

The Christian Church (DOC) in Illinois & Wisconsin

2020 Regional Assembly

October 17, 2020

"We're all in this together"

Regional Assembly Report

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Vision and Initiatives

Purpose Statement

In the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the purpose of regions is two-fold: *first*, to extend the ministry of Christ in mission, witness and service among the people and social structures of the region; and, *second*, to establish, receive, and nurture congregations in the Region, providing help, counsel, and pas- toral care to members, ministers and congregations in their mutual relationships, and relating them to the worldwide mission and witness of the whole church.

Our particular purpose is to receive, connect, nurture, and resource Disciples communities in Illinois and Wisconsin for mission, witness, and service as we minister in the name of Jesus locally and build relationships globally as a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist Church.

Vision Statement

To be a radically welcoming Region of connected Disciples congregations, radiating the Creator's love, continuing Christ's mission, and following the Spirit's call.

Mission Statement

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

Brand

Together …Making Disciples of Christ

Values and Praxis

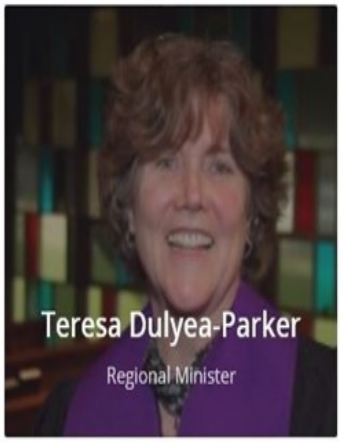
1. Practice Deep Spiritual Formation
2. Practice Meaning Trusting Relationships
3. Practice Covenantal Connections
4. Practice Pro-Reconciliation/anti-Racism and become Multicultural
5. Practice Creative Ministry
6. Practice Bold Mission

Initiatives 2017-2022

We Will:

1. Strengthen our connection to God as the source of life giving ministry. Through initiatives like New Day we will focus on spiritual formation for leaders as the grounding for our relationships and purposes.
2. Be intentional about including all people in our planning processes, leadership structure and at our local, regain and general gatherings. We will seek to reflect the diversity of God's true church, regardless of gender, race, age, size, ability, sexual orientation, income, or community.
3. Identify ministry opportunities with children, youth and young adults by integrating camp and youth ministries and providing program development/evaluation, resources, staffing.
4. Identify and dismantle mechanisms of systemic racism by continuing to emphasize Pro-reconciliation/Anti-racism training of Regional personnel, and by examining regional structures, documents and processes for wording or structures that exclude or marginalize persons of color and other min
5. Imaginatively discern and partner with new Ministries/Churches: including finding new ways to communicate and form communities—such as storytelling, podcasts, and social media. We will discern the call to be a Disciple presence in innovative ways.
6. Engage in Service, Learning, Mission Experiences and Excursions, locally and globally, that engage all of our values. We will embrace spiritual pilgrimage—moving beyond our comfort zones to engage God in other cultures.

CCIW Regional Staff























Welcome to the 2020 Virtual Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin. We're in this Together.

This has been a crisis year for all of us. Crisis means both "danger" and "opportunity." I could not be prouder of our ministry team, our pastors and our congregations for the way you have been meeting this moment.

At the end of March, Revs. Angee, Eli and Scott put together the first letter about Covid-19, advising our congregations not to meet. When I returned from sabbatical in April, Angee organized tons of material so we could host congregational leaders and Pastors helping them be aware of public health projections. Our goal was to give current information, encourage caution, and ask our leaders to follow public health guidelines to "flatten the curve." We do not have the authority to tell congregations what to do, but we can ask our leaders to have a plan to protect our people. Most have been wearing masks, establishing internal guidelines, and some are still not meeting in person. And, obviously, this year's regional assembly is virtual.

We have had to cancel summer camps (CWS boxes were a hit! Thanks Eli) and Disciple Women's gatherings. As a staff, we are not traveling. We are blessed to have been ahead of the curve with deployed staff, Zoom technology, and a Communication team. We are hosting, gatherings of clergy clusters for support and encouragement. The good news is they want to meet with each other---We're all in this Together!

Our Pastors and congregational leaders have leapt into the new media world. Our Communication team, Rev. Angee Byrd and Jeff Parker have been hosting workshops and coffee chats to support these efforts. I continue to be amazed that we had a team in place, and that our Pastors and leaders have just kept going---because they care about their congregations and people. God is good, and our church is faithful. And, we have learned how to hold our phone cameras in the horizontal position.

Our leaders have been working heroically. They will get tired (give them time off). Also, although things improved in Illinois, there are new hot spots arising. The politization of this public health crisis has left our people vulnerable to misinformation, and worse to sickness and death. Just when folks begin to think it is coming to an end, new warnings are released. The long-term effect on the health and well-being of our Pastors, leaders, congregations is unknown. The stress and grief are real. One good thing we know: we have learned to communicate in the new media world and there is no going back. We can only get better---really! (continued)

Following the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd . . . we held a Conversation on Race. Rev. Sonna B. Key and Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe, Rev. Angee Byrd worked with me to create a format for conversation with the intention of making it as safe as possible for our BIPOC. It was a good beginning, but more must be done. Our white clergy identified a need for support for preaching about racism and Black Lives Matter. We are working to address that need and will have announcements soon. We as a region we need to re-commit to Anti-Racism work---Black Lives Matter.

Retirements are beginning in our region. One you know about is Rev. Scott Woolridge. Scott has served thirty-one years in regional church life. He is looking forward to "going back to congregational ministry" to serve as an Interim. We are so grateful for his service. The relationships he has established across our region have been life-giving. You should know, he did it for Jesus, and because you represent Jesus in this world. And, that is needed more than ever. Pray for our regional church in the midst of transitions.

Last, I would like you to know how gifted you are as a region. I'd like you to hear the stories of ministry taking place in your name, like Communication Ministry, School for Ministry (S4M), New Church, North American Pacific Island Asian Disciples (NAPAD), Children, Youth and Young Adults (CYYA.) Our Personnel Committee has the pleasure of interviewing each of our staff members (it takes 11 hours). They get to hear what is being done---and always the response is "We had no idea." "Wow, this is awesome." "We need to tell our stories."

Yes, we do!

As you read through this report, and participate in our Assembly, please consider what you can do to share our stories and strengthen our connection. We're in this Together!

Suggestions:

1. Tell your congregation one story that inspires you.
2. Talk to them about setting up a Life-giving/Life-changing recording session.
3. Engage with other Disciples near you, invite them to share their stories, too.
4. Invite one of our team members to come---via Zoom---and share the work they are doing.
5. Give to Disciple Mission Fund (DMF). Encourage your congregation to, as well.

Moderator Report

The theme of our Regional Assembly this year is "We're all in this together." When I think about the various definitions of the word "together", connection and being in relationship come to mind. Although we are located in various places across Illinois and Wisconsin, we are together as a Regional Church Family.

