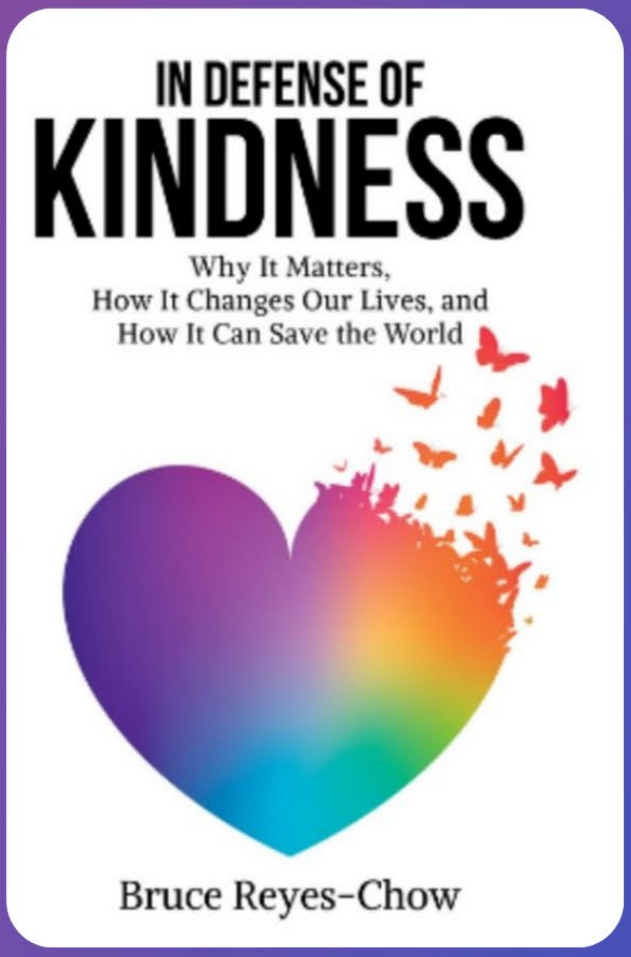
CCIW & CCMR Regional Assembly

"In Defense of Kindness"

October 14 - 15, 2022

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
Colossians 3:12-14 NIV



Regional Assembly Report

Table of Contents

Agenda	3-4
Regional Minister and President: Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea Parker	5
Staff	
Angee Byrd – Regional Director of Communications	6
Re. Eli Rolón Jeong	7-8
Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth	9-11
Reports	
North American Pacific/Asian Disciples	12
SLAM	13
Personnel	14
Committee on Ministry	15-16
PRAR	17
Financial Information	18-25
Regional Church Council Membership/Team Leaders	26
Nominating Committee Report	27-30
CCIW Disciples Merit Award Past and Current Recipients	31-37

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

Regional Assembly Agenda

October 15, 2022, 10 a.m. CDT

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 pastoral 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

Welcome and Call to Order: Rev. Keela Neumann, Moderator

Roll Call: Rev. Jason Butterick (Please share your name, congregation name and city in the chat function.)

Lectio Divina: Rev. Suzanne Stout, pastor of Pine Creek Christian Church, Polo, IL

Election of Officers: Ben McCloughan

State of the Region: Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

Highlights from our Ministry Team:

Rev. Angee Byrd, Regional Director of Communication Ministries

Rev. Eli Rolón Jeong, Associate Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults

Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth, Associate Regional Minister for Transformation

Highlights from our Annual Report: Rev. Timothy Kim, Moderator-Elect

Q & A

Adjourn

"In Defense of Kindness"



Welcome to the 2022 Regional Assembly of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin
& the Christian Church Michigan Region

As I write this story, we are 7 months into our new Covenant Partnership---Michigan Disciples/ CCIW. We had prepared for a year to make this transition. The work is continuing. . .

The theme for this year has been Connections & Affirmations. Connections meaning---making connections through sharing our stories of faith. Finding ways, we can support and encourage one another. Giving affirmation to our shared life in faith. We will rarely agree on every issue, but we can affirm each other on our faith-journey. I believe that is called respect---an offering of kindness.

We held our first CCIW/CCMR Clergy retreat. It was the first time our CCIW ministry team had been together in one place in two years, let alone for our MI Regional Associates, and clergy from both regions to meet. Rev. Dr. David Anderson Hooker was a wonderful key-note speaker who helped us to consider the stories that shape us---and the meta-narratives that underlie interpretations of those stories. Meta-narratives like the one that says white privilege takes precedence over gospel beloved kin-dom.

During our clergy gathering there was time to share our stories and connect on a meaningful level. We played "Questions in a Bag" one evening. Each person pulled one question out of the bag and shared their answer---the level of sharing grew and deepened. We laughed, we cried, we prayed, and we heard each other. Ministry calls us to ever deepening awareness of the pain of the world. We need each other to sustain this sacred calling. More than ever. . .

Currently, what worries me is "false/death-dealing" narratives. One's that are constructed to protect our privilege and maintain our sense of status/worth. Holding onto these false narratives is more important to some folks than the command of Jesus to "Love one another." Love is seen as weakness and giving in. It is even turned into a weapon that insists on its own way and denies the common beloved-ness of all of God's people and creation.

These false narratives threaten our Disciple values: open exploration and inquiry into the living gospel of Jesus Christ; our human freedom to be who we are created to be and follow our calling; congregations becoming communities fulfilling God's mission of unity and love. These narratives even threaten creation itself by narrowing what it means to be beloved by God to "who and what I say." This is a narrative of dominance and submission. Not of Love and Justice and Liberation from oppression. Jesus's way and our calling.

Disciples---I think we are called to tell a story in "Defense of Kindness." That there is more in our togetherness than our separateness. That God's beloved community comes to life as we are made whole at the Table of Christ. Let us be a movement for this kind of wholeness.

