
In this Issue

- A message from our "Settled" Executive Regional Minister
 - Youth Update - Snoasis, Summer Camps, Camp Counselor info and a Youth Ministry Summit
 - Reconciliation Ministry Grant Applications available
 - 2017 Regional Calendar
 - Disciples Polity & History Course offerings
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I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart (Phil 1:3-7a NKJV).

Happy New Year Great River Region:

I have so much that I want to share with you! One of the highlights of 2016 was being called as your “Settled” Executive Regional Minister. That whole process worked for all of us. There is a familiar saying in the African American Church, “Won’t He do it?” I have faith and joy in my heart for the Great River – I pray for you and remember you because I believe that God still has work for us to do.

With the new call to this position, the search committee gave me the opportunity for rest. I have been on vacation for the last several weeks to get centered and still before the Lord, to practice Sabbath rest. I spent three days at Christview Ministries, Eureka Springs, AR on a retreat with John and Judy Turner.

During my retreat, I reflected on the rich Disciples history and identity that we share as three states, and the past shoulders that we stand on. The shoulders of powerful leaders who forged a way to connect and train lay and clergy leaders, who raised their children with a Christian identity, who raised financial capital and did what they needed to do to create vital and sustainable congregations and communities. Our ancestors were unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and unafraid to make bold and daring moves to further the mission of the church. Congregational pastors and members showed up for the work. They experienced some hard times, transitions, and shifts in leadership in phenomenal ways.

And where they ended, someone else began and carried on the work. And here we are - we start... AND continue the journey. *“Being confident of this very thing, that God, who began a good work in us, will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil 1:6).* Let’s pray together, remember each other with the joy of the Lord, (to the Hills of Northwest Arkansas, to the banks of the Mississippi, to the Gulf Coast of Louisiana), and have faith in the plan that brings us together at this time in history.

I am thankful for the miracle of process, purpose and the call that brought us together as Regional Minister and Congregations. Thank you for trusting my leadership. Thank you for the relationships that we built. Thank you for creating the space for God’s presence to be shared through our lives touching one another.

Welcome to 2017!

Snoasis 2017 - Plug Into God!! Registration forms are now available [here](#) or at grrdisciples.org, on the Youth tab.

GRR Disciples Youth Summer Camps are headed to Texas!!

This summer, the GRR Youth Commission along with support from congregations with active youth programs, made the decision to do something different. Instead of keeping camps at Camp Couchdale this year, they decided to go on an adventure and join with Disciples Crossing in Athens, Texas for our summer camps. Please visit the Youth page on grrdisciples.org for complete information!!

Interested in serving as a Counselor at Discovery Crossing camps this year? Click [here](#) to access counselor information and the application

2017 Summer Camp Dates and registration fees are as follows (online registration begins February 19):

		Ages	Early Bird	Regular	Late	
			before 4/1	before 5/1	after 5/1	
May 19-21	Discovery Camp	Grades 1 & 2***	\$ 140	\$ 170	\$ 210	
May 26-28	Grand Camp	Ages 4-10**	\$ 140	\$ 170	\$ 210	
June 2-4	Family Camp	Ages 0-18*	\$ 130	\$ 160	\$ 200	ages 12 & up
			\$ 85	\$ 115	\$ 155	ages 6-12
			Free	Free	Free	5 & Under
June 7-10	Adventure Camp	Grades 6-12	\$ 220	\$ 250	\$ 290	
June 12-17	Niner's Youth Conf	Grade 9	\$ 360	\$ 390	\$ 430	
June 19-24	Chi Rho Camp	Grades 6-7	\$ 345	\$ 375	\$ 415	
June 19-24	CYF Conference	Grade 10-12	\$ 360	\$ 390	\$ 430	
June 25 - July 1	Eighter's Youth Conference	Grade 8	\$ 410	\$ 440	\$ 480	
June 25-July 1	ADDaM Camp	Grades 9-12	\$ 410	\$ 440	\$ 480	
July 3-7	JYF Camp	Grades 3-5	\$ 285	\$ 315	\$ 355	
July 24-27	Water Sports Camp	Grades 6-12	\$ 220	\$ 250	\$ 290	

*accompanied by adult chaperone, 21 years or older

**accompanied by one or more grandparent

***accompanied by one or both parents

Interested in serving as a Counselor at Summer Camp this year, contact Wendy at wendy@grrdisciples.org - training sessions at Disciples Crossing are set up for a weekend in March and in April.

If you are interested in serving as a Summer Camp Intern, please contact Emily at Disciples Crossing (emily@disciplescrossing.org) for information. Application deadline is March 19th. To read more about the summer-long intern program, go to disciplescrossing.org under the Summer Camp link.

