

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois & Wisconsin



The Christian

A Disciples of Christ Quarterly Publication

Come They Told Me” 2019 Christian Special Offering

As partners in the ministry, the Regional Church and local congregations work together. The staff and volunteer in the Regional church serve local congregations and their leaders by:

- Starting new churches
- Providing engaging camps & youth events
- Helping congregations with their communication initiatives
- Creating global connections in Guatemala & other countries
- Leading anti-racism training
- Promoting congregational transformation
- Assisting congregations tell their Life Giving & Life Changing Stories

The Regional Office, through the leading of our New Church|Ministries Team, has had the joy of witnessing the development of eight congregations. These congregations are reaching out into communities in creative ways and welcoming all to the Lord’s Table. Our new CCIW churches have helped The Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, exceed their goal of 1,000 new church plants.

This is an example of how the Regional Church joins the journey with new congregations in CCIW. It is our goal to advance God’s Kingdom together and continue to show God’s love. Your contribution in today’s offering will help assist the Region in our continued progress.

Thank you for sharing for your gifts to the ministries we share through The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin. Your offerings make a difference! 100% of your gifts to the Christmas Offering support CCIW.

“Together Making Disciples of Christ”



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3rd Quarter
Volume 1, Issue 3



Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea Parker

Regional Minister's Moment

Our mission; To connect and empower Disciples congregations for life-changing and life-giving ministries in our evolving world.

Dear Church,

The gospel of Matthew has become one of my favorites. When I was younger it was all Luke. I loved Luke for some obvious reasons: the movement of the Holy Spirit; for every story of the healing of a man, there is a story of a healing of a woman; the emphasis on salvation to the ends of the earth. No limit to God's grace. That's good news! I don't know about you, but I needed to hear that message---specifically, that God's love included, empowered and called me---a woman.

Then, I spent time leading congregations and discovered that we are not always the obvious agents of God's reconciling love in the world. In fact, a lot of our congregations aren't sure they want to love the way God loves. That is: extravagantly, prodigally, generously, graciously beyond anything that we deserve. The world has discovered that about us, too. We aren't always gracious. Here are some reasons folks are opting out of church: "The church is irrelevant. The church is too narrow in its beliefs. The church is judgmental, mean and critical. Individuals in the church are not committed to spiritual growth. No light shining." (Source Thrive: Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations by the Rev. Dr. Ruth Fletcher.)

Back to Matthew, how often do we need to forgive church people, Jesus? Is seven times enough? For the questioner, it is a basic accounting question. Not for Jesus. No, seven times is not going to do it. You will have to forgive church people seventy times seven. It will be endless. Jesus is not naïve about church life.

In Matthew's gospel he says, (paraphrasing) "See, God is like this: a King settling accounts. A man who owes the King more than he could ever repay. A debt that will cost his freedom, and his wife's and children's; a generational debt. This man begs saying "just be patient I will pay you back." The King knows this is not within the realm of possibility and chooses to forgive the debt.

The slave walks away free, unburdened by grace beyond any hope. What does he do with his new life? What does he do with such an incredible gift of grace? The list above comes to mind.

I must say, I wasn't the biggest fan of Matthew's judgments at first, but I've come to appreciate this: We who have been given so much by God's extravagant grace and mercy in Jesus---something is expected of us. **That we will give what we have received.** It is a simple accounting, after all. What will you do with the grace you have been given?

Teresa

We do this, because we want to be a radically welcoming Region of connected Disciples congregations, radiating the Creator's love, continuing Christ's mission, and following the Spirit's call. (Vision 2019)

Summit 2019 & Midwinter 2020

Attention CCIW Youth! The Regional Youth Council invites you to our upcoming events for youth in 6th to 12th grade.

First, join us for Summit 2019, our CCIW biennial youth retreat. Gather with youth and adult sponsors from all across our region for worship, workshops, fun and more! Summit will take place on November 22-24, 2019 at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, IL.

Then, join us at Central Christian Church in Danville, IL for Midwinter 2020. Come to this annual youth retreat for 24 hours of fellowship and deep spiritual engagement. Midwinter will take place on January 25 & 26, 2020.

The planning team and RYC are working hard so that we might have a meaningful, exciting, and fun experience at both events. Schedules and details for each event will be available soon.

