



Currents

A publication of the Great River Region of the Christian Church (DOC)

Great River Region Update

4724 Hillcrest Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72205

July 6, 2018

grrdisciples.org

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[GRR 2018 Calendar link](#)



Regional Assembly 2018

November 2-4, 2018
Kings Highway Christian
Church, Shreveport, LA
Host Pastor: Rev. David Brice

Currents Summer Edition!

18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you"
(I Cor. 12:14-21).

I am sitting here at my sister's house in Memphis TN staring out of the window, reflecting on the past six months here in the GRR! Through the highways and church visits, luncheons (and meals to live for), through visits with potential ministry candidates, we hear stories which reminds us of our own story. From board meetings to church meetings, I am reminded of the need to be grateful for the ministry and witness of the Great River. We are blessed in ways beyond our imagination. Many of us give of our time, and resources to sustain and propel this ministry. Although our finances are tenuous, many of us keep steady with the covenant to give and share of our resources. And for that I am grateful.

Renee Eakin, at our recent Board meeting, shared a passage from Ecclesiastics, which challenged us to reflect a three-strand cord that is not easily broken. It is important to note that as three states, we need each other. As a region, we are only as strong as the next church or state. If all of us do not make a commitment to keep this three strand cord secure, one of us will suffer. If all of us thought the same way, looked the same, functioned the same, where would the Body of Christ be? Our diversity is the greatest gift that God could have shared among us. We are different yet the same, awesome in our individuality, but strong in our collective message, bearing the work of Jesus Christ. Thank you GRR for the past six months!



Our Continuing Priorities for 2018

- Future Vision Story, Capacity Building Report and Regional Values to present to the Regional Assembly November 2018
- Preparation for Regional Assembly on November 2-4, 2018 at Kings Highway CC in Shreveport, LA.
- RCOM (Regional Commission on Ministry) nurture of candidates for Ministerial Credentials
- New Church Committee Development: to enhance our new church and demographic development initiatives
- Visit remaining 10 congregations to complete the 106 congregation visit rotation

Four Future Goals from the Capacity Building Report

- To develop transformational Clergy Leaders who foster good collegial relationships and teach each other
- To facilitate and resource congregational program life through the development of the Great River Region Institute
- To re-develop congregations through strategic partnership and new church development
- To seek Racial Reconciliation and justice and full participation of all church in regional life

The Business of the Region

Recently the Regional Board approved the Future Vision Story and Capacity Building Report for the Great River Regional Assembly. Our future vision tells the story based in the year 2024, and reflects back on the progress that we made as a region. I encourage you to read the story and begin to reflect on the implications for our future together. We are hoping that the Assembly receives the Future Vision story to share, dialogue, and discern our future together. Our future vision story is being shared in clergy fellowship groups throughout the three states, and will be sent to all congregations as part of the Regional Docket for Regional Assembly. There will also be opportunities to participate in zoom listening sessions (dates are listed below and on the website). All you need is a telephone, tablet, or laptop computer to join in. We want your input and feedback before Regional Assembly in November.

GREAT RIVER REGION FUTURE STORY

Hearing the Future Stories of our region gives us hope. It is exciting to think that small, somewhat isolated congregations could be part of this re-imagined Great River Region where:

- sharing resources would not only give congregations more tools for ministry but deepen the connection between Disciple churches
- sharing experiences through live streaming and in-person cohort groups builds community and address the difficulties of our expanded region where many don't know what other DOC churches and congregational and regional leaders look like
- investing in transformative leadership training for laity and clergy equips all members to better serve their communities, thereby strengthening congregations
- valuing camp programs for all ages, especially youth, we make memories and ignite spiritual formation that endures.

I want to be a part of this story. Do you?



Gina Anthon
FCC, Hammond

To read or download the Vision Story and Capacity Building Report, [click here](#)

Listening Session Dates:

September 12 – Central Mississippi Clergy gathering
September 17 – 6 PM Zoom Conference
September 19 – Northwest Arkansas clergy gathering
September 25 – Central Arkansas clergy gathering

September 27 – 5:30 pm-Louisiana gathering
September 29 – 10 AM Zoom Conference
October 8 – 6 PM Zoom Conference
October 22 – 7 PM Zoom Conference

Great River Region May 2018 Financial Statement, click [here](#)

Great River Region congregational giving YTD comparison (DMF, Blessing Box, Designated for Operating and Christmas):

- Giving by Congregation - [May 2018](#)
- Giving by DMF amount - [May 2018](#)

