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

February 2017

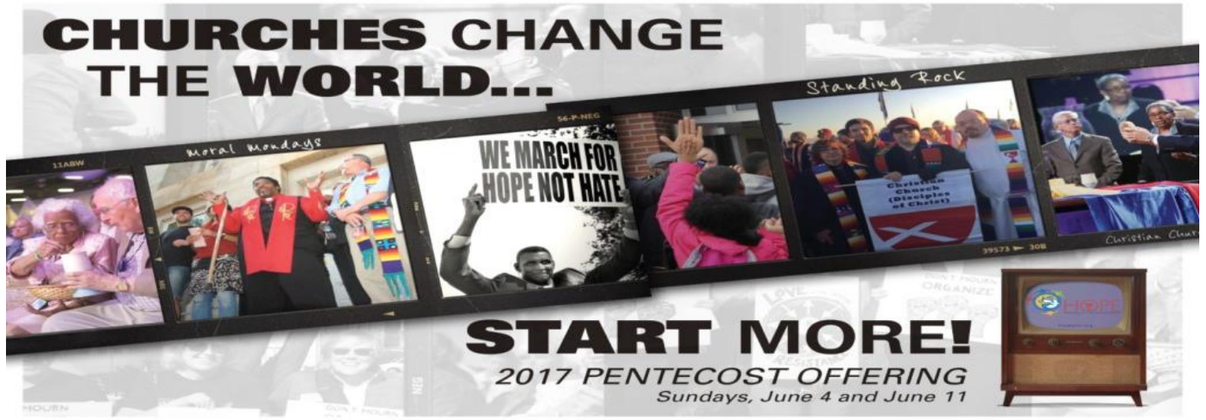
A Disciples of Christ (IL-WI Region) Quarterly Publication

Planting churches can help change the world

Planting a church can make a huge and lasting impression in the community it serves," says Terrell L. McTyer, minister of New Church Strategies and church planter. "By empowering the oppressed, praying for the disenfranchised, caring for the poor and promoting hope in a fragmented world, the church can literally help change the world," he adds.

Churches Change the World… Start More! is the theme for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 2017 Pentecost Offering, which will be celebrated **Sundays, June 4 and June 11.** To date, the Christian Church has started **980 new churches in the United States and Canada, sharing the gospel with more than 61,500 individuals since initiating the 2020 Vision in 2000**. According to McTyer our original goal was to start 1,000 new congregations by 2020, but we can't stop there. "We must continue our journey by setting our heights higher, planting even more churches and equipping more courageous leaders," he says.

Each year, half of the Pentecost Offering is designated to the local Christian Disciples Region/Area in an effort to start and sustain new churches. The other half is used by Hope Partnership to support the recruitment, assessment, training and coaching of new church leaders at events like Leadership Academy.





REGIONAL MINISTER'S MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

Regional Church Council Adopts Vision/Values/Initiatives for 2017-2022

Our Regional Church Council adopted an updated Vision/Values/Initiatives for 2017-2022. This work has been part of our Study and Discernment process as we prepare to make recommendations for organization changes and additions to our ministry team. You can read the full Vision statement on our website: https://cciwdisciples.org/about-us/who-we-are/

Our new Vision becomes the focus of our work together for the next five years. It encourages practices that create an atmosphere for transformation for leaders and congregations. It opens possibilities for new forms of ministry to emerge. It integrates our ministries with children, youth and young adults. It invites participation and inclusion of the fullness of our region. It challenges us to embrace pilgrimage outside our comfort zones to encounter new expressions of God's community. It calls us to be Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist people for the sake of the gospel.

This work is the fruit of conversational gatherings in different areas of our region; a contextual analysis by Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm; a retreat with a diverse group representing Long Range Vision and Planning, Personnel, our Ministry Leadership Team; and feedback and input from our Regional Church Council. (The contextual analysis document is available upon request.) Here is what we learned:

1. Yes, we are in decline.
2. How we interpret the data, and how we tell the story makes a difference in whether we move forward or not.
3. We need a healthy, generative conversation on grief. (And, legacies.)
4. We need to celebrate new possibilities for ministry that are emerging.
5. Relationships matter---interpersonal, trusting, open.

   Connections matter----to God, each other and our world
6. We must return to our faith story for what it tells us for our time.

   And, Commit ourselves to study and deep Spiritual renewal in community.
7. We will become Outcome focused: Tell us a story of how a life has been changed? Remember it may be yours.