Our Region has continued to do God's work through multiple ministries and committees. Our Communications Ministry has helped us stay connected, as well as shared messages of hope. Local congregations are communicating and connecting in new ways. New churches are continuing to be planted and relationships are being built. Our youth are being empowered and are doing great things. Personal and congregational transformation have taken place. Connections have occurred through group phone calls for daily prayer. Pro-reconciliation/anti-racism work is continuing and making a difference. Life giving and life changing stories have been shared and heard.

Together, we are connecting and building relationships. We are making a difference in our communities. We are continuing to share the Good News. We are continuing to show God's love.

I have been blessed over the past 2 years to have served as CCIW Moderator, and thank everyone for all the support and prayers. I have learned so much, grown spiritually, and built multiple relationships. I also had the opportunity to participate in General Board meetings, as well as meet with Regional Moderators from across the denomination. I would like to thank the Regional Church Council and Regional Staff for their faithful service, including Scott as he transitions to a new chapter of ministry, and Teresa for her leadership and wisdom.

The work of our Region is moving forward, and each of us plays an important part in God's Kingdom here on earth. As we press on, keep praying and keep trusting, as we continue to follow His path. As Ephesians 3:20 tells us, God is "able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." Keep the faith, as we continue to serve…together.

Blessings and peace,

Marla McElroy



New Church/Ministry Report
2020 Regional Assembly

The NCMT supports new and affiliating congregations, and particularly seeks to partner with worshiping communities doing and being church in bold and creative ways and which reflect the diversity and wholeness of God's kindom.

Greetings CCIW,

Thank you for your support of the new church movement in our region. Your prayers, your effort, your gifts to the Pentecost Offering, and those once in a lifetime opportunities to move resources forward.

Thank you to Don Merritt and Rose Goyen, former members of University Christian Church in Normal, who assisted me in making a small change to one of the legacy gifts this congregation provided when they closed their doors. A significant portion of the remaining assets were set aside to establish new congregations. Gurnee CC, a congregation in a far north suburb of Chicago, also made a significant gift to new church establishment when they closed their doors.

Twenty years ago the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) embarked on a journey to nurture 1000 new congregations. Together we achieved this goal.

In these last two years, I have met with twelve individuals interested in starting new worshiping communities in the region. Thank you Teresa Dulyea-Parker for planting seeds. The region financially supported five different communities in 2019 and 2020. The New Church/Ministries Team (NCMT) and I provide other support depending on context and where the planter, and/or the new church start, is in the process. In February of 2020 new church planters gathered for a two day retreat sponsored by the NCMT. This summer the NCMT provided a small grant of $1,000 to each new church started in the last two decades as a tangible recognition of the difficulties of the pandemic for new worshiping communities.

The New Church/Ministries Team and I have been working on revising policies and procedures. The NCMT completed a one day training by the CCIW Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racism Team. I participated in three new church multi-day training and resource events.

In August Pastor Terrell McTyer with the Disciples New Church Ministry gathered new church leaders together for New Church Summit 2020 to begin the process of praying and discerning what is next for the Disciples new church movement. It was an interactive and generative three day virtual gathering with Mark DeYmaz of Mosaic Church presenting and reflecting on his book Disruption: Re-purposing the Church to Redeem the Community.

As we move forward the office of New Church Ministries is gathering folk to commit to being in prayer for ten minutes each week for the new church movement in our denomination. If this speaks to your heart, please reach out and join us. It is a teleconference call at 8am Tuesday or 8pm Thursday, central time. For more information check out the webpage (https://newchurchministry.org/services/water-plants-prayer-initiative/) or send an email to prayer@newchurchministry.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Zimmerman
Minister for New Church/Ministry
New Church/Ministry Team Leader

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Committee on Ministry

In February 2020 we met over a 2-day period with 12 candidates in both Chicago at Divinity House, and in Darien at the Carmelite Center. 11 candidates were interviewed.

In June 2020 we met by Zoom rather than face to face in Bloomington. We interviewed 8 candidates including 2 new candidates in care for ordination, and 2 that we approved for ordination. God is good!

How has your ministry been connecting and empowering our congregations?

By following and ministering to those on the path to ordination or supporting and listening to those who serve churches in our region as Commissioned Pastors. For those working towards the ordination process and still in school, we listen to their stories, their struggles, their walks of faith that will differ and change as their studies take place, as they are serving in other capacities required for ordination (CPC requirements, assisting other churches in roles of leadership, and taking their lessons outside of their classrooms and/or churches to serve).

As a committee member we are also there to help when there may be a faith struggle, or a question regarding discernment. There are also several of those who are currently students just beginning their lives as new spouses or entering parenthood. These life steps also can affect their beliefs and shift their focus within their faith as their own personal lives change. We as a committee, are the ones who nudge, suggest, or just sit quietly and listen to some very amazing stories that are shared with us. Stories that shape their faith, their walk, and a church congregation that they will someday serve. In other words, we are the persons within our committee that are helping to nurture and prepare these persons to lead and feed others. To empower their own congregations.

What life changing/life giving story would you like to share?

One of our candidates was nearing the end of her schooling and preparing for the ordination that she had worked so hard for and had always dreamed of. Shortly before her ordination interview, where we approve them to become ordinated pastors within the Christian Church (Disciple's of Christ), she was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer. Although struggling with the effects of her chemotherapy, she was able to finish and be approved by our committee to be ordained, so see her dream become a reality. Shortly thereafter, she did become ordained and passed away a few months later. She persevered, and talking with her for the last time, she told our committee that she wasn't afraid to die because she had put her faith and trust completely in the hands of God, and she was ready to die. She touched many lives in the church that she had helped to serve prior to becoming ordained, and I am forever grateful that I was able to be a part of that process.

What challenges do you have in fulfilling this ministry?

Indifference in the importance of not only the candidates, but also the pastors who do not submit their required documents to us within the time frame (30 days) of their next interview. Frustration with those who do not call or show up at their scheduled time slot. Our committee members work hard at being present for the days of interviews, and it wastes valuable time when we sit for an hour or more because of interviewees that don't show up. Or, don't have any of their requirements done and turned in.

Our newest challenge is one that everyone everywhere is currently experiencing: learning to hold interviews via Zoom and not being able to meet one-on-one. To offer a candidate a hug, or personally hold their hand as we circle them in prayer before they leave. For our committee especially, part of our nurturing process is to meet the candidates face-to-face. To pray, to hear their personal stories, all without the problems that face any type of internet connections. The warmth is currently gone. I look forward to the day when I can offer them my hand in prayer again.

What would you like our region to know about your work?

I would like our region to know that everyone serving on the RCoM take our work very seriously as we are preparing individuals to serve your churches in a healthy way. A way that will empower the congregations and the individuals within them. That when we approve a candidate for commissioning or ordination, we are confident that that person will be an asset to the ministry.

Are there specific actions you would like the RCC to take?

Not currently.

NAPAD (North America Pacific/Asian Disciples)
Ministry Highlights

During this time of COVID-19, many people are utilizing limited physical contact to communicate with one another. Therefore, we gathered over Zoom. We participated in a Zoom classroom where Korean pastors across the region came together to conduct a virtual bible study for 13 weeks. We joined with Korean pastors from various denominations in a Zoom Webinar where we learned about racism in America in depth and discussed ways to unite and find effective solutions. We also met virtually over Zoom to discover ways to promote self-care more efficiently during the pandemic and experience Shalom in our midst.

