Compassion works through a remarkable network of church partner organizations and partnerships that insures that our response to humanitarian needs in the world is efficient, effective and faithful. Through these partnerships Disciples are able to join a tapestry of caring that brings help and hope to hurting people in every corner of the world

We rely on your compassion, your gifts and your commitment to help change lives for the better. We do so in the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Calling all volunteers who love Camp Walter Scott. We are looking for a few good folk who would like to give some time to work in the kitchen at camps or do some outside landscape work this summer. Any level of commitment is helpful. Just give us two weeks of notice so we can plan for where you will stay. Email [laura@cciwcdisciples.org](mailto:laura@cciwcdisciples.org). (PS: She is on maternity leave—but she will get back to you!)

Also, Spring Work Days are coming—March 19 and May 21. Projects list will be coming soon!

**Prayer Concerns:** You are invited to participate in the CCIW Prayer Calendar, which can be found on our website, by offering a prayer each day for the congregations and ministries listed.

**Deaths:** Randy West, husband of Rev. Mary Jane West

**Pastor Changes:** Jason Butterick to Decatur Prairie Avenue, James ChangHun Han to Chicago Christian Church (non-Disciple), Tina Parnell-Miller to Associate Pastor at Decatur Central, Mary Alice Suter to Chandlerville, Rebecca Kirby to Mackinaw, Tom Cici to Hoopeston, Bryan Burgees to Carlock CC; Jim Boswell resigned from Bellflower, Beth Rupe resigned from First Christian in Moline, Pat Meyer resigned from Arrowsmith, Terry Foland ended at Parkway, Amy Johnson left Decatur Central, Jan Harris resigned from Casey; Gregg Downs completed at Pine Creek, Polo; Lonnie Southern began at Bellflower CC

**Regional Clergy Staff**

Teresa Dulyea-Parker, Reg. Minister & President  
Scott Woolridge, Associate Minister  
Christal Williams, Associate Minister

teresa@cciwdisciples.org  
scott@cciwdisciples.org  
pastorchristal@cciwdisciples.org

**Administrative Staff**

Terri Grove (Youth, OM, Women)  
Jeff Dulyea-Parker (Website, eNews)

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**Camp Contacts**

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**Regional Moderator**

Cheryl Jackson

cpjackson77@att.net

**Global Mission Partners**

Rev. Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto

**Ecumenical Council of Churches in Guatemala**

Rev. Dr. Vitalina Similox and Gloria Vincente

**Christian Church Foundation Representative**

W. Darwin Collins—Phone: 800-668-8016

dcollins@ccf.disciples.org

**FOR INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE CALL:**

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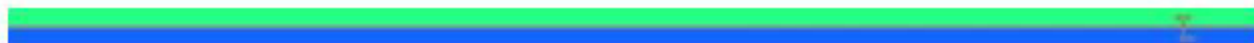




Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1011 North Main Street

Bloomington, IL 61701



Our Regional church is committed to high quality partnership with local congregations, providing ministry services not available elsewhere – helping congregations in times of crisis, providing camps for our children and youth, helping congregations call their next pastor, joining in global ministry together. We invite you to support the Annual Fund and join us as partners in life-changing ministry!

One way to show support in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL & WI's Mission is through a donation to our Annual Fund. Gifts to the Annual Fund enable us to grow Disciples congregations for healthy vital ministry!

## Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL & WI

*Growing Disciples congregations for healthy, vital ministry.*



Yes! I believe in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL & WI's Mission and I want to help!

Enclosed is my gift to the Annual Fund     \$100     \$250     \$500     Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: CCIW Regional Office, 1011 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701