PS: Our Study & Discernment Process will conclude when our Regional Church Council approves our ministry plan. Pray for the next steps, including searching for gifted and capable ministry team staff.

Teresa

Prayer Concerns: **Rev, Peggy Hickman, surgery; Rev. June Moll (retired); Rev. Patti Meyer, were all hospitalized; Rev. Lynn Bond, , stroke and in rehab; Rev. Barb Short (retired); Rev. Rick Hamilton's son, broke leg; Rev. Jim Waterman's (retired) wife Rita; Rev. Jim Warren's wife Sharon in cancer treatments**

Deaths: Terri Grove ; Rev. Diedre Jackson Jones ; Rev. Don Marin's sister Reta; Rev. Jeff Zimmerman's niece Fiona; Rev. Kelly and Anne Ingersoll's father

Pastoral Changes: Lonnie Southern, concludes at Bellflower; Tracy Siegman transferring to Ohio; Paul and Karen Fraser Moore to Ohio UCC; Steve Surratt to Clayton, continue at Mt. Sterling; Pastor Yeonho Kim to Chicago Christian Church; Don Williams (non-DOC) to Knoxville Christian Church

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

Regional Clergy Staff

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Scott Woolridge, Associate Minister	scott@cciwdisciples.org

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Jared Reno	jared@cciwdisciples.org

Regional Moderator

Kelly Ingersoll	kelly@fccmacomb.org

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

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The Christian
401 W. Jefferson St.
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Subscription: $10

Regional Assembly 2018
October 19 - 20

Our Regional Assembly planning team, chaired by Mason Fitch, is pleased to announce that the Rev. Teresa Hord Owens has agreed to be our featured speaker for our next gathering, Oct. 19-20, 2018. Rev. Owens is our current candidate for General Minister and President. We are anticipating good news in July, by recruiting her for our assembly.



The focus will be our Mission First Priority---God calls us to **work with and for children, youth, and young adults,** so together we may share and receive the good news of Jesus Christ by creating communities of healing, learning and transformation. There will be leadership workshops, wonderful worship, congregations sharing ministry, story-telling, and mission work.

Mark your calendars and plan now to be part of the celebration of ministry.

2017 Camp Challenge

Jacksonville Central Christian Church would like to challenge other congregations in the CCIW to consider sending a volunteer group to Camp Walter Scott to assist the staff in clean up opportunities. Each camp cleans up after itself, yet there are still many things to be done to prepare the camp for the next week of campers. Why not send a team of volunteers to help?

Groups can come on Saturday, or come Saturday and stay through Sunday afternoon. This is a mini-mission opportunity. Even if a church has no young people, it is a way for a church to be involved in, and supportive of, regional work with children and youth. Groups will also have an opportunity to meet the staff and celebrate improvements that have been made to the Camp Walter Scott facility.

Central Christian Church is sending a group of volunteers to the camp on Saturday, June 17th. Come join us!

Please contact Laura Williams, CWS camp host at 217.739.2332.

Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ

Camp is fast approaching and camp registration deadlines are approaching even faster! Don't miss out on camp because you missed the early registration date, you have until May 13th to register for camp. If camp is something that you look forward to every year and this year has been rough, and you don't think you can afford to go this summer, please fill out a scholarship form and talk to your church! We'll make sure you get to camp! We want you there just as much as you want to be there.

This year out camp them is *Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ.* If you've been to camp you know how important community is. You know how you're encouraged to "branch out" and meet new people, engage in conversation with your family groups, and connect with one another. We may all come from different churches, different towns, different families. We all have a unique story and sometimes that story is scary to tell, but there is one thing that unites all of us who go to camp and that is God. No matter where you are in your understanding of him, whether it's you searching for answers, you're a new believer, or you're firm in your faith, we're all looking to connect with Him at camp.

Come out this year, sign up for camp and connect with youth from all over our region. Meet new friends, challenge yourself to try something new, and share your story with others. Be brave and branch out! "To see the world, things dangerous to come, to see behind walls, draw closer, to find each other and to feel. That is the purpose of life." Don't be afraid to draw closer to God this summer, don't be afraid to feel.

Camp Program Director, Jared Reno

Camp Walter Scott
Work Day

Please join us on Saturday, May 13th for our Spring Work Day! We need to get paddle boats in the water, tarps up on the hogans, and spread out some dirt and gravel!

Please contact Laura at 217.739.2332 to see how you can help or email camp@cciwdisciples.org





Camp Walter Scott Summer Volunteer Opportunities
Love camp?! Wish you were a kid again?