Communications Ministry Regional Assembly Report

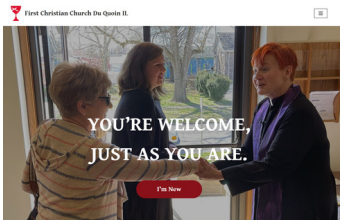
Rev. Angelique Byrd, Regional Director of the Communications Ministry
Jeff Dulyea-Parker, Communications Assistant / IT Support

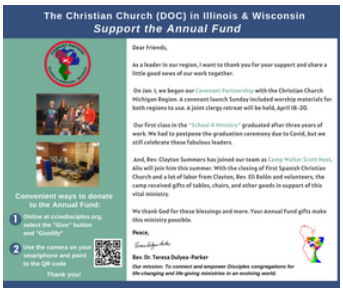












The Communications Ministry has continued to work with churches, clergy, and various ministries to assist with their communication needs. Please find below a few of our recent initiatives.

CCIW & CCMR Partnership: We participated in the communication plans for our partnership with the Christian Church (DOC) Michigan Region. We created social media posts and eNews articles to create awareness for our partnership. In addition, we participated in the planning for Covenant Sunday, which was on January 2, 2022. The Communications Ministry was instrumental in developing the Covenant Sunday video and formatting worship resources for our churches

We have also designed and implemented *The Light* Enewsletter. This communication serves to keep subscribers informed about events and information in our Regions, as well as the wider church. Additional projects include helping to maintain a social media presence, creation of an Annual Fund Campaign, and the optimization of the CCMR Website.

MissionInsite: The Communications Ministry facilitated a MissionInsite Small Group Session. This session assisted our Pastors with understanding the people in their communities and their thoughts on certain topics. This information is unbelievably valuable because the demographic information tells us the make-up of our communities and the psychographic information gives us insights regarding their needs. The understandings gleaned from this data helps in determining outreach opportunities that may be helpful in the community.

Phygital Church Workshop: We held the first Phygital Church Workshop in CCIW over 2-days. We shared with clergy how they can be strategic in the digital space and utilize it to help reach some of their church goals. Those who participated worked on creating Social Ministry Strategies.

Website Development: We continue to work with churches to assist them with the development of their websites. We are currently working on Strategic Communication Plans for two CCMR churches and one CCIW church, which will also include website development.

Clergy Retreat Integration: We realized for this year's Clergy Retreat, we would have participants in both the physical and digital space. Our goal was to create a phygital experience. We wanted each group to be able to see one another and to provide two-way communication. Jeff took on this initiative and was able to help us reach our goal. Feedback from one of the online attendees stated, "You all did an excellent job with the logistics...and all the other aspects of making us feel like we were in the room."

Additional Initiatives include Quarterly Annual Fund Campaigns for CCIW, Social Media Posts and *The Messenger* ENewsletter.

Contact the Communications Ministry at communications@cciwdisciples.org

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, Twitter, and TikTok under the user name ***EliCCIW***
Eli's ministry related blog: CCIW Beyond

Report to the Regional Church Council – August 2022

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

How has your ministry been connecting and empowering our congregations?
I have been spending time with Community Christian Church in Lincolnshire this year. Their interim minister is part of the UCC tradition but is very intentional about strengthening the congregation's connection to the denomination and to our region. I've been working with Pastor Blair and the congregation in areas of boundaries, Disciples identity, and search & call. While I was no stranger to CCC, Pastor Hull has been intentional about introducing me and the region as partners in ministry and a resource for the congregation.

We were able to host full-week camps this summer for the first time since 2019 and we're planning for an in-person Midwinter youth retreat in January, the first since January of 2020!

Through the New Church/Ministries Team, we continued financial support of Korean CC as well as a sabbatical grant for Root & Branch. We're expecting grant renewals to come in from Root & Branch and Gilead later this year as well as an initial proposal for a new congregation in formation. I have also been involved in very early-stage conversations with one of our pastors about a potential new ministry in Madison, WI.

As an update on an item brought up in my last report, we hosted 2 events with Teresa Kim Pecinovsky, author of the illustrated book, *Mother God*. While small in size, the events held at churches in Downers Grove and Springfield allowed for people to hear from and interact with the author. We even had two young persons from a local college attend based on some social media posts they saw about the event.

What life changing/life giving story would you like to share?
In June, I attended a work trip with youth from Eureka CC and Mackinaw CC. We partnered with Rippling Hope, a ministry based in Detroit offering services to community members in need. It was the youth's first time in Detroit – a very different context than their own in central Illinois – and while I had visited Detroit before, it was my first time spending significant time in the city. The trip gave everyone the opportunity to know our far-away neighbors and we completed lots of yardwork, building maintenance, and repair projects.

What challenges do you have in fulfilling this ministry?
While I think that our pandemic situation has improved, we're still facing lots of difficulties due to COVID. As you may know, we did have some positive COVID cases at our high school camp. And, a different youth camp was rescheduled due to COVID outside of camp. We had several campers who had to cancel because they had tested positive or were concerned about the risk. While we were able to adjust and everyone who had COVID recovered quickly, we are very much still being affected by this pandemic.

What would you like our region to know about your work?
I've been working with the New Church/Ministry Team as well as having conversations with New Church counterparts in other regions and at the general level of the Disciples. So far, the work has been going well and the team has plans to engage in discernment and assessment as we map out a plan and structure for our work into the next year.

I am also meeting with the PRAR team as we discuss and plan for a future event related to some of our conversations that happened during the IL, WI & MI Clergy retreat earlier this year.

I had been planning a couple of workshops targeted toward youth and young adults that will now take place as part of our Regional Assembly. I have invited a friend and academic colleague to speak on the intersection of religion and the world of Star Wars and I have also invited another friend and colleague to lead a conversation with me about the intersection of home brewing and spirituality.

Ministerial/Regional Activity
Congregational Visits
I continue attending worship services on Sundays and while most visits have been in-person, I still sometimes join online.

Meetings, Gatherings, Celebrations, Preaching, and Local Church Events
I met with First Christian Church in Janesville, WI to continue discussing their future vision and plans. I preached at First Christian Church in Dixon in August while Pastor Lynn was away on vacation. And, I meet regularly with the Rock River/Blackhawk Cluster and the Urban Metro Cluster as well as with the Regional Assembly planning committee.

Rev. Blair Hull was installed at Community Christian Church in Lincolnshire in April; I led the installation portion of the service and was asked to provide a charge to the pastor and the congregation. My work with Community Christian Church in Lincolnshire continues as I've detailed above. I attended the ordination service for Sarah Zuniga held at Eureka Christian Church as well as the installation of Pastor Mansa Kenyatta at Hometown Christian Church. And, I continued meeting with the joint search committee for FCC Henry & FCC Princeton as they continue their search for a full-time yoked minister.



