



Great River Region Newsletter
9302 Geyer Springs Rd, Little Rock, AR

June 2017
grrdisciples.org

In this Issue

- "GO" into the World, Rev. Zedric Clayton, Real Faith Christian Church, Clarksdale, MS
- A message from Executive Regional Minister, Dr. Nadine Burton
- LA Disciples Clergy Quarterly Gathering
- Dr. M. Eugene Boring Video Presentations from Regional Assembly
- MCMC Pre Assembly Seminar – Church Growth & Transformation (register online today)
- 2017 Regional Calendar
- Messages from our denominational partners

The Great Commission calls us to "GO" into the world

It is no secret that the body of Christ is suffering a great deal of loss in America. Many statistics are given that outline the conditions we are under. From the number of pastors walking away from ministry, to the seemingly mass exodus of young adults from the church, to the rising number of Americans that confess they no longer see the church as relevant or worse no longer believe in the God of the church, it is clear that something has gone drastically wrong. The church as we knew it is becoming less effective. As result, we have begun to see many churches experience decline and even close their doors for good.



The question becomes, what can we do to reverse this cycle? It is simple, we have to CHANGE. In fact, I argue that if our churches do not change, they will eventually die. During the Church Growth and Transformation Pre-Assembly on July 19, 2017 at

Tougaloo College, Jackson, MS, we will explore practical strategies that we can implement to begin to see growth in our churches. The principles being taught this summer will include, how to market your ministry, how to attract young families, how to reach your community, effective worship, and so much more. Jesus has given us a charge to reach the world for Him. The Great Commission demands that we “GO” into the world. Change is hard to do but we must ask ourselves the hard question, can our church survive if we do nothing?



Holy Ghost Fun in the Summertime!

“No one’s ever seen or heard anything like this, never so much as imagined anything quite like It—What God has arranged for those who love him.” 1 Cor. 2:9 MSG.)

Summer is Here! It’s easy, breezy, beautiful, and humid – depending on what state you are in. Vacations, Youth Camps, General Assembly, MCMC and so much more! I spent the weekend in Memphis for my Birthday and Father’s Day. On Saturday evening, my sister and I stepped outside after Kayleigh’s dance recital into sweltering heat at 9:00 pm! I stopped by the Magnolia Camp on Monday and Tuesday to encourage Josie McClorine, the adult volunteers, and 35 youth (of all ages). I sat in one session out by the lake mid-morning, and three high school seniors expressed their desire to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Pastor Lester Brooks did not hesitate to lead them into a time of confession. I love what I do! To see the witness and plan of God unfold in the lives of those who are open.

Where will you make God’s presence known this summer? Will it be at General Assembly? Or Camp and Conference? Will it be at the MCMC Pre-Event? Or the MCMC Convention? Will we see you at the Louisiana Clergy Gathering next week? Or the Summer Regional Board Meeting? Will we see you working with the Disciples Summer Missions Projects in Baton Rouge and Hammond? Will we see you worshiping and serving in a church somewhere between the hills of Northwest Arkansas or the cool waters flowing from the Gulf Streams of New Orleans? My brothers and sisters, the work continues. It is a good to be in a place of service this summer. ***“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of humanity, the things which God has prepared for those who love him.”***

The Disciples Clergy of Louisiana Quarterly Gathering that will take place on Thursday, June 29th at 12:00 Noon at FCC, Hammond. If you have not yet responded and would like to attend, please email Dr. Burton at drnburton@grrdisciples.org. We will have lunch, fellowship, a presentation from Bread or Stones, and catch up on Regional and Denominational happenings. Hope to see you there!!!

Dear Christian friends in the Great River Region,

Pinnacle Outreach Ministry is honored to share with you the following video presentations from the 2016 Regional Assembly of the Great River Region, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), held November 10–12 at Northside Christian Church in West Point, Mississippi.

The first series of four videos is a seminar for ministers and church leaders on the subject, "Preaching/Teaching the Bible as the Word of God: Explorations in the Gospel of John." The final video is an address to the Regional Assembly on the subject, "Transformed Minds and Open Hearts: Living Together as One Church."

Preaching the Bible as the Word of God: Explorations in the Gospel of John

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

Transformed Minds and Open Hearts: Living Together as One Church – click [here](#)

Our speaker/presenter was Dr. M. Eugene Boring, I Wylie Briscoe Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. He is truly one of the finest New Testament scholars/interpreters in the world. Please use these videos in any way that would be helpful.

Special gratitude is extended to :

- Dr. M. Eugene Boring for the gift of his knowledge and teaching and for his permission allowing these videos to be shared.
- Rev. Orlando Richmond and Northside Christian Church in West Point, Mississippi, for hosting our Regional Assembly.
- Rev. Zedric Clayton, Minister of Real Faith Christian Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi, for videotaping.
- Mr. Robert Potter, Assistant Director of Public Relations, Video/Electronic Media, Arkansas Farm Bureau, for uploading the videos for viewing.

- Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, Executive Regional Minister, Great River Region, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Wendy Paquette, Great River Region Administrator and Disciples Women's Coordinator

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Miles Cook

Director, Pinnacle Outreach Ministry

An extension of Pinnacle Structures, Inc. of Cabot, AR, and the Great River Region, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

milescook@outlook.com

501-743-0068

GRR Disciples Youth Summer Camp

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 our 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		Reg Deadline	Ages	Reg Fee
June 25 - July 1	Eighter's Youth Conference <i>"Spirituality & Sexuality"</i>	6/11	Grade 8	\$ 480
June 25-July 1	ADDaM Camp	6/11	Grades 9-12	\$ 480
July 3-7	JYF Camp <i>"Branching Out-Connecting Throught Christ"</i>	6/19	Grades 3-5	\$ 355
July 24-27	Water Sports Camp	6/10	Grades 6-12	\$ 290

*accompanied by adult chaperone, 21 years or older

**accompanied by one or more grandparent

***accompanied by one or both parents

**Registration is now open for the
Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention "MCMC"
Pre Assembly Seminar will be held in Jackson, MS**

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

9 AM – 3 PM

Woodworth Chapel Conference Room, Lower Level
Tougaloo College Campus, Jackson, MS

"Church Growth and Transformation"

Led by

Rev. Zedric Clayton from Real Faith CC, Clarksdale, MS
and Rev. Dr. Charlie Wallace, FCC, Little Rock

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. Registration coming soon!

Register online [here](#) or download and mail your registration form [here](#)

Great River Region of the Christian Church (DOC) Regional Board will meet on June 30–July 1st at First Christian church in Baton Rouge.

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

Registration form, click [here](#)

The Disciples Women Cabinet of the Great River Region – Our theme & scripture for 2017 is *Many Branches, Rooted in Love*, Ephesians 3:17-18 (Common English Bible). This theme came out of a conversation at DW Cabinet meeting in February about diversity and inclusivity. Be sure to mark you calendars NOW for the upcoming Fall Retreats – August will be here before you know it!!

Registration form online now at [GRR Disciples/Disciples Women page](#)

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

- Saturday afternoon workshops at Retreat this year: Card Making & Stamping with Linda White and her "crew"; Woman2Woman Worldwide Presentation on the Middle East 2016 trip by Anne Page, FCC, Vicksburg and a Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton.

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

- New this year – Retreat begins on Friday evening with supper!!
-
- Saturday afternoon workshops: Card Making & Stamping with Linda White and her "crew"; Making Blessing Jars with Avis Phillips; Angel Jewelry with Anne Page & Avis Phillips.

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

- Saturday afternoon workshops: Laughing Yoga led by Khadijah Tucker; an Indoor labyrinth led by Tina Lewis; Bible Study with Patty DeVille; Crafting crosses out of old hymnals and/or burlap with Yvonne Taylor and Suzanne Lara.
-



UNO / YOUNN / 하나 / UN
JOHN 17: 20-21a

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.*

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](#)

Sunday afternoon, July 9, additional workshops are available – no registration necessary. Check out the list of workshops [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](#)

Attention DOC Congregations in Arkansas – The Arkansas United Community Coalition is an immigrants' nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that was founded in 2010 with the goal to help immigrants and their communities through organizing, coalition building, leadership and the promotion of civic integration in Arkansas. In addition, we have worked and networked with numerous churches throughout the state of

Arkansas. If your congregation would like to host a "Know Your Rights Forum" please contact the coalition through their website at <http://arkansascoalition.org/staff-directory/>. Each part of the state has their own organizer (northwest, central, northeast, etc), so be sure to look for the contact person in your area.

From Our Partners

PHILLIPS SEMINARY

Wrestling. This is what we hear from many of you thinking about a seminary degree.

- You're wrestling with your calling
- Wrestling with the financial and time commitment
- Wrestling with how acting on God's call on your life will change you and affect the people around you

We will help and guide you as your wrestling moves to a decision to live and lead in the way of Jesus, to bring hope to the world. Learning and living the way of Jesus is challenging work. At Phillips Theological Seminary, we strive to educate the whole church to be responsible biblical and theological interpreters.

Whether you're a clergy candidate, a member of a congregation, or a seeker with questions, Phillips can provide you with a diverse, ecumenical community to explore what "the way of Jesus" means that is distinct in this part of the United States.

Phillips Theological Seminary offers a Diploma and Certificate, a Master of Divinity, a Master of Theological Studies, a Master of Arts in Social Justice as well as a Master of Arts in Ministry & Culture, AND a Doctor of Ministry program. For more information, www.ptstulsa.edu.

Attention Clergy – Disciples History & Polity Class offerings

The next **Center4Ministry.org** course will begin on October 10, 2017. You can register at center4ministry.org

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

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.

Please pray for our congregations this summer as they continue to do Kingdom work! We will see you SOMEWHERE in the region or at General Assembly in the next 30 days!! **Until next month, blessings to you all!**