



# The Christian

*A Disciples of Christ Quarterly Publication*



## RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

### The Initiative Many Members, One Table

In 1996, the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) approved the formation of a church-wide process to discern the nature of racism in North America and to develop ways of helping congregations address racism. Out of this process, an Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation initiative was put before the church in 1998. At their July, 1998 meetings, the Administrative Committee and the General Board approved this initiative. The initiative is based on several premises.

- Racism is a spiritual and theological dilemma as well as a social evil;
- Racist practice exists throughout the life of the church and needs to be addressed. The church needs to get its own “house” in order even as it looks toward being a transformational agent in the larger world;
- Racism is a systemic problem with historical root causes;
- Racism can be defined in many ways. This initiative is based on an analysis of racism that understands racism to be a combination of racial prejudice and institutional and/or economic power.
- When conceived the initiative was based on a vision for the church as a place “where brothers and sisters of all races, languages, and cultures will grow towards God’s glorious realm, where all have a place at the table and none shall be turned away.”

The Initiative called the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to practice faithfulness with regard to the elimination of racism, which exists in all manifestations of the church, to discern the presence and nature of racism as sin, to develop strategies to eradicate it, and to work toward racial reconciliation.

**Reconciliation Ministry  
Sept, 24 & Oct. 1, 2023**

**Racism is a spiritual and  
theological dilemma as  
well as a social evil**

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9th Quarter  
Volume 4 Issue 10

## 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,

Everything begins with gratitude.

Thank you all for the support you have given to me over the last 13 years. It was wonderful to gather with so many of you for the retirement party, and to hear from so many of the rest of you through cards, emails, phone calls and well-wishes. Truly, only gratitude for the blessings.

Specifically, I want to thank Michigan Moderator Anne McCauslin and CCIW Personnel Chair Anne Ingersoll; Marla McElroy and the team at First Christian, Bloomington; members of our ministry team: Angee Byrd, Alex Ruth, Eli Rolon, Peggy O'Neal, Jeff Parker, Beth Rupe, Clayton Summers for their party skills; Rev. Terri Hord Owens, Rev. Dr. Todd Adams, and Rev. Sarah Renfro for blessing me with their presence.

I will step away on July 31. August is vacation time. I will be on call to help orient our Interim Regional Minister. Full retirement begins September 1.

One final word. It's a cautionary tale that has come full circle.

Several years ago, I was given an invitation to attend the Eagles in concert at the Cleveland Cavaliers arena. These were not just arena seats. The invitation was to join a family and their company in a luxury box. To view the concert from a venue that included great seats, good company, room to move around, a feast of refreshments, and the chance to hear "Take it Easy, Take it Easy. Don't let the sound of your own wheels drive you crazy."

And, I turned it down, because I had a church board meeting. I know, right? Too busy "listening to the sound of my own wheels!"

I have no idea what happened at that board meeting, but I do remember that I missed an opportunity, "though we will never be here again." If you know the Eagles, you know that Glenn Frey a founding member of the band (and a former Michigander, too) died in 2016.

As I have told this story over the last few months, it has been to remind our clergy that life is more than board meetings. It's okay for you to accept an invitation to feast in good company with great joy. My best sense of Jesus is that he would have accepted the invitation, even as he invites us to join in the celebration of God's feast of Love out poured.

So, as I am retiring, guess who is going on their final tour?

Yes, that's right. The Eagle's "Long Goodbye Tour" starts in September. Al and I have tickets to see them.

With all gratitude,



Link to the retirement video:  
<https://youtu.be/cJ9EWaDbL88>



## Youth Ministries Rev. Eli Rolón Jeong

### Fireside Fall Retreat\* *\*Formerly known as Summit*



The Regional Youth Council invites all CCIW youth and adult sponsors to join a 2-night event of fellowship & worship! From **Friday 17 to Sunday 19 in November, 2023**, youth in grades 6th to 12th and accompanying adults are invited to join us at the **Walter Scott Camp & Learning Center** for the **Fireside Fall Retreat!** The event will feature engaging conversations intended to stimulate participants' spiritual enrichment, meaningful worship strengthening our relationship to the Divine, and fun activities that allow us to grow closer to one another.