Transformation Ministries – Report for Regional Assembly

2021 and 2022 have been a season of transition in the Transformation ministries in CCIW. ARM Alex Ruth was called to the region in November of 2021 and has begun working with the Transformation Team to develop new and exciting strategies to help clergy and congregations who are seeking to change and adapt to meet the needs of a changing world.



Early in 2022, the Transformation Team published *Reclaiming Our Call*, a worship and preaching resource for use during Lent. *Reclaiming Our Call* featured liturgical elements, preaching prompts, and an invitation to join in weekly "preaching circles" to help clergy hone their sermon for the upcoming week. The resource was well received and after Easter *Reclaiming Our Call* was adapted to be a five-week series for use anytime in the church year.



As a follow-up to the success of *Reclaiming Our Call* the Transformation Team was given the opportunity to share a Pentecost resource by April McClure-Stewart with the region. This free sample resource contained a host of engaging resources to be used in worship, including take-home options.

For 2023 the Transformation Team is planning a fall retreat/conference of clergy. This retreat will provide clergy with the opportunity to deepen their own spirit while providing tools to guide their congregations through their own spiritual transformations. In addition, the Transformation Team is available to churches to help design a visioning/transformation process tailored to meet their specific needs.

To learn how the Transformation Team can help you and your congregation, please contact ARM Alex Ruth at alex@cciwdisciples.org.

Healthy Congregations Report

These last few years have been full of change and challenge. All the uncertainty has highlighted areas of health and growth both in our personal lives and in our churches. As we look forward to the ministries to which God is calling us, it is important to look inward and see how our relationships with one another represent our lifegiving relationships with God. The Healthy Congregations team is here to help by applying family systems theory to the life of the congregation.

The 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, empowering us to work toward health and vitality in the congregation. We customize our workshops to fit your unique situation and needs.

Imagine how your life and ministry would be transformed if you learned how to focus on your strengths and opportunities for the future. How would your ministry benefit from learning how to lead calmly, reflect theologically about your relationships, and embody strong leadership skills? Those are just a few of the skills we can help you and your church develop.

Want to learn more, or schedule a workshop? Or, maybe you're intrigued by these ideas and would like to be trained as a Healthy Congregations facilitator. To find out more about Healthy Congregations contact ARM Alex Ruth (alex@cciwdisciples.org).

CCIW Coaches

Ministry coaching is different than coaching a basketball team, or even a marathon runner. CCIW Coaches are here to help you set and reach your goals in life and ministry. We do not create a "workout plan" or even develop strategies *for* you. Instead, we help you set goals and make plans by creating an environment where you can discover your goals, identify roadblocks, and make a plan for success. By inviting you to look at your context from different perspectives our coaches help you to focus your energy and be intentional about the decisions you make.

But that's not all. The principles of coaching are also powerful tools for ministry. By learning to listen deeply, asking thoughtful and engaging questions, and creating space for others to identify their goals, a pastor-coach experiences a new freedom in ministry. Coaching can dramatically enhance how pastors lead their congregations.

Whether you are looking to work with a coach, or to add coaching to the list of your ministry tools, we invite you to reach out to us at coaches@cciwdisciples.org, or look us up on Facebook at https://tinyurl.com/cciw-coaches-fb.

NAPAD (North American Pacific/Asian Disciples)
Ministry Highlights

This is the third year of the pandemic. For many folks in the NAPAD community, trying to maintain social distancing is still the standard. The physical distance is amplified by the language and cultural barriers that drive them to stay within their own walls. It is important for them to recognize that they are not alone in this world.

Hence, we used technology like Zoom, Kakao Talk, email and smartphones to remain continuously connected. We had opportunities to learn about and participate in ministries hosted by fellow Disciples of the Regional and General Churches and beyond, celebrate together as brothers and sisters, as well as share meaningful life events in our colleagues' lives. By doing so, we affirmed the Disciple's Identity and uplifted the spirit of fellowship, assuring one another that indeed "We are together in this."

Today, we live in a country where life as a person of color is precarious. Regrettably, the pandemic has made the safety of people of Asian heritage particularly more vulnerable. Our efforts to increase opportunities to learn more about race and racism in this country as well as protection, therefore, was a natural response to the increased risk to which we, as minority peoples, were exposed. On Zoom, we listened to guest speakers who heightened our awareness of racism and its ramifications in the world.

In this seemingly never-ending pandemic, it is a blessing for pastors and churches in the community to be able to continue the Radio Mission ministry and contribute articles to local newspapers and magazines. Thanks to the Radio Mission ministry and those articles, we have been able to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, both on air and in writing, reaching out to more people in the greater Chicagoland area and promoting the Disciples' presence throughout the community: Praise be to God!

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



SLAM

ILLINOIS.WISONSIN. MICHIGAN

The Service, Learning, Advocacy, and Mission (SLAM) team of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan is excited about all that we are doing. Many of our activities took a hiatus during the first year or so of the pandemic, but we have been working to restart our ministries and widen what we are doing.

SLAM began in 2019 as a ministry of Illinois and Wisconsin. Our reboot, however, includes members from Michigan in a wonderful partnership. We are deeply committed to the truth that we can do together what we cannot do apart. Together we embody our ministry through invitation, relationship, and seeing Christ in everyone.

Our most visible work is service trips bringing together members from across our regions. In summer of 2022 we partnered with Eureka Christian Church and Centennial Christian Church to send work groups to Rippling Hope Mission in Detroit. Volunteers from elementary school kids to retirees served. We look forward to coming together for another domestic mission trip in 2023 and an international trip in 2024.

We are also developing a disaster preparedness team to coordinate early responders in our region and with Week of Compassion. inviting congregations and individuals interested in preparing to respond to disasters in our local communities to join together as part of a team to serve our neighbors more faithfully.

We are also beginning to talk with neighboring regions about the ministry we can do together. This includes planning for a Civil Rights tour to learn more about these import parts of our history and how the work continues.

I am grateful to be part of this work and hope you will be too.