We are pleased to report that the Radio Mission Ministry is successful. The Radio Mission is our very first communal ministry initiative where local Korean Disciples pastors form a Disciples ministry team. Every week, a different pastor speaks on the local Korean radio stations, Korean Christian Broadcast Company (a Christian radio station) and K-Radio (a secular radio station), proclaiming the gospel to the Korean population in the greater Chicago area. This collaborative ministry creates an excellent opportunity to introduce who we are and promote what we stand for to the Korean community at large, since many are not aware of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a denomination. This shared ministry has also enhanced our spirit of partnership in ministry by helping us view ourselves as fellow team members representing Disciples of Christ to the larger community.



Every year in Korea, hundreds of pastors and saints from churches across denominations visit the Army Training Camps to participate in *Jin-Jung Sae-Rae Sik,* which means "Army Trainees Baptism Ceremony" in Korean. It is an ecumenical effort to introduce Jesus as Savior and save the souls of the young people, the next generation.



Four Korean Disciples pastors from the Illinois/Wisconsin region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) attended the 555th *Jin-Jung Sae-Rae Sik* held at the Army Training Camp in Non San City, South Korea on November 2, 2019 to baptize over 4,000 army trainees who had completed the baptism qualification course. A Korean Disciples pastor shared his heartfelt wish after the ceremony, "I hope that the soldiers who received baptism today will live the life of a patriotic soldier who also lives a life of faith in Jesus Christ, henceforth."

We continue our efforts to become a community of faith where the life-transforming love of Christ and shalom are experienced, recognizing that even through challenges and successes in the life of a foreign land, God leads us to a place where we, a group of imperfect immigrants, can rejoice in our perfect God: Praise to be God!

Respectfully submitted by
Rev. Dr. Tom Hyoung Chel Yang
CCIW NAPAD Minister

Disciples' Women Report

As 2020 started, DISCIPLES Women Ministries had a full calendar of events starting with Spring Gathering, three Pray and Play afternoons, and concluding with Fall Retreat scheduled for Camp Walter Scott. As time progressed and the extent of the impact of COVID-19 became more evident, all events were canceled out of concern for the health and well-being of those leading and participating. The need to cancel was made after prayerful and thoughtful reflection by the Disciples Women's Ministry Leadership Team.

The impact of Covid 19 has clarified the importance of identifying additional channels of communication apart from church offices. As churches closed these channels slowed or in some instances became unavailable. CCIW's DW Facebook page gained importance as a way of connecting and disseminating information. As churches return to on-sight ministry or adjust to a new normal, ways of increasing points of contact will be explored.

At this time, Disciple's Women have been unable to confirm dates for a Spring Gathering due to uncertainty of the availability of the Chiara Center. We are considering possibility of an online gathering. Fall Retreat has been scheduled for September 24-26 at Camp Walter Scott, Rev Mary Runge will be keynoter and theme will be Inside, Outside with the scripture focus coming from the book of Esther. Pray and Play events are yet to be decided.

We join in celebrating the ministry of the women at Albion Christian Church. During the stay at home order, they made the decision to disband their monthly study and fellowship group. While this group will no longer meet, we are confident that the ministry of the Disciples' Women in the congregation will continue. Disciples' Women always do. We continue to celebrate all the ways Disciples' Women are engaged and serving throughout this Region. We look forward to finding new ways to connect and serve as we go forward,

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe
Interim Minister Disciples' Women

2019 to 2020 PRO-RECONCILIATION/ANTI-RACISM TEAM

Karon Alexander & Rev. Jeanette Larson
Co-Facilitators PR/AR Team

Purpose: The ministry of PRAR empowers and equips individuals and congregation to make God's beloved community visible as it invites the church to break down the walls that separate individuals and communities by promoting reconciliation and celebrating unity.

The team encourages its members to engage in conversations that confess the sin of racism, listen to the voices of those who have been ignored, marginalized, or victimized. We also promote understanding and celebration of diversity as we continue to learn together. We meet every other month now via zoom instead of quarterly. We also read The Third Reconstruction by Rev. Dr. William Barber II and currently are reading and discussing An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago by Alex Kotlowitz.

The PRAR committee awarded a $2,500 grant request from Eureka College by Bruce Fowlkes to offset the cost of an Intercultural Development Continuum. The team is also currently working in partnership with Eureka College to offer a workshop led by Dr. David Hooker who will be speaking on: God's Shalom: Justice and Wholeness in Today's World on September 18th. We also gave a donation of $ 2,500 to the Poor People's Campaign in May 2020.

Winter Talk 2020 was attended by Pastor Larry Larson. He reports, "The conference was once again a rich experience with everyone involved. Our Guest Speaker, Jon Ghahate of the Pueblo Cultural Center, was excellent in the knowledge he shared and has an amazing professional background from military medic to surgeon. Currently, he shares native history at the Pueblo Cultural Center, and teaches math and science in the high school".

We had plans to offer a 2.5 day training for team members and others in the region, but one of the trainers fell ill last November. We will reschedule when safe to do so.

We currently are looking at organizing a workshop for clergy that will focus on preaching anti-racism. We look forward to finding other ways to doing ministry during this time of uncertainty. We also hope to partner with SLAM to organize a Civil Rights Pilgrimage.

A regional conversation following the killings of George Floyd took place on June 16 by Zoom meeting and was facilitated by Rev Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker, Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe and Rev. Sonna Blue Keyes. As a result, a Zoom conference will be held in November on preaching to open conversations to heal the trauma of racism and monthly conversations for clergy and laity will be hosted in 2021. The preaching workshop in November will be led by Dr. Leah Schade from Lexington Theological Seminary and Rev. Sonna Keys. The PRAR Team is available to lead trainings or workshops. We would welcome anyone who has a heart for equality, and social/racial justice to join the team.

Respectfully submitted

Association of Interim Ministers
Terry Foland, AIM Coordinator/Manager

Association of Interim Ministers (formerly ATIIM) currently has 28 interim ministers listed as members of the group. We are basically clergy of the CCIW and United Church of Christ, but have a few others from other denominations who participate from time to time.

One problem we face is getting information from the staff members of both CCIW and UCC of new interim ministers. We need to improve that communication system.

This past few months we have had a task group working on a revised Interim Ministry Support Fund. We are currently testing some of the changes in how the fund is supported financially and how the funds may be used. After we get the feedback, we may do more revisions of the fund policies and then report the final document to the Boards of both UCC and DOC. in our Illinois -Wisconsin jurisdictions. Purpose of the fund is to provide emergency funding for interim ministers when they are between interim ministry positions; to provide grants or loans to interim ministers for helping them participate in interim ministry training events; to provide financial resources for financing the regular meetings of the AIM.

Our usual two day event held in October will be done as a viritual gathering on October 7 this year. The Reverand Rebecca Anderson of Giliad Church in Chicago is a resource leader this year. Promotional materials are being sent through as many channels as possible in both denominations. A registration fee of $50.00 for the event will include a $25.00 dollar membership fee for the next fiscal year of the organization.

