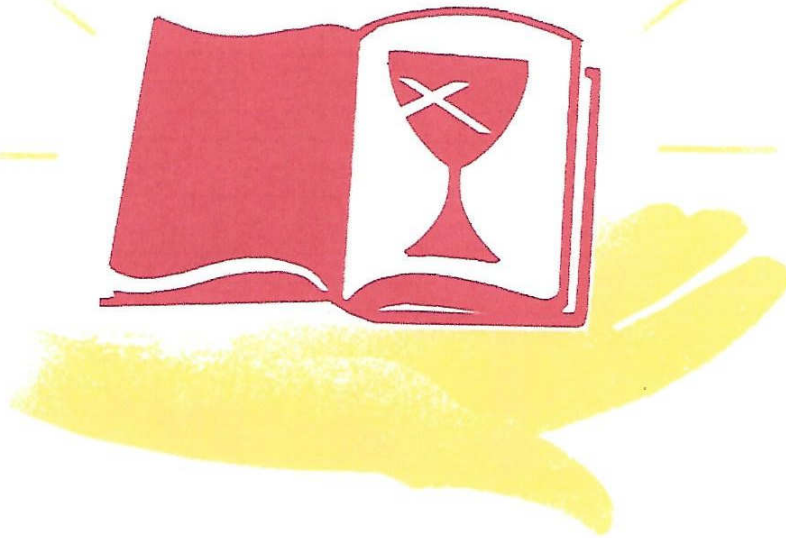


Message Bearers



“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are Ambassadors for Christ.” (2 Cor. 5:17-21 NRSV).

Regional Assembly 2018

November 2-4

Host Pastor: Rev. David Brice
Host Congregation: Kings Highway Christian Church
Shreveport, LA

PRE-ASSEMBLY EVENT FOR CLERGY, ELDERS & CONGREGATIONAL LAY LEADERS ProReconciliation / AntiRacism Training

Friday, November 2, from 9 am–3 pm
led by Rev. Dr. Sandra Jha, Oakland Peace Center and John Goebel, Vice President, Treasury Services
(continuing education credit will apply)

Registration required

Regional Assembly 2018 Schedule

Friday, November 2

- 9 a – 3 p PreEvent: Pro-Reconciliation Anti-Racism
- 3:00 PM Regional Assembly Registration opens
- 3 – 10 PM Hospitality & Exhibitors
- 5:00 PM * Fellowship Supper — drop in style
- 6:15 PM All Assembly Choir Rehearsal and Evening Worship Participants meet
- 7:00 PM All Assembly Worship – Rev. Dr. Terri Hord-Owens, preaching
- 9:00 PM Reception

Saturday, November 3

- 7:00 AM * Minister +1 Breakfast
- 8:00 AM All Assembly Choir Rehearsal
- 8:45 AM Gathering music and singing
- 8:55 AM All Assembly Welcome
- 9:00 AM Lecture
- Break
- 10:00 AM Business Session
- 11:30 AM * Luncheons – Women, Men, Chaplains, Musicians and Regional Elders
- 1:45 PM Workshops I
- 2:45 PM Break
- 3:00 PM Workshops II
- 4:00 PM Break
- 6:30 PM * All Assembly Banquet
Banquet Speaker: Rev. Jarrett Banks, First Christian Church, Fort Smith, AR

Sunday, November 4

- 8:00 AM All Assembly Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 AM Traditional Worship—Installation of new officers
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 11:11 AM Contemporary Worship Service “David Brice, preaching”

Worship at Shreveport area churches

- 10:45 am First Christian Church, Bossier City
- 10:30 AM Central Christian Church, Shreveport

** Registration / ticket required*

Regional Assembly Guest Speakers



Rev. Terri Hord Owens
General Minister and President, Christian Church (DOC)

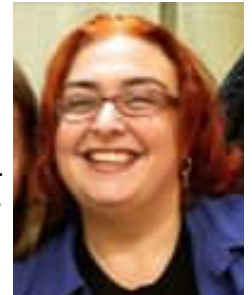
Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens was elected General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in July 2017. She is the first person of color and second woman to lead the denomination. A descendant of one of the oldest African-American free colonies in Indiana and a Disciple since young adulthood, Hord Owens was dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School and pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL prior to her election.

Hord Owens’ resume includes more than 20 years in corporate America leading diverse data management teams in health care and other industries before she entered seminary. After ordination, she served 15 years at the University of Chicago Divinity School, shepherding a varied student body in both background and theology.

Hord Owens is widely sought after as a preacher, speaker and workshop facilitator. Her ministry and intellectual interests include a theology of reconciliation, cultural intelligence, developing inclusive and multi-cultural congregations, and the mentoring of young adults. She marked three decades of marriage with Walter Owens, Jr., prior to her election. They are the proud parents of an adult son, W. Mitchell Owens, III.

Sandhya Jha—Executive Director, Oakland Peace Center

Rev. Sandhya Jha comes from a background in community organizing and political engagement. In addition to serving as Executive Director of the Oakland Peace Center outside San Francisco, she serves as Director of Interfaith Programs at East Bay Housing Organizations and as chair of Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy. She is an anti-racism trainer for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a regular public speaker across the country on issues of race and social justice. She also loves to sing and play guitar and to cook meals for her expansive family of choice in Oakland.



