



# The Christian

Summer 2016

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

## New Day Is For You!

### Spiritual Transformation for leaders and congregations

Here's your invitation to new life in God, spiritual transformation. In the New Day retreats, we are connected to God and one another in a new way and connected with what God wants us to do – individually and as a church.

There's still time to join! We're offering a mini-retreat on June 17 & 18 in Decatur. And the second retreat is July 15-17 in Carlinville.

It starts with you. It is an invitation to go deeper in our faith, practicing our ways of being closer to God. It involves letting go of what we've been doing in order to do something greater, something more faithful and effective. It blesses our lives and the lives of your congregation with prayer and other spiritual practices, rest, new insights, new energy!

**In the New Day retreats**, we create an atmosphere open to God's transforming power. Together we pray, listen to God, experiment with new ideas, and focus on ministry opportunities outside and inside the congregation. We offer a variety of experiences – worship, conversation, listening to one another, prayer, rest, writing, being quiet. We make friends with wonderful spiritual companions, folks we've never met and now we share a journey together.

We have new energy for the faithful path ahead. We have abundant resources and partners to travel with us on this adventure. The Regional church is making a huge investment in your spiritual journey!

For more information, see our Transformation page on the Regional church website – <http://cciwdisciples.org/transformation/>

and contact Scott Woolridge – [scott@cciwdisciples.org](mailto:scott@cciwdisciples.org)





## REGIONAL MINISTER'S MOMENT

*Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker*

### Psalm 46 Revisited

When I began serving as Regional Minister, Psalm 46 rose up as a guiding light in the midst of all that was tumultuous. "God is our refuge and strength in times of trouble. God is in the midst of the holy city as a river to make it habitable. Though mountains and kingdoms totter, God is still God. Be still and know that I am God."

The wonder of the Psalm speaks to great anxiety in every age. It is not just individuals who are shaken by anxious time. Kingdoms, even mountains and oceans are thrown into an uproar. The temptation in an age of anxiety is to forget God: to try to assert ourselves in God's place; to hold on to what we can; to push away and build barriers to what we can't control; to promote leaders who promise to stop the shaking, who use power to bully; to dis-connect from who we are and the power of love that calls us to "be still and know that I am God."

We are living through anxious times when many are forgetting our divine relationship. In the desire to be harmonious, a lot of us have kept silent when bitter words have been spoken. In the hope of not-excluding, we have let mean-spiritedness pass without challenging its core-spirit. In the desire to sow love, we have let bad behavior go unchecked. As if kindness and generosity are enough to change the heart of a bully bound by the disease of the "isms" that plague our day.

Bully-isms don't just go away. There is a reason they are called demons, principalities and powers. They won't go away even when called to account by love, kindness and generosity---on the part of one person. It takes a whole community saying, "No." Not just once, but many times over.

Recently, the Rev. Dr. Christal L. Williams posted on her Facebook page an encounter with a man who was eating food from a dumpster. She caught sight of him and was so startled by what he was doing that she cried out, "No." "No, you can't eat that. No, you are a human being and this is not right. No, you are God's child. No." It was a gut-level righteous response.

This poor guy had no chance. Dr. Williams was about to raise him up. And, she did---she gave him money and told him "to go over to that restaurant and watch them cook you a hot meal." In other words, you are a human being and this (especially in this country) is not acceptable. "No."

No, is a word we need to hear. A word we need to speak to powers and principalities disguised in phrases like "freedom of expression" and "unity in diversity." Unity/Wholeness isn't sameness, but neither does it allow the degradation or humiliation of our neighbors. Freedom of expression that damages the made-in-God's-image of our neighbors diminishes the true freedom we have received in Christ.

As Disciples, we are called to speak a clear "no" to degradation, humiliation, and mean-spirited sectarianism. "No" to anything that denies the humanity of our neighbors. "No" to all that denies our essential connection to one another. "No" to any person or group that claims the power of God for themselves to the exclusion of others.

That is why, normally quiet, kind-hearted, reasonable and relationally centered folk like Disciples are standing up in the public eye to say, "No." It's about God being God, and human beings honoring the dignity of each life, even those that are different from ours.

