

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



The Christian

A Disciples of Christ Quarterly Publication

IMAGINE
God's Love
REVEALED

A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund supporting the ministries of our Region



God's Love Revealed through The Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry members walk with leaders through the process of becoming Ordained or Commissioned Ministers. This Regional Committee is important to the vitality of the Region and the larger church. Below are two testimonials attesting to God's Love being revealed through this process.

"If Advent means "the arrival of a notable person, time or event", then my role serving on the Committee on Ministry is witnessing just that; experiencing the process (advent) of each candidate as they begin their journey into the ministry, whether through ordination or the commissioning process. Reading their Spiritual Autobiographies prior to their first meeting with our committee, following their progress, and interviewing them for ordination a few years later, we get to experience first-hand their spiritual growth and maturity until their birth. And for me personally, I receive much more from each individual than I have ever given to them. It is indeed an honor and privilege to be a part of this committee and to witness this advent from a front row seat." – Sylvia Laidig

"In my many years of church service this has been one of the most enjoyable and rewarding committees to serve on. I've even enjoyed the preparation needed in reading papers and other documents. I will miss all of this but especially fellowship with the other committee members." – Larry Pepper

Thank you for revealing God's Love in your offering to support 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.



Christmas Offering December 12th & 19th

"Together Making Disciples of Christ"



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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,

On Jan. 6, 2021, Epiphany in the Church year, I returned a phone call to my colleague Rev. Eugene James, Regional Minister for the Christian Church Michigan Region. He had asked me a few weeks earlier to consider partnering as the regional minister for Michigan when he retired at the end of 2021. I told him I would study the "Vision" and pray about it. On Jan. 6, I called to give him my answer, "I am willing to be in conversation."

It is ten months later, and it seems we are a world away from all that was happening that day. One thing was constant, we have continued in prayer and conversation. Both of our regional governing bodies have voted to be in covenant partnership---not a merger. At the September Michigan regional assembly, the delegates officially affirmed our path forward.

On Jan. 1, 2022, this covenant partnership begins. Here are two highlights for the beginning of 2022:

Sunday, Jan. 2 is Covenant Sunday. We have a team creating worship resources for you to use. There will be a brief video that humorously tells the story of our coming together. (This is not a merger!) The video concludes with a sermon from me based on Isaiah 42:9—

*See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.*

We will have and a litany of covenant and a written prayer from our General Minister and President, Rev. Terri Hord Owens for your bulletin. We are inviting Disciple congregations in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin to use these resources that first Sunday. It is our gift to our Pastors and worship leaders. You can just push play!

For now, plan to use the worship resources on Jan. 2. They will be up on our regional websites in November.

Monday, April 18- Wednesday, April 20, 2022. A joint clergy retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI. Rev. Dr. David Anderson Hooker will be our guest presenter on Tuesday helping us to consider our stories within the narratives that shape us. This will be a time to create community with each other, relax, eat good food, play, and let down our cares.

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As of now, CCIW will have three church vans/buses going from the north, central and south areas of our region. This will be valuable time away.

Updates:

We have called Rev. N. Alex Ruth to be our Associate Regional Minister for Transformation. He will have responsibility for the Lincoln Douglas, ROCC, Wabash, Lakeland and Southern Clusters. (See his bio in this Christian)

All active and serving Disciple Commissioned and Ordained ministers must renew their standing annually. November is the month! Please go to our website, www.cciwdisciples.org, for information on the process.