Rev. Laura Jennison Reed, Chair

Regional Church Council
August 2022
Personnel Report

The Personnel Committee recently held staff evaluations on July 29, 2022. We are happy to report that all evaluations went well and we celebrated with all of the staff members their important work they've done and continue to do. It was so nice for our committee to hear consistently from the staff that they truly enjoy working with each other. One staff person even expressed that they had *never* worked for and with so many wonderful people where everyone gets along.

There are no other items at this time to report on.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Ingersoll
Personnel Committee Chair

From the Regional Committee on Ministry
For August 2022

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

***How has your ministry been connecting and empowering our congregations*?**

The Regional Committee on Ministry prepares and supports those who are entering into the path of ministry, whether through the Ordination process or by Commissioning. By preparing these individuals to be leaders and pastors in churches, we therefore, are helping them to empower the congregations that they will lead, whether by equipping them with the foundations of ministry through the School for Ministry, our interviews, or our support through prayer and conversation and by our Spiritual Directors.

Our business meeting was held on Sunday, June 5 by Zoom for the Bloomington groups. We welcomed one new member to our groups, Dr. John Huxtable, Virden, IL. We approved the new guidelines for standings in our region, which will offer training programs annually in at least these four areas of instruction: Clergy Sexual Ethics and Boundary Training Anti-Racism, Pro-Reconciling Training Clergy and Congregational Financial Ethics of Spirituality and Self-Care It is the expectation that the above programs would be offered on a four year rotation, in each part of the region, and ministers in those geographic areas would make every effort to attend annual training in cohort fashion on a rotating basis.

On Monday, June 6, we met with 8 candidates which included one new candidate for the commissioning path, and one approved for an extended commission of 5 years. 5 candidates in this group are currently on the path towards ordination.

April McClure Stewart is the acting Interim Director for the School for Ministry. She reported that the graduation ceremony for the first cohort was held on June 25 at Centennial Christian Church, Bloomington with 8 graduates. Also,

- Fall enrollment is open. Students can enter the 2022 Cohort for the Theology 1 class and then they'll be immediately following that course with Overview of the Bible. We have one student taking advantage of this so far; we'd like to have another 2 students, at least.
- Three of our students will be serving as Commissioned ministers by the autumn.
- We had our first Board meeting and will be working on some specific tasks to better serve both the current students and offer continuing education opportunities to other clergy.
  We will begin a search for the new cohort leader by the end of summer

The next meetings for the RCoM will be held for the Eureka group on September 26th & 27th, with a business meeting on Sunday, September 25th. Information on meeting in person or by Zoom (or both) will be decided at a later date prior to the meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Wm. Crowder Co-Chair
Sylvia Laidig, Co-Chair
Regional Committee on Ministry

Regional Church Council Report
Aug. 2022

PRAR

We have continued to meet and gather important feedback from the other members of group. New members have been added and we continue to offer opportunities for each individual to have a voice in determining our next steps. In addition to the visioning process, we will be helping and/or assisting in the TCC initiative.

Sonna Blue-Key and Judith Ridlen

Gifts to the Disciples Mission Fund

Out of 127congregations in the Region, 80 contributed to the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Disciples Mission Fund in 2020-2021. 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. 21 additional congregations that did not give to DMF in 2020 or 2021 gave something to at least one of the 7 Special Day offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Christmas) in 2020 or 2021. And five more gave designated gifts to Week of Compassion or Reconciliation.

Tommy	Akers	Jeff and Paula	Lindner
Hank and Deann	Anderson	Patricia	Manahan
Arvil	Bass	Don and Julia	Martin
Doris	Beckerman	Marla	McElroy
Kevin	Benford	Karen	Merrick
Elaine	Bush	Don and Margaret	Merritt Jr.
Robert	Bushey	Harry and Linda	Meyer
Amanda	Butterick	Rachel and Alan	Moore
Angee	Byrd	Jacqueline	Myers
Layaunya	Byumn	Deborah	Owen
Daniel and Doris	Carter	Darryl and Bonnie	Parr
William and Betty	Chaney	Judith	Ridlen
Linda and Amos	Chenoweth	William and Betty	Rucker
Patricia and William	Crowl	Tony and Margaret	Salisbury
Ruben	Cruz	Martin and Kathy	Sallee
Kristine	Culp	Kurt and Kassie	Sanders
Joe	Culpepper	Martha	Shine
Neil and Katherine	Deupree	Robert and Amy	Silvanik
Michael and Peggy	Dixon	Dennis	Steckley
Teresa	Dulyea-Parker	Nancy	Stump
Eron	Dupree	Clayton and Alix	Summers
Robert and Nina	Emmons	Shirley	Swarthout
Don	Graham	Camille and Art	Taylor
Ken	Granitz	Grant	Wade
Eugenia	Griese	M Eugenia	Wallace
Frank	Helme	Marilyn	Walter
Laura	Hollinger Antonelli	Verla	Welker
Rev. Daniel	Horton	Amy	Wharton
Rebecca	Ingram Kirby	Linda and Amos	Whitaker
Barbara	Jessen	Lois	Whitaker
Marc and Amy Sue	Johnson	Ricky and Melissa	Williams

Karen	Knodt	Scott and Vicky	Woolridge
Herbert and Duffy	Knudsen	Tom	Yang
Eugene and Nancy	Lamport	Jeff and Jayne	Zimmerman
Patrick and Susan	Larkin	Hartley Family Trust	

The Legacy

The Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin is grateful for all gifts received in 2020-2021 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, ibobadilla@ccf.disciples.org.

Contributions to any of our four CCIW Endowments (All Saints Fund, Camp Walter Scott, Congregational Development, or CCIW) can be made through CCIW.

For more information on setting up a legacy fund contact Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker at Teresa@cciwdisciples.org.

