



Great River Region Newsletter

9302 Geyer Springs Road, Little Rock, AR 72209

April 2017

grrdisciples.org

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"The word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish." (John 1:14 The Message)

Several weeks ago, Charlie Wallace and I shared a presentation with the Central AR Clergy group. I shared a copy of the presentation with the LA Clergy Group as well during our quarterly gathering. Don't worry Northwest, Northeast AR and MS – we are bringing it to you as well!!

The presentation focuses on Congregational Life Cycles. In other words, the span of time that a congregation provides vital and sustainable ministries to the communities we serve. Can you gauge your congregation's life expectancy based on where you are today? From your beginning, to building relationships, to management and administration to stability. How does a congregation transform itself to be able to live beyond the life expectancy of 70 to 80 years? We are on this journey of transformation continuing to seek God's wisdom and direction. If we do nothing, we begin the slippery slope where our momentum wanes, relationships become toxic, members stop getting along, and the focus becomes on preserving and maintaining a building. Not on my Watch!

“Jesus became flesh and moved into our neighborhoods.” I believe that Jesus is in us and among us. But Jesus is also in our communities, desiring to navigate us to a life giving presence needed in our

communities. My good friend and mentor, Denise Bell, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Georgia, shared “if we are not taking care of the needs of those in our communities, we become just another country club.” Our world needs the Jesus that we preach – which is a life giving relationship to us and to one another.

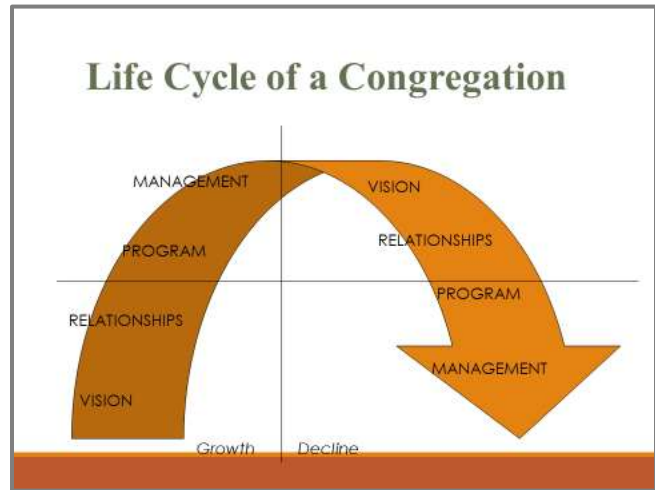
During this Holy Week, I pray that we would take notice of the glory *with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.*”

Mission Insite has developed the best target demographic service on the market for churches. It will allow us the opportunity to develop target community profiles for each congregation in the Region, based on age, ethnicity, education, income, spiritual needs, lifestyles, life goals, 71 mosaic groups, and 600 variables.

If we can get 40 congregations to donate \$65, this would pay for the service for one year. We are soliciting donations because this is not a budgeted item. If you would be willing to share in the cost of this service (\$2600 for a one-year contract), please send your donation to the Great River

Region (9302 Geyer Springs Road, Little Rock, AR 72209) designated for Mission Insite. The Regional Office will be in contact with you to get you started on your target community profile this summer.

(Source: Rick Morse, New Church Ministries, Christian Church (DOC))



**Meet Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens,
Nominee for General Minister and President
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

Vision Statement

John 17:23 – “...that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (NRSV)

Micah 6:8 – “[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (NRSV)

As we approach the 2017 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the election of a new General Minister and President, I write to share the vision that God has laid on my heart for our church as a candidate for the office of General Minister and President.

To read Rev. Terri Hord Owens' complete Vision Statement and Bio, please click [here](#)

GRR Disciples Clergy Retreat - September 25-27, 2017 at Subiaco Abbey in Subiaco, AR

"An Acceptance Based Approach to Spiritual Growth" - We are growing not to become included but because of the good news that “I am already included.” Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. David Artman, FCC, Harrison. For registration information, contact the regional office – 501-562-6053.

GRR Disciples Men Retreat - June 2-4, 2017 at Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond, MS - registration information coming soon!

MCMC Magnolia Camp & Conference - June 19-24, 2017 at Roosevelt State Park

Theme: *Branching Out - Connecting Through Christ*

Registration fee: \$140

For additional information, please contact Josie McClorine at 601-437-4850 or jmcclorine6@bellsouth.net

GRR Disciples Youth Summer Camp Registration is now open!!

Click [here](#) to register for camp at Disciples Crossing - **Registration closes 5/1; Late registration - after 5/1.**

Disciples Crossing [Registration Instructions; Cancellation Policy;](#)

Disciples Crossing [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Curriculum for this summer's camps at Disciples Crossing is **"Branching Out - Connected Through Christ"** and will help remind your campers that they can take that camp-feeling with them everywhere they go reminding them that they are connected to one another and to God by Christ. The Bible stories in **Branching Out** encourage campers to use prayer, relationships, family, and more to stay connected throughout their lives.