We welcome any feedback or suggestions for how we can improve our part of the church as we engage in ministry together.

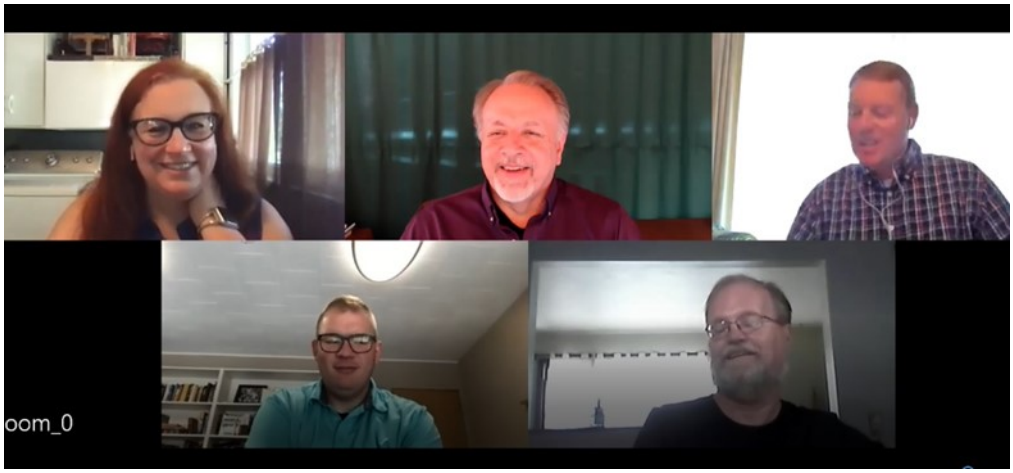
CCIW COACHES

The CCIW Cohort of Coaches is ready to offer our gifts! Our group includes: Scott Woolridge, Grant Wade, Ellen Moma, Bill Kerns, Kelly Ingersoll, and Melissa Ebken. We are pastors working alongside you in CCIW.

Our cohort meets monthly to hone our skills as coaches and discuss how we may be of service to you. We receive training from CAM - Coach Approach Ministries. Our goal is to be your coach as you do the amazing things you do in your ministry context. A coach does not advise or counsel, a coach creates a space for you to think deeply and critically. A coach invites you to look at your context from varying lenses and perspectives so that you may take focused action with energy and purpose.

We are creating content to help you understand how coaching can be a boost for you, and to create a coaching mindset in CCIW. Look for CCIW Coaches on Facebook. Where is God already at work? Let's jump in!

This fall we look forward to eleven more joining our cohort, as they begin the training for their coaching journey. How do you want to be involved in the coaching culture of CCIW? Whether you are interested in coaching, receiving coaching, or learning more, reach out to any of us, or hit that button on Facebook! https://tinyurl.com/cciw-coaches-fb



Healthy Congregations Report - CCIW Regional Assembly 2020

We are a group of active and retired clergy who meet regularly to deepen our knowledge and practice of Healthy Congregations – applying family systems theory to the life of the congregation. Our goal is to gain new insights about our interactions with others. Our team works with leadership groups within local congregations to provide workshops that are packed full of useful skills. Acting as coaches, we encourage a thought process that helps people think in terms of systems so unhelpful scenarios can be changed to something healthier.

We teach the basic concepts of family systems theory and offer the tools for immediate application to family life, work life and church life. Participants in our training say they gain great insights right away and can make decisions about changing their own behaviors.

We provide individualized workshops which use video, case studies, and discussion, to help leaders learn how to:

Develop healthy patterns of living in community
Focus on strengths and options for the future
Gain a renewed sense of purpose and mission
Cultivate strong leadership skills
Boost confidence in responding to challenges
Lead with calm and thoughtfulness
Reflect theologically about relationships
Develop self-awareness and self-differentiation - growing as individuals will help the group as a whole.
Identify group dynamics and discuss how we can function in healthier ways

Our goal is to help congregations and their leaders move toward greater insight and healthier functioning, changing churches for the better. What would that look like in your congregation?

Want to learn more? Maybe you'd like to be trained as a Healthy Congregations facilitator. Contact one of our current facilitators to find out more - Scott Woolridge, Gretchen Barron, Melissa Ebken, MJ Fitch, Ellen B. Moma, Jackie Summers, Dwight Winnett, Dee Ann Woods.



Transformation Ministries – Report for Regional Assembly

2019 – New Day/Transformation has been very active since our last Regional Assembly. We have had two visits from Ruth Fletcher, author of **Thrive: Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations**. She spoke to us about – Becoming a People of Welcome (hospitality for all) and, Becoming a People of Mission (serving in the community). New ministries grew in our congregations as a result of these dynamic work-shops! In 2019, we hosted a New Day Spiritual Retreat led by Teresa Dulyea-Parker and Al Keeney.

Scott Woolridge conducted (with Ruth Fletcher) a sabbatical research project, asking thriving Disciples congregations across the country about their journey in change and in service. They talked about listening to God, following God, experimenting with new ideas, learning from those experiences and then trying new and improved ideas. These congregations are willing to serve as mentors and guides to other congregations.

2020 - "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?" Isaiah 43:19 (CEB)

Our approach to <u>Transformation comes in three areas</u> –

1. **Personal transformation** – changes within ourselves and our relationship with God. We can't do this by ourselves – we are the body of Christ.
   - Daily Prayer Time – every day at 7:15 am – happening now – every one's welcome
   - Explore spiritual practices – learn new ones – ways to draw closer to God
   - We offer resources for growth – books, small group ministry, spiritual directors

2. **Congregational transformation** – changes in our faith community to draw closer to God and to follow God's leading.
   - Visioning and planning - we have a process that will fit your congregation
   - Learn about "thriving" congregations and follow those lessons – hear their stories
   - In a group setting – growing our spiritual practices
   - We have mentors and guides to help you on the journey

3. **Community transformation** – finding partners in our neighborhoods/towns/cities to discover the needs and combine resources to meet those needs.
   - Engaging in the community
   - Listening to God, assessing needs, finding partners, taking action
   - We have mentors and guides to help here, too

And how does all of this look in a pandemic?

We are on a threshold between the old ways of being the church and new ways that God will reveal to us. Join us on this journey of transformation. **Where would you like to start? Tell us how we can help.**

And see us online - https://cciwdisciples.org/transformation/

2020 Regional Assembly Report Submitted by Rev. Lorrie C. Reed



Two years ago, the School for Ministry was a noble concept with a mission to prepare men and women to serve as Commissioned Ministers (DOC) and Lay Ministers (UCC) for the 21st Century. With a vision to call and equip gifted laity for service in local congregations, the School has successfully provided foundational education for aspiring commissioned and lay ministers, facilitated leadership development for laity, and nurtured spiritual formation among ministerial leaders.

