

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



The Christian

A Disciples of Christ Quarterly Publication

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Leadership
Development.**

**15 Colleges & Universities
7 Seminaries &
Divinity Houses**

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**Your Thanksgiving Offering
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Legacy of Educational Support**



Dear Disciples,

Six times a year, the Christian Church reaches out to our congregations by way of Special Offerings in support of our General Ministries, the very foundation of our denomination's work and ministry. It is through these gifts that we are able to continue our work within the church at-large and beyond.

Since its beginning, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has pledged its dedication to the support of higher education. For 129 years Higher Education & Leadership Ministries (HELM), formerly the Division of Higher Education, has held the distinct privilege of providing support, nurture and funding in the denomination's realm of higher education. Currently, HELM partners with 15 colleges and universities, and 7 seminaries and divinity houses, all of which are associated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In addition to these established partnerships, HELM is looking to expand its relationship with other schools and institutions to better serve the educational needs of all our Disciples.

We are thrilled to announce that 2023 has been a banner year for many of our institutions. Enrollment is up, programs are expanding, scholarships are increasing—excellent news all around! Growth, however, tends to mean added expense. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's Thanksgiving Offering so that we can both continue supporting the needs of higher education and learning, and grow to meet the broader needs of our Disciples students. It is HELM's mission to develop and nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society and world. Together, we can make this obtainable for all. Thank you for your generous donation. With gratitude, Rev. Dr. Tamara Rodenberg President Higher Education & Leadership Ministries.

With gratitude,
Rev. Dr. Tamara Rodenberg, President

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4th Quarter

Regional Minister's Moment

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



I'm here. Finally. It seems like ages ago in the warmth of summertime when the Region gathered to celebrate Teresa's Ministry. We journeyed through two months of transition when the office Regional Minister was at least somewhat vacant (August was Teresa's vacation, followed by September when we had a period of waiting). We have finally turned the corner. I have spent the month of October drinking from a firehose of information while trying to attend every gathering of Disciples I can to meet the region. Gee Whiz, there sure are a lot of you to meet! I am thankful we have such a magnificent staff of servant leaders on this team that keep things running so smoothly.

So. I'm here. I guess I should introduce myself more fully. I'm Rev. Richard E. (Rick) Hamilton. Yes, please call me Rick. I have been in ministry for 30 years, having received my first Licensure (similar to Commissioning now) in 1993. More than half of those years were spent in Regional Ministry. I have served three other regions prior to coming to CCIW: While in Seminary at Brite Divinity School, I served the Southwest Region as Regional Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries; in 2001 I accepted a call to serve as the Associate Regional Minister of the Arkansas Region (three years later we merged with Louisiana and Mississippi to become the Great River Region; and more recently I served the Christian Church in Canada as the Regional Minister. I am a cradle Disciple and a fifth generation Disciple. I think it is safe to say I love the church and all of its people.

Now I am excited to say that I am meeting a new part of the body. I am a BIG believer in the importance of incarnational ministry. That is: I believe that being there matters. In a world filled with the efficiencies of Zoom meetings, I still believe in getting behind the wheel, driving to where the people are, shaking hands, sharing hugs, and spending quality face to face time together. So when I say "I'm here" I truly hope to be able to do so where YOU are one day.

In the meantime, we still need to be able to communicate. I will be keeping the email address created before my arrival:

interimrm@cciwdisciples.org. I do have a NEW phone number that I hope you will add to your contact list. This will be the Regional Minister's Phone Number hopefully for a LONG time as we intend to hand the phone and contacts to the next person when that day comes. It is: 309-386-4765. I can't wait to see YOU,

Rick

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Transformation & Innovation

Rev. Dr. N. Alex Ruth, alex@cciwdisciples.org 217.415.4447

Transformed Vision

*He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until **we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other**, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, **fully alive like Christ**.*

Ephesians 4:11-13 - The Message (Emphasis mine)

God has transformed my eyesight over the past 20 years I've been in ministry. Not in a "healing the blind" kind of way. I still need corrective lenses to see with any clarity whatsoever. The transformation God has been patiently undertaking is how I see or understand the world and the things happening to and around me. Reflecting on this transformation, it has been going on much longer than my time in ministry. However, serving as a pastor has helped accelerate the process.

