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

The Christian

Winter 2016

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



THANKSGIVING OFFERING NOVEMBER 2016

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve.

From the very beginnings 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. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps underwrite the education of students attending one of our fourteen undergraduate institutions and our seven seminaries or divinity houses.

Thousands of students have attended the Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church receiving both a quality education and the opportunity to remain within our Disciple's heritage. Your financial gift provides scholarships and support for spiritual life offices. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering you are investing in our students and helping keep education costs down.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for those pursuing theological education at one of our seven seminaries or divinity houses. Consider the many generations of pastors, who, if not for the support of faithful congregations and individuals over the ages would not have flourished as our pastors, teachers and leaders. What impact has your pastor had in the life of your church, community or region? You can thank them by supporting the Thanksgiving Offering.

Disciples College or Theological School is possible through the scholarships and grants that are made available by generous individuals, the Disciples Mission Fund and your gifts to the Thanksgiving

Please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving Offering

REGIONAL MINISTER'S MOMENT



Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

A few updates as we go:

In this issue of the Christian, we offer you pictures from our recent Regional Assembly based on Acts 10, where Heart Connections of Spirit were made between people who could not have called each other friends, companions, neighbors, let along brothers and sisters. We rejoice in the good news of Jesus ministry in the world that brings reconciliation and wholeness.

Also, I invite you to participate in one of our Study and Discernment conversations. These conversations are part of an effort to bring clarity to our Vision as a regional church. The fruit of clear vision will be an opportunity to structure and staff for where God is calling us to be present in mission for our changing world. The schedule is published on our website. We are adding dates regularly. You can also read the articles and look through the tools we are using for the discussion. This is an open and transparent process. You are invited.

In the meantime, Rev. Scott Woolridge and I are covering a lot of territory. It's a joy to support the work of our congregations and Pastors. It's a wonder to watch the connections being made among our clergy and congregations. There is no need for any of us to be in ministry alone---in fact we are called to it together.

And, we have hired two Interim contract staff to help with specific ministries. Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe, who has been intimately involved with our Disciple Women's Ministry has agreed to support and encourage our Disciple Women's Cabinet in their work. We have a Spring Event at Chiara Center for all women of our congregations on
March 25.

Rev. Tim Akers has agreed to support and encourage our ongoing Youth Ministry with the Regional Youth Council and Youth Committee. Tim is well known among our youth and youth leaders. We have two Youth events in 2017: Midwinter Retreat, January 28-29, at Decatur Central; Youth Summit at Lake Williamson in Carlinville, Nov. 17-19. Theme: Time to Ignite with God!

And, from our ministry team to you and yours: Happy Thanksgiving, Meaningful Advent, and Truly Inspired Christmas to you.

You can follow all the news of the region by subscribing to our weekly e-News. Visit our website at cciwdisciples.org, go to the bottom of the page and subscribe.

Prayer Concerns: Dennis Steckley, dbl knee replacement; Gretchen Barron, surgery; Rev. Ray Culver, broken arm/wrist;

Deaths: Rev. Ed Morris's brother, Anthony; Kris Culp's (Dean at Disciple Divinity House), mother; Rev. Ciearria Price-Haynes, cousin; Rev. Robin Spurling mother, Velma Spruling; Rev. Dana Zartman

Pastoral Changes: Pat Jones to Carrollton, MO; Bob Arnold, Interim at Danville Central,;Dennis Pendleton moved to Austin, TX; Dwight Bailey no longer serving Grace Aurora; Yvonne Gilmore to PT at Grace Aurora; Andrea Botsellis back to IN

Join with us and each other in continual prayers for all Pastors, Interims, and Congregations of the CCIW

Regional Clergy Staff
Teresa Dulyea-Parker, Reg. Minister & President — teresa@cciwdisciples.org
Scott Woolridge, Associate Minister — scott@cciwdisciples.org

Administrative Staff
Terri Grove (Youth, OM, Women) — terri@cciwdisciples.org
Jeff Dulyea-Parker (Website, eNews) — jeff@cciwdisciples.org
Peggy O'Neal (Office Administrator) — peggy@cciwdisciples.org

Camp Contacts
Laura Williams, Camp Walter Scott — camp@cciwdisciples.org
Jared Reno — 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

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

News From CCIW Disciples Women

INVITING ALL CCIW WOMEN
2017 Spring Gathering
March 25, 2017
Chiara Center, Springfield, IL
"Freedom: Promise and Struggle"
Speaker: MARTI J. STEUSSY

The Reverend Dr. Marti J. Steussy is the Professor of Biblical Interpretation *emerita* at Christian Theological She is a Biblical Storyteller who brings extensive knowledge of the Bible and a published author.