Top 20 Per Disciples Mission Fund 2020-2021

Congregation	City
Central Christian Church	Decatur
Eureka Christian Church	Eureka
First Christian Church	Pekin
First Christian Church	Peoria
First Christian Church	Gibson City
First Christian Church	Canton
Central Christian Church	Danville
United Christian Church	Country Club Hills
First Christian Church	Mount Carmel
First Christian Church	Rushville
Union Avenue Christian Church	Litchfield
First Christian Church	Bloomington
Central Christian Church	Jacksonville
First Christian Church	Paris
First Christian Church	Sullivan
First Christian Church	Springfield
Ursa Christian Church	Ursa
First Christian Church	Quincy
15th Avenue Christian Church	Rock Island
First Christian Church	Galesburg

Top 20 Per Capita
2020-2021

Congregation	City
Eureka Christian Church	Eureka
First Christian Church	Rushville
First Christian Church	Peoria
First Christian Church	Paris
First Christian Church	Metropolis
Central Christian Church	Decatur
First Christian Church	Sullivan
First Christian Church	Springfield
15th Avenue Christian Church	Rock Island
Christian Church of Arlington Heights	Arlington Heights
First Christian Church	Creve Coeur
Central Christian Church	Jacksonville
Prairie Avenue Christian Church	Decatur
Davis Memorial Christian Church	Taylorville
Bellflower Christian Church	Bellflower
First Christian Church	Bloomington
Sunnyland Christian Church	Washington
First Christian Church	Mount Carmel
First Christian Church	Pekin
First Christian Church	Sterling

Top 20 Special Day Offering
2020-2021

Congregation	City
Eureka Christian Church	Eureka
First Christian Church	Rushville
First Christian Church	Peoria
First Christian Church	Paris
First Christian Church	Metropolis
Central Christian Church	Decatur
First Christian Church	Sullivan
First Christian Church	Springfield
15th Avenue Christian Church	Rock Island
Christian Church of Arlington Heights	Arlington Heights
First Christian Church	Creve Coeur
Central Christian Church	Jacksonville
Prairie Avenue Christian Church	Decatur
Davis Memorial Christian Church	Taylorville
Bellflower Christian Church	Bellflower
First Christian Church	Bloomington
Sunnyland Christian Church	Washington
First Christian Church	Mount Carmel
First Christian Church	Pekin
First Christian Church	Sterling

Annual Fund Church Donors 2020-2021

Arrowsmith Christian Church	Arrowsmith
First Christian Church	Bloomington
First Christian Church	Blue Mound
First Christian Church	Canton
Disciples of Christ Community Church	Champaign
First Christian Church	Creve Coeur
Central Christian Church	Danville
Eureka Christian Church	Eureka
First Christian Church	Galesburg
Gerlaw Christian Church	Gerlaw
First Christian Church	Gibson City
First Christian Church	Hoopeston
Illiopolis Christian Church	Illiopolis
First Christian Church	Lawrenceville
Community Christian Church	Lincolnshire
Union Ave Christian Church	Litchfield
Lomax Christian Church	Lomax
Long Point Christian Church	Long Point
Mackinaw Christian Church	Mackinaw
Niantic Christian Church	Niantic
New Covenant Community	Normal
First Christian Church	Petersburg
Rock Island 15th Ave Christian Church	Rock Island
Korean Christian Church	Springfield
First Christian Church	Sullivan
Christian Church of Villa Park	Villa Park
First Christian Church	Winchester
First Congregational Church of Western Springs	

Annual Fund Individual Donors 2021-2021

Tommy	Akers	Jeff and Paula	Lindner
Hank and Deann	Anderson	Patricia	Manahan
Arvil	Bass	Don and Julia	Martin
Doris	Beckerman	Marla	McElroy
Kevin	Benford	Karen	Merrick
Elaine	Bush	Don and Margaret	Merritt Jr.
Robert	Bushey	Harry and Linda	Meyer
Amanda	Butterick	Rachel and Alan	Moore
Angee	Byrd	Jacqueline	Myers
Layaunya	Byumn	Deborah	Owen
Daniel and Doris	Carter	Darryl and Bonnie	Parr
William and Betty	Chaney	Larry and Kathy	Pepper
Linda and Amos	Chenoweth	Judith	Ridlen
Patricia and William	Crowl	William and Betty	Rucker
Ruben	Cruz	Tony and Margaret	Salisbury
Kristine	Culp	Martin and Kathy	Sallee
Joe	Culpepper	Kurt and Kassie	Sanders
Neil and Katherine	Deupree	Martha	Shine
Michael and Peggy	Dixon	Robert and Amy	Silvanik
Teresa	Dulyea-Parker	Dennis	Steckley
Eron	Dupree	Nancy	Stump
Robert and Nina	Emmons	Clayton and Alix	Summers
Don	Graham	Shirley	Swarthout
Brenda and Terry	Foland	Camille and Art	Taylor
Ken	Granitz	Grant	Wade
Eugenia	Griese	M Eugenia	Wallace
Frank	Helme	Marilyn	Walter
Laura	Hollinger Antonelli	Verla	Welker
Rev. Daniel	Horton	Amy	Wharton
Kelly and Anne	Ingersoll	Linda and Amos	Whitaker
Rebecca	Ingram Kirby	Lois	Whitaker
Barbara	Jessen	Ricky and Melissa	Williams
Marc and Amy Sue	Johnson	Scott and Vicky	Woolridge
Karen	Knodt	Tom	Yang
Herbert and Duffy	Knudsen	Thomas and Nancy	Zoelzer
Eugene and Nancy	Lamport	Jeff and Jayne	Zimmerman
Patrick and Susan	Larkin	Hartley Family Trust	

Camp Walter Scott Donors 2020-2021

Arrowsmith Christian Church
Burley Herrin Memorial Gifts
Canton, First Christian Church
Carlock Christian Church
Champaign, Disciples of Christ Community Church
Charles and Nancy Miller
Cheryl Conlin
Clayton and Alix Summers
Crestview Christian Church
Creve Coeur, First Christian Church
Daniel and Kara Fitzjarrald
Danville, Central Christian Church
Deborah Owen
Decatur, Crestview Christian Church
Disciples Women Fall Retreat
Effingham Area Decolores
Egyptian Nursery and Landscaping
Eureka Christian Church
Georgia Meece
Gifts in Memory of Laura Sperry
Il Valley Cluster of Christian Churches
Jacksonville, Central Christian Church
James Niebrugge
Jane Cahill
Jim and Jackie Summers
John and Kathy Nava-Sifuentes
Kames and Libby Nussbaum
Lawrenceville, First Christian Church
Margaret and Tony Salisbury
Marion, Christian Women's Fellowship
Metropolis, C.W.F. Frist Christian Church
Paris, First Christian Church
Patrick and Susan Larkin
Pekin, First Christian Church
Peoria, Memorial Christian Church
Springfield, Parkway Christian Church
Washington, Sunnyland Christian Church
Wyman Deck Estate