Read more about each camp - click [here](#)

Attention Clergy - Disciples History & Polity Class offerings

Transformingthechurch.org has a class forming now - Registration is now open and any early-registering students can begin work right away. Officially, the Virtual Classroom opens January 15, 2017 and late registration will close January 31. For complete information, see <https://www.transformingthechurch.org/JG-01-history-polity-ethos-of-christian-church-disciples-of-christ>

To register, go to [https://www.transformingthechurch.org/course_detail/Course The Disciples of Christ History Polity and Ethos January 2017](https://www.transformingthechurch.org/course_detail/Course%20The%20Disciples%20of%20Christ%20History%20Polity%20and%20Ethos%20January%202017)

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

Regional Commission on Ministry (RCOM) will be conducting clergy applicant interviews in Shreveport on February 19-20.

Reconciliation Ministry is receiving grant applications through Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

General Reconciliation Grant awards are intended to catalyze new and/or existing projects that target anti-racism/anti-bigotry initiatives toward promoting reconciliation and recognition of human dignity through racial justice incentives. Projects should have specific application to understanding and addressing racism in its systemic manifestations in the church and the communities she serves. Please note that congregations are encouraged to forward their projects and proposals to the Regional office.

Beginning with this proposal cycle the guidelines include an opportunity for projects that involve more than one Disciples congregation working with National congregation-based or faith-rooted organizing networks to achieve anti-racism outcomes. An example of such a project is ICARE in Dayton Beach Florida, that is a D.A.R.T. network affiliate who has applied for funding for a project that creates and supports Neighborhood Accountability Boards to effect juvenile restorative justice and the limit the school to prison pipeline.

Notification of award will be April 1, 2017.

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



SAVE the DATE
March 7-9, 2017
43rd Annual Black Ministers Retreat
Centennial Christian Church
St Louis, Missouri

Join us in 2017 for more fun, fellowship, memorable preaching, and education relevant to your life and ministry.
www.discipleshomemissions.org/black-ministers-retreat

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Great River Region of the Christian Church (DOC) Executive Committee, 2016-2018:

Position	First	Last	Email
*Moderator	David	Britt	dvbritt@gmail.com
*Moderator Elect	Robert	Palmer	therev@aristotle.net
*Secretary	Linda	White	lqwhite@comcast.net
*Treasurer	Carol	Johnson	carol.johnson123@yahoo.com
*RCOM Chair	Don	Morrow	dmorrow@nwadisciples.org
*Exec Regional Minister	Nadine	Burton	drnburton@grrdisciples.org

DISCIPLES YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMIT @ DYMN RETREAT - March 5-7, 2017

Disciples Home Missions invites each region to send one adult to represent and bring voice from your region in the Youth Ministry Summit at the Disciples Youth Ministry Network Retreat, March 5-7, 2017 at [Christmount Christian Assembly](#), Black Mountain, North Carolina.

WHAT: DHM is partnering with DYMN (Disciples Youth Ministry Network) to call together voices from regions and constituencies in a Youth Ministry Summit to re-vision / update / re-design the Design for Youth Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

WHY: The Design for Youth Ministry was first approved by the General Assembly meeting in Anaheim in 1981. It was reviewed and updated by the General Youth Council and approved by the DHM Board in 1996. Much has changed in the twenty years since the last update. The Design is long overdue for review and update!

WHO: Each region is invited to send one adult – regional staff with youth ministry portfolio / adult with your regional youth council / some other adult knowledgeable of and invested in youth ministry leadership with your region.

Constituency groups are invited to send 2-3 representatives to ensure those voices are heard. Invitation is extended to others who normally attend the DYMN Retreat to participate as well.

COST:

For official regional or *constituency representatives*, cost for to attend the Youth Ministry Summit @ DYMN is just \$50 plus transportation costs. Thanks to an Oreon E. Scott grant, strong backing by Christmount, and DHM funding, the Youth Ministry Summit is offered at very low cost to attendees.

Cost for other attendees is \$100 plus transportation, still a bargain for the event!

BONUS!!

The 2017 Progressive Youth Ministry Event (PYM) is March 8-10 at Montreat Conference Center just 10-15 minutes from Christmount. Youth Ministry Summit attendees have the opportunity to pay for travel just ONCE and attend TWO great events. More info on PYM can be found at pym.thejopagroup.com. Registration for PYM is additional to the Youth Ministry Summit.

QUESTIONS: Check for updates on the DYMN web page at www.dymn.org, or DYMN Facebook page.

Contact Kelly Harris <kharris@dhm.disciples.org> or Randy Kuss <rkythm@gmail.com>.

RSVP to Kelly Harris to let us know of your intent to attend and we will alert you when registration is open.

Please continue to hold the Region, your fellow congregations and fellow Disciples in your prayers - prayers for a blessed 2017, for healing and renewed vitality, for wisdom and for grace.

Until next month, blessings to you all!