Every other year, youth from across Disciples churches in Illinois & Wisconsin would gather for a weekend event in November focusing on Christian education, spiritual development, and fun activities! Over recent years, this event was hosted at a local retreat center (with the 2021 event taking place virtually due to our COVID-related context). As we reassess our needs, audience, and finances, we decided to partner with our regional campground, **Walter Scott Camp & Learning Center**, to host this year's event, and also reflect the change with a new name - **Fireside Fall Retreat!** With an updated name and location, this year's event will look slightly different than previous Summit Retreats. Nonetheless, the event will retain many of its familiar features and goals - a meaningful time filled with opportunities for development, fun, and fellowship!

We'll be launching registration for this event soon. Make sure to follow our social media pages to know when registration opens! We look forward to seeing you this November!

Online:  
[www.cciwdisciples.org/youth](http://www.cciwdisciples.org/youth)  
[www.campwalterscott.org](http://www.campwalterscott.org)

On Facebook & Instagram  
/campwalterscott  
/elicciw

### Regional Youth Council Needs Your Help!



The Regional Youth Council (RYC) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin plans, implements, evaluates, and resources the Regional Youth Ministry program including events such as the Fireside Fall Retreat, Regional Assembly, Midwinter Retreat, Mission Trips, and additional events or resources intended to nurture and develop young disciples in the region.

If you are a youth in 9th to 11th grade with ideas – however big or small – and want to continue developing your leadership skills, RYC might be for you. Or, if you're an adult who is committed to helping young people continue in their leadership development, RYC might be for you as well.

#### **We would love to have you as part of the RYC team!**

Please contact Pastor Eli [eli@cciwdisciples.org](mailto:eli@cciwdisciples.org) with any questions related to RYC, or visit us online [www.cciwdisciples.org/ryc](http://www.cciwdisciples.org/ryc).

# Walter Scott Camp & Learning Center

## Rev. Clayton Summers, Resident Minister & Caretaker



**WALTER SCOTT**  
CAMP & LEARNING CENTER

### Summer Camping Review

We are grateful to embody a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world at Walter Scott, specifically as something summer campers help manifest through our CCIW Summer Youth Camps. Over the course of four weeks we hosted five youth camps this year (You&Me, Beginners, JYF, Chi-Rho, and CYF). We were grateful to not just grow from 81 campers last season to ~100 this year, but more so for the many ways in which we built meaningful relationships.

This summer we hosted two [Disciples Peace Interns](#) for the first time in recent memory (Grace during CYF and Marci during Chi-Rho) who connected campers with the wider world and the work of our wider church. They facilitated lessons for our campers about peace and justice, how it relates to our faith, and further modeled a lifestyle of advocacy. Both Marci and Grace served on their respective camp staffs and were a wonderful addition to our program that blessed everyone with whom they interacted.

Another blessing this summer was our curriculum, *Creation Speaks*. *Creation Speaks* is a publication of Chalice Press which invited campers “to look towards God’s Creation (including one another) as they listened for God’s voice in the World today.” Campers were connected with God’s presence and relation to water, animals, the seasons, plants, and more!

Focusing on Creation at camp made for some meaningful worship services during the summer. Worship took place in our chapel, the tree house, our platform worship area, outside our new goat pen, and in the middle of our activity field! Family groups further delved into the theme with games, activities, scripture study, and prayer exercises undertaken in community.

As always, our camp community wouldn’t be complete with plenty of time to build meaningful relationships outside of the serious moments. Over delicious meals, hikes into the forest, boating on the lake, messy games, water games, beloved camp traditions, service projects, and so much more relationships both began and grew. Seeds were planted for the future as God became more known in many ways, moving our broken world towards wholeness.