For previous month's reports, visit grrdisciples.org, [Disciples Mission Fund](#) page

Great River Region's Giving as of May 2018:

- Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) giving is **down 25.8%**
- Christmas Offering **down 19.5%**
- Designated for Operating is **up 13.6%**
- Week of Compassion is **up 49.5%**
- Reconciliation is **down 29.5%**
- GRR Operating deficit of **-\$39,371**

For additional giving reports, visit Disciples Treasury Services website, [here](#)



Giving to the Annual Fund of the Great River Region

When you make a pledge to the Annual Fund of the Great River Region, you help strengthen the financial base for the program work that we do in the Great River Region: congregational visits, clergy visits, workshops, camp and conference ministries, Regional Commission on Ministry (RCOM Administration), and regional and general church life and participation.

GRR Disciples Clergy

- **The Regional Commission on Ministry** will conduct their final 2018 meeting with clergy candidates on September 10-11 in Little Rock, AR. Dates for 2019 interviews are February 6-7 (Shreveport), July 22-23 (Jackson) and October 1-2 (Little Rock).
- **Lexington Theological Seminary (LTS)** will be offering a Boundaries course titled, "**Clergy Wellness: Cultivating Healthy Boundaries in Ministry,**" on August 4th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration fee will be \$75.00. For information, click [here](#)
- **Upcoming Disciples History & Polity course offerings at Phillips Theological Seminary (PTS):**
 - October 15- December 9, 2018
 - April 29-June 23, 2019
 - October 14-December 8, 2019

Scholarships for Ordained Clergy

Disciples Home Missions (DHM) seeks to support ministers in their commitment to a process of life-long learning. Ministers who take advantage of available educational experiences often discover that there are benefits of such experiences for themselves and the people with whom they are in ministry.

For information and eligibility, [click here](#)

Applications will be accepted between Sept 1 – Oct 31, 2018

Search and Call

The region currently has four congregations engaged in a search process to call a new pastor; Highland Christian Church, Bella Vista AR; First Christian Church, Slidell LA; First Christian Church Russellville AR; and Pulaski Heights Christian Church, Little Rock AR. We also have an opening for a New Church Planter in Covington, LA. For more information, please contact the regional office.

Regional Assembly Nominating Committee - The Work Begins
Expectations for Nominating Committee Work
May 8, 2018

As the Executive Regional Minister, I want to emphasize the need for us to recruit those who will best serve the work throughout the Great River Region. Please note that these are my aspirations for board officers and members at large (they are not listed in the By-laws or Operating Guidelines). To that end, I offer the following suggestions:

- A. *Candidates who are nominated to serve as elected officers of the Regional Board or Members at Large must be willing to serve in their respective roles. We have too much work to be done to allow commitments to wane in this area. This means that newly elected leaders need to be present for all board meetings whether in person or via virtual. We have 2 to 3 board meetings each year, based on the work.*
- B. *Nominees will need to be engaged in the life and work of the Great Region. Our Moderator, David Britt, has done a great job of defining our scope of work and the ways we are called to govern the work assigned to us.*
- C. *As we move forward with board development, there are expectations for financial investments into the work of the region. We have done a fairly good job of asking for and responding to buy-in and commitment to the work. We desire new leaders rotating onto the Regional Board to be aware of this commitment.*

When you have conversations with potential candidates, please make them aware of the responsibilities and commitment involved. We want to have a highly functioning board, who is passionate and excited about what God is doing in the GRR! ***If you, or someone you know, are interested in serving on the Regional Board, please contact Dr. Burton (drnburton@grrdisciples.org or 501-944-4305) to set up a time to discuss.***

Great River Region [Operating Guidelines](#)

Great River Region [Bylaws](#)

Constituency Groups: Youth, Disciples Women, Disciples Men, MCMC, ASF

**Great River Region of the Christian Church (DOC)
MCMC Assembly Pre-Event Seminar**

Wednesday, July 25, 2018
9 am – 3 pm (lunch on your own)

“IMAGINATION IN PREACHING”

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas
Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of
Homiletics, Christian Theological Seminary

Please register for the PreEvent [here](#)

At 7:00 pm
***Come and Experience an
Evening of Sharing and Dialogue
with Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas***

**Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention (MCMC)
Annual Assembly
July 26-28, 2018**

“A Love That Won't Quit” - I Cor. 2:9 -
*“However, as it is written, no eye has seen,
no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God
has prepared for those who love him.”*

PreEvent and Assembly all take place at:
***My City of Truth Christian Church (DOC)
600 Yazoo Avenue, Clarksdale, MS
Host Pastor: Rev. Zedric Clayton***