2017 Summer Camp Dates and registration fees are as follows

Dates	Camp	Ages	Deadline 5/1	Late after 5/1
May 19-21	Discovery Camp	Grades 1 & 2***	\$ 170	\$ 210
May 26-28	Grand Camp	Ages 4-10**	\$ 170	\$ 210
June 2-4	Family Camp – ages 12 and up	Ages 0-18*	\$ 160	\$ 200
	Ages 6-12		\$ 115	\$ 155
	Ages 5 and under		Free	Free
June 7-10	Adventure Camp	Grades 6-12	\$ 250	\$ 290
June 12-17	Niner's Youth Conference - " Leadership Development & Spirituality "	Grade 9	\$ 390	\$ 430
June 19-24	Chi Rho Camp - " New Testament "	Grades 6-7	\$ 375	\$ 415
June 19-24	CYF Conference - " InterFaith Dialogue "	Grade 10-12	\$ 390	\$ 430
June 25 - July 1	Eighter's Youth Conference - " Spirituality & Sexuality "	Grade 8	\$ 440	\$ 480
June 25- July 1	ADDaM Camp	Grades 9-12	\$ 440	\$ 480
July 3-7	JYF Camp - " Branching Out - Connecting Throught Christ "	Grades 3-5	\$ 315	\$ 355

July 24-27	Water Sports Camp	Grades 6-12	\$ 250	\$ 290
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***accompanied by adult chaperone, 21 years or older**

****accompanied by one or more grandparent**

*****accompanied by one or both parents**

Attention Clergy - Disciples History & Polity Class offerings

TransformingtheChurch.org has a course that will start on May 22nd.

Center4Ministry.org has an 8-week course that will start in April 2017 (April 25-June 19). You can register at center4ministry.org

Phillips Theological Seminary will have an online History & Polity course in Fall 2017

Lexington Theological Seminary has an online History & Polity Course scheduled for May 1-27, 2017. For more information, log on to lextheo.edu

Disciples Seminary Foundation is also offering a Disciples History & Polity course - scheduled for August 16-19 at DSF in Claremont, CA. You can register at <https://www.dsf.edu/history-polity>. For more information, please contact Jess Kimm at jkim@dsf.edu.

Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention "MCMC" Pre Assembly Seminar will be held in Jackson, MS

Wednesday, July 19, 2017, 9 AM - 3 PM

"Church Growth and Transformation"

Do you want your church to grow? Do you know who is in your community? Do you know what their spiritual, socio-economic, and physical needs are? How can we minister to the people around us?

Come and join in a day of learning and sharing with Rev. Dr. Charles Wallace, Senior Pastor, FCC, Little Rock and Rev. Zedric Clayton, Senior Pastor of City of Truth CC, Clarksdale, MS. Registration coming soon!

Great River Region of the Christian Church (DOC) Regional Board met on March 17-18, 2017 at Covenant Christian Church in Byram, MS. Dr. Burton presented her State of the Region report on Friday evening, followed by a presentation by Board Chair, David Britt, about our Board's governance model asking the question "how does a great board function?" (The Regional Board of the Great River Region of the Christian Church (DOC) voted in April 2016, to adopt the policy governance model for our Regional Board). Following the presentation about governance, the Board then began to discuss an important part of policy governance – that being what are our "Ends Policies", translation – ***why are we here?*** and what does that mean as a Board, what does that mean to the Regional Minister and her work, and the work of the Regional office. The meeting concluded on Friday evening after the program & constituency reports were shared.

On Saturday, David continued to conversation about governance sharing information about Operational Means Policies – ***Where are the Boundaries?***

In the absence of Carol Johnson, Treasurer, Dr. Burton presented the financial reports to the Board. She noted that our cash flow is improving and shared that we have several congregations who have started sending monies to support the Operating budget, and asked that the Board, as a whole, commit to supporting the Annual Fund.

As a Board, we began the work of reviewing the Region's Vision, Mission and Value Statements. These statements have not been reviewed or evaluated in over 10 years. We started with a values exercise based who we are and how these values will guide the work God has called us to. This work will continue over several upcoming board meetings.