## ***Save the Date!!!!***

**You are invited to a celebration of the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Christal L. Williams as she completes 17 years of the ministry for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin, and**

**We send her forth to serve as the Regional Minister and President for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tennessee.**

**Sunday, June 12 from 3-6 p.m.**

**at Grace Community Christian Church**

**2770 Montgomery Rd.**

**Aurora, Illinois 60504**

**RSVP to [ministry@cciwdisciples.org](mailto:ministry@cciwdisciples.org) or 309.828.6293 by June 1.**

**If you would like to contribute to a love gift for Dr. Williams, please make your contributions to CCIW, 401 W. Jefferson St., Bloomington, IL 61701. Include "for Dr. Williams" in the memo line.**



**Your gift to the  
PENTECOST OFFERING  
helps start new churches!**  
**Sundays, May 15 & 22, 2016**



*Celebrating a new congregation's vitality*

Rebecca and Luke Sumner wanted to do a new thing, to start a ministry where everyone is invited to feast with Jesus. They planted Our Common Table in North Everett, Washington, a ministry where all are welcomed and no one is excluded.

According to Rebecca during the first year the couple hosted many events in the neighborhood, met with people, volunteered at various places, served on boards and did what they could to get to know the people in the area, while listening and searching for God's direction as they continued to serve.

Luke and Rebecca are entering the second year of ministry and Our Common Table (formerly Everett Christian Church), has established itself as a Christian community focused on welcome and justice. With many partners, including the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Everett United Church of Christ, Our Common Table has launched evening worship in combination with a community meal, an open hospitality space with special attention to welcoming neighbors who are experiencing houselessness or poverty, and other initiatives.

Recently, Luke and Rebecca attended Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation's Leadership Academy and are featured in the 2016 Pentecost Offering video. According to Gilberto Collazo, president of Hope Partnership, we are thankful to Rebecca and Luke Sumner for taking the time to share their new church journey in support of the Pentecost Offering. "They have demonstrated a strong spirit of collaboration and willingness to share their experience and are a testimony to others who may be inspired by their faithful journey," he says. Each year the Pentecost Offering, a special offering of the Christian Church, raises funds for the new church ministry movement. One half of the offering is designated to the Region or Area in which the offering is taken, while the other half is used by Hope Partnership to support the recruitment, assessment, training and coaching of new church leaders. To view the Pentecost Offering video visit [www.hopepmt.org](http://www.hopepmt.org). To learn more about Our Common Table Rebecca visit [www.ourcommontablechurch.org](http://www.ourcommontablechurch.org).



The Regional Church Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin is pleased to offer ten (10) individual grants of \$2,000 to Disciple congregations in our Region to support ministries and programs designed to **build relationships, foster inclusion, and provide hospitality to our neighbors in the community.**

To apply for this grant, the congregation should submit a letter from the Pastor and an Elder or Moderator of the Board that provides the following:

1. A description of the ministry and/ or program.
2. A description of how the ministry and/or program relates to the five values of the Region that include:
  - 1) engaged discipleship—deepening spiritual living connection with Christ
  - 2) meaningful authentic relationships—encouraging connections
  - 3) creative ministry—willing to take risks
  - 4) missioned focused—outward focused beyond our doors
  - 5) multicultural and interconnected worldview—recognition of the beloved community.

Each program will not need to address each of the five values, but the letter should indicate which values are embodied through this ministry/ program.

Upon receipt of the grant and completion of the program, the congregation will be asked to do the following:

1. Send a representative to the next scheduled Regional Assembly to present a summary of the program and its outcome.
2. Provide high resolution photos and a summary of the program to be uploaded to the Mission First website with the help of the Regional Staff.

**The letter of application should be sent to CCIW, 401 W. Jefferson St., Bloomington, IL 61701 or [laurie@cciwdisciples.org](mailto:laurie@cciwdisciples.org) by July 1, 2016.**

Grants may not be used for staff salary or building expense support.



## Introducing our New Christian Church Foundation Representative

### Enrique Ocasio Christian Church Foundation Great Lakes Zone Vice President

Enrique Ocasio was born in Puerto Rico where he served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for over 20 years. In January 2001, Enrique moved to Indianapolis, IN, to serve the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States.

He has served with the Division of Overseas Ministries and was a pastor for a Disciples new church start in Indianapolis. On staff with the Christian Church Foundation since 2004, he currently serves donors and congregations in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and the states within the Northeastern Region. He also works with Hispanics in the United States and in Puerto Rico.

He also served as a volunteer accountant for the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Enrique is an ordained Disciples minister and is married to Rev. Carmen R. Fernandez, an ordained Disciples minister. Enrique and Carmen live in Gahanna, Ohio and are members of Gender Road Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canal Winchester, Ohio where Carmen serves as the associate minister. They have three children and four grandchildren.