Additional Speakers
Rev. Cheryl Jackson
Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe

Be sure to mark your calendars now so you can save that date for a great day of learning, fellowship, sharing a meal, Worship and Fair Trade shopping.
connect with other women from around the CCIW Region.

"The Beloved Community"
2017 Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation
April 23-28, 2017
Lake Williamson Christian Center

One glance at the national and global discourse is enough to prove that we live in an increasingly polarized world. Sadly, the church is not even immune to division and discord. Yet Christ calls us to a more excellent way. Christ calls us to be the Beloved Community—a community built on welcome, respect, and the greatest of these…Love. Through this week-long retreat filled with worship, study, community, and silent reflection time, participants will explore how we can become the Beloved Community—and thus transform the world.

The 2017 Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation will be held at the beautiful Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, Illinois April 23-28. For registrations received by March 6, the cost is $675 per person which includes tuition, room and board, plus all supplies for the week. Late registrations are $700 per person. Rooms are hotel-style, single occupancy with private baths. CEU credits are available. Registration is now open at www.igrc.org/fiveday.

For more information, contact Rev. Jennie Churchman at minister@eurekachristian.org or 309.467.2369.



NAPAD

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin is seeking an Ordained Disciple Minister to serve as part time NAPAD liaison to connect NAPAD congregations and Pastors to each other, the region, NAPAD and the general church. Please see the position description on our website.

Send inquiries to our Regional Minister
Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker at: teresa@cciwdisciples.org.



New Day—for Spiritual Transformation

Through the Regional church, we are offering a new partnership in spiritual transformation – for individuals and congregations. We have had three **New Day** retreats with very good reviews. The retreats brought an invitational approach, creating a space to draw near to God and one another. Sixteen congregations were involved and nearly sixty church leaders.

The retreats focused on deepening relationships through worship, prayer and other spiritual practices. Conversations were offered to share our part of our spiritual autobiography and talk about our own uniqueness as God's creation. We discussed what it means to be transformed, as individuals and as congregations. We were led in an exploration of our identity, our context and our Godly calling. Free time was offered to Sabbath, prayer and exploration.

One experience that enriched the retreats was an offering of Parker Palmer's Circles of Trust, a process of spiritual discernment. Offering good listening skills and asking open-ended questions are important in this endeavor.

All along the way, we've talked about the journey of individual transformation having an impact on congregational transformation. What we learn about how our own change/our own calling can inform the work we do as a family of faith.

We're offering reunions to help sustain the transformation that has begun. Lives are being changed. New commitments to spiritual practices lead to new energy and more faithful ministry.

For more information on New Day, watch the CCIW E-news or contact Scott Woolridge—scott@cciwdisciples.org

Study and Discernment Conversation

Saturday, November 12
10 am-noon
First Christian Church, 120 N. McArthur, Macomb, IL

Tuesday, November 29
7 pm-9 pm
Centennial Christian Church, 1219 E. Grove St, Bloomington, IL

Monday, January 9, 2017
7 pm—9 pm
310 N. Market St., Marion, IL

In late summer, the CCIW created a Study and Discernment Committee to clarify and articulate the new vision of what God is calling us to do in partnership and ministry as a Regional Church. The committee is looking for congregational input into vital questions that will help to determine what that vision will look like.
It will also answer the question of what staff will be needed to facilitate that mission. Currently we have two Regional Ministers serving 135 congregations, located from Danville to Quincy and Metropolis to Milwaukee.