It is our pleasure to announce that the School for Ministry is in its second year of a three-year program that consists of four major components; namely, a January spiritual discernment retreat, online coursework through Phillips Theological Seminary, an intensive summer retreat, and cohort group support. At the end of their course of study, 9 students from the 2019 cohort and 6 students from the 2020 cohort will earn a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry, awarded in a partnership between the School for Ministry and Phillips Theological Seminary.

January Spiritual Discernment Retreat

The first experience for each cohort is a weekend spiritual retreat. The retreats take place the second week in January each year. In 2019, participants gathered at the Chiara Center in Springfield, IL. The 2020 retreat took place at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, IL. The purpose of the 3-day gathering is to help participants discern a call to ministry and learn more about the certificate program.

Online Coursework via Partnership with Phillips Theological Seminary

Online courses are provided by Phillips Theological Seminary, located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The seminary offers several programs of study, one of which is a ministry training program. Beginning in 2019, 12 students from the School for Ministry enrolled as a cohort group in selected course work through this program. Their first course was "Overview of the Bible," which began in March 2019. The interactions among students from various geographical locations and walks of life enhanced the learning experience for all.

Summer Intensive Course

The summer intensive course included a week-long, in-depth study of a particular topic in the Bible. For the 2019 retreat, the theme was "Biblical Storytelling," taught by Dr. Marti Steussy from Christian Theological Seminary. All classes were held at Eureka College, giving students an opportunity to enjoy the "college experience," during a week of intense learning. Given the challenges of the global pandemic, the 2020 retreat took place in an online environment via Zoom during the week of June 22-26, 2020. Students completed three separate workshops: "Healthy Congregations," and "Conflict in the Church," facilitated by Rev. Jay Wittmeyer, Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in addition to a full-day session on "Healthy Boundaries 101," facilitated by a CCIW team.



Cohort Group Structure

The Cohort Group support structure continues to be a strong component of the overall program. Each cohort leader serves as a mentor and guide for up to 10 students from diverse backgrounds and levels of congregational experience. Their responsibilities include helping students build supportive, collaborative, and engaging relationships. According to one student, “The opportunity to dialogue with my fellow cohort members is critical to my learning. Comparing notes, chatting back and forth and engaging in discussion with them has produced more learning than the lectures or readings as we discuss real life issues.”



Spiritual Direction for CCIW Ordination Candidates

—submitted by Arvil Bass, Peoria, IL

How is your ministry engaging congregations & leaders in ways that are life-giving & life-changing?

The ministry was launched September 27, 2016 at the request of the Regional Committee on Ministry [RCOM] ***"to coordinate Spiritual Directors for our [CCIW] ordination candidates."*** Growing from "directed candidates" to "directed candidates & pastors"—strengthening connections and lifting the idea of spiritual direction … has shown the value of engaged spiritual transformation by reviving personal and/ collective attention to spiritual and prayer practices.

What "good news" would you like to share?

The Bloomington meeting of the Regional Committee on Ministry acted to change the status of 10 original ordination candidates—ordained and serving at the time—from ***"Directee"*** to ***"Graduate"*** (June 2-3, 2019). New candidates seeking ordination are assigned to a Spiritual Director as they begin meeting with the RCOM and come "in care." Currently 4 Assigned Spiritual Directors are actively "walking" with 12 persons in a variety of places on their ministry journey.

What challenges do you have fulfilling this ministry?

Efforts to mesh schedules of involved/busy persons (Directees and Spiritual Directors) is always a challenge and efforts being made on all sides are both appreciated and a witness to the value of this shared journey. Spiritual Direction by phone or social media is not *"typical"* but it is meeting a need and offering an important Regional *"companion of the way."*

What Future events are you planning?

Work with RCOM to arrange face-to-face "first contact" meetings between candidates and assigned partners at each RCOM meeting to strengthen efforts to put into action the vision expressed in guidelines.

What are the new, innovative, and creative ideas that have come from your team?

Unique, passionate gifts of time and faith to offer this new gift of a spiritual director *"being there"* for each of our region's ordination candidates as they discover *"vocation"* is always a response, not a choice—journeying with our ordination candidates as they discern their response.

What does your team really need right now?

Continuing Prayer for each current & future ordination candidate along with prayer for the team of spiritual directors offering this ministry.

+ +

D.O.C./U.C.C. CHAPLAIN RETREAT

A two-day June retreat for D.O.C./U.C.C. chaplains is organized annually to offer time away, learning & fellowship, along with time for reflection and prayer. The 12th annual D.O.C./U.C.C. Chaplain Retreat—***"To Lift Wounded Weary Ones in a Franciscan Place of Spirituality"***—was planned at the Chiara Center near Springfield, IL.

+ + +

SEEDS for TRANSFORMATION RETREATS

These annual opportunities lift the value and need of time away with God. Each year begins with a facilitated *"Silent Retreat."* A variety of one day *"Head-to-Heart"* book discussion retreats follow through the remaining months each year.

+ + +

CCIW Personnel

August 15, 2020

Our committee had the pleasure of performing annual evaluations for each CCIW staff member July 31st and August 1st. The evaluations were held via Zoom. We enjoyed our time with each staff member hearing about their goals, present and future. During these unprecedented times we were mindful of the care we as a committee need to also provide for our staff.

In addition, the committee discussed Scott's retirement plans and celebrated with him. We recognized the blessing he has been to our region for 31 years.

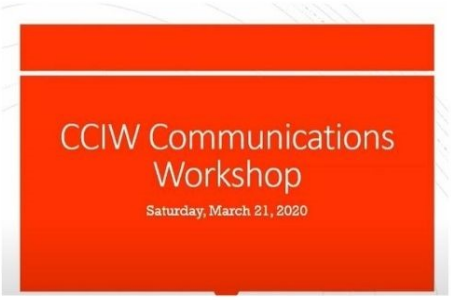
Respectfully submitted,

Anne Ingersoll





The Communications Ministry has continued to help our Congregations, and Regional Ministries, with their communication needs. Below are some of the initiatives we have implemented:



Pandemic Communication Support: Given the unprecedented pandemic, we organized a *Communication Workshop* to assist Pastors with transitioning their worship services online. We also provided uplifting and encouraging social media posts for Pastors to share on their church social media pages. We implemented *Communication Coffee Chats* to provide communication tips and answer questions. Some of the past topics covered included: Creating Awareness for Sunday Services, Website Updates during COVID-19, Drive-in Church (with special guest Rev. Cassie Sexton-Riggs), Tips for Online Chat Hosts and Online Security, and Understanding Social Media Analytics. We also led two presentations, *Opening Our Doors*, to provide important information to clergy regarding the various phases of the pandemic.



CCIW Website: We completed the update of the CCIW Website. The updated site allows for new visitors to learn about The Christian Church (DOC) in Illinois & Wisconsin as well as provide an easier navigation for returning visitors as they search for key information. One of our goals was to make it simpler to locate and register for Regional Ministry Programs and Trainings.



Life Giving Life Changing Stories: We have been traveling the Region and recording life giving and life changing stories. While this initiative began with recording personal stories, we have now included congregational and pandemic stories. We realize our stories connect us to one another and are a source of support and encouragement.