## Come experience the love of God through song and dance!

Center Stage is a musical theatre camp that brings  
people closer to God through the arts.  
Actors, musicians, and tech people are wanted!



June 19-26<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Contact the Regional Office  
for more information.

FCC Peoria is our home base where we will be not only rehearsing, but eating, sleeping, and getting to know the love of Christ.

Auditions will be held Sunday evening after our gathering dinner and rehearsals start Monday morning.

Our open dress rehearsal performance will be Thursday evening at FCC Peoria.

Friday night, opening night, performance is at FCC Galesburg.

Saturday evening is at FCC Bloomington.

Closing performance on Sunday morning is at University Place CC in Champaign.



## **We have moved!**

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin has a new office space inside of First Christian Church in Bloomington. You can send mail to CCIW, 401 W. Jefferson St., Bloomington, IL 61701. We have the same office phone number: 309.828.6293.



## **News From CCIW Disciples Women**

On Saturday, April 2, 2016, Women from throughout the CCIW Region came together for a Great Spring Event. The event was a hit with the women who attended. They enjoyed the fellowship, keynote speakers Rev. Dr. Lisa Davison & Sarah Page Jones, shopping the Just Good Trade market, worship, The Chiara Center and food.

- ♥ 66 women registered for the event and 60 were able to attend.
- ♥ A special offering was collected for Family Resources – Breaking Traffik in the amount of \$514.00.
- ♥ Blessing Box Offerings turned in that day by congregations and individuals totaled \$2,454.43.

Thanks to the Women's Cabinet for planning such an Inspiring and Welcoming Event.



## **CCIW's Nominating Committee is at work:**

Mark Rupe, Louann Scobbie, Ken Woods, Howard Kennon, Martha Shine, John Sowers and Amy Wharton are prayerfully seeking leaders for our next biennium. Please keep them in your prayers. Officers will be elected at our Oct. 21-22 Regional Assembly!



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

*\*\*Registration Materials will be made available on  
the CCIW website in the first week of May.*

**Friday—Saturday October 21-22**  
**Springfield, Illinois**

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**FRIDAY ~~**

- \* *Regional Clergy Luncheon with The Rev. Canon Albert J. Keeney speaking*
- \* *Assembly Registration*
- \* *Friday Film Festival featuring Ink 180 and "Injustice Anywhere," the Ferguson, Missouri Story*
- \* *Discounted Admission to Abraham Lincoln Library/Museum—\$10*
- \* *Assembly Banquet*
- \* *Worship with Rev. A. Denise Bell preaching*

**SATURDAY ~~**

- \* *Youth Activities*
- \* *Gathering Worship with Rev. Bell*
- \* *State of the Region*
- \* *Assembly Lunch*
- \* *Mission First*
- \* *Closing Worship*



**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.





**Rev. Canon Albert J. Keeney**

The Rev. Canon Albert J. Keeney will be the keynote speaker for our Clergy luncheon on Friday, Oct. 21 at First Christian (Disciples of Christ) Springfield.

Al is an Episcopal priest and spiritual director. He has served in parishes in New Jersey and New York and as assistant to the bishop in the diocese of Rochester, NY. Prior to his career in ordained ministry, he was in creative and management positions in advertising and business communications. A native of the Chicago area, he has lived in St. Louis, MO, Indianapolis, IN, Madison, NJ and currently resides in Canandaigua, NY, in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York. Al is a retreat and pilgrimage leader and has taught workshops in Spiritual Direction, Journaling, Contemplative Prayer and Praying with Icons. He serves as an adjunct faculty member and is President of the Board for the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington, DC.

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**\*\*FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE MAY 2 AT  
WWW.CCIWDISCIPLES.ORG**

### **Early Bird Registraton: May 1-July 31**

Adult	*\$60
Young Adults (18-33)	*\$50
Youth	*\$25
Child (ages 11 and under)	*\$25

### **Standard Registration: August 1-October 8**

Adult	*\$75
Young Adults (18-33)	*\$60
Youth	*\$30
Child (ages 11 and under)	*\$30

**For every 4 people whom  
your congregation  
registers for the 2016  
Regional Assembly, your  
Pastor's Banquet ticket will  
be FREE! Encourage your  
congregation to attend!**