In my pre-pastoral life, I would say that most days, I didn't pay much attention to God or what God was doing in, through, and around me. I lived my life assuming that God existed, but the God I knew then was probably most like a High School Principal. You know they are around, but unless you are one of the few students who get to know the principal on good terms (student government, etc.), they are someone you don't want to visit. I wasn't one of those students who would have a good reason to see the principal in High School, nor was I one to be called into the office for disciplinary reasons. And that lifestyle continued through college and into the early years of my marriage with Jennie and starting a family. I knew God was there, but I certainly didn't want to get called into the divine "principal's office" for doing something wrong, and I really didn't have the desire to be a leader. After all, how could anyone expect God to use someone like me, with all my faults ?

I don't know for sure, but I sense that most people live similarly. God shows up at our pep assemblies and calls us out of class when we've done something wrong. But that's about the extent of God's interaction with the world. Sure, we believe in God, know we are supposed to do good things, and hope that at the end of it all, we've made the grade and can walk the eternal graduation line and enter heaven.

When Jennie and I found a church home at First Christian in Lebanon, MO, we made some friends and began to get involved. But not "too" involved. We still didn't take on leadership positions during our time with Journey Christian Church in Lebanon, MO. That all started to change for me when I was introduced to a different way of thinking about God. For me, this happened with an event called "Camino." The best way I can describe Camino is a weekend church camp for adults, where participants are guided to experience God's grace in a powerful and transformational way. But, even after attending Camino and serving several weekends, God was still that detached principal in the sky.

Cont. p. 4

Transformation & Innovation

Rev. Dr. N. Alex Ruth, alex@cciwdisciples.org 217.415.4447

Though my vision correction began with that experience, it was my involvement in the local church, the community of faith, that has enabled me to see the world differently and more clearly than before. A day doesn't go by where I don't see God working in my life and the lives of everyone I know. When a life ends too soon, I see God at work in the lives of the community. When there is a joy to celebrate, I see God working in the lives of the faithful. And when it is business as usual, I've begun to see the subtle ways God works for healing and restoration.

And I think that is due to my involvement with the church, with a community of faith. I believe it directly results from my willingness to answer "Yes" when asked to serve God. Most of you will not be asked to quit your job, go to seminary, or enter into full-time vocational ministry. But I hope and pray that you will take a leap of faith and seek out some way to be actively involved in a community of faith. And to consider if God might just be calling you to enroll in the School for Ministry and expand your capacity to serve and lead in the church. It is essential that we all listen to God, to truly and deeply pray about how we might engage our gifts, talents, and passions in serving God as we journey together.

Blessings and peace,



Clergy Ethics

This is a reminder to all clergy that beginning in 2023 a yearly Professional Ethics training is required to maintain standing.

The first CCIW offered training will be held Jan. 13, 2024 and will meet the PRAR requirement for clergy. See page 8 of The Christian for more details.

Dates for all other ethics classes will be posted on the CCIW website as soon as they are set. The cost is \$35.00 per class and are by Zoom.

Ethics training that CCIW is aware of and offered by other organizations are listed on the CCIW website. A certificate of completion will be required.

CCIW DISCIPLE'S WOMEN

Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe

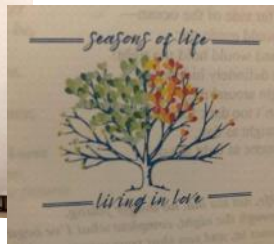


Disciples Women's Fall Winter Retreat

On September 30 and October 1, women from across the Region gathered for the Fall Women't Retreat at Camp Walter Scott. Rev. Melissa Ebken was our keynote speaker speaking on the theme Season's of Life: Living in Love. Her inspirational messages reminded us that regardless of the season of our life we are gifted and made to share God's love.

