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

November 2018

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

Christmas Offering

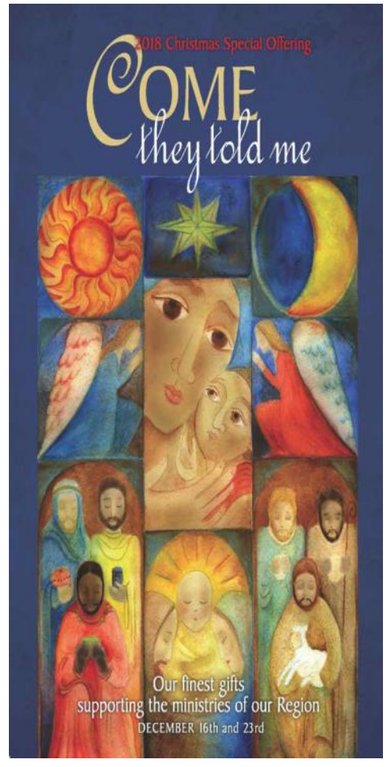
Our finest gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.

Please give generously to this year's Christmas Offering.







Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

REGIONAL MINISTER'S MOMENT

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

In this edition of The Christian, we are featuring articles from our 2018 Annual Report and highlights of our most recent Regional Assembly. Here are some to inspire you:

Since coming on board in May, the Rev. Angelique "Angee" Jordan Byrd has helped us connect through the "Call to Socialize." I hope you have seen some of the delightful videos. "Join Us at the Table" launched at this assembly. It is a chance to share life-giving, life-changing stories with one another. Angee is available to help your congregation and members to tell your stories. Go to lifegivinglifechanging.org to see what is happening. Remember, we're done being the best kept secret!

The Rev. Eli Rolòn Jeong, "Eli" shared the news of our Camp Walter Scott Matching Grant kickoff. Our Regional Church Council members have contributed $3000 to get us started. (See related materials in this edition.) To date we have received $11,000 in gifts. Thank you!

We had seven workshops at our regional assembly with over 150 participants learning about hospitality, new church, NBA XPLOR, children's ministry, youth ministry, Open and Affirming conversations.

We announced that we are launching a School for Ministry with our partners in the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ focused on raising up leaders from and for our small rural/urban congregations. (See related articles) We begin with a discernment retreat January 11-12 at Chiara Center in Springfield---if you are considering your call.

We continue the focus of New Day---a deep spiritual formation process for leaders as a pathway of personal and congregational transformation. The Rev. Scott Woolridge has been shepherding these last two efforts.

We made blankets and packed sweet cases for children in need in our communities. We also clean up bucket items for Church World Service to distribute in natural disasters. Service, Learning and Mission or SLAM is one of our new ventures. The Rev. Bill Kerns, pastor at Davis Memorial in Taylorville, is looking for volunteers to help us plan yearly cooperative SLAM's.

And, Nov. 1-30, we are gathering at 7 a.m. CST by conference call for a "Call to Prayer." (See announcement) What if we prayed as if the world was waiting on us?

Last Tuesdays at Two with Teresa

Our Regional Minister is inviting you to conversation. The last Tuesdays of each month as calendar allows. We will use Zoom technology to facilitate connecting with each other. Our next conversation will be Tuesday, Nov. 20th at 2 p.m. Please send an email to teresa@cciwdisciples.org if you would like to receive the Zoom link.

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Sharon Warren, Rev. Jim Warren's wife; Jim Turner; Deann Anderson; Ray Culver; Burley Herrin; Mary Knutsen; Laura and Robert Williams son Caleb; Montee Akers Jr.; Rev. Steve Peters brother Barry; Duff Knudsen; Eurgene Lamport mother-in-law Nancy; Rev. Bill Crowl; Carol, Rev. Wayne Meyer wife Carol; Ray McLaren wife Missy;

Deaths: Rev. Jim Warren on death of his mother Virginia; Dr. Hugh Reynolds; Rev. Ken Kline of death of his wife Joane; Robert and Una Francisco death of son Mark; Rev. Beth and Mark Rupe; in the dealth os Mark'smother, Marily; Ray and Missy McLaren, death of Missy's mother Virginia McLaren;

Pastoral Changes: Rev. Roy Jimenez to Hometown Christian Church; Rev. James King to United; Bob Clark to P/T Interim at Abingdon; Marlene Shepherd, Ordination