**CCIW DISCIPLE'S WOMEN**  
**Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe**

**CCIW DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FALL  
RETREAT**

**Season of Life: Living in Love**

**September 30 – October 1, 2023**

Once again, we are looking forward to gathering for two days of renewal and fellowship at CCIW FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT. The planning committee comprised of Jane Cahill, Jacqueline Myers, Heather Rinderer, Nina Scattergood, and Pearl Witte have set the date for Saturday, September 30 at 9:00 AM through Sunday, October 1 at Noon. Our theme is ***Season of Life: Living in Love.***



If it best suits your travel arrangement, you may also arrive after 6 PM on Friday to enjoy the beauty and the serenity of the Camp Walter Scott and spend the night. The cost for Friday night accommodations is an **additional \$20.00**. On Friday, there will be no scheduled activities and dinner is on your own.

On Saturday the event will begin with a hot breakfast, registration, and welcome at 9:00 AM. Throughout the day, we will explore our theme **Seasons of Life: Living in Love** with our keynote speaker Rev. Melissa Ebken and other leaders as we explore scriptures, make crafts, pray for and with one another, and more. Nina Scattergood will be our music leader and Jacqueline Myers will be leading crafts.

**Fee for the event is \$75 with overnight accommodations on Saturday in the Retreat House or a cabin, (you can request to stay in a yurt or hogan), or you can make your own reservations in a local hotel or motel. Commuter fee is \$55.00.**

**Registration information: You can complete the registration form that is included with this article. You can register online at <https://cciwdisciples.org/events/>**

Forms will be mailed to those who have attended previous retreats and will also be available to download on the CCIW website. **Registration deadline is September 22, 2023** Registrations can be mailed to CCIW, 401 West Jefferson, Bloomington, IL 61701, Attn: Disciples Women and should be postmarked prior to Sept 22, 2023.

*If you are a Disciples and a woman  
you are a Disciple's Woman!*

**CCIW DISCIPLE'S WOMEN**  
**Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe**

**Fall Retreat cont.**

As always, the health and safety of our participants are always a concern. If you are ill the day of the event, we request that you stay home this year. We will refund your registration and see you next year. Overnight accommodations will be arranged by travel groups. Travel groups will be identified through the congregation that is listed on the registration form. Should there be questions about accommodations, Beth Rupe will contact you prior to the event or during Saturday morning check-in time.

**Registration** Forms will be mailed to those who have attended previous retreats and is below and may be cut out and sent to the Regional Office, CCIW, 401 W Jefferson St., Bloomington, Il 61701-3826. It is also available to download on the CCIW website. Registration deadline is September 22, 2023



**Disciple's Women Fall Retreat Registration Form**

**REGISTRATION FOR Sept 30 – Oct 1, 2023 FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Friday Night Lodging (\$20.00)

Saturday and Sunday (overnight stay) \$75.00

Saturday and Sunday (Commuting) \$55.00

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 22, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street) \_\_\_\_\_

(City, St. Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CONGREGATION WITH CITY \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to stay in a hogan or yurt \_\_\_\_\_

**Total due** \_\_\_\_\_

## **CCIW DISCIPLE'S WOMEN**

**Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe**

### **Upcoming Disciples Women's Events**

#### **CCIW DISCIPLES WOMEN'S COFFEE CONNECTIONS**

**Join us on Saturday August 26, 2023**

**from 10 AM - 11: 30 AM**

To share what is happening with the women ministries of your congregation. Don't have "organized" circles or groups? That is okay.

If you are a woman attending a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation, you are a Disciples Woman and the ministry that you do is part of Disciples Women's ministries.

Together we are stronger. You can register for this event on the CCIW website. Registration Deadline Thursday August 24, 2023.

A link for the event will be sent upon confirmation of your registration. There is no fee for this event.

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#### **Domestic Violence Awareness Month October 28, 2023**

Coffee Connections for Disciples Women

This will be a follow-up to the 2022 Coffee Connection. We will be talking about advocating and helping women who may be experiencing Partner Violence.