Strategic Communication Plans: We have met with congregations throughout the Region to create Communication Plans and build church websites. Our process has provided us with the opportunity to share with congregations recommendations to create both external and internal awareness etc. We have provided Strategic Communication Plans for our Regional Ministries as well.



Additional initiatives include: Communication Presentations, Creative Development for Congregations, Annual Fund Campaigns, The Messenger eNewsletter and Social Media Engagement, etc.

Rev. Eli Rolón Jeong
Associate Regional Minister for Children, Youth, and Young Adults
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin
eli@cciwdisciples.org • (708) 730-4059
Find me on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter under the user name *EliCCIW*.

Report to the Regional Assembly – 2020

Our Mission: To connect and empower Disciples congregations for life changing and life giving ministries in our evolving world.

How is your ministry partnering with CCIW congregations and leaders for life-giving, life-changing ministry?
We've always known that ours is a ministry of presence and that has been reinforced in the past 6 months. Obviously, presence these days is executed a little bit different but we've had to be present, nonetheless. These past few months, I've had the opportunity to spend time with quite a few of our clergy virtually. Several of our clergy cluster groups began meeting much more frequently than in pre-COVID times. Drastic changes and uncertainty meant that many of clergy needed different avenues for support, communication, and fellowship. Thus, I began hosting regular meetings via Zoom with clusters in the IL Valley, Rock River, and Livingston/McLean. This gave us an opportunity to express our fears and anxieties during this time as well as a way of sharing new ideas and insights and, of course, prayer and support. For many, it became an unofficial documentation of creative responses to challenges in ministry life – video recording and live streaming, remote pastoral care, outdoor and drive-in services, and more!

What "good news" would you like to share?
Well, before getting to the good news, I have to mention that bad news. We had to cancel our summer camp program this season. In conversation with directors, ministry leaders and camp staff, we decided it was best for the health of all involved to not hold camps. It was certainly a difficult decision and one that many of us continue to grieve. We knew that we wanted to do something so we took our time to figure that out. We were not the only ones in this situation so I joined conversations with other Disciples camps throughout the United States and Canada as well as conversation with other church camps outside of our denomination.

Holding some form of camp virtually was an option but, ultimately, one that didn't pan out for us. Many other camps have been planning and implementing some form of online camp and it appeared that it could also be something we could do as well; however, we decided against it. In my opinion, by the time we got to the point in the summer when we would've had camp online, too many people had started feeling the burnout and fatigue of our COVID environment, particularly fatigue around Zoom and online activities. So, we decided not to do online camp.

We did, however, create Walter's Camp Treasure Box, a curated collection of Camp Walter Scott-branded items and camp-related activities. The all-ages box was planned with input from directors and staff with the purpose of bringing a little bit of the camp experience home for our youth. This is not something we had one before and so I was a bit nervous of how it would be received. We planned for 100 boxes and all of them were claimed!

Laura and I spent a Friday at camp putting all boxes together (normally, we would have recruited additional help but for the sake of safety, we decided to take on the work ourselves). A few of the boxes had to be shipped and a few others were picked up at camp but for the rest, I dedicated Saturday to deliver boxes to campers or youth leaders (it's been the only work related travel I've done since March!) Overall, the camp boxes were well received; "the next best thing to camp" as some had mentioned. I recall delivering one box to one of our youth who immediately screamed with excitement upon receiving their box!

Visit bit.ly/WaltersBoxActivities to access the Camp Booklet with the activities included in the Camp Box!

Since all my work besides the camp box has been from home, all pictures in this report are related to Walter's Camp Treasure Box.







Jonas (my nephew) modeling some of the camp box gear and doing some of the activities included in Walter's Camp Treasure Box.

What challenges do you have in fulfilling this ministry?
We are still in a period of transition and we don't know quite yet how it'll turn out. We are trying new things, giving up on some things and, overall, just trying to figure things out. Obviously, this continues to be a challenge for all of us in ministry.

The Regional Youth Council just decided to not hold our annual Midwinter Retreat in person. Instead, we're planning for an online gathering of our event. It is a challenge, of course; but it is also an opportunity for us to try something new. We look forward to the next time we can gather safely in person and until then we'll figure out new ways of re-creating those connections safely.

Meetings, Gatherings, Celebrations, Preaching, and Local Church Events: I've been in conversation with several churches who are going through the search and call process. I recorded a sermon for a couple of our congregations to use during their pastor's time off and I've met with several committees and other groups. Of course, these have taken place virtually during the past few months.

DoC General Level and Other Ministry Related Events: I continue serving and meeting online with the board of directors for Chalice Press, a publisher affiliated with our denomination.



Camp Boxes Packed Up!



Some 80+ boxes in my car ready for delivery!



Camp Booklet with devotionals, songs, activities, and more



GK delivering boxes to FCC

Gifts to the Disciples Mission Fund

Out of 133 congregations in the Region, **87** contributed to the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Disciples Mission Fund in **2018-2019**. These gifts support a variety of ministries in Illinois and Wisconsin and around the world. CCIW receives 40% of each dollar given to DMF; **100%** of the Christmas Offering; and 50% each of Pentecost and Reconciliation Offerings. 25 additional congregations that did not give to DMF in 2018 or 2019 gave something to at least one of the 4 Special Day offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Christmas) in 2018 or 2019. And, four more gave designated gifts to Week of Compassion or Reconciliation.

	2019	2018
Disciples Mission Fund	491,625.46	493,341.58
Blessing Boxes	3,947.13	6,233.48
Easter	33,455.80	38,243.32
Pentecost	25,139.54	26,747.36
Thanksgiving	19,973.00	24,868.38
Christmas	36,025.20	29,248.01
Week of Compassion	76,609.12	85,587.05
Desig WOC	21,576.79	25,861.38
Reconciliation	16,713.27	18,235.36
Desig Recon	2,428.96	2,248.15
Designated Operating	180,350.84	142,838.30
Designated Capital	566.00	607.00

The Legacy

The Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin is grateful or all the gifts received in 2018-2019 that is reflected in this year's Annual Report. We give thanks for the legacy of those who gave of themselves in time, talent and treasure. Their legacy continues through the work of these funds. Information on establishing permanent funds that will provide perpetual support to the ministries of the Region and your church can be obtained through the Christian Church Foundation. Learn more by contacting India Bobadilla at 1.800.668.8016 or by email at ibobadilla@ccf.disciples.org.

Contributions to any of our four CCIW Endowments (All Saints Fund, Camp Walter Scott, Congregational Development, or CCIW) ca be made through CCIW. Contact Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker for more information at Teresa@cciwdisciples.org.