For further information
http://cciwdisciples.org/2016/10/study-and-discernment-iii

Together Making Disciples of Christ

401 West Jefferson Street, Bloomington, Illinois 61701

An Annual Fund
to support The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
in Illinois
and

Values of the Regional Church

- Engaged Discipleship
- Meaningful Relationships
- Creative Ministries
- Mission Focused
- Multi-cultural and Interconnected Worldview

Camps for Kids!



Nurturing candidates for ordained ministry

Spiritual transformation—changing the lives of leaders and congregations

New Day





HEART CONNECTIONS
CCIW REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2016

Celebrating life together at Regional Assembly



Partnering with congregations and their leaders for faithful, effective ministry

Your gifts to the Annual Fund help these ministries happen



"We think that bigger churches can do it all, and smaller churches cannot. But the truth of the matter is that we need each other – big, small, all – and we have that in our connection with CCIW Regional church ministry."

CCIW OUTDOOR MINISTRIES
CAMP DATES FOR 2017

FAMILY WEEKENDS

CHURCH FAMILY REUNION MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (CWS)	MAY 26-29
CHURCH FAMILY REUNION LABOR DAY WEEKEND (CWS)	SEPTEMBER 1-4

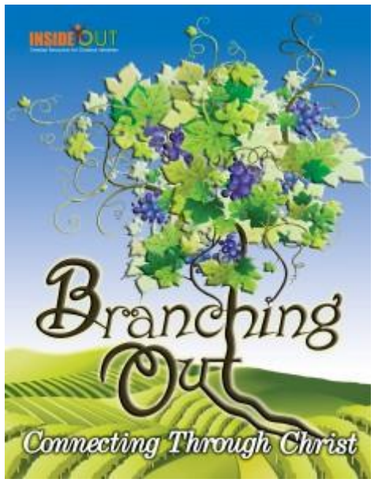
JUNE

CAMP ACTS 20:35 (CWS – WORK WEEK)	JUNE 4-10
CYF (CWS)	JUNE 11-17
GRANDPARENTS & ME (CWS)	JUNE 18-21
BEGINNERS (CWS)	JUNE 21-24
JYF (PP)	JUNE 25-JULY 1

JULY

BEGINNERS (PP)	JULY 2-5
CHI RHO (PP)	JULY 2-8
CYF (PP)	JULY 2-8
CHI RHO (CWS)	JULY 16-22
JYF (CWS)	JULY 23-29
POST-HIGH WEEKEND RETREAT (CWS)	JULY 28-30

CWS – CAMP WALTER SCOTT
PP – PILGRIM PARK



DAILY THEMES

The Place Where We Camp
I Am the Vine
Love One Another
I Choose You
I Have Spoken to You
Abide with Me
I Abide in You

CCIW YOUTH MIDWINTER RETREAT 2017

"Time to Ignite with God"



January 28 – 29, 2017

Central Christian Church
650 W William Street

Grades: 6-12 Chi Rho & CYF Event
$35.00 per person before December 16, 2016
$40.00 per person December 17, 2016 – January 13, 2017
Retreat begins on Saturday
at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday
All forms and money are due by January 13, 2017 (No Exceptions after Deadline)

Mail Registration/Consent Form, Permission/Release Form with Parent/Guardian Signatures and Payment to:

CCIW YOUTH MIDWINTER RETREAT
401 W JEFFERSON STREET
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701

Sponsored by:
CCIW Regional Youth Council and Regional Youth Committee

ALL FORMS (INCLDUING SCHEDULE AND WHAT TO BRING) MAY BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE AT WWW.CCIWDISCIPLES.ORG

Registration fee includes:
Saturday's Snacks, Dinner, Sunday's Breakfast, Lunch, and Admissions for fun activities in and around Decatur.

PLEASE CHECK THE CCIW WEBSITE and E-NEWS FOR UPDATES
Contact Info:
Joyce Snodgrass, joysnod@gmail.com
Terri Grove, terri@cciwdisciples.org
Peggy O'Neal, peggy@cciwdisciples.org
Regional Office Phone: 309-828-6293

Believe Again in a Deeper Hope

2016 Christmas Offering for the Regional Church

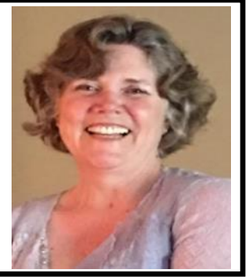
"And his name will be the hope of all the world." Matthew 12:21

All of Regional church ministry focuses on shared ministry in the local congregation and is most visible when a congregation is in transition. Here's what one church leader recently said

In 2012 when our pastor retired, I was asked to chair the committee to hire an Intentional Interim Minister. I had no clue where to start! But the Regional Office Staff of the Disciples of Christ did!