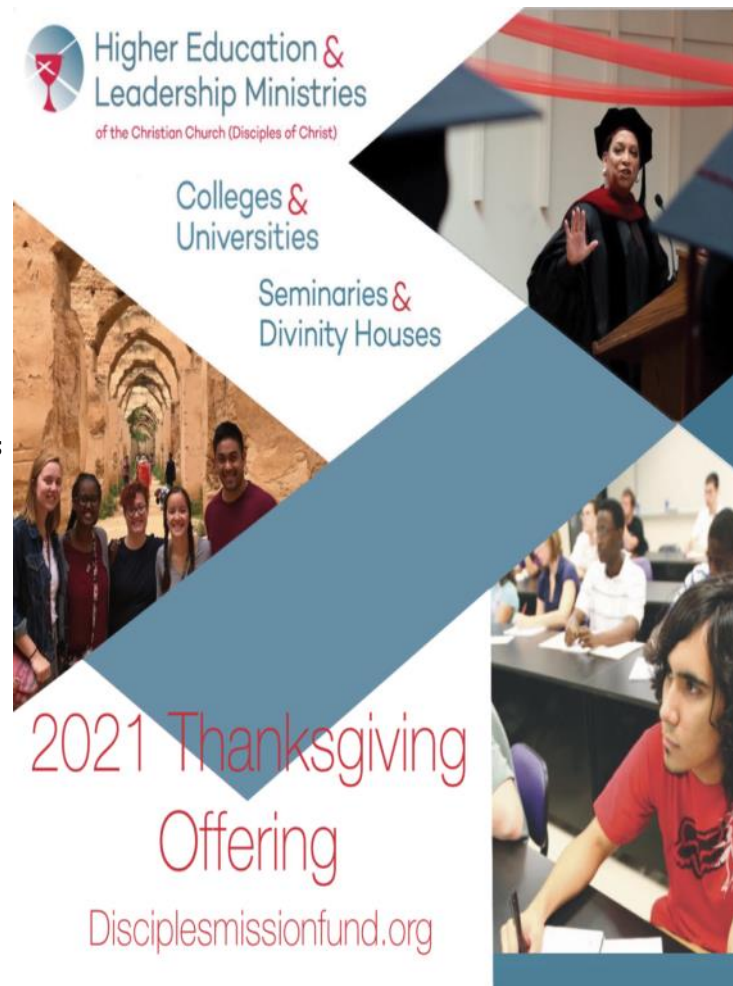
THANKSGIVING OFFERING NOVEMBER 14 & 21, 2021

From the very beginning of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education.

On November 14 and 21, Disciples churches across the US and Canada will collect the Thanksgiving offering. As we continue to struggle with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and need our support now, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities faced by many of our schools is adding additional stress to students, faculty, and staff.

By giving generously to this year's offering YOU are helping to support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.

Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning



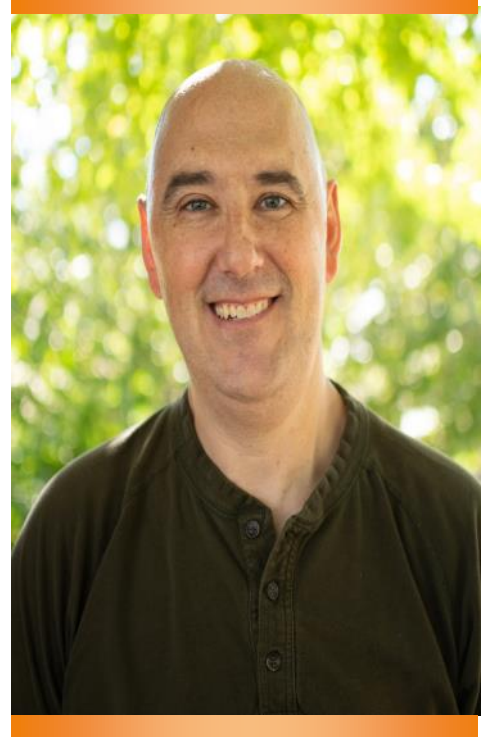
Welcome to the CCIW Family

Alex Ruth—New Associate Regional Minister

Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth grew up in various Christian traditions, which helps him celebrate the diversity of our faith. Alex first felt the call to ministry while working as staff at a summer camp but was hesitant to relinquish himself to that calling until later in life. Alex and his wife first encountered the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) when they began seeking a church home as they anticipated starting a family. Becoming ever more involved in his faith and the local church reignited Alex's call to ministry. He earned a Masters of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary in 2006 and a Doctorate of Ministry in Congregational Leadership from Bethel Seminary in 2016. Alex also holds certifications in leadership coaching and uses the coaching model to help clergy and congregations to discern their calling and strive to follow God's leading. Alex also serves as the Associate Director of Disciples Men and teaches with the Center for Ministry and Lay Training at Phillips Theological Seminary.

Alex is married to his high-school sweetheart, Jennie. Together they have two young adult children, Mason and Kaia. Alex and Jennie enjoy spending time together cooking, camping, hiking, and canoeing/kayaking. They have two dogs and three cats of their own and live with one of their grandpups.