How about volunteering some of your time this summer at Camp Walter Scott? We would love to have volunteers help out in the kitchen, gardening, or at the lake.

Contact Jared Reno at jared@cciwdisciples.org or Laura Williams at camp@cciwidisciples.org to let them know how YOU can help.

Volunteers make a Difference



Pantry Pals
A Ministry of Union Ave Christian Church Litchfield

The Pantry Pals program was recently created as a response to the issue of hunger among the children and youth of Litchfield, where Union Avenue Christian Church is located.
The Journey Team met with the Litchfield Middle School Administration who stated that 75% of the students were eligible for free/or reduced lunch program. The Journey Team asked if there was a way to assist students who meet the free and reduce lunch criteria by providing food for those students over the weekends. A letter was sent to parents asking if their student would like assistance with the food insecurity on weekends. Twenty-two (22) student's families replied and said yes.

The Pantry Pals Program formally was started by the Journey Committee this semester. Based on feedback from the Middle School, Pantry Pals decided to provide a breakfast, entre, fresh and processed food, snacks and drink for the 22 students for each 2 or 3-day weekend until the end of the current school year in May 2017. Plans also have been made to extend this program through the 2017-2018 school year.



Pantry Pals has set up a storage room in the basement of the church were members of the congregation assemble bags of 44 or 66 food items for each 2 or 3-day weekend. These bags are then taken to the school where school personnel hand out the bags. To maintain student confidentiality, the school does not share the names of the students receiving the food with Pantry Pals, but the school has informed the parents and the school community that Union Avenue Christian Church is providing the food.

The Pantry Pals program addresses several of the five core values of the CCIW Region.

The first few weeks of Pantry Pals has been most gratifying for Pantry Pals, Middle School officials, and students. The Principal has reported back that more families and students want to be part of the project. The Pantry Pals program hopes to be able to expand the number of students served in the future. We are taking this risk so that we can assist and ensure that the 22 young students will have better food security, more community support, and hope for a brighter future.

Mission First

Glenn Oak Christian Church of Peoria and Union Avenue Christian Church of Litchfield have both received $2000 awards from our 2017 CCIW Mission First grants. The Regional Church Council is pleased to share the story of their ministries with you. Mission First grants are still available. See our website for information on how to apply: **https://cciwdisciples.org/2016/cciw-mission-first-ii/**

Glen Oak Christian Church in Peoria, Illinois has over a 90 year history of ministries that build relationships, foster inclusion and provide hospitality to our neighbors and community. Glen Oak strives to identify emerging needs as we redefine traditional community ministries within the challenge of our urban setting and the reduction of our traditional membership.

Sculpting Lives in Clay – Use pottery to transition self-identified unemployed men from poverty into lives they find more fulfilling. This will include life skills, job training, life-coaching, plus spiritual and economic development. Four to six men from the Glen Oak neighborhood will be trained in pottery as they participate in a 16 week group and individual coaching sessions. After the 16 weeks, these life groups will be encouraged and supported to continue; conventional job placement will be sought; and a new group of potters will be recruited.

Community Meal – Hunger in America is a statistical fact that faces children, families and communities. The East Bluff of Peoria where Glen Oak Christian Church has ministered for over 90 years has identified that in their very local neighborhood, hunger is an issue. For the past four years the church has collaborated with the local neighborhood public elementary school by providing Weekend Snack Packs plus a Sunday Snack Pack for every child who attends Sunday morning worship and or Sunday School. Within the last three months, Glen Oak has identified a need to offer a family style community meal to all who come on Thursday evenings from 5:45-6:30. This Community Meal is open to families, seniors, children both from the neighborhood and congregation. Over the last ten weeks, 120 guests have been to the community meal at least one time as demonstrated by the name tag board. Most evenings there is a take home food item such as fruit, vegetable, loaf of bread, popcorn which has been provided by the local food bank as part of the monthly Snack Pack distribution program. There is no charge for the hot, nutritious meal and the cost runs approximately $200 each week.



Vacation Bible School For All – For decades Glen Oak Christian Church had a Vacation Bible School during one week in the summer from 9am-12 noon. After a great deal of discussion and struggle, we decided to offer Vacation Bible School in the evening with a prime focus on families, inclusion and community fellowship. Our Vacation Bible School operates from 5:00-8:15 beginning on Sunday evening through Thursday. We offer am Early Bird Supper to all who come. Not just children but neighbors, friends and the entire community. We host it on the parking lot.