Our hotel accommodations are with Springfield Wyndham City Center

*Information and links will be up on our website in May*

*Hotel Rooms with tax \$112  
(youth rooms with 4 occupants \$28 each)*

Meals for the Regional Assembly *\*billed separately from registration*

~Clergy Lunch at First Christian Church	\$10.00
~Assembly Banquet	\$30.00
~Saturday Lunch	\$10.00

## **VOLUNTEERING**

**God's call to YOU!**

**Camp Acts**



## **CAMP WALTER SCOTT WORK WEEK JUNE 5-11**

Come for the week or just a day or two | Families welcome | Teach your children how to give

Jobs for all ages and skill levels – cleaning, pick up sticks, yard work, trim trees, repairs on shelters, assemble a bench and more. Evenings – games, fun, free time. Food and lodging provided for all workers.

\*Children must be accompanied by parent/adult.

\*Middle/High School youth must have adult leader/sponsor.

Questions?

Contact Jackie Summers at FCC (DoC) Mt. Carmel

618-262-7331 or [fccmc@frontier.com](mailto:fccmc@frontier.com)

***“...REKINDLE THE GIFT OF GOD WHICH IS IN YOU...”***

***2Timothy 1:6***





Don't forget to sign up for Family Camps! We have two opportunities for you and your family to camp together this summer. The first is Memorial weekend, May 27-30th and another family camp during Labor Day weekend, September 2-5th! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to camp with your whole family and along side other families from across our region!



## Director and Counselor Training

Saturday May 21st is our second Director and Counselor training session. If you missed the first one please try your very best to attend the May 21st meeting. It will be held at Centennial Christian Church in Bloomington, IL from 10am-3pm. If you're a director for camp this year please let your counselors know about this meeting! I don't have everyone's counselor roster so I can't email everyone! Please let me know whether or not you're able to attend by Monday May 16th. Thank you very much to your dedication to our regional camp ministry!



# Come to Camp

It's almost summer! that means no more pencils, no more books, and no more teachers dirty looks! summer is such a magical time of the year. The weather is mostly beautiful and each day is made into a new adventure. Some of my best summers have been spent in the neighborhood I grew up in, riding my bike, jumping on a trampoline, swimming, and exploring the woods in my neighborhood with my friends. There is nothing like summer as a kid. One thing that I never experienced as a kid until the tail end of my teen years was camp.

Camp was the one thing that was missing from my childhood experience. I experienced one year as a true camper, and during that week I kept asking myself, why haven't I gone to camp before? My church camp experience was great as a camper, but as a counselor it was made into such a rich opportunity. It has been my mission as a counselor/director/ program director to get kids interest in camp. It's not solely because I don't want them to miss out on the experience that I missed out on, but because at camp you meet God in a different way, a way that you haven't quite encountered God before at church.

A lot of ministers will say that they received their call to ministry at camp, or that they were saved, or baptized. Not me though, it was at camp that I realized I wanted to work with youth of all ages and share my faith with them. It didn't matter what I did for a living, but if I could just form a bond with these kids, form a relationship with them and tell them about Jesus, that was my mission in life. It just so happened that I eventually did receive my call to ministry and have been blessed with the opportunity to share the message of the gospel for a living.

Camp isn't just somewhere we go, but a place where we grow in some way. You can be shy and your camp experience encourage you to be a little more outgoing. You may be struggling with some issues in your personal life, camp is a place where you can go and share those struggles with a community that can help you and guide you to make the right decisions. Camp could be a place where you first really hear the gospel and see it lived out. In our culture, camp is an important part of our Christian journey. For some, it's so important that Camp is more than just a place, but a home. Please consider camp this year, invite your friends, invite your enemy's, invite someone who needs camp. Don't let the cost of camp keep you from coming. We have scholarships, talk to your ministers, we'll make sure you get to camp. If you're afraid of being an outcast, don't be! Jesus was an outcast, and the beautiful thing about camp, is that we've all been the outcast at some point because of what we believe. Don't be the only thing standing in the way of having a life changing experience. Come to camp!