Alex has a wide range of hobbies, including woodworking, cycling, running, swimming, and hunting. One of his favorite passages of scripture is Psalm 1:1-3, "Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on God's law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."



Looking Back – Looking Forward. Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth

Hello Disciples in Illinois and Wisconsin!

I am excited to begin my ministry among you and to work with you as we strive to be the people, churches, and communities God is calling us to be. Early in November you can expect to see some opportunities to share your hopes, fears, concerns, and dreams about ministry in the years to come. We will be working to develop groups of congregations, clergy, and laity who will commit to support one another through the hard work of transformation.

I want to take some time to introduce how I think about transformation for those of us in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). From our founding as a denomination Disciples have had two focal points for our life and ministry together; restoration and reformation. Restoration looks back at what has been – where we have seen God at work in our midst – and strives to recreate that energy and vitality. Reformation looks to the future – wondering what God is calling us toward – and leans into new ways of being God’s beloved community in the world.

We tend to see these two ideas as mutually exclusive, as though we can look back **OR** forward, but never at the same time. However, the prophets of old show us that we can long for what has been and simultaneously long for what may be. This creative tension is one of the foundations of all transformation in our lives. We take the framework built by those who have gone before us and use it to build our futures as we grow and mature into who God is calling us to be. Sure, some of what we have done before is not helpful. It may even be hurtful. Yet, as we learn every year during Lent, the ashes of our grieving can become the soil of our flourishing. Together we can repurpose and reframe our faith in a way that honors what has been, even as we reach forward to what is to come.

I hope you will prayerfully listen for how God will call you to engage the work of transformation in your life, in your community of faith, and the community in which you live. Then, let’s commit to faithfully working together as we follow the leading of the Spirit as we restore our hope and reform our lives, churches, and communities.

Summit

A Retreat for CCIW Youth

Nov. 19-21, 2021

FREE-Registration Required

CCIW Youth grades 6th to 12th are invited to join us virtually for Summit 2021. This year, our biennial event will be held online in order to ensure the safest environment possible. But don’t worry, we’ll still have a great program and lots of fun!

Registration for Summit 2021 is **FREE** but you must register in order to attend. All CCIW Youth who register will receive a free sticker pack in the mail (while supplies last; adult sponsors who register will receive one depending on availability.) Register before Monday November 15, 2021 11:59 PM CST.

Additional information such as schedules, login info, etc. will be sent via email. Visit www.CCIWDisciples.org/youth for full Summit 2021 event details. Or, please contact Pastor Eli eli@cciwdisciples.org.

Registration Link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxFz2R8MtFTiakOpsrd_D07T9t6K2iKsrD-7QZy_aAt5NGqA/viewform

Camp Walter Scott welcomes new Camp Hosts Clayton and Alix Summers



CLAYTON AND ALIX SUMMERS

CAMP WALTER SCOTT HOST CANDIDATES

Highlights:

- Clayton is completing MDiv at LTS
- Clayton and Alix have a love for CWS (that goes way back!)
- Both offer varied skills
- Clayton brings a wealth of knowledge from the secular world and ministry
- Alix complements Clayton with her skills to help feed volunteers and smaller groups, not to mention her experience as a k-12 special education teacher!
- Desire to expand CWS's reach and share the radical hospitality of Christ!

Holy Wisdom Monastery's Ecumenical Center for Clergy Spiritual—Renewal Cohort Experience An Encouragement for Pastors to Apply

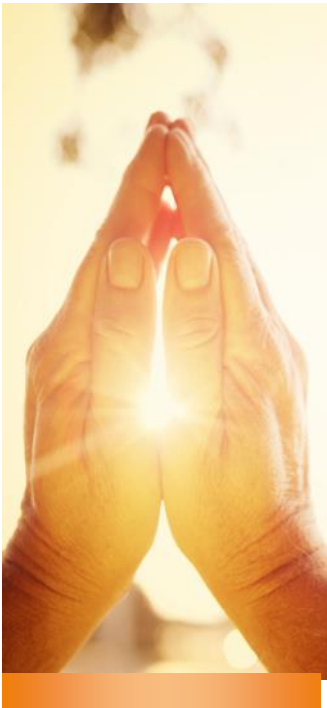
When I decided to apply to be a part of the cohort at the Ecumenical Center for Clergy Spiritual Renewal at Holy Wisdom Monastery, I was both excited and terrified. I recognized that my spirit was in need of retreat and renewal, but committing to so much contemplative time away was daunting. Now I laugh at my hesitation.