Top 20 DMF 2018-2019

Congregation	City
Central Christian Church	Decatur
Eureka Christian Church	Eureka
Central Christian Church	Danville
First Christian Church	Pekin
First Christian Church	Canton
First Christian Church	Gibson City
First Christian Church	Paris
First Christian Church	Mount Carmel
Central Christian Church	Jacksonville
First Christian Church	Bloomington
United Christian Church	Country Club Hills
First Christian Church	Peoria
Union Avenue Christian Church	Litchfield
First Christian Church	Rushville
First Christian Church	Macomb
First Christian Church	Springfield
First Christian Church	Sullivan
Glen Oak Christian Church	Peoria
Ursa Christian Church	Ursa
Christian Church of Arlington Heights	Arlington Heights

Top 20 Per Capita 2018-2019

Congregation	City
Union Avenue Christian Church	Litchfield
Lomax Christian Church	Lomax
First Christian Church	Creve Coeur
Christian Church of Arlington Heights	Arlington Heights
First Christian Church	Gibson City
First Christian Church	Rushville
Central Christian Church	Decatur
Central Christian Church	Danville
First Christian Church	Mount Carmel
First Christian Church	Pekin
Eureka Christian Church	Eureka
Ursa Christian Church	Ursa
United Christian Church	Country Club Hills
First Christian Church	Canton
First Christian Church	Peoria
Central Christian Church	Jacksonville
Christian Church of Villa Park	Villa Park
First Christian Church	Springfield
Washburn Christian Church	Washburn
Community Christian Church	Lincolnshire

Total 20 Special Day Offering

Congregation	City
Eureka Christian Church	Eureka
First Christian Church	Paris
Central Christian Church	Decatur
First Christian Church	Rushville
Central Christian Church	Jacksonville
First Christian Church	Bloomington
First Christian Church	Mount Carmel
First Christian Church	Peoria
First Christian Church	Macomb
First Christian Church	Sullivan
First Christian Church	Creve Coeur
First Christian Church	Metropolis
First Christian Church	Springfield
15th Avenue Christian Church	Rock Island
First Christian Church	Gibson City
University Place Christian Church	Champaign
First Christian Church	Carbondale
First Christian Church	Galesburg
First Christian Church	Lawrenceville
Union Avenue Christian Church	Litchfield

Annual Fund Donors
September 1, 2018-Dec. 31, 2019

First Name	Last Name
Motee and Audrey	Akers Jr.
Hank and Deann	Anderson
Roger and Eileen	Baker
Arvil	Bass
Rev. Doris	Beckerman
Kevin	Benford
Michael	Buckley
Elaine Mae	Bush
Angelique	Byrd
Jane	Cahill
Daniel and Doris	Carter
Robert and Sharyl	Craggs
Barabara	Crangle
Ruben	Cruz
Joe	Culpepper
Mike and Peggy	Dixon
Eron	Dupree
Robert and Nina	Emmons
Eric and Jane Moore	Freyfogle
James	Graham
Ken	Granitz
Eugenia	Griese
Catherine	Hagan
Don and Connie	Heller
Laura	Hollinger Antonelli
Dorothy	Jacoby
Gene and Sue	Johnson
Dennis and Amy	Johnson
Rev. Bill and Barb	Kerns
Rebecca Ingram	Kirby
Karen	Knodt
Herb and Duff	Knudsen
Eugene and Nancy	Lamport
Patrick and Susan	Larkin
Robert and Kathy	Low
James and Donelle	Mackey
Don and Luella	Mahannah
Larry	McClellan
Marla	McElroy
Faye	McMullen
David and Beatrice	Meeker

Donald and Margaret	Merritt, Jr.
Harry and Linda	Meyer
Rachel and Alan	Moore
Don and Carol Ann	Moseley
Ken and John	Newton
Deborah	Owen
Darryl and Bonnie	Parr
Larry	Pepper
Judith	Ridlen
Dolores	Roosevelt
Martin and Kathy	Sallee
Neil and Dorothy	Sallee
Dennis and Louann	Scobbie
Robert and Amy	Silvanik
Rebecca and Samuel	Sisk
Steven	Swarthout
Shirley	Swarthout
Sarah	Todd
James and Dorothy	Trefzger
Darryl	Trimiew
Patricia	Tucker
Cythnia	Webber
Verla	Welker
Lois	Whitaker
Rick and Melissa	Williams
Dwight and Diane	Winnett
Scott and Vicky	Woolridge
Jeff and Jayne	Zimmerman
Tom and Nancy	Zoelzer
Teresa	Dulyea-Parker

Annual Fund Church Donors
Sept. 1, 2018—Dec. 31, 2019

Name	City
First Christian Church	Canton
Disciples of Christ Community Church	Champaign
First Christian Church	Creve Coeur
Central Christian Church	Danville
Prairie AVE Christian Church DW	Decatur
Eureka Christian Church	Eureka
Livingstone Church	Evanston
First Christian Church	Galesburg
First Christian Church	Gibson City
First Christian Church	Hoopeston
Illiopolis Christian Church	Illiopolis
First Christian Church/World Outreach	Lawrenceville
Community Christian Church	Lincolnshire
Union Ave Christian Church	Litchfield
Lomax Christian Church	Lomax
Niantic Christian Church	Niantic
New Covenant Community	Normal
First Christian Church	Paris
First Christian Church	Petersburg
Pine Creek Christian Church	Polo
First Christian Church	Pontiac
Fifteenth Ave Christian Church	Rock Island
Korean Christian Church	Springfield
First Christian Church	Sullivan
First Christian Church	Sullivan
Villa Park Christian Church	Villa Park
Happy Christian Church	Wilmette
First Christian Church	Winchester

Camp Walter Scott
Designated Gifts and CWS Capital
Sept. 1, 2018-Dec. 31, 2019

Name		City
First Christian Church		Canton
First Christian Church		Peoria
First Christian Church		Benton
First Christian Church		Pekin
CWF First Christian Church		Metropolis
Joseph	Bryan	Memphis, TN
Virginia	Doherty	Gold Canyon, AZ
Sunnyland Christian Church		Washington
First Christian Church		Mt Carmel
Illinois Valley Cluster		Washington
Cheryl	McHenry	Arrowsmith
Larry and Juanita	Preston	Jacksonville
Jane	Cahill	Washington
Charles and Nancy	Miller	Peoria
Central Christian Church		Danville
Renee	Potter	Champaign
Ron and Teresa	Koehler	Bloomington
Wilbur and Peggy	Brown	Mt. Carmel

Camp Walter Scott Capitol Campaign

Name		City
Hank	Anderson	Peoria
Arvil	Bass	Peoria
Rev. Doris	Beckerman	Mt. Carmel
Nancy	Bivin	Palmyra
Angee	Byrd	
Jane	Cahill	Washington
Linda and Amos	Chenoweth	West Salem
Patricia	Crowl	Elgin
Linda and Gary	Donovan	Jacksonville
Teresa	Dulyea-Parker	Bloomington
Frank	Helme	Fort Worth, TX
Kelly	Ingersoll	Macomb
Cheryl	Jackson	Olympia Fields
Marc and Amy Sue	Johnson	Eureka
Bill	Kerns	Taylorville
Carolyn	Kroll	Eureka
Sylvia	Laidig	Mackinaw
Eugene and Nancy	Lamport	Dawson
Marla	McElroy	Bloomington
Charles and Nancy	Miller	Peoria
Meredith	Peebles	Bloomington
David	Phillis	Goodfield
Brenda	Phillis	Goodfield
Eli	Rolón Jeong	Chicago
Beth	Rupe	Bloomington
Leslie and Jackie	Summer	Bardstown
Jack and Pat	Surgeon	Arlington Heights
Sarah	Todd	Danvers
Jessica	Williams	Mt Carmel
Patricia	Williams	Mt Carmel
Evan	Williams	Washington
Pearl	Witte	El Paso
Tom	Yang	Glenview
Jeff and Jayne	Zimmerman	Deerfield