Great River Region Youth

Introducing the 2018-2019 Great River Region Youth Commission

Martha Arambel, Fayetteville; Cole Langham, Fayetteville; MacKenzie McTier, Rogers; Clint Parr, Sulphur; Lark Sybrant, Fayetteville

Adult Leaders: Betty Arambel, Stacy Eastwood, Ronny Nowell, Cody Robertson & Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton

**Make plans now to attend Regional Assembly 2018
November 2-4, 2018
Kings Highway Christian Church
Shreveport, LA**

Disciples Women News

2018 Theme: ***WE: Moving Forward Together***

Scriptures: Philippians 2:1-4; Hebrews 10:24-25 and Ecclesiastes 4:12

Registration is now open for 2018 Retreats – [click here to download the registration form](#) and [here to download the Pickering Scholarship application](#)

- **The first retreat will be August 17-19** at the Arkansas 4H Center, Little Rock AR. Keynote Speaker: Rev. Linda White, former Senior minister at Park Hill Christian Church in North Little Rock
- **The second retreat will be September 14-16** at Eagle Ridge in Raymond MS. Keynote Speaker Rev. Chesla Nickelson, Program Manager in the Office of Disciples Women
- Our Regional Assembly gathering - details yet to be determined

We encourage women from all three states (AR, MS, & LA) to join us at one or more of these gatherings to connect, worship, fellowship, and serve, as *WE move forward together*. Registration info coming soon.

Save the Dates: September 13-15, 2019 for the next ROSES Disciples Women Interregional Leadership Training Event. Location: First Christian Church. Tulsa, OK.

Around the Region in our Congregations

150th Church Anniversary Celebration
***Central Christian Church, Russellville AR**
224 South independence, Russellville, A\$

A Journey of Faith: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Sunday, August 5th at 3:00 pm

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton
Executive Regional Minister, Great River Region of the Christian Church (DOC)

We are looking forward to your presence as we celebrate and recognize the history of our congregation

**formerly known as Edwards Chapel Christian Church*

An Afternoon with Bruce Greer

"I Make Music"

Free Workshop

Saturday, August 11, 2018

1:00 - 3:30pm

Park Hill Christian Church

To register: Please call the church office to by Monday, August 6th, to reserve your space
Park Hill Christian Church ~ (501) 753-1109 4400 JFK Blvd, North Little Rock, AR 72116

For more information, click [here](#)

Across the Disciples

Disciples Home Missions National Convocation
July 19-22 in Birmingham, AL

“A CALL TO ACTION: ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS”



2 Samuel 10:12 and
Ephesians 6:13.

It's a call to fight against
injustice, racism, abuse,
poverty, hatred, sexism,
apathy, and hopelessness.

Main Speakers:

Rev. Dr. William Barber,
Bishop Teresa Snorton
and Rev. Shannon Dycus.

Come to worship, to fellowship, to break bread, to learn
and to inspire... as we lift up Jesus Christ, the author,
and finisher of our faith.

[Registration is now open](#), click [here](#) for additional
information.

PreEvent Registration - Clergy Institute or Lay Leaders Institute

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ 9 am - 4 pm
PreEvent Registration fee \$50

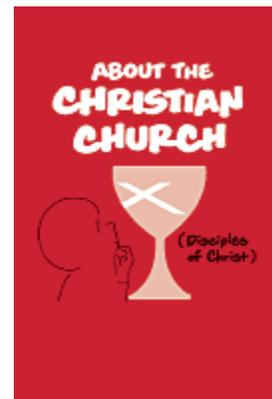
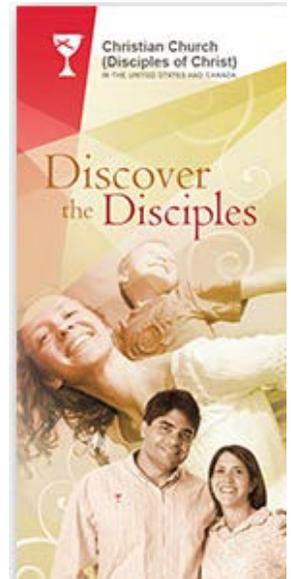
Mark your calendars now for the General Assembly 2019

July 20-24, 2019 ~ Des Moines, IA



Looking for resources with which to share
your Disciples faith?

You can order the *Discover
the Disciples* brochure [here](#)



You can order the About the
Christian church (DOC)
booklets through
Channing-Bete Publishing,
[here](#)