A great time was had as Pearl Witte shared her talent and resources to create greeting cards for the women to share with other. Of course there was free time, crafts led by Jacqueline Myers, and camp songs and hymns led by Nina Scattergood. It was good to see old friends and to make new friends. Camp Host Clayton Summers provided great hospitality and wonderful food.

ur calendars and plan to join us in 2024 on Spetember 28 – 29.



Disciples Women 2024 Calendar of Events

February 17, 2024 10 AM – Noon
Coffee Connection – What a Church Can Do:
Recognizing and Addressing Partner Violence –
Discussion Led by Rev. Courtney Armento

April 13, 2024 9 AM – 3 PM

The Gathering - First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Peoria, IL. The Spirituality of Quilting led by Rev. Petie Mclean

September 28 – 29, 2024

Fall Women's Retreat at Camp Walter Scott – Theme to be Announced

October 19, 2024 10 AM – Noon Coffee Connection What a Church Can Do –
Creating Sanctuary – Discussion led by Rev. Courtney Armento

Walter Scott Camp & Learning Center Reflection Rev. Clayton Summers

Changing Seasons at Walter Scott



Flushes of red, yellow, and orange splashing into the forest canopy signal the coming close of another year at the Walter Scott Camp and Learning Center. Their colors are expressed in hues for which I don't know the words and in patterns which have never existed before and will never exist again. Their beauty and seasonal witness remind me of how all that we do has been accomplished here this year. It isn't because of paid staff alone, but instead the faithful service of many. As of writing this, in 2023 we have had 3600 hours dedicated to caring for this sacred space by over 100 different volunteers. People from all walks of life, with varying gifts, and from many faith backgrounds have given of what they can so others can experience God in this place.

We also celebrate as the year closes the other ways we've lived into our shared faith. We are caring for God's Planet, our Common Home, with a new solar array, by using goats to eat invasive species to strengthen our biodiversity, and by continuing to compost and grow in our garden. We lived into the radical hospitality we know through Christ with service for youth summer campers, family reunions, fishing trips, weekend gatherings, spiritual retreats, and more. Yet still, even when we did not accomplish everything we wanted this year and had some failures, we continued to grow amidst our stumbles and often because of them.

As we look forward to our future, we are excited for the seeds we are planting. We have wonderful plans for our facilities, the ecosystems we care for, and the programmatics we host. While they have yet to fully take shape, we see a future that is securely rooted in our history and our shared faith while branching into places we have yet to go. You are invited to join us on our journey (via Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Threads, or our new upcoming Newsletter) as we learn from God's creation of the trees: to live in beautiful hues as we change for the seasons ahead.

Peace on the Journey,
Rev. Clayton Summers
Resident Minister & Caretaker

campws@cciwdisciples.org
501.570.6685

www.campwalterscott.org

Social Media:
[@campwalterscott](https://www.instagram.com/campwalterscott)

Camp Walter Scott - Service Opportunities

May 13, Sept 16, Nov. 4

Saturday Work Days

Did you miss out lending a hand in May or September. It's not too late to head out to Camp Walter Scott, enjoy the beautiful fall weather and get your hands a bit dirty. Contact Clayton today!

Individuals and groups attending a Saturday work day are welcome to arrive on Friday night or Saturday. Please, let us know of your arrival and departure plan when you RSVP so that we may be ready.

To RSVP, visit us at: www.CampWalterScott.org



SLAM

What can we do Together?

Service...Learning...Advocacy...Mission

We are serving together on work trips. We are preparing together to help in times of disaster. We are looking to partner on service and learning opportunities across our regions. Will you join us in this work?