Registration is now open: <https://cciwdisciples.org/events/>

#### **News from Disciples Women Leadership Council**

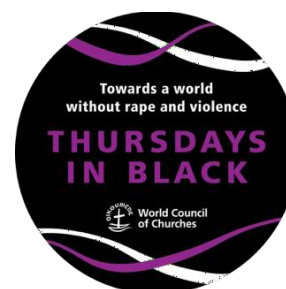
##### **Thursdays in Black Campaign**

1 in 3 women experience physical and sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. We can help raise awareness of this issue and stand in solidarity with women who experience this by participating in the Thursdays in Black Campaign. More information is available by visiting the following website:

<https://www.globalministries.org/thursdays-in-black-campaign/>

OR

<https://www.ecumenicalwomenun.org/thursdays-in-black>





## **TRANSFORMATION AND INNOVATION**

**Rev. Dr. N. Alex Ruth**

**alex@cciwdisciples.org 217.415.4447**

### **Community and Intention**

Over the last couple of months, I've quite literally gotten "back in the saddle." One of my practices of self-care and health care is to ride my bicycle regularly. I don't spend nearly as much time in the saddle at Joe Culpepper, but it has been nice to feel my cycling legs coming back.

On one recent ride I was struck by the number of pop-up communities that formed. I noticed these brief communities due to a conversation at a recent ethics/boundaries training event, "What would it mean to you/me to think about self-care as something we do in community?" Since my move to Illinois, I have not joined any group rides, so as I set out on my bike, I was alone, doing self-care by myself. Or so I thought.

Then there were the two parents walking on the trail, who asked me to flag down the child who had ridden ahead on their bike (presumably out of earshot) to turn around. To my surprise, there was a momentary community. Or the other cyclist ahead of me, who I was able to have a short conversation with after I chased them down. Yet another community. Or the walker and their dog who I routinely pass (often two times and seemingly always from behind) who steps off the trail to let me pass. I always express my appreciation for his care for me. Another community.

During that ride no fewer than six different communities were formed, but only for a fleeting moment. While I am glad to have noticed the myriad of subtle communities I am a part of every day, I also recognized those communities don't have a significant impact on my life. They really don't change me to any noticeable degree. So, I started pondering what it is about community that promotes transformation, both in me and in others.

I keep coming back to the idea of intent. I believe it is intentional, purposeful, communities which harness the power to transform. So, if we want the church to be a transformative agent in our lives and in the lives of others, we need to be intentional about what we do, how we do it, and who we invite to be a part of the community.

I don't know exactly what that looks like. And I'm pretty sure it will look different depending on the context, people, and community. But I hope you'll join me in watching and being aware of the ways in which we are intentionally forming communities. Then, let's share those stories as see how we are transformed by our awareness of the Divine in community with us.

## Gifts to CCIW—2023 - We Give Thanks for Your Generosity

The following churches and individuals have contributed to in the last quarter of 2022 and 2023 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.

Your continual prayers, support and generosity to the Region, Camp Walter Scott, New Church Ministries, DW ministry and the special offerings is beyond measure. Who and where do you impact...everyone and everywhere.



### Individuals

Joe and Ellen Culpepper  
Donald Taylor and Kris Light  
Kelly and Anne Ingersoll  
Teresa Dulyea-Parker  
Shauna Smith  
Amanda Butterick  
Eron Deupree  
Deborah Owen and Kevin Frings  
Rachel and Alan Moore  
Greg and Martha Jean Fitch  
Shirley Swarhout  
Doug and Margaret Merritt, Jr.  
Ricky and Melissa Williams  
Michael and Peggy Dixon  
Dwight and Diane Winnett  
Lois Whitaker  
Brittany Barber and Kevin Metzner  
Terry and Frieda Foland  
Arvil Bass  
Britany Barber  
Jane Cahill  
Patricia and William Crowl  
Michael and Karen Kindred  
Melissa Williams  
Larry Colvin  
Herb and Duffy Knudsen  
Judith Ridlen  
Karen Knodt  
Neil and Katherine Deupree  
Eugene and Nancy Lamport  
Melissa Williams