The sisters, prairie, history, and community of HWM were a gift beyond words to this weary pastor. The contemplative experience of the ECCSR and the talented leaders of the ministry were tools God used to encourage and transform me.

My 17 fellow cohort pastors, which represent nine varying denominations, become friends, confidantes and completely safe places to fully be me and be fully loved in the name of Christ.

For more information about the ECCSR cohort experience, please contact me.

In Christ, Rev. Amy Sue Johnson



Clergy Bible Study (Registration is Open)

Sermon on the Mount: The Law of the Gospel for a Multiracial, Interreligious World

Some refer to the Sermon on the Mount as the “life of uncompromising discipleship” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) and “the highest instructions ever known” (His Holiness Shenouda III). It has inspired the mysticism and prophetic activism the Desert Mothers and Fathers, Hadewijch of Brabant, and Martin Luther King, Jr. It has compelled even for those who do not claim Christianity as their own, like Gandhi, al-Ghazzali, and others. As Matthew portrays it, the Sermon on the Mount is the “law” of the Gospel.

Join us as Rev. Dr. Jose Francisco Torres leads us we will retrieve the rich wisdom of Matthew 5-7 to ground and deepen our ministry and witness in this multiracial and interreligious world.

Rev. Dr. José Francisco Morales Torres is the Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies and Religion at Chicago Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His ministry experience is broad, including congregational pastorate, community organizing, wider denominational leadership, and education. He is married to Rev. Daphne M. Gascot Arias, also ordained in the DOC, is currently working on her Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible. They share life and laughs with their daughter Daphne Magnolia and their super pup Luna.



You must register for the Bible Study to receive a Zoom link.

Register on-line at <https://cciwdisciples.org/portfolio/clergy-bible-study>

Dates: Jan. 10, 17, 24, 2022

Time: Noon –1:30 P.M.

Cost: Free for CCIW Disciples Clergy

\$10.00 Non-disciples Clergy

**Payment may be made though Paypal (link provided on registration page)
or by check**

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

2022 School for Ministry Cohort



Do you have a sense that God is speaking to you? Are you hearing the “still small voice”? Is God asking you to serve in a new way?

The School for Ministry exists to help ordinary people like you to discern and live-into extraordinary callings. Our program equips you to serve in a wide range of ministries.

Here is what one of our students had to say,

“Being part of the School for Ministry is stretching me in ways that are preparing me to serve God with more confidence, knowledge, and insight, I am being challenged and nurtured. I’m grataeful to be on this journey. Thank you.”

Won’t you join us?

Now accepting applications and for further information visit our website at
cciwdisciples.org/school-for-ministry/
or contact Rev. Lorrie Reed, Executive Director at [lorrie @cciwdisciples.org](mailto:lorrie@cciwdisciples.org)

Mark Your Calendars-2022 Disciples Women Event



The Gathering

May 6 -7, 2022
Zoom

Michigan Women's Retreat

August 19-21, 2022
Camp Crystal, MI
Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker,
keynote speaker

Heartland Interregional

Theme: Relight The Fire
August 24—26, 2022
Tall Oaks Conference Center,
Linwood, KS

Fall Women’s Retreat

Sept. 23-25, 2021

Gifts to CCIW—2021 - Your Gift Changes Life's

The following churches and individuals have contributed to the 4th quarter 2020 and to the 2021 mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the Annual Fund, Designated and Undesignated gifts to the Regional, Camp Walter Scott and other ministries.

The Region gives thanks for the incredible support through prayers, volunteer hours and the financial support that allows ministry for children and youth, leadership development, congregational consultation, ministerial search & call, and shared mission activities to occur.