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

Regional Clergy Staff

Teresa Dulyea-Parker, Reg. Minister & President	teresa@cciwdisciples.org
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Regional Moderator
Kelly Ingersoll — kelly@fccmacomb.org

Global Mission Partners
Rev. Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto

Ecumenical Council of Churches in Guatemala

Christian Church Foundation Representative

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

CCIW Upcoming Events Reminders

2019 Clergy Ethics Training Dates

Register: www.cciwdisciples.org
Cost : $35.00 per class which includes lunch
Sessions are from 8:30-3:30 pm

Healthy Boundaries 101: Tuesday, March 26 at First Christian Church of Galesburg, 301 Broad St., Galesburg
Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker will present material from Faith Trust Institute. Rev. MJ Fitch will be hosting.

Clergy Self Care: Tuesday, May 7 at Central Christian Church, 1101 N Vermillion St., Danville
Rev. Canon Albert Keeney and Rev. Scott Woolridge will present. Rev. Adam Harmon will be hosting.

Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism: Monday, Aug. 12 at Camp Walter Scott, Dieterich
PRAR Team representatives will lead the training. Laura Williams will be hosting.

Healthy Boundaries 201: Saturday, Sept. 21 at First Christian Church, 506 Fifth Ave., Rock Falls
Rev. Rebecca Kirby will be presenting material based on resources from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Rev. Jeanette Larson will be hosting.

New Ministers Orientation
Thursday, January 24, 2019
Regional Office
401 W Jefferson
Bloomington, Il

If you are a new minister or have transferred to CCIW, you will be receiving an invitation to spend the day (lunch included) with the Regional Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker and staff, to learn about the ministries of the CCIW.

The staff is looking forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have for them.

See you on Jan. 24, 2019!

A Time to Celebrate Regional Assembly

Regional Assembly 2018 was filled with the celebration and honoring of our Merit Winners; Martha Shine, Aril Bass, Jim Whitaker, and Lois Whitaker. The music throughout the weekend fed our hearts and souls while the powerful messages by Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens and Rev. Rebecca Anderson reminded us of why we are called to be Christians. An incredible experience for all that attended and we look forward to Regional Assembly 2020.



Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens



Rev. Jim and Lois Whitaker



Elder Martha Shine



Rev. Arvil Bass



North American Pacific/Asian Disciples in the Region of Illinois/

As members of NAPAD in the Illinois/Wisconsin region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we join with other Disciples in the United States and Canada in the total mission of the church, by acknowledging and promoting the cultures and heritages of Pacific/Asian peoples within the historic and living Christian faith.

Currently, there are 7 NAPAD churches, including 1 Burmese and 6 Korean congregations, with 9 Korean pastors, 1 Burmese pastor, 1 Korean candidate seeking for ordination, 1 Korean seminarian under the care of the region, and 1 Korean retired pastor.

We strive to contribute to the wholeness and unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):
by participating in God's mission through the various expressions of the region;
by advocating for Pacific/Asian Disciples in the region;
by sharing the gifts and traditions of Pacific/Asian Disciples with the Disciples of the re-





Youth and Camping Events 2019



Mid-Winter Retreat is coming up soon! Registration will open on November 1, 2018. Check out www.cciwdisciples.org/youth for details.

Are you a CCIW youth in your first, sophomore, or junior year of high school? Would you like to have a significant input in youth events and programs in our region? If so, consider joining CCIW's Regional Youth Council (RYC)! Help shape our programs while strengthening your leadership skills and joining in fellowship with other youth across the Illinois and Wisconsin region. Contact Pastor Eli for details. Email: eli@cciwdisciples.org – Call or Text: (708) 730-4059.

Mid Winter 2019
January 26—27, 2019
First Christian Church
Macomb, Il

Mark Youth Calendars
Summit 2019
November 22-24
At
Lake Williamson
Carlinville, Il

Since 2016, we've led several **retreats for spiritual transformation**.