New Church Starts

Lincolnshire Community Christian Church

Current Regional Church Council Leadership
and
Ministry Leadership Team

Regional Church Council Members
Keela Neuman, Moderator
Tim Kim, Moderator-Elect
Hank Anderson, Treasurer
Jason Butterick, Secretary
Marla McElroy, Past Moderator

Executive Committee
Keela Neuman, Moderator
Tim Kim, Moderator-Elect
Hank Anderson, Treasurer
Jason Butterick, Secretary
Marla McElroy, Past Moderator

Representative from the following
Jeff Zimmerman, New Church
Jacqueline Myers, M & D/Communication
Anne Ingersoll, Personnel
TDN, PRAR
Sylvia Laidig, CoM
Rebecca Nevius, MLT Rep
vacancy, MLT Rep
Tom Yang, NAPAD
Bill Crowl, At Large 2022
vacancy, At Large 2022
Patricia Sturgeon, At Large 2024
Zack Martin, At Large 2024
Marian Cici, At Large 2024
Daphne Hays, At Large 2024
Ben McCloughlin, At Large 2026
Shelonda Hassell, At Large 2026

Ministry Leadership Team Leaders
Tim Kim, ME, Chair
Judith Guy or Sonna B Key, PRAR
Rebecca Nevius, Outdoor Ministry
Bruce Fowlkes, Eureka
Kris Culp, DDH
Sharon Patton, Ecumenical Witness
Martha Shine, Disciple Women
Zack Martin, RA Chair
Eli Rolon, Youth
Laura Jennison Reed, SLAM
Clayton and Alix Summers, CWS
Arvil Bass, SL/Chaplains
Terry Foland, AIM
Beth Rupe, Regional Elders
Bill Cook, LGBTQ + Alliance
vacancy, Healthy Congregations
Melissa Ebken, Coaches
John Huxtable, S4M
Hannah Fitch, Great Lakes Green Chalice
Ben McCloughan, Men's Ministry

Nominating Committee Report for 2022

Moderator – Timothy Kim, A, Com, M, Chicago

Moderator Elect – Bill Cook, C, Lay, M, Downers Grove

Past moderator – Keela Neumann, C, O, F, Quincy

Treasurer – Amanda Ball, C, Lay, F, Springfield

Secretary – Jason Butterick, C, O, M, Decatur Prairie Ave

At Large Members (Must have six lay persons)

2024 - Pat Sturgeon, C, Lay, Arlington Heights

2024 - Marian Cici, C, Lay, Springfield/Bloomington

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

2024 – Daphne Hayes, AA, Lay, Downers Grove

2026 – Ben McCloughan, C, Lay, Springfield

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

2028 – Zach Mapes, C, O, Sterling

2028 – Colin “Ari” Douglas, C, O, Janesville, WI

Nominating Committee

1. Zach Martin
2. Brant Reed
3. Ben McCloughan, Chair
4. Daphne Hayes
5. Timothy Kim
6. Jerry Bennett-Barker
7. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

2022 Committee Nominees

Rev. Timothy Kim – Moderator Nominee



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 things basketball and Bob Dylan.

Bill Cook - Moderator Elect Nominee



Bill Cook (he, him, his) is a member at First Christian Church in Downers Grove where he is an elder, choir member, and occasional musician (Guitar). He is a Metallurgical Engineer and works for Navistar, the company that manufactures International brand commercial trucks, at their World Headquarters in Lisle, Illinois. He and his wife live in Downers Grove.

Bill grew up on a small farm near a little town in southern Iowa where they raised sheep. He graduated from Iowa State University where he met is wife, Suellen. They have lived, and been members of communities of Disciples, in Iowa, Tennessee, Michigan, Indiana, and now Illinois. Bill and Suellen have two adult children. He is blessed to have worshiped with, served with, broken bread with and been mentored by many wonderful Christians.

He has served the boards of Disciples congregations in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois during good times and hard, and recently served as Chair of the congregation in Downers Grove. At present, he represents LGBTQIA+ Open-and-Affirming ministry on the CCIW Ministry leadership team and is on the Regional Church Council. Bill brings 30+ years of experience with board, council and congregational meetings, committees of every size and purpose, leadership

retreats, church picnics, pot-lucks, CROP walks, food pantries, small groups, Sunday school, bible studies, family camp, VBS, regional and general assemblies. He has re-organed, new boilered, reroofed, nested, yoked, and has reviewed and sorted an impressive stack of search and call papers over the years. Small congregations and shoestring ministries are his passion.

Rev. Keela Neuman - Post Moderator



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 she attended Seminary at both Brite Divinity and Eden Theological Seminary from where she graduated.

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.

Amanda Ball – Nominee for Treasurer



Amanda Ball is a Fiscal manager for the IL Department of Healthcare and Family Services. She received her bachelor's degree from Bradley University and Masters in Accountancy from the University of IL in Springfield.

Amanda is a member of Parkway Christian Church in Springfield, IL. She currently serves as a member of the Diaconate, a member of the Tech team, and as the Treasurer.

Amanda is married to Marsha. They have a daughter Madison (7 years). Her hobbies include cooking, canning, and watching Bears football, Illini basketball, and Hallmark movies. Amanda and her family live in Berlin, IL where she also currently serves as the Village President.
Secretary

Jason Butterick – Nominee for Secretary



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 Theo-logical 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 Theo-logical 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.



The CCIW Disciples of Merit Award is given biennially at our Regional Assembly.