They set up a meeting with Christal Williams, a member of the Regional Staff whom we knew from many past contacts. She brought resource material, a written guide for the procedure, and gave us vital information for each step in the process. She walked us through each part of the process with loving guidance – resulting in a very successful Intentional Interim (and even a second one when it became needed!)

We could never have made it through the process without the help of our Regional Staff. We now have our settled pastor whom we love – again thanks to the help of Teresa Dulyea-Parker, Regional Minister.



The Regional Staff is Truly There When You Need Them

Regional church ministry might involve saying a good "good-bye" to a minister who is retiring—having a special worship service where we affirm the minister's gifts, say "thank you," and share a great meal together.

There is help in securing an interim minister—creating a job description, listing the gifts and skills needed and deciding on compensation.

In the time between called ministers, the congregation has the help of Regional church staff get ready for what's next—getting clearer and healthier as a congregation—clear about who we are, our context for ministry and what God wants us to do. This is an exciting time and a chance to look at relationships, power dynamics and habits that can enhance our ministry together.

Then a search committee is trained to begin their prayerful process of calling the next pastor. Regional church staff serves as constant companion, a helper for the journey, providing experience, wisdom and pastoral care to help church leaders do a great job.

Leaders talk about the pivotal nature of these days of transition in the church and how valuable it is to have a Regional church staff person work alongside them.

The staff and volunteers in the Regional church also serve local congregations and their leaders by—

- Promoting congregational transformation
- Starting new churches
- Providing awesome camps and youth events
- Offering mission opportunities
- Leading anti-racism training
- Creating global connections in Guatemala & other countries

BELIEVE AGAIN
Christmas Offering
SUPPORTING THE MINISTRIES OF OUR REGION

The Regional church depends on your gifts to the Christmas offering to fuel these life-giving ministries. Thank you for giving as generously as you are able to the ministries we share through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin. Your gifts make a difference!

100% of your Gifts to the Christmas Offering support CCIW









Regional Assembly Mission Offering $1246.00









Disciples of Merit Awards

REVEREND MONTEE T. AKERS, JR. Rev. Montee T. Akers, Jr. has served the Christian Churches of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) as the last President of the Chicago Disciples Union for three years and he was in charge of the transition to closure. Reverend Akers has served as member of the General Board for over 20 years representing the Chicago Metro Area Churches. Rev. Akers has been a Pastor-Mentor to all the timothies that have interned at Park Manor and licensed by the CCIW. The list is as follows: Rev. Howard Kennon, Rev. Phillip Conyers, Rev. Larry L. Jackson, Rev. Darron Bowden, Rev. Donald Keith Gillette, Rev. Christopher Dorsey, Rev. Yvonne Hawkins, Rev. Yvonne Gilmore-Essex, Rev. Ayanna Johnson-Walker, Rev. Sandra Brown, Rev. Connie Simms, Rev. Josephine Ruffin, and Rev. Crystal Chinn. Rev. Montee T. Akers, Jr. is currently serving as the Assistant Minister of Park Manor Christian Church. He has served under the pastorates of Rev. Richard H. Davis, Rev. Charles H. Webb, Sr., Rev. James L. Demus, III and currently under Rev. Dr. William E. Crowder, Jr., Senior Pastor. He attended Jarvis Christian College, in Hawkins, TX and he is a graduate of Eureka College, in Eureka, IL. He received his Master of Arts in Theological Studies from McCormick Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1996 by the Christian Churches of Illinois and Wisconsin, Disciples of Christ. Rev. Akers is a third generation Disciple and his grandfather attended Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, MS. He has served 70 years as a member of the Christian Church denomination and 60 years at Park Manor Christian. He has served Park Manor in many capacities, including Pastor of the Junior Congregation, Elder, Sunday School Teacher, Bible Class Teacher, and Interim Pastor of Park Manor Christian Church. Rev. Akers is truly devoted to his calling and he is a prayerful man of God. Rev Akers has been married to Audrey Akers for 55 years and they have three children Vincent, Atondra, and Lamonte, Rev. Akers has five grandchildren, Mia, Jetaun, Amber, Robert, and
Zachary.