John Goebel—Reconciliation Ministries

John Goebel, CPA is Vice President of Finance in the Office of General Minister & President. John has been with the Disciples for over 18 years and has participated in the “train the trainer” program with Reconciliation Ministries since 2016. John and his wife, Jana, have two daughters, Hannah and Abby. Downey Avenue Christian Church in Indianapolis is their congregational home.

Jarrett Banks, First Christian Church, Fort Smith

Jarrett Banks currently serves as the Senior Minister of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Fort Smith. His ministry is one of inclusion, openness and ecumenism and his writings and sermons challenge the church to live in the way Jesus taught to transform the world. He is a 1988 graduate of Wingate College and received his M.Div from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1992 and graduated with his D.Min from Gardner-Webb University in 2005. He currently lives in Fort Smith, Arkansas with his wife of 29 years, Lori. They have two children, Carson and Sara.



Dr. David Brice, Kings Highway Christian Church

Rev. David Brice was born in Dallas and grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. He has degrees from Texas Christian University and Brite Divinity School. After graduating from seminary in 2000 he served for five years as the Senior Minister of Highlands Christian Church in Dallas, Texas. In 2005 he accepted the call to become the Senior Minister at Kings Highway Christian Church. Rev. Brice is married to Lesley Cook Brice, who works as the Assistant Head of School at Southfield School in Shreveport. They have two children, Elizabeth and William.

Regional Assembly Guest Speakers (cont'd)



Dr. Jeff Murdock, First Christian Church, Rogers

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Allen Murdock has become internationally known as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and performer. He currently serves as Associate Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Arkansas where he conducts the Inspirational Chorale, the Men's Chorus, and teaches courses within the choral music education curriculum. He is a 2016 Connor Endowed Faculty Fellow in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. He also currently serves as the minister of music at the First Christian Church of Rogers, Arkansas, in the dynamic Great River Region. Dr. Murdock is married to the Reverend Janae Pitts Murdock, and together they have two children, Jeffrey, III, and John Patrick.

Regional Assembly Workshops (Each workshop will take place twice)

- 1 — **Authentic Spirituality** — Rev. Dr. Michael Elmore, First Christian Church, Baton Rouge
- 2 — **New Church Development** — Rev. Terrell McTyer, Hope Partnership, Indianapolis
- 3 — **Congregational Transformation/Re-Development** — Rev. Dr. Gilberto Collazo, Disciples Church Extension Fund, Indianapolis
- 4 — **Small Church / Large Church** — Rev. Don Morrow, Senior Pastor First Christian Church/Waterway, Bentonville
- 5 — **Stewardship as a Spiritual Discipline** - Speaker to be determined
- 6 — **One Bag of Tea** — Rev. April Johnson, Executive Director, Reconciliation Ministries of the Christian Church (DOC)
- 7 — **Team Building** — Rev. LaShaundra McCarty, Owner, 3C: Creative Communications & Consulting
- 8 — **Global Ministries Experience: Southern Africa** — Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, Executive Regional Minister, Great River Region
- 9 — **Youth Track:** to be announced

A Future Story

DISCIPLES MAKING IT HAPPEN

THE GREAT RIVER REGION IN 2023

Alice's Notebook

It is 2023, and Alice is a 22-year-old anthropology major at Texas Christian University. Alice grew up in First Christian Church and was a product of the Region's youth and camping programs over the years. She is playing also with the idea of going into ministry.

In her senior year, Alice was invited by her professor to do a case study on an organization that has gone through significant change and improvement. The assignment was to name a group of people who have defied the current trends and how they got there.

Alice immediately thought about the Great River Region and their journey. She began to organize her interview schedule, and then began a trek across the region to discover how they did it. The following are entries from her journal.

To read Alice's notes about the Great River Region Vision Story and Capacity Building Report, please visit www.grrdisciples.org and click on the GRR Future Story tab

We are excited, hopeful, and inspired about the possibilities before us, where we could:

- Ignite spiritual formation that endures
- Value camp programs for all ages that building lasting relationships
- Share resources that gives congregations more tools for ministry
- Deepen the connection between Disciple Churches
- Share experiences through live streaming & in-person cohort groups
- Build community & address difficulties of an expanded region
- Invest in transformative leadership training for laity & clergy
- Equips members to better serve their communities which strengthens congregations

Goal #1: To develop transformational Clergy Leaders who foster good collegial relationships and teach each other

Goal #2: To facilitate and resource congregational program life through the development of the GRR Educational Institute

Goal #3: To redevelop congregations through strategic partnerships, and start new congregations

Goal #4: To seek racial reconciliation and justice and full participation of all churches in regional life

To give input and reflect on this report, please join us for a Listening Session – in person or online! Current Listening Session dates are:

September 17 – 6pm – Zoom Conference

September 19 – Northwest Arkansas Clergy/Laity gathering

September 24 – Louisiana Clergy/Laity gathering

September 25 – Central Arkansas Clergy/Laity gathering

September 29 – 10 am – Zoom Conference

October 8 – 6pm – Zoom Conference

October 10–Central MS Clergy/Laity gathering

October 22 – 7pm – Zoom Conference

Zoom conferences can be done via computer or by phone – you don't need to be tech savvy to participate!!