*"The **Disciple of Merit** award is the highest honor given by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin in recognition of outstanding service to the congregation, region and the general church. Retired clergy and lay leaders of any age are eligible. The Regional Board of Directors chooses the recipients."*

Past Recipients are:

2012

Eddie Evans Griffin, Revs. Dorothy and Neil Sallee

2014

Rev. Nancy Stump, Rev. Dwight Bailey, Rev. Burley and Martha Herrin

2016

Rev. Montee Akers, Rev. Tom Akers, Bill Deck, Revs. Terry and Freida Foland

2018

Rev. Jim and Lois Whitaker, Martha Shine, Arvil Bass

2020

Rev. Edward J. Morris, Rev. Michael Dixon, Rev. Mary Jane West, Rev. Ray and Brenda Culver

This year we will recognize:

2022

Rev. Neil Deupree, Rev. Linda and Amos Chenoweth, Leila Ward

Leila Ward - Servant of the People and Servant of God



It is difficult to share history about Leila without including her deceased husband Albion (1989). Both Albion and Leila came from strong faith driven backgrounds. Albion's father, grandfather and great-grandfather were Lutheran Ministers and Leila's family were Baptists and attended conventions yearly. Once married they went to both denominations until they found a church home that met both of their faith needs. Together they chose the Disciples of Christ as place to continue to nurture their faith in God and to raise their children. They started a lifelong commitment to the Disciples of Christ at Parkway Gardens Christian Church where they were active in the choir and several committees.

After moving to Robbins in the south suburbs of Chicago, Albion and Leila Ward attended First Christian Church in Harvey, Illinois as part of "The New Church Experiment" to be one of the first families to integrate an all-white congregation in the Disciples of Christ denomination.

They, along with their children, became members of First Christian in Harvey in the late 1960's. At First Christian, both served in several capacities from the diaconate to being elders, as well as presidents and chairpersons of several committees. They were integral in providing a new building for First Christian of Harvey and later helped spearhead the joining of two congregations to become United Christian of Country Club Hills. As members of United Christian Church, Leila and Albion remained active members continuing their life of service through volunteering, heading committees, holding various leadership roles including board president (for both), helping with new construction, pulpit searches and hosting fun church activities at their home.

Professionally, Leila's need to be of service to others led her to a career in Nursing. She was a head nurse, an emergency nurse, an OB/GYN nurse, and later (1970's) became one of the first Nurse Practitioner's in the United States (at that time there were 15,000 …currently there are about 350,000 in the U.S.) Her experiences as an OB/GYN nurse and a Nurse Practitioner caused her to wonder if there were other best practices for childbirth. As a result, she embraced a less medicated and more natural way of childbirth through the Lamaze method. It helped both "mom and baby" have successful deliveries and encouraged the father or partner to actively support and participate in childbearing from conception to post-partum. Leila provided the instruction while Albion provided graphics and the example of a supportive partner in those classes, all the while keeping their daytime jobs of Nurse Practitioner and State of Illinois C.A.T.S manager, respectively. They had a blast together utilizing their professional talents to assist and prepare their Lamaze couples for Labor and Delivery and the role of becoming parents.

Leila's hobbies and interests have included gardening, bowling, walking, dancing, line dancing,

playing cards, running for Clerk in the Village of Robbins (Albion ran for Trustee and son Bernard became a Trustee!), organizing and assisting with Robbins' only Towne Hall meeting (1970's), supporting the Robbins Library and Community Garden, being an avid (and vocal) attendee at Robbins Community meetings, volunteering for PADS at several Disciple Churches, singing in the choir, and being a delegate for the Disciples Region, among other things too numerous to mention.

Leila has traveled extensively, from Africa to Europe to South America to almost every one of the 50 states. The last few years have seen her travel lifestyle diminish because of COVID and a hip that tells her to "low it down a little bit young lady."



With all her interests and throughout her career, Leila has remained an active member in the Disciples of Christ denomination for over 50 years. At the youthful age of 91 (September 26, 1931) she is looking forward to continuing her service to God and her church for another 50 years.

Presentation of the CCIW Disciple of Merit Award to Reverend Neil Deupree
First Christian Church, Janesville, WI
Sunday October 2, 2022



Opening Remarks (Eli)
At the Biennial Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois & Wisconsin, our church gathers to worship, to seek opportunities for growth and spiritual development, to take care of the business of ministry, and to celebrate. At every assembly, CCIW presents the Disciple of Merit award, the highest honor given by our region in recognition of outstanding service to local congregations, regional ministry, and to the general church. I am excited and honored to announce that the Reverend Neil Deupree is one of 2022's recipients of the CCIW Disciple of Merit Award.

Neil Deupree Bio
The Reverend Neil Deupree – whose heritage in the Disciples of Christ spans generations – boasts an enduring and impactful ministerial career. In 1970, Neil earned his Master of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. He spent years in Ohio, first pastoring Ada Church of Christ in Ada for 5 years and then pastoring Franklin Circle Christian Church in Cleveland for over 10 years before arriving in Wisconsin to pastor First Christian Church of Janesville.

Pastor Neil's ministry has been nothing but exemplary. He was instrumental in laying the foundation for FCC Janesville to become an Open and Affirming Congregation, not only welcoming but fully affirming everyone's worth, particularly of those in the LGBTQI+ community.

His work with Courageous Conversations and Rock County Diversity Action Team encouraged difficult but necessary conversations about racial concerns in Rock County as well as his leadership with Bridge Builders of Rock County which recognized students exhibiting ideals of diversity and inclusion provide a glimpse of Neil's commitment to anti-racism and reconciliation.

Neil also invited FCC Janesville to join the three Disciples churches in Rockford for joint worship and fellowship during 5th Sunday Services. He has served as a chaplain, a visiting pastor in Hawaii, and most recently served as a Regional Elder for the Christian Church in Illinois & Wisconsin.

Both Neil and Kay - who have been married for over 50 years - were dubbed the "dynamic duo" by the Janesville Gazette the pair were inducted into the Rock County Hall of Honor in 2013 in recognition for their commitment to social and racial justice, advocacy for women, children, and the environment, and service to the community.

As an avid bird enthusiast, Neil has also served as a leader for the Bird City of Janesville and the Green-Rock Audubon Society.

Together, Neil and Kay share the love of their children, Minda and Carita, as well as the love of their grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many more of their family and friends.