Arrowsmith Christian Church		Arrowsmith
Vine Street Christian Church		Arthur
Centennial Christian Church		Bloomington
First Christian Church		Carthage
Livingston Church (DOC)		Evanston
First Christian Church		Henry
First Christian Church		Lawrenceville
Union Ave CC		Litchfield
Union Ave CC_Kloberganz Trust		Litchfield
First Christian Church		Macomb
Christian Women's Fellow-ship (FCC Marion)		Marion
REKINDLE Foundation		Morton
First Christian Church		Mt Carmel
Paris Christian Church		Paris
Pekin First Christian Church		Pekin
Korean Christian Church		Springfield
Parkway Christian Church		Springfield
Upper Midwest Region		

Current Regional Church Council Leadership
and
Ministry Leadership Team

Regional Church Council Members

Marla McElroy, Moderator
Keela Neumann, Moderator-Elect
Hank Anderson, Treasurer
Philip "Kip" Haydn, Secretary
Kelly Ingersoll, Past Moderator

Executive Committee

Marla McElroy, Moderator
Keela Neumann Moderator Elect
Hank Anderson, Treasure
Philip "Kip" Haydn, Secretary
Kelly Ingersoll, Past Moderator

Representative from the following:

Jeff Zimmerman, New Church
Jacqueline Myers, M & D/ Communication
Anne Ingersoll, Personnel
Karon Alexander, PRAR
Sylvia Laidig, CoM
Rebecca Nevius, MLT Rep
Bill Kerns, MLT Rep
Tom Yang, NAPAD
Winston Simmonds, At Large 2020
Alejandra Rubio, At Large 2020
Bill Crowl, At Large 2022
Mitchell Butler, At Large 2022
Patricia Sturgeon, At Large 2024
Zack Martin, At Large 2024
Jason Butterich, At Large 2024

Ministry Leadership Team Leaders

Keela Neuman, ME, Chair
Jeannette Larson, PRAR
Rebecca Nevius, Outdoor Ministry
Bruce Fowlkes, Eureka
Kris Culp, Yvonne Gilmore, DDH
Sharon Patton, Ecumenical Witness
Martha Shine, Beth Rupe, Disciple Women
Zack Martin, RA Chair
Eli Rolón, Tim Akers, Youth
Bill Kerns, SLAM
Clayton Summers, Young Adults
Arvil Bass, SL/Chaplains
Terry Foland, ATiiM
Beth Rupe, Regional Elders
Vicki Woolridge, Spirituality of Children
Dave Geenen, Global Missions
Bill Cook, LGBTQ + Alliance

And, others as ministries arise

The Nominating Committee Report for 2020

May 14, 2020

Moderator – Keela Neuman, C, Ordained, Quincy

Moderator Elect – Timothy Kim, A, Com., Root and Branch

Past moderator – Marla McElroy, AA, L, Bloomington

Treasurer – Hank Anderson, C, Ordained, Canton

Secretary – Jason Butterick, C, Ordained, Decatur Prairie Ave

At Large Members (Must have six lay persons)

2022 - Mitchell Butler, AA, Lay, Park Manor, Chicago

2022 - Bill Crowl, C, Ordained, Arlington Heights

2024 - Pat Sturgeon, C, Lay, Arlington Heights

2024 - Marian Cici, C, Lay, Hoopeston

2024 - Zach Martin, C, Lay, YA, Decatur

2024 – Daphne Hayes, AA, Lay, Downers Grove

2026 – Ben McCloughan, C, Lay, Virden

2026 – Shelonda Hassell, AA, Lay, Jackson Blvd.

Nominating committee –
Marla McElroy
Zach Martin
Cheryl Jackson
Keela Neuman
Brant Reed
Stephanie Line
Ben McCloughan
Teresa Dulyea-Parker
Scott Woolridge

2020

Nominating Committee Report

Moderator

Rev. Keela Neuman

Keela is the minister and teacher at FCC in Quincy, Il. Her full time ministry with FCC began on June 1, 2016. She bought a passion for creative, inclusive ministry that takes the church beyond the walls.

She has a diverse background in teaching both in Il and IA. Her undergraduate degree is from Culver Stock and attended Seminary at both Brite Divinity and graduated from Eden Theological Seminary.



She has served churches both in the DoC and the UCC.

Karen has three grown sons and seven grandchildren who love spending time with grandma.

Moderator Elect

Rev. Timothy Kim

Tim is the Co-Founder and Lead Pastor of Root and Branch Church, a new church in the CCIW region since 2013. Hailing from Southern California, Tim moved out to Chicago to pursue his Master of Divinity at the University of Chicago Divinity School and has made Illinois his home for the last decade. He is always ready to talk all



Past Moderator

Marla McElroy

Marla is a member of First Christian Church in Bloomington, Illinois, where she serves as an Elder and participates in the choir. A fourth generation Disciple, she has considered it a blessing to have served as Moderator for the Region. She also had the opportunity to serve as a member of the General Board. Marla is a Technology Manager for an insurance company, as well as a Certified Personal Trainer/Owner of Marz Fitness. Marla earned her Bachelor's Degree from Truman State University, and MBA from the University of Kansas. In her spare time, she enjoys watching sports, attending musical events, and traveling.



2020

Nominating Committee Report

Treasurer

Hank Anderson

Hank is a native of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and a graduate of both the University of South Carolina and Lexington Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Kentucky, Indiana as well as Illinois. He is currently the interim minister at First Christian Church in Canton, IL. Hank has been married for 37 years to Deann Anderson, who is a member of the pastoral care staff at OSF St. Francis Hospital in Peoria. They have two adult children: a son, Heath, who lives in Chicago; and a daughter, Kara, who lives in Champaign.



Secretary

Jason Butterick

Rev. Jason Butterick is a native of Decatur, IL and grew up in the community of Bement, IL. He received his Bachelor of Music degree with commercial music emphasis from Millikin University, Decatur, IL in 1998. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 17, 2008. He was formally ordained at Prairie Avenue Christian Church on August 17, 2008.

His life in the church began as organist and choir accompanist at First Christian Church of Bement in middle school. He served at Crestview Christian Church in Decatur as a student pastor while attending Christian Theological Seminary. He began serving at Prairie Avenue Christian Church as Associate Pastor in July 2007 until June 21, 2015, when he became Senior Pastor. He has served previously on Regional Assembly worship committee planning.

Among his community efforts, he has served as Board President of Dove, Inc., Clokey Park Neighborhood Association, and both Decatur ecumenical clergy and Decatur Area Disciples Clergy Cluster as convenor.

Jason is married to Amanda Johnson Butterick. They have one son, Patrick.