### Churches

Villa Park Christian Church  
Gibson City First Christian Church  
Sullivan First Christian Church  
Danville Central Christian Church  
Niantic Christian Church  
Illioopolis Christian Church  
Niantic Christian Church  
Fifteenth Ave Christian Church  
Canton First Christian Church  
Lomax Christian Church  
Bloomington First Christian Church  
Petersburg First Christian church  
Lincolnshire Community Christian Church  
Disciples of Christ Community Church  
Danville Central Christian Church  
Clayton Christian Church  
Hoopeston FCC Trustees  
Galesburg First Christian Church  
Illioopolis Christian Church

### Camp Walter Scott

Jane Cahill  
Arrowsmith Christian Church  
Bloomington First Christian Church  
Doris Beckerman  
Michael and Kimberlie Cox  
David and Elizabeth Lockwood  
Marc and Amy Sue Johnson  
Pearl Witte  
Decatur Central Christian Church  
Paris First Christian Church  
Lawrenceville First Christian Church  
Karen Johns  
Washington, Sunnyland Christian Church  
Matt Cahill  
Pekin First Christian Church  
James and Shelia Sipes  
Heather Rindeer  
Jacksonville Central CC  
Benton First Christian Church  
Casey First Christian Church  
Deborah Owen  
Charles and Nancy Miller  
Doris Beckerman  
Frank and Carol Miller  
Ken and Patricia Crawford  
Pine Creek Christian Church

# Contact Information

## Regional Clergy Staff

Teresa Dulyea-Parker, Reg. Minister & President  
Angelique "Angee" Jordan Byrd, Regional Director of Communication  
Eli Rolón Jeong, Associate RM for Children, Youth & Young Adults  
Alex Ruth, Associate RM for Transformation

teresa@cciwdisciples.org  
angee@cciwdisciples.org  
eli@cciwdisciples.org  
alex@cciwdisciples.org

## Ministry Contract Staff

Beth Rupe (Disciple Women)  
Rev. Hyoung Chel "Tom" Yang (NAPAD)  
April McClure Stewart (Interim ED School for Ministry)

beth@cciwdisciples.org  
tyang@cciwdisciples.org  
April@cciwdisciples.org

## Administrative Staff

Peggy O'Neal (Office Administrator)  
Jeff Parker (Website, eNews)

peggy@cciwdisciples.org  
jeff@cciwdisciples.org

## Camp Staff

Alix and Clayton Summers

acsummers@cciwdisciples.org

## Regional Moderator

Rev. Timothy Kim

tjkim7@gmail.com

## Global Mission Partners

Rev. Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto

arivera@dom.disciples.org

## Disciples Church Extension Fund

Brock McCracken

bmccracken@disciplescef.org

## Pension Fund of the Christian Church

Sarah Renfro

srenfro@pensionfund.org

## Christian Church Foundation Representative

Matt Rosine

mrosine@ccf.disciples.org

## FOR INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE CALL:

### REGIONAL OFFICE BLOOMINGTON, IL

401 W. Jefferson St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701-3826  
Ph: 309.828.6293 Fax: 309.213.9469

### CAMP WALTER SCOTT DIETERICH, IL

15290 E 300th Ave  
Dieterich, IL 62424  
Ph: 501-570-6685 Fax: 217.739.2298

**Prayer Concerns:** Rev. Bill Rucker; Rev. Rachel Doolin Moore; Rev. Tom Akers; Rev. David James; Rev. Tracy Armstrong, Rev. MJ Fitch; Rev. Deborah Owen; Rev. Maxine Dennison

**Deaths:** Rev. Terry Foland

**Pastoral Changes:** Rev. Jeff Shick completed ministry at Lawrenceville; David Holston to Christian Church Villa Park; Rev. Laura Jennison Reed completed ministry at Christian Church of Villa Park; Rev. Robin Robinson to Sunnyland Christian Church, Washington

**Retirements:** Rev. Tilford at Metropolis; Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

**Ordination:**  
Zach Martin, August 26th, Decatur Central CC  
Trevor Johnson, July 16th, Gilead Chicago

**Celebrations:** Rev. Jennie Churchman (Eureka) marriage to Matthew Winder;  
Revs. MJ and Greg Fitch celebrated 20 years at Galesburg FCC;  
Jim and Lois Whitaker, 70 years of marriage

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

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

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