



Great River Region Newsletter
4724 Hillcrest Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72205

November 2017
grrdisciples.org

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“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor“ (Psalms 8:3-5)



I love the Fall Season!!! The leaves change color. Vegetation and animals prepare for a winter hibernation, and I feel the cool breeze from our Creator’s earth. I stand in awe of God’s mindfulness towards us. Who are we, to receive the care of a loving and merciful God? Our lives ebb and flow as the seasons change. We change. We grow. We are poised for “better” as Christ followers because God keeps God’s hand on our lives.

As we move into this changing season, I consider and affirm the mindfulness of God in our lives – through the laughter, the joy, the disappointments - the invitation remains through changing seasons - to join God in what God is already doing in your communities. We are called to serve God and each other to the best of our abilities, with the best gifts and talents that we have to offer.

I celebrated my two-year anniversary as Executive Regional Minister for the Great River Region on September 1, 2017. For the past two years, we laid the ground work through building relationships, getting our finances in order, and dialogue that impact our communities for good. In all of these God moments, we found time for our families and friends - we laughed, we cried, we disagreed, and we mourned. The best part is that greater part, that we find ways to be and live into this “Great River.”

I am thankful that the “Great River,” is in a better place financially. We are excited about moving the Regional Office to a lively and refreshing holy space at Pulaski Heights CC. We are

planning a Christmas Open House/Reception to show off our new space on Thursday, December 7, 2017 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The first two years have been good! Thank you for supporting the work of the Great River. We are co-laborers together, in taking the good news of Jesus Christ to all people. We must continue to have conversations about who God is calling us to be (Vision and Mission) and the values that drive our vision and mission. I look forward to continuing this shared leadership conversation with each of you.

In the coming days, we turn our attention to some of the most Holy Days of the season. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and a New Year of Opportunities. ***“What a mighty God We Serve. What a mighty God We Serve. Angels bow before God, heaven and earth adore God, what a mighty God we serve.”***

Dr. Burton, Out and About around the Region:

Mission Insite Cluster – November 20, 2017 at 6:00 pm at Mt. Sinai CC in North Little Rock
Central Arkansas Clergy Gathering – November 28, 2017 at 6:00pm (Place tbd)
Louisiana Fellowship Gathering – November 30, 2017 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Mission Insite Cluster – November 30, 2017 at 6:00 pm – FCC Baton Rouge
Christmas Open House – Regional Office, 4724 Hillcrest Avenue, Little Rock – December 7, 2017 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Jackson Clergy Gathering – December 13, 2017 at 12:00 pm – Olive Garden, Ridgeland, MS

Save the Date: Church Leaders UN Conference – February 10, 2018 – Park Hill Christian Church, North Little Rock

We've Moved!!

***The moving truck arrived early on Monday morning,
November 6, and by 330 that afternoon,
everything was unloaded in the new space!
We're not "settled" yet, but we are there and making progress!!***

Please make a note of our new address - all mail can now be sent to us at:

**Great River Region of the Christian Church
4724 Hillcrest Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72205**

GRR Disciples Youth Event: Snoasis 2018 - February 16-18 - mark your calendars and watch for more information to come!!

Regional Committee on Ministry

The RCOM Team met on October 20-21, 2017 in Little Rock, AR and interviewed the following ten applicants for ministry.

Applicant	Sponsoring Congregation	Status
Karl Lowry	FCC, Hot Springs	Seeking Commissioning
Judith Rizzo	Disciples Bayou CC, Lafayette	Approved Commissioning
Cheryl Sybrant	FCC, Fayetteville	Approved Commissioning /Under care for Ordination – Alternate Track
Ray Morton	Chaplain, Rienzi, MS	Re-instatement of Ordination Standing
Walter Rogero	FCC, Mountain Home	Under Care for Transfer of Ordination
Soniyyah Key	FCC, Fort Smith	Under Care for Ordination – Seminary Track
Mark Garner	FCC, Harrison	Approved Transfer of Ordination
Jeffrey Murdock	FCC, Rogers	Seeking Commissioning and Transfer of Ordination Standing, We received Under Care
Sara Rudolph-Pollard	Mt. Sinai CC, North Little Rock	Approved Commissioning, Under Care for Ordination –Seminary Track
Dennis Bell	FCC, Benton	Approved Under Care for Ordination – Seminary Track

In addition, RCOM is putting together trainings for the Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racism as we move forward with a 2018 Regional Assembly Resolution requiring all ordained and commissioned ministers to be trained as part of standing requirements and we also discussed strategies for guiding Disciples congregations when considering hiring non Disciples pastors.

The next **Regional Commission on Ministry (RCOM)** meeting and interviews will be on February 18-19 in Shreveport (Location to be determined).

From Miles Cook, Regional Elder Chair

Our **Regional Elders** continue the effort of praying for our Regional Staff, the Region itself, and the ministers and their families across our three states. Each Regional Elder continues to make contacts to be supportive of the clergy in their particular Shepherding Group.

Our monthly Conference Calls are now being done via “Zoom” which is an online video and

audio service allowing us to see as well as hear each other. It is similar to Skype.

Since our last issue of Currents, Rev. Ashley Sherard submitted her resignation as Regional Elder due to her move out of the GRR to become the Minister of Beechwood Christian Church in French Lick, Indiana. Laura DeMann-Savage is now serving in the position that Ashley vacated. Laura is a minister and is serving at First Christian Church in Bossier City, Louisiana. Her Shepherding Group is central and southwest Louisiana.

Our current Regional Elders and their hometowns are:

- Miles Cook (Coordinator), Sherwood, Arkansas
- Laura DeMann-Savage, Bossier City, Louisiana
- Mona Lisa Garrett, Bossier City, Louisiana
- Bob Parks, El Dorado, Arkansas
- Zena Marshall, Ft. Smith, Arkansas
- Carol Miles, Little Rock, Arkansas
- Susan Miller, Hot Springs, Arkansas
- Russell Myers, Jackson, Mississippi
- Ryan Pfeiffer, Fayetteville, Arkansas
- Ann Pickett-Parker, Pascagoula, Mississippi
- Glen Schory, Metairie, Louisiana

Attention Clergy - Disciples History & Polity Class offerings

Phillips Theological Seminary will offer their first Disciples History/Polity course through the **Ministry Training Center** beginning on April 30, 2018. Registration information will be forthcoming.

TransformingtheChurch.org will have a course starting in early January 2018 - actual dates TBD

Lily Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs at Christian Theological Seminary

National Clergy Renewal Program - Request for Proposals (RFP)

Application materials (the "Request for Proposals" or "RFP" document) for the 2018 Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs are available below and include a full description of program guidelines and eligibility. Applicants may apply using the print application (the "Request for Proposals" or "RFP" document that may be downloaded as a PDF) or the online application system. The deadline to apply is April 13, 2018. Congregations will be notified as to whether their proposals are to be funded or not in late August 2018. Activities funded by a 2018 grant in the clergy renewal programs may begin anytime in 2019.

For additional information, click [here](#)

Blessings to each of you as we enter this Holiday season!