SLAM is a ministry of the Christian Church in IL & WI and the Christian Church in MI

Email slam@cciwdisciples.org

Facebook [/slam.cciwmi](https://www.facebook.com/slam.cciwmi)

[/slam.cciwmi](https://www.facebook.com/slam.cciwmi)



SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY
Rev. Dr. April Stewart-McClure

The School for Ministry presents its January Intensive Session; Biases and Becoming the Beloved Community, Jan. 13, 2024 from 9:00a.m.-3:00 p.m. with Rev. Dr. Susan Street Beavers.

This session will meet the PRAR Ethics requirements for CCIW and CCMR.

The cost of the course is \$35.00 with Ethics credit or \$50.00 if you would like Continuing Education credit and a recording of the session.

Registration may be found at: <https://cciwdisciples.org/events/>



BIASES
AND BECOMING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY
with Rev. Dr. Susan Street Beavers
a School for Ministry Webinar presented
in cooperation with CCIW/CCMR PRAR
Sat. Jan 13, 2024 9a-3p CST/10a-4p EST

ABIDE WITH US



Your Christmas offering equips our Regional church to provide an abiding presence in summer camp settings, congregational life, and leadership gatherings.

Your gift enables our shared ministry to give support to Elders, Sunday School teachers, youth group sponsors, worship leaders, seminarians, and pastors. With your gift, connections are made between congregations and among Disciples across our Regional geography and around the world.

"OH, COME TO US, ABIDE WITH US, OUR LORD EMMANUEL."

You are invited to make a gift to equip our Region's presence with your congregation.
CHRISTMAS OFFERING

**2023 Special Day Offering of Disciples Mission Fund
supporting the ministries of our Regional church
December 17 & December 24**

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



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
Lynnville Christian Church
Clayton Christian Church
Hoopston FCC Trustees
Creve Coeur First Christian Church
Galesburg First Christian Church
Jacksonville Lynnville Christian Church
Arrowsmith Christian Church
Washington Sunnyland Christian Church
First Christian Church of Robinson

New Church Starts

Lincolnshire Community Christian Church

Individuals

Eugene and Nancy Lamport
James and Carol Pinson
Herb and Duffy Knudsen
Karon Knodt
Neil and Katherine Duepree
Rebecca Kirby
Marla McElroy
Michael and Karen Kindred
Patrica and William Crowl
Jeff Zimmerman
Martha Shine
Kevin Benford
Rebecca Kirby
Kenneth Purscell
Tyler Coleman
Yvonne Gilmore
Larry Colvin
Judith Ridlen
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 Swarthout
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
Larry Colvin

Camp Walter Scott

Jane Cahill
Arrowsmith Christian Church
Pontiac First Christian Church
Mackinaw Christian Church
Benton Christian church
First Christian Church of Robinson
James and Shelia Snipes
Pekin First Christian Church
Jacksonville Central CC
Heather Rinderer
Casey First CC
Ken and Patricia Crawford
Franklin and Carol Miller
Doris Beckerman
Charles and Nancy Miller
Deborah Owen
Pearl Witte
Karen Merrick
Champaign, University Place CC

Contact Information

Regional Clergy Staff

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Angelique "Angee" Jordan Byrd, Regional Director of Communication angee@cciwdisciples.org
Eli Rolón Jeong, Associate RM for Children, Youth & Young Adults eli@cciwdisciples.org
Alex Ruth, Associate RM for Transformation alex@cciwdisciples.org

Ministry Contract Staff

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Rev. Hyoung Chel "Tom" Yang (NAPAD) tyang@cciwdisciples.org
April McClure Stewart (Interim ED School for Ministry) April@cciwdisciples.org

Administrative Staff

Peggy O'Neal (Office Administrator) peggy@cciwdisciples.org
Jeff Parker (Website, eNews) 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. Deborah Owen; Rev. Bill Rucker; Rev. David James

Deaths: Beth Zumwalt, former CCIW Office Administrator;

Pastoral Changes: David Holston, Christian Church Villa Park; Rick Hamilton, completed ministry at Downers Grove; Rick Hamilton to ministry CCIW Regional Office

Retirements:

Ordination:

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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