This is what some people have said they've experienced -



- Spiritual renewal – became more aware of God's presence, felt uplifted and returned to their congregation with excitement
- A sense of community. We are not on this journey alone. We have God and we have many spiritual friends.
- The value of spiritual practices – as individuals and in a group. Gives us new ways to nurture our spiritual life.
- Insights into our relationship with God and a variety of ways to connect with God. It's not a one-size-fits-all.
- Resources for our spiritual journey and the intentionality to follow-through

Coming in 2019 – we'd like to know your thoughts—

Watch for an online poll about our transformation ministries—we're cooking up some great ideas and we'd like to know what is most exciting to you. Here are some of the options we're considering—

- Personal spiritual retreats—we plan to offer a retreat for first time attendees and a version 2.0 for those who've been to a retreat before
- Geography of Grace/Circles of Trust for spiritual discernment
- Thrive—for congregational transformation
- A workshop on Personality and Spirituality led by Dick Hamm and others
- Transforming our communities (community development) co-sponsored by our Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racism Team
- A spiritual retreat for children and their families—how we connect with God and one another

And visit our Transformation page – cciwdisciples.org/transformation



Ministry Committee Highlights

Over the last two years, we have had the joy of working with Mick Kuehl and Esther Shelton-Smith as our Co-Chairs of the Ministry Committee. Sylvia Laidig and Larry Pepper are the new Co-Chairs. The functions of our committee are:

Meet regularly to nurture, encourage and certify candidates for Ordained or Commissioned Ministry.
Review and update the Policy and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry for the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin ensuring that standards meet and/or exceed the minimum standards of the General Commission on Ministry.
Recruit and assign Mentors for Commissioned Ministers.
Recruit and assign Spiritual Directors for all seminary students under our care.
Review annually and certify the standing of all ordained and commissioned ministers under our care.
Insure that Healthy Boundary training is provided on an annual basis with 4 year cycle of Healthy Boundaries, Ethics, Clergy Self-care, Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism.
Keep confidential records concerning candidates for ministry.

In this past year, a task group of former members of the committee helped to develop an **Apprentice Track for Ordination.** It was approved by the Committee and Regional Church Council.

We also have encouraged the development of a **School for Ministry:**

...he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" … He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." John 21:17

Built on a foundation of God's life-changing love, we offer to feed God's sheep and God's shepherds. In these days of rapid change, Christ's church has new needs for ministerial leadership. We are calling and equipping "home-grown" talent, gifted laity in the congregation. We help them to discern their call to ministry in the context of intentional, sacramental community and help them to gain the ability to become faithful, effective pastors. We are convinced this ministry will change the lives of leaders and of congregations, moving from surviving to thriving.



Ordination

Sunday, October 21 was a very special day in the life of First Christian Church and the multi-faith community in Carbondale. It was the day of Marleen Shepherd's ordination into the ministry. A child of First Christian who has already been very involved in a ministry that brings practical love to the less fortunate of our community through interfaith outreach.

School for Ministry – It's New!

We're announcing a new venture for CCIW and the Illinois Conference of the UCC! It will begin in 2019 as a school for commissioned ministers.

Built on a foundation of God's life-changing love, we offer to feed God's sheep and God's shepherds. In these days of rapid change, Christ's church has new needs for ministerial leadership. We are calling and equipping "home-grown" talent, gifted laity in the congregation. We help them to discern their call to ministry in the context of intentional, sacramental community and help them to gain the ability to become faithful, effective pastors. We are convinced this ministry will change the lives of leaders and of congregations, moving from surviving to thriving.

What will it look like?

We are forming the first group of students, called a cohort. Early in 2019, they will meet together in a retreat to talk about and pray about their call to ministry.

They will journey through the three-year process together as they take classes online in the spring and fall. They will also gather for a week-long intensive class in the summer led by some of the most gifted seminary professors today.

Each student will be provided with a mentor, a spiritual director and a life coach.

The Region and the Conference are offering generous subsidies for the students to greatly reduce the cost of attending the School for Ministry. A new minister can afford to take classes and does not have to travel to take each class.

We're creating the next crop of ministers – a new way of education for a new day in ministry.
A gifted and passionate Board is leading this start-up ministry. Please pray this great group of servants as this new ministry is being formed.

Watch the Regional church's website (cciwdisciples.org) for more updates and for the expanding horizons of the School for Ministry.

New Church/Ministry2017

In January of 2017, a newly reconstituted New Church Establishment Team was formed and with Jeff Zimmerman as Chair. The committee resources and manages the process for congregations seeking to affiliate with our region and pastors who are developing new Disciples' congregations in the region.

Based on the Vision and Initiatives adopted by the region, we clarified our primary focus to support new and affiliating congregations which increase our diversity and/or do and are church in bold and creative ways.