Jared Reno, Camp Program Coordinator





# CCIW OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

## CAMP DATES FOR 2016

### FAMILY WEEKENDS

CHURCH FAMILY REUNION MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (CWS) *Jane Cahill*  
CHURCH FAMILY REUNION LABOR DAY WEEKEND (CWS) *Jane Cahill*

MAY 27-30  
SEPTEMBER 2-5

### JUNE

CAMP ACTS 20:35 (CWS – WORK WEEK) *Jackie Summers*  
CYF (CWS) *Amy Gillespie and Jim Summers*  
CENTER STAGE (FCC-PEORIA) *Mason Fitch and Evan Williams*  
GRANDPARENTS & ME (CWS) *Chuck and Libby West*  
BEGINNERS (CWS) *Kris Light and Ed Taylor*  
JYF (PP) *Jonathan Grant and Terri Grove*

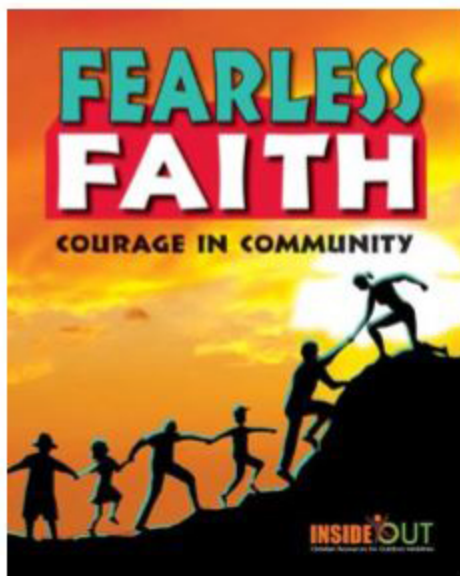
JUNE 5-11  
JUNE 12-18  
JUNE 19-26  
JUNE 19-22  
JUNE 22-25  
JUNE 26-JULY 2

### JULY

BEGINNERS (PP) *Courtney Montgomery Chandler*  
CHI RHO (PP) *Randi Grodjesk*  
CYF (PP) *TBD*  
JYF (CWS) *Nichole Fauser and Mason Fitch*  
CHI RHO (CWS) *Tracy Armstrong and Jared Reno*  
POST-HIGH WEEKEND RETREAT (CWS) *Tim Akers*

JULY 3-6  
JULY 3-9  
JULY 3-9  
JULY 10-16  
JULY 17-23  
JULY 29-31

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

# Camp Walter Scott

WORK  
DAY

**Saturdays**  
**May 21**  
**October 1**  
**November 5**



**Come and  
Join Us!**



**Prayer Concerns:** Rev. Tommy Henegar's mother, Rev. Tom Akers, Rev. Jim Boswell, and Rev. Neil Sallee were all hospitalized recently and recovering.

Rev. Tom Akers' mother is on Hospice Care.

Rev. Andrew Packman and Rev. Sarah Rohde Packman welcomed a baby boy, Benjamin Isaac, on March 28, 2016. He weighed 7 lb. 15 oz.



**Deaths:** Irvin Barron, father of Rev. Gretchen Barron; Frances Crawford, wife of Rev. Don Graham; and Cherie Thomas, mother of Rev. Tanya Sadagopan

**Pastor Changes:** Keith Tilford to First CC, Metropolis; Kate Sweet transferred in from the Pacific Northwest; Brant Reed to Illinois Street CC, Lewiston and Ipava CC; James Boswell to Arrowsmith CC; Keela Neumann started full-time at First CC, Quincy; Mike Roberts retiring from First CC, Pekin; Dave Shreeves retiring from First CC, Knoxville; Brian McCreanor started as Interim at First CC, Casey; Matthew Hunt to Salem UCC, Quincy

#### **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)  
Laurie Demry-Dow (Office Administrator)

terri@cciwdisciples.org  
jeff@cciwdisciples.org  
laurie@cciwdisciples.org

#### **Camp Contacts**

Laura Williams, Camp Walter Scott  
Jared Reno

camp@cciwdisciples.org  
jared@cciwdisciples.org

#### **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**

Enrique Ocasio—Phone: 800-668-8016

eocasio@ccf.disciples.org

#### **FOR INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE CALL:**

##### **REGIONAL OFFICE BLOOMINGTON, IL**

Phone: 309-828-6293 Fax: 309-213-9469  
Address: 401 W. Jefferson St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701-3826

##### **CAMP WALTER SCOTT DIETERICH, IL**

15290 E. 300th Ave.  
Dieterich, IL 62424  
Phone: 217-739-2332 Fax: 217-739-2298

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401 W. Jefferson St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701-3826  
Subscription: \$10





Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

401 West Jefferson Street  
Bloomington, IL 61701-3826



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, 401 W. Jefferson St., Bloomington, IL 61701-3826