Remarks from Cluster Ministers

> Neil's caring, gentle leadership as a regional elder helped me greatly during my first 5 years as a new pastor. I always appreciated his words of wisdom, kindness, and concern. Congrats Neil on the Disciple of Merit Award...you and Kay are so appreciated!
> Love in Christ,
> Pastor Jeanette Larson, Bethany Christian Church in Farmington, NM

Remarks from Cluster Ministers

> Neil, you have welcomed me and supported my ministry from the first day I arrived in Janesville. Thank you for your kind heart, your amazing activism, and sharing your love of making a difference with your equally amazing wife Kay. You are beloved among the members of Janesville UCC! This is a well-deserved recognition of what God has been doing through you for many years. Congratulations!
> Rev. Dr. Tanya Sadagopan
> Pastor, Janesville UCC First Congregational Church

Closing Remarks (Eli)

Truly, Pastor Neil and Kay are a living testimony that wholeness in a fragmented world is not only an idea but a possibility for life and ministry.

On behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois & Wisconsin and with the support of all regional leaders and churches in our region, in particular with the support of First Christian Church in Janesville and your pastor, Reverend Ari Douglas, and in the name of those who have represented the best of our region, names such as Motee Akers, Tom Akers, Dwight Bailey, Terry and Freida Foland, and many others, it is an honor to present this year’s Disciple of Merit Award to the Reverend Neil Deupree.

A Disciple Journey



Amos Chenoweth and Linda Lodwig met at a Disciples Student Fellowship work project while they were students at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois. Three years later, they were married by Dr. William Jackson Jarman, minister of University Place Christian Church and Rev. James B. Holiman, Director of the Illinois Disciples Foundation in Fisher Chapel of the Foundation.

Linda had a long Christian Church tradition, with a grandfather who was a Christian Church minister serving in Kansas and Illinois, and other relatives who were Christian Church missionaries in the Belgian Congo and a Native American mission in the state of Washington. Amos grew up in the Evangelical United Brethren tradition.

Following their marriage, and while they were completing their degrees at the University, the couple lived in an apartment in the Foundation building and worked as custodians in the building. After graduating with a degree in Home Economics, specializing in early childhood education, Linda worked as director of an Operation HeadStart integrated preschool in Urbana while Amos completed his graduate study.

After Amos completed his Master's and PhD degrees, the couple moved to the Chicago area where Amos found employment. The couple joined Villa Park Christian Church where Amos served as an elder, choir member, and church treasurer, while Linda participated in women's group activities. Their first daughter, DeAnne, was born and dedicated at the church by Rev. Bob Bond.

Amos and Linda then moved to the St. Louis area where Amos was employed in the Aerospace industry. They joined Florissant Valley Christian Church, not far from their new home. There Amos sang in the choir and the couple served as Sunday School teachers for the high school students and led the high school youth group. As youth group leaders, they organized lock-ins for Disciple youth in the St. Louis area. Their daughter, Sarah, was also born then, and was dedicated by Rev. Glen Brigman at the church. The church started a preschool, and Linda participated in teaching there. The two of them also volunteered as church camp counselors at Camp Walter Scott, one of the two Disciple campgrounds in the region.

As their daughters entered school, the couple moved to Chesterfield in St. Louis County, and became members of Hamilton Christian Church. At Hamilton, Amos sang in the choir, and Linda participated in the women's group activities in the St. Louis area. She wrote Sunday School material for children for Christian Board of Publication as well as working with Fred Craddock on a video produced by CBP. In addition to their membership at Hamilton, the couple also helped start a house church for families and LGBTQ individuals who didn't feel comfortable in a traditional congregation. At one of her activities, she met Professor Walter Brueggemann of Eden Theological Seminary who encouraged her to train for ministry. Linda entered seminary and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. She was

ordained at Maplewood Christian Church on May 22, 1983. She also earned chaplain certification, and her first ministry after seminary was as a chaplain at the St. Louis Christian Home. The home, also known as the Emergency Children's Home (ECHO), served as a shelter for children who needed a safe place to live because of violence or disruption in their families. Linda was also a chaplain at Truman Center in St, Louis, a residential hospital for adults with intellectual disabilities.

The Region of Mid America, which included Disciple congregations in the state of Missouri, initiated an “Intentional Interim Ministers” program, and invited Linda to join. After training at the Alban Institute, she joined eight other Disciple pastors, all male, in that program. Members of the group served congregations throughout the region, and in most of the congregations that Linda served, she was the first female pastor the congregation had ever had. Churches Linda served in the Region of Mid America included Hematite, Louisiana, Bowling Green, Maplewood, and New Harmony.

After more than 20 years in Missouri, the couple moved to Omaha, Nebraska where Amos worked in the transportation industry. They joined First Christian Church in Omaha, where Amos sang in the choir, and the couple joined the Victory Class, a Sunday School class started after World War II. While in Nebraska, Linda received a call to be pastor of Murray Christian Church in Murray, Nebraska. She served as pastor of that congregation until Amos' company transferred him to New Jersey.

With no Disciple congregations near their home in New Jersey, Amos and Linda joined a Presbyterian church nearby, and Amos sang in their choir.

After Amos received a job offer from a company in Florida, the couple moved to Celebration, Florida and joined Hamilton Avenue Christian Church in Orlando. At Hamilton, Amos sang in the choir and Linda participated in the life of the church.

While living in Celebration, Linda joined another Disciple pastor and a pastor from the American Baptist denomination to start a new congregation in the community. It was called United Parish of Celebration and included members from several faith traditions.

When Amos and Linda retired in 2006, they decided to move back to Illinois, and chose Linda's hometown of West Salem as their destination. They joined First Christian Church in Mt. Carmel and Amos again joined their choir and helped with Vacation Bible School. They also volunteered for workdays at Camp Walter Scott, near Effingham, Illinois.

In retirement, Linda continued her Disciple ministry by serving on the board of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society then led by Peter Morgan. As part of her work for the society, she, and Louise Evans from the general church office in Indianapolis visited Disciple congregations around the Midwest to give presentations about Disciple history.

In addition to their involvement in local Disciple churches, Linda and Amos attended many of the General Assemblies and Regional Assemblies of the church. They also provided financial support to the visitors center at Bethany College, where their two daughters earned their undergraduate degrees.

Today, Linda and Amos remain members of First Christian in Mt. Carmel, and Amos continues singing in the choir. While Linda is no longer able to attend services at the church, she does attend services the church holds at the memory care facility where she now resides.