Churches

Arrowsmith Christian Church
Canton First Christian Church
Niantic Christian Church
Gibson City Christian Church
Lincolnshire Community Christian Church
Lomax Christian Church
Illioopolis Christian Church
Villa Park Christian Church
Normal New Covenant Community Church
Danville Central Christian Church
Sullivan First Christian Church
Petersburg First Christian Church
Long Point Christian Church
Winchester First Christian Church
Hoopeston First Christian Church
Galesburg First Christian Church
Hoopeston First Christian Church
Campaign DOC Community Church
Rock Island Fifteenth Ave Christian Church
Creve Coeur First Christian Church
Niantic Christian Church
Litchfield, Union Ave Christian Church
Korean Christian Church
Eureka Christian Church

New Church Starts

Lincolnshire Community Christian Church

Individuals

Joe and Ellen Culpepper
Ricky and Melissa Williams
Eron Deupree
Scott and Vicky Woolridge
Larry and Kathy Pepper
Kristine Culp
Amanda Butterick
Jeff Lindner
Martin and Kathy Sallee
Ken Granitz
Eugenia Wallace
Patricia Manahan
Verla Welker
Don and Margaret Mettitt, Jr.
Rebecca Kirby
Kevin Benford
Thomas and Nancy Zoelzer
Deborah Owen
Wayne Meyer

Nancy Stump
Ruben Cruz
Karen Knodt
Laura Hollinger Antonelli
Jeff and Jayne Zimmerman
Tony and Margaret Salisbury
Clayton and Alix Summers
Kurt and Kassie Sanders
Patrick and Susan Larkin
Arvil Bass
Dan Horton
Mike and Peggy Dixon
Neil and Katherine Deupree
Daniel and Doris Carter
Don Graham
T.R. Akers

Jacqueline Myers
Tom Yang
Darryl and Bonnie Parr
Eugene and Nancy Lampert
Angee Byrd
Lois Whitaker
Eugenia Griesse
Herb and Duffy Knudsen
Doris Beckerman
Daniel and Doris Carter
Linda and Amos Chenoweth
Marla McElory
Jacqueline Myers

Camp Walter Scott

Jane Cahill
Clayton and Alix Summers
Sunnyland Christian Church
Pekin First Christian Church
Canton First Christian Church
Paris First Christian Church
Effingham Area Decolores
James Niebrugge
DOC Community Church, Champaign
Charles and Nancy Miller
Patrick and Susan Larkin
Margaret and Tony Salisbury

Contact Information

Regional Clergy Staff

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Eli Rolón Jeong, Associate RM for Children, Youth & Young Adults
Alex Ruth, Associate RM for Transformation

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Lorrie Reed (School for Ministry)

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Sarah Renfro

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15290 E 300th Ave
Dieterich, IL 62424
Ph: 217.739.2332 Fax: 217.739.2298

Prayer Concerns: Chris and Lori Hartman, brother and SIL of Rev. Shane Hartman; Rev. Greg Fitch, Galesburg First; Rev. Jared Reno and family is the death of his sister Rachel; Mother of Rev. Suzanne Stout; Rev. Bob Miner; Rev. Jim and Lois Whitaker; Rev. Terry Foland; Rev. Shane Hartman; Rev. Carolyn Roper-Fowlkes; Rev. Dennis Steckley; Pastor Steve and Lisa Surratt; Rev. Harry Meyer; Rev. Herb Knudsen ; Tina, daughter of Rev. Dawn Victor; Rev. Dan Horton; Rev. Getchen Barron's niece; Rev. Amy Zietlow, wife of Rev. Michael Karunas; Ronald and Rev. Ari Douglas; Joe Fowlkes, father of Bruce Fowlkes; Maxine Rixman

Deaths: Rev. Nancy Stump, serving Lynnville CC; Rev. Jon Olinger, retired; Nephew of Rev. Jim Bisch; Aunt Fern, aunt of Rev. Teresa Dulyea-Parker; Rev. Frank Helme; Rev. Becki Johann Nunnally; Howard, father in law of Rev. Steve Peters;

Pastoral Changes: Jerome Lee to FCC, Carthage; Suzanne Stout to Pine Creek CC, Polo; Bill Kerns to Greater Kansas City region;

Retirements: Charlotte Hoppe

Celebrations: Rev. Randy and Linda Williams welcomed a granddaughter, Merrick Rae Williams; Rev. Mary and Jake Runge welcome a daughter Elinor (grandparents Rev. Greg and MJ Fitch); Rev. Tim Kim and Kyung-yeon married; Rev. Judith Guy and Seth Thomas, married; Rev. Chase Wilhelm married Lyndsy Heise; Clayton and Alix Summers, new Camp Host; Blue Mound CC, 160 years of ministry

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 ministry!

Your support is appreciated



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 _____

Email _____

Congregation _____ City _____

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