We look forward to seeing you at Summit 2019 and Midwinter 2020 - don't forget to invite your friends! **Registration is now open!** **Register for Summit 2019 and Midwinter 2020 together to save! The earlier you register, the more you save!**

Visit www.cciwdisciples.org/youth for details and registration link
Contact Pastor Eli (eli@cciwdisciples.org || (708) 730 4059.



School for Ministry: New Year, New Directions for Ministry

Looking to become a Commissioned or Lay ministerial leader in your congregation? The School For Ministry can help you realize your dream. We invite you to join the 2020 Cohort. Applications for admission to the program will be accepted until December 1.

Our first event of the year, the Winter Retreat, will take place at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, IL, on January 10-12. Learn more about yourself, discern your call, and build community at this three-day gathering. Planned workshops include, Introduction to Christian Worship and Basics of Spiritual Formation. You will also have an opportunity to start building community with the guidance of your Cohort Leader, who will accompany you every step of the way through the program.

For more information visit our website at CCIWdisciples.org/School-for-Ministry/ or contact Executive Director Rev. Lorrie Reed, Lorrie@cciwdisciples.org.



General Assembly Reflections by Jessi Delost

This was my first time attending General Assembly! It was so much more than I had expected, although I'm not sure I had many expectations before going. I know I was really anxious about meeting new people or not knowing enough people to be comfortable—but that anxiety was unfounded. Instead, once I went to the young adult meet ups and was able to talk with children, parents, young adults and grandparents at the Eureka College booth (which I was helping with throughout GA), it felt like being around people I've known my whole life.

Personally, especially as someone who works in a church, I found GA to be rejuvenating. It's so easy to see the church as just your corner of it—and being in a space with the church as a whole reminded me of how wonderfully large and diverse we are in the ways we worship, live into our callings, and exist as Disciples in the communities we serve every week. Being reminded of that, among the everyday stress of doing community-focused ministry work, was life altering for me. I came back ready for the new semester of ministry work with the students on UIUC's campus, more understanding of the sorrows and joys that young adults in the church experience, and ready to take on the challenges presented to us as Christian's every day in workshops and worship.

Being able to better understand the needs of YA's was incredible for my work at UniPlace. As someone who came into my faith in an academic institution, it is easy for me to experience Christ best in academic and incredibly serious spaces—it's how I personally connect. But, to better understand the needs of young adults who have fun together (not academic fun, but "real" fun) along with a desire to connect their faith to their convictions throughout their week and not simply on Sundays, will change the way I engage with our new YA bible study this fall. It helped me to recognize that, in planning the study, I need to keep in mind the balance of discussion vs activities and true relationship building alongside it all.

I also was able to see the president of Phillips Seminary, Rev. Nancy Pittman, give a sermon during worship at West Des Moines Christian Church and decided to meet with their recruiter to discuss their online programs the next day. After being invited to the lunch Phillips hosted, it was obvious that I'd found a seminary that I'd love attending. I was offered a free course this fall after talking with the recruiter and just finished applying to their M.Div. program earlier this week.

This opportunity was amazing and I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity! The only thing I had trouble with at General Assembly is the assumption that we all know what is going on. For better or worse, I was somewhat in the dark being relatively new to the denomination and entirely new to GA. It wasn't until Monday that I understood that voting happens in the mornings, or that there was a bible study along with serious denominational discussions happening. That being said, I do know that 99% of people at GA have a long history of being there or attend with adults who help them navigate the event.

Jessi Delost

Jessi Delost is the Campus Connector at UniPlace Christian Church in Champaign, IL and is currently studying at Phillips Theological Seminary.



"I came back ready for the new semester of ministry work with the students on UMC's campus"



General Assembly Reflections by Eli Rolón Jeong

The eagerness I encountered to move beyond the church walls and into the streets is certainly reassuring. I saw active Christians, motivated by a common idea, fully engaged in modern and pressing topics such as anti-racism/reconciliation, LGBTQ+ equality, education, child care, and so much more. Out in the trenches of the individual churches, it's easy to become overwhelmed by the ongoing challenges we face. The gathering left me with a renewed sense of direction and a blessed reassurance that the church is going to withstand the test of time. I encountered a people, although different across several lines, nevertheless united under a common goal.

Colten says that his expectations going into General Assembly for the very first time were met. "The amount of diversity as far as race and ethnicity was really incredible," something that Colten found valuable at GA. Furthermore, he says that now that he has attended GA, "I know more about what I'm doing work for. I feel more of a connection to my denomination."