We changed our name to New Church/Ministries Team to reflect our openness to a wide variety of ways in which congregations might exist and be formed. We also recognize that it was not the role of the team to establish these congregations, but to welcome and walk with them, and to connect them to necessary resources. The hard and exhausting work of developing and establishing a congregation is the role of the pastor.
We agreed to support congregations seeking to affiliate with other denominations in addition to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

In 2017 our team met in person two times with folks from Root and Branch Church and Gilead Church. We continued funding for Root and Branch Church and starting funding Gilead Church. For both congregations our funding, while significant, only covers a portion of their expenses. Additionally, we moved to incorporate matching grants as part of our funding structure.

We completed the substantial amount of work to review and revise the covenant we use with congregations. We separated out a Relationship Covenant outlining expectations of both the region and the pastors of new and affiliating congregations (whether they are receiving funding or not) and a Stewardship Covenant with pastors of congregations receiving financial support.

The region hired Rev. Jeff Zimmerman as Minister for New Church/Ministries and Rev. Hyoung Chel (Tom) Yang as Minister for NAPAD Ministries. Rev. Yang works closely with the New Church/Ministries Team and is a valued and important colleague in our work.

Two highlights from 2018 include partnering with Rev. Dr. Franshonn Salter, who is developing ANEW Church, and providing her a financial grant for the development of this congregation and ministry. **And, second, the 2018 Pentecost Offering is twice that of 2017**.

I give thanks to each of you for supporting the ministry of establishing new congregations,
Jeff Zimmerman

Disciples Women: Looking ahead to 2019

Pray and Play Days have been scheduled as follows:

March 16, 2019
1 – 5 PM at First Christian Church in Virden, IL
Craft Project - Seasonal Mesh Wreaths.

August 3, 2019
1 – 5 PM at First Christian Church in Macomb, IL.

Sept. 14, 2019
1 – 5 PM at Park Manor Christian Church in Chicago, IL.

Cost for each event will be $20 per adult and $10 for those ages 6 – 12. Cost will include all materials for the event. Registration for Pray and Play Days will be available online and registration materials will be sent to congregations in January.

Mark your calendars now and check the Tuesday email, CCIW Disciples Women's Facebook page by going to Facebook and visiting and liking CCIW Disciple Women's Ministries for additional information.

Disciples Women's Ministry Leadership Team is excited to invite you to the following events in 2019.

Join us in Springfield for the Gathering
On ***April 27, 2019*** we will be hosting the annual Spring Gathering. Once again we will be meeting at the ***Chiara Center in Springfield IL***. This is a beautiful retreat center so plan to come and spend the day or come early for some quiet time and Sabbath reflection. Overnight accommodations are available and may be book separately by calling the Chiara Center.

The Gathering will begin with registration at 9:00 AM and will conclude at 3:00 PM on Saturday April 27. Our theme is How to Love Ourselves While Still Loving Others: The Art of Self- Care. With consideration of Mark 12: 30 – 31 we will consider how Sabbath practice and the acceptance of God's unconditional love of each of us is the foundation for loving engagement with and for others in the healing of a broken world.

Reverend Chesla Nickelson, Program Director for International Disciples Women will be our keynote speaker for the morning. In the afternoon, Kelsie Bently from Virden, IL will lead sessions on *A Time for Ourselves*, a discussion of self-care practices and Beth Rupe, Bloomington, IL will lead sessions on *A Time with God*, a discussion of how to create your own prayer book through the art of journaling.

The cost is $48 per person and registration will be available online and more information sent to the churches in January 2019.

Come Pray and Pray
In addition to the Gathering, this year we are pleased to announce that the Disciples Ministry Leadership Team will be hosting three Pray and Play days. (See side bar for dates and cost). These four hour afternoon sessions will give ***girls and women from kindergarten through adulthood opportunities to come pray and play together***.

The event will include opportunities for the women to pray together, sing together, explore new prayer practices and create a craft that can be displayed in their homes or used as a model in creating more for a fundraiser for their home congregations. Girls who are in kindergarten and grades school will have the opportunity to pray, engage in story time, and create crafts. Of course, there will be snacks throughout the event.

Mark your calendars now and check the Tuesday email, CCIW Disciples Women's Facebook page by going to Facebook and visiting and liking CCIW Disciple Women's Ministries for additional information.