REVEREND TOM AKERS Reverend Tom Akers is currently serving as the part-time Minister in Lawrenceville, IL and has done so for six years. Tom and his late wife Vickie (Hebert) Akers have five children and ten grandchildren. Tom currently resides in Robinson, IL Reverend Akers was born in Washington County, Virginia. He is a graduate of Oak Ridge High-school (Oak Ridge, TN), Transylvania University, and Christian Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Illinois since June of 1969 and those churches include:
First Christian Church (Olney, IL) Coldbrook Christian Church (Cameron IL) First Christian Church (Robinson, IL) Memorial Christian Church (Rock Island, IL) First Presbyterian (Palestine, IL) Pleasant View (Palestine, IL) Lawrenceville First Christian Church (Lawrenceville, IL)
Throughout the years Tom, alongside with his wife, have served on a number of committees as well as other volunteer roles within the region such as, Ministry Committee, Regional Search Committee, Chair of the Administration Committee, and volunteered a number of hours at Camp Walter Scott as Vickie served on the Camp Management Committee. Reverend Akers continues to support and remain active in the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin.

"**TERRY AND FRIEDA FOLAND** As a couple, Frieda and Terry Foland have devoted a lifetime to the Disciples of Christ Denomination. Frieda attended Culver Stockton, College, Columbia College in Missouri, and Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. She then pastored churches including Central Christian in Havana, Illinois. Freida has been active in the regional camp program and has spent many summers as a counselor at Walter Scott Camp. She has served on regional committees and is currently a Regional Elder. Freida has served as interim minister for several churches in the Illinois Region since retiring. Terry also attended Culver Stockton College then went on to the Missouri School of Religion. He also attended Sangamon State in Springfield, Illinois. Terry was pastor to several schools while in school then served churches including First Christian in Fayette, Missouri and Central Christian in Danville, Illinois before becoming Associate Minister for the Illinois and Wisconsin Region, where he served for 15 years. He then became an Area Minister in the Missouri Region. Terry was a Senior Consultant with the Alban Institute for several years serving churches of many denominations all over the country. He was instrumental in the Interim Ministry Network. Terry has also served on numerous committees at the regional level and currently serves as Elder alongside Frieda. Together the Folands have supported the region and each church they have attended generously with both money and time. Frieda and Terry enjoy travel and both are avid readers.

Wyman "Bill" Parks Deck is a wonderful man who has committed his entire life to building up the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church). He was raised in the town of Girard, Illinois and resides there still. He graduated from Eureka College in 1966 and continues to support the College to this day. He has made multiple mission trips from going to Guatemala, Costa Rica, and many more. He has donated substantially both financially, and physically to the ministries within the Local, Regional, and General church. He is deeply committed to sharing the history of our wonderful denomination and is a beacon of hope when it comes to being an example of what it means to live out a life of discipleship. He is a great support of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. He has encouraged young ministers in their call and helped them to grow towards ordination and into their ministries. Bill has led by example in all that he does. He is always wanting to grow and learn, and is a participative member of the Academy of Life Long Learning. Bill has worn many hats in his life, from teacher, to librarian, sailor, and Pharmaceutical assistant, which followed the tradition of many of his family members. He eventually retired as the librarian at Auburn High School. It was there that he was able to share his passion for books, and education, which he continues to share with all whom he meets to this day. Bill is a person who is about making connections and healing divisions. He is always there with a smile and story to share with you, and a willing ear to listen. Bill is the biggest fan of his hometown of Girard. He can always be seen promoting anything for his hometown. This could be anything from promoting the Pumpkin festival, to building a new community center for the town of Girard. Bill is extremely active in helping with the local food pantry and is always volunteering his time to assist with the food ministry within the community. He is an amazingly compassionate person who loves in the manner that we are called to love as disciples.