In total, CCIW helped 7 young adults from our region to attend General Assembly. As a region, we value the connections made throughout our denomination and we're blessed to have many young adults committed to the life of the church in all its expressions – locally, regionally, generally, and beyond!

Eli Rolón Jeong

Transformation Is Coming in 2020

Where is God leading you to grow and change in the year ahead? Who is on that journey with you? The Regional church is bringing new efforts to transformation in 2020. New partnerships, new events, new ideas that will bring new life.

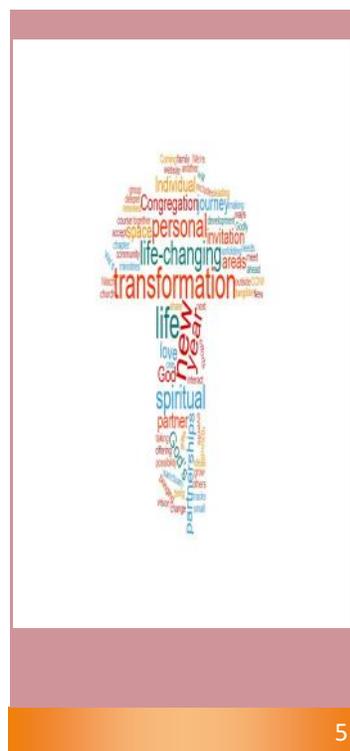
We're offering transformation in these three areas –

- Individual and small group spiritual growth – making space in your life to accept an invitation from God to go deeper.
- Congregational transformation that includes God's new vision for your church and the possibility of new ministries – renewed focus in the next chapter of our life together.
- Community development – taking our Godly gifts outside the sanctuary to partner with others in the community to meet needs and to share God's love in tangible ways.

Of course, these three areas or tracks of transformation interact with one another.

We'll be offering clear, practical resources to help in the area of transformation that's right for you. You'll have partners along the way who offer valuable wisdom and caring relationships.

Watch this space and our website for what will be unfolding in the new year. We'd love to partner with you on this life-changing journey.



We heard you!

As your Regional Church, we have a wealth of information we want to share to keep you informed. However, it is our understanding it has not always been easy to find it on our website. ***We heard some of your concerns and we have updated our CCIW Website!*** Our goal was to make the site more user friendly and arrange information in a manner so it's easier to locate. You'll see updates to the Navigation Bar and Home Page etc. The new navigation bar is shorter and more descriptive. We also included commonly used information on the home page for quick access. So, when you're looking to register for an event – you can simply click "Register" in the navigation bar or scroll to the "Registration" section on the home page.



You'll find one new item under CCIW Region – ***Congregational Projects***. The request was to create a section where we can share successful projects we've executed at our churches. It's simply a resource sharing page. Feel free to visit it and share details regarding events that your church has executed that others might be interested in learning about.

We've also added a ***"Quick Links"*** section to the website. When you click on the menu icon, at the top right of the home page, you'll find a list of links to help you quickly navigate to key areas on the site.

It is our prayer that these updates will help you locate the information you need. We will continue to make updates as needed.

See below for a quick review of the new Navigation Bar:

CCIW REGION ▾ CLERGY ▾ MINISTRIES ▾ CAMP ▾ PUBLICATIONS ▾ REGISTER ▾ GIVE ▾

CCIW Region: provides information about the Region: Who We Are, Staff, Regional Elders and it provides resources for our Congregations.

Clergy: includes resources and information for and about clergy in the Region: New Ministry Candidates, Short-Term and Interim Ministers, Spiritual Directors and it's also where clergy will go to renew their standing.

Ministries: link to information pages for all Regional Ministries.

Camp: visit here to find information about camp season and link over to the Camp Walter Scott website.

Publications: this tab lists all of our publications where you can keep up-to-date on what's happening in the region. You can also register to receive these publications.

Register: click here to register for CCIW events and classes etc.

Give: click here to support CCIW and learn about other ways you can give to the Region etc.

Announcements

Disciples Women's 2020 Spring Gathering
May 2, 2020
Chiara Center, Springfield

"COME JOURNEY WITH ME"

Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker, Keynote



We're here to help!

Looking for innovative ways to reach people and share The Good News? **The Communications Ministry** is here to support CCIW Congregations with their communication plans etc.

If your church is seeking assistance reaching people where they are, we're here to help you.

Email us at:
communications@cciwdisciples.org

The following churches and individuals have contributed to the 2019 mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the Annual Fund, Gifts to the Camping Scholarship Fund, and to the Designated Camping Fund.