The Disciples Women Cabinet of the Great River Region met recently to plan Disciples Women activities across the region for the upcoming year. Our theme & scripture for this year is *Many Branches, Rooted in Love*, Ephesians 3:17-18 (Common English Bible). Please mark your calendars now for Spring Workshops and Fall Retreats:

- April 20 - South Louisiana workshop at FCC, Baton Rouge
- April 22 - North Louisiana workshop at KHCC, Shreveport
- April 29 - Mississippi workshop at Covenant CC, Byram
- May 20 - Arkansas workshop at Park Hill CC, North Little Rock

Arkansas Retreat, August 4-6 at 4H Center ~ Speaker - Martha Lester

Martha currently serves in the role of Member Care Facilitator for SIL* - East Asia Group. This role includes aspects of lay counseling, life coaching, mentoring and doing debriefing (both routine and crisis/critical incident). She and her husband, Peter, and family lived and served overseas in several different places in East Asia from 1994 until 2015. They worked in a variety of roles including: linguist/Bible translator, administration, teacher and more. Now settled back in Fayetteville, Martha continues to serve East Asia Group members both remotely and through trips back to Asia. She enjoys eating hot, spicy Sichuan food, solitude with God, journaling, praying in color, travel, reading, bicycling, the ocean and big waves, cooking various ethnic foods and baking, photography, learning new skills and being a grandmother of three little ones who live far away in Lithuania. *formerly known as Summer Institute of Linguistics.

Mississippi Retreat, September 15-17 at Eagle Ridge ~ Speaker - Rev. Dr. Pat Donahoo

Pat answered God's call to ministry by serving in her local congregation, district youth leadership, the regional church, pastoral ministry, and now in her role as Executive Director of Disciples Women for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Pat's ministry is marked by community building and a common sense of belonging where all are invited to the table rather than a membership-oriented or checklist of requirements structure. Pat is part of the General Minister's cabinet, a member of the Justice Table, Secretary to the International Disciples Women's Ministry Executive Committee, Secretary/Treasurer of Global Women Connecting, cabinet representative on the Administrative Committee of the General Board, and non-voting staff on Disciples Home Missions Board. She also participates with the Justice for Women Working Group and the National Council of Churches.

Louisiana Retreat, September 29-October 1 at Wesley Center ~ Speaker - Rev. Angie Ruggia-Kretzer

Angie was born in the child of German missionaries in Windhoek, Namibia and grew up in Germany and Venezuela, and came to the United States in 1977 to attend university. In 1980, she graduated with a B.A. from the UT-Dallas. A year later, her husband joined the U.S. Foreign Service, and for the next

eight years, they lived in Washington, D.C., West Africa, Canada and Southern Africa. Their three oldest children were born during that time.

In 1982, Angie felt the call to ministry, and she attended Brite Divinity School from 1992-95. During her years as a hospital chaplain in San Antonio, she became deeply interested in Hispanic faith and culture and she has worked with Hispanic communities both in San Antonio and in Louisiana. In 2000 she moved to Hammond, La and in 2010, received her Master of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University in New Orleans. In her 30-something years of ministry, Angie has served in Children's and Youth ministry, in campus ministry, as a hospital chaplain, and as a local pastor to two small congregations in rural Kansas. In 2015, she returned to Hammond to take full-time care of her father who was living with dementia/Alzheimer's.

Congregations in the Great River Region will be receiving a **Green Chalice Toolkit** sometime during the second half of April.

It will include some basic resources in print with links for more detailed and in-depth resources. There will be a welcome letter from the Pastoral Table with translations in Spanish, Korean, French Canadian and French Haitian available online.

We currently have only one certified Green Chalice Congregation in the Great River Region but encourage you to consider becoming a Green Chalice Congregations. Congregations who are caring for creation as part of how they live out their faith have energy, draw new people and are helping to save God's good earth. For more information (before the toolkit arrives!), go to the [DOC Green Chalice](#) website.

General Assembly 2017 - *I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.*



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION has been EXTENDED to April 15th!!

Registration Information, click [here](#); **Housing information**, click [here](#)

Never been to an Assembly before? Imagine this:

- Worship that lifts your soul.
- Stories that touch your heart.
- Educational resources to assist your congregation in ministry.
- Conversations that stretch your mind.
- Messages that call you to action.
- Connections that remind you that God's family is bigger than a local congregation.

Education CORE and Learning Tracks information can be found [here](#)

All this and more in five short days! And 2017 will feature historic events – the election of a new **General Minister and President** as well as hearing the results of the **Mission First! pilot project**.

To see the 2017 **Great River Region Calendar**, click [here](#)



Around the Region in our Congregations - please click [here](#)

Oreon E. Scott Grant Applications - due June 1, 2017

Grants have to be written and submitted in conjunction with the Regional Office. If or your ministry teams have been sitting on a vision for your ministry because of funding, I would be glad to partner with you to look at ways we can get funds through Oreon E. Scott. The maximum grant amount is up to \$15,000. With a June 1st deadline, we have time to think, vision, and write a well-thought out grant.

You may, or may not, know that while serving at New Church Ministries, I wrote a significant number of small grants for leadership summits, training and development, and internships. I am well acquainted with the systems and structures that house and monitor these grants. If you are interested in hearing more, please feel free to reach out to me at drnburton@grrdisciples.org.

Oreon E. Scott grant [Guidelines and Application](#)

Thank you for your continued prayers for the Great River Region - they are being felt around the region by all who have been touched by God's love and the blessing of your prayerfulness.

Until next month, blessings to you all!