Many of the children that attend VBS also attend the neighborhood school while some have been placed in special need rooms in different schools. These children often need more intense one on one relationships and frequently a professional educator would be beneficial to both the child and the group that he would rotate with during the evening. We have reached out to the teachers at the neighborhood school inviting them to be a part of our volunteer team. The teacher rotates with the "crew" and serves as special assistant to those who are in need.

Another opportunity developed as we needed a welcoming committee to escort parents and family members into the sanctuary as part of the closing worship. We discovered that there are individuals who work during the day, not available when VBS begins at 5:30 but could be available at 7:30 to simply say hello and welcome!

Camp Acts
June 4 -10

Camp Acts will be held June 4 –10 at Camp Walter Scott. Outdoor Ministry Committee Chair, Rex Kibler Jr, will be the director. We would like our CCIW congregations to consider this week as a mission opportunity. We have several projects that we would like to complete during the week, and would like to challenge churches to adopt a project for the week. We need the following areas worked on:

1. Install drywall in storage room of dining hall
2. Beach Beautification
3. Repair and stain fence surrounding sewage lagoon
4. Lay down wood chips on trails

Who can come? Everyone. Families are welcome and there will be opportunities to serve for ALL age and skill levels.

Evenings will be a time to gather for fellowship and fun.

But, I don't have a week to come and help. That's okay, volunteers can come for a day or two, three or the whole week but in the tradition of camp hospitality, we do want to provide you a place to rest your head and meals. To plan for food and lodging we will need to know when and how many people will be at the camp.

Contact Laura at camp@cciwdisciples.org or 217.739.2332 (camp phone). She is looking forward to hearing from you!

There is no cost to participate in Camp Acts but your time and a little bit of sweat.

It's Time for a Spiritual Retreat!
Let's get away and spend some time with God!

You're invited to a personal, spiritual retreat - to a deeper relationship with God. God is ready and we're working on our part.

Join us July 28-30 at Lake Williamson near Carlinville. The retreat starts Friday evening after dinner and ends just before noon on Sunday.

Through the Regional church, we are offering a new partnership in spiritual transformation – for individuals and congregations. It's called **New Day** and we're offering **an introductory retreat**. Our previous retreats have gotten very good reviews! The retreats bring an invitational approach, creating a space to draw near to God and one another. We have a wonderful leadership team in Teresa Dulyea-Parker, Al Keeney, and Scott Woolridge.

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

Our retreat will be enriched by 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'll talk about the journey of individual transformation and its 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.

There were some congregations who encouraged several of their members to attend the retreats. We are especially hopeful this "critical mass" will have a strong, positive influence on the life of your congregation.

We welcome those who attended previous retreats 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.
We hope you can join us July 28-30 at Lake Williamson near Carlinville, Illinois. For more information on New Day, watch the CCIW E-news or contact Scott Woolridge—scott@cciwdisciples.org

And Now There Is More to New Day!

We've offered many New Day retreats and helped enrich the spiritual growth of many church leaders. Our new General Minister and President (GMP) candidate, Terri Hord Owens, has expressed gratitude for her New Day experience! Because of New Day retreats, she felt compelled to work with a spiritual director and those conversations helped her decide to be a candidate for GMP. What a wonderful tribute!

We will continue to offer retreats like the one coming our way July 28-30 at Lake Williamson. This is for New Day beginners and for past attendees. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Here is what's new – in addition to personal, spiritual growth, we are giving new emphasis to a multi-faceted approach to transformation. As leaders are transformed, so are congregations and so are communities. Are you ready for a change, a change for the better? That's exactly what we offer!
New Day creates a space where we can hear and experience the invitation of God to a new and fuller way of life. When we deepen our connection with God, we can deepen connections in every other part of life.

Here's what you can do – for you and for your church -

Sign up for the New Day retreat – July 28-30 at Lake Williamson
Read this book by Ruth Fletcher - Thrive: Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations. Read it with other members of your congregation. Talk about God's will for your community.
Get ready to do visioning and planning in your congregation this fall or next spring. We are here to help.

There is a path. There is a plan. We can help make God's will a new reality in your congregation!

It's time to commit. It's time to set out on a new adventure that will enrich your life and the life of your congregation for years to come.
Please accept our invitation to become a part of the new way of New Day!
Contact Scott Woolridge – scott@cciwdisciples.org for more information.