The Region gives thanks for the incredible support through prayers, hours of volunteering and the financial support that allows ministry for children and youth, leadership development, congregation consultation, ministerial search & call, and shared mission activities to occur. You do make a difference.

Individuals

Arvil Bass
 Doris Beckerman
 Kevin Benford
 Michael Buckley
 Angee Byrd
 Jane Cahill
 Robert and Sharyl Craggs
 Ruben Cruz
 Joe Culpepper
 Teresa Dulyea-Parker
 Mike and Peggy Dixon
 Eron Dupree
 Eric and Jane Freyfogle
 James Graham
 Eugenia Griese
 Donald and Connie Heller
 Laura Holinger Antonelli
 Gene and Sue Johnson
 Dennis and Amy Johnson
 Rebecca Ingram Kirby
 Eugene and Nancy Lamport
 Patrick and Susan Larkin
 Don and Luella Muhannah
 Marla McElroy
 Dave and Bea Meeker
 Harry and Linda Meyer
 Rachel and Alan Moore
 Don and Carol Ann Moseley
 Ken and John Newton
 Deborah Owen
 Darryl and Bonnie Parr
 Judith Ridlen
 Dolores Roosevelt
 Dennis and Louann Scobbie
 Robert and Amy Silvanik
 James and Dorothy Trefzger

Darryl Trimiew
 Verla Welker
 Dwight and Diane Winnett
 Scott and Vicky Woolridge
 Jeff Zimmerman
 Tom and Nancy Zoelzer

Churches

Canton First Christian Church
 Creve Coeur First Christian Church
 Danville Central Christian Church
 Disciples of Christ Community Church
 Fifteenth Ave Christian Church
 Galesburg First Christian Church
 Gibson City Christian Church
 Happy Christian Church
 Hoopeston First Christian Church
 Illiopolis Christian Church
 Lawrenceville First Christian Church/
 World Outreach
 Lincolnshire Community Christian
 Church
 Livingstone Church
 Lomax Christian Church
 Niantic Christian Church
 Petersburg First Christian Church
 Sullivan First Christian Church
 Union Ave Christian Church
 Villa Park Christian Church

Camp Scholarships

Eureka Christian Church
 Union Ave Christian Church
 Jacksonville Central Christian Church



Designated and Capitol Gifts to Camp

Jane Cahill
 Canton First Christian Church
 Peoria First Christian Church
 Benton First Christian Church
 CWF Metropolis First Christian Church
 Pekin First Christian Church
 Joseph Bryan
 Virginia Doherty
 Sunnyland Christian Church
 Mt Carmel First Christian Church
 Illinois Valley Cluster
 Cheryl McHenry
 Larry and Juanita Preston
 Charles and Nancy Miller
 Renee Potter
 Ron and Teresa Koehler
 Wilbur and Peggy Brown

Camp Walter Scott
 is a ministry of the
 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 in Illinois & Wisconsin

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Rev. Rick Williams; Rev. Dee Ann Woods; Rev. Dr. Vitalino Similox and Nora Coloma; Wayne Williams, father-in-law of Laura Williams, CWS; Rev. Terry Foland; Rev. Rob Rixman; George Beckerman, husband of Rev. Doris Beckerman; Rev. Crystal Chinn; Darla Foglio, wife of Rev. Mark Foglio; Rev. Lorrie Reed; Rev. Gretchen Barron; Patrick Butterick, son of Rev. Jason Butterick; Melissa Williams, wife of Rev. Rick Williams; Rev. Rick Williams

Deaths: Rev. Jacquie Clingan, widow of Rev. Dr. Donald Clingan; Rev. Ronald Frazier; Rev. Arthur Headley; Delores Halligan, mother of Rev. Deann Anderson; Diane Sandy, widow of Rev. Jim Sandy

Pastoral Changes: Rev. Amy Wharton, part time at First Olney; Karla Brown Smith, retired from Chaplaincy at St. John's; Rev. Karen Knodt, First Christian Church Carbondale; Long Point Christian Church, closing at end of 2019

New Affiliated and Chartered Congregations: Happy Christian Church, Pastor Paul Yoo, chartered congregation; Global Community Fellowship, Pastor Sunil Gaikwad, affiliated community.

Contact Information

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Pension Fund Representative

Rev. Sarah Renfro	srenfro@pensionfund.org
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Christian Church Foundation Representative

India Bobadilla	indiab@ccf.disciples.org
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The Annual Fund

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 minis-

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