



**Great River Region Update**  
4724 Hillcrest Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72205

**February 11, 2019**  
grrdisciples.org

### **Eyes of Faith**

*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is not seen is eternal (II. Cor. 4:18)*

It's hard to see what is not right in front of you! It's call faith. We are called to trust what we can't see, when everything around us, may say otherwise. We are in the throes of a chilly winter. It is a time for hibernation, preparation, and getting ready for what's ahead. In the winter we pack on a couple of extra pounds, cuddle up with a good book, movie or video, around the fire, go underground, as mother winter does her work.



We are in a wonderful season of transition with ordinations, search and call, as pastors and congregations seek and search for what God wants them to do and be. We continue to work on developing strategies for our Future Story. We are headed into our first Regional Board Meeting on March 1-2, 2019 here in Little Rock at First Christian Church. We pray that you would pray with us, that we would have eyes of faith to see where the Spirit of God is working and moving. We ask for your prayers around our finances - how we can do better with what God has given to us. While our work continues, we believe that God can make up for any lack that we have. We always pull out and up when we are faced with financial woes. We will keep praying, believing, trusting and looking beyond what is right in front of us. One day I anticipate seeing trees blossom, birds singing, flowers blooming, and fresh springs of water running from Arkansas through Mississippi, and to Louisiana. What about you?

### **Yearbook forms are due by March 15, 2019**

#### **Why is your Yearbook form important?**

*Your IRS standing as a 501C3 organization is dependent on completion of your annual report and is published in the Yearbook & Directory of the Christian Church (DOC). Your IRS Employer Identification Number is tied to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (DOC) group Exemption 501©3, which allows your congregation to give charitable donation credits to your donors, and receive federal income tax and property tax exemptions.*

Yearbook packets (yearbook form, instructions, etc) were mailed during the last week of January. Forms can be filled out on paper and mailed to the Disciples Center (ATTN: Yearbook, Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986) **OR** can be submitted online [here](#).

**QUESTIONS:** Call 317.713.2494 or email [yearbook@disciples.org](mailto:yearbook@disciples.org)

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## Great River Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

### Pro-Reconciliation / Anti-Racism training and "The Elder As Leader" training

at First Christian Church, Pine Bluff, AR  
Saturday, March 9, 2019  
Registration: 8:30 AM

Seminars will take place between 9am-3pm  
(Lunch is included)

There is no charge for either seminar, however  
registration IS REQUIRED

You can register online [here](#)

### Meet DeeOnn Hodges

DeeOnn is our new volunteer Social Media specialist. In the coming weeks, you will see a new Great River Region Disciples presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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### Priorities for 2019

- Develop Future Vision Story Strategies and Tactics for Congregational Engagement
- RCOM (Regional Commission on Ministry) nurture of candidates for Ministerial Credentials
- Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism and Boundary Training development for All Clergy
- New Church Committee Development: Recruiting a New Church Planter for Covington, LA Project
- Hiring of Part-time Youth Coordinator, Camp and Conference
- Congregational leadership (laity) training and development

### Future Story & Capacity Report Goals:

- 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

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## The Business of the Region

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

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

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

Great River Region's Giving as of December 2018:

- Disciples Mission Fund (includes Blessing Box) giving is **down 24.4%**
- Christmas Offering **down 28%**
- Designated for Operating is **up 2%**
- Week of Compassion is **up 42.3%**
- Reconciliation is **up 1.8%**
- GRR Operating deficit of – **\$50,586\***

\*as of December PRELIM 2018

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## Regional Board Update

The first meeting of the new 2018-2019 Regional Board will take place on March 1-2, 2019 at First Christian Church in Little Rock. Please pray for our work together as we welcome and orient new Board members.

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### 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.

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The Phillips University Legacy Foundation is pleased to announce it is accepting new applications for its

Undergraduate Scholarship and Leadership Development Program for the 2019-2020 academic year. This program makes annual awards of up to \$6,500/yr for full-time undergraduate students pursuing a liberal arts education at any of the 17 colleges or universities currently or historically related with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). *The program is available to incoming freshmen as well as college sophomores, juniors and seniors.*

The application can be submitted online through the Foundation's website at [www.pulf.org](http://www.pulf.org). Completed application forms are **due March 15** and award notifications will be sent out no later than April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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### Search and Call

The region currently has seven congregations engaged in a search process to call a new pastor; First Christian, Berryville; First Christian, Mountain Home; First Christian, Sherwood; First Christian, Leesville; First Christian Greater New Orleans, Metairie; Kings Highway Christian, Shreveport, and First Christian, Slidell.

We also have an opening for a New Church Planter in Covington, LA. For more information, please contact the regional office

### SAVE THE DATES

#### GRR CLERGY

The 2019 Clergy Retreat will be held on  
April 29 – May 1<sup>st</sup>  
at Ferncliff Retreat Center, Little Rock.

Registration coming soon!

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### MISSISSIPPI CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION (MCMC) ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

*July 11-13, 2019*

*PreEvent and Assembly all take place at:  
Christian Church of Deliverance (DOC)  
Port Gibson, MS*

*Host Pastor: Minister Columbus Felton*

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### GRR TRAINING INSTITUTE

#### Great River Region & MS Christian Missionary Assembly PreEvent

#### Pro-Reconciliation / Anti-Racism training event

Registration required – no cost to attend  
Registration opening soon

**Mark your calendars now for:**

Wednesday, July 10, 2019  
9 am – 3 pm (lunch on your own)

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

### Great River Region Youth



If you are interested in serving as a Camp Counselor this summer – download the Counselor Interest Form [here](#)

**Counselor positions are now being filled – get your forms submitted ASAP**

#### Disciples Crossing Camp Dates 2019

May 24-26	Family Camp
May 31-June 2	Grand Camp
June 3-8	Adventure Camp
June 7-9	Discovery Camp
June 10-15	ChiRho Camp 1
June 17-22	CYF Conference & Niners
June 23-29	Eighters
June 24-29	ChiRho 2
July 1-5	JYF 1
July 28-30	Water Sports Camp 1 (Jr high)
July 31-Aug 3	Water Sports Camp 2 (Sr high)
August 5-9	JYF 2

Disciples Crossing information and registration, click [here](#)

#### Registration Deadlines:

	4/1/2019	5/1/2019	after May 1
Grand Camp	\$ 140	\$ 170	\$ 210
Discovery Camp	\$ 140	\$ 170	\$ 210
JYF Camp	\$ 300	\$ 330	\$ 370
Chi Rho Camp	\$ 360	\$ 390	\$ 430
Eighters' Camp	\$ 410	\$ 440	\$ 480
Niners' Camp	\$ 360	\$ 390	\$ 430
CYF Conference	\$ 370	\$ 400	\$ 440
<b>Family Camp:</b>			
Ages 12 & up	\$ 130	\$ 160	\$ 200
Ages 6-12	\$ 85	\$ 115	\$ 155
5 & under	Free		
*Adventure Camp	\$ 300	\$ 330	\$ 370
**Water Sports Cmp	\$ 300	\$ 330	\$ 370

\*For Adventure Camp, some camping gear is required - no prior camping experience is required. Adventure Camp is very strenuous and a doctor's physical is required to participate.

\*\*For Water Sports Camp - No previous water sports experience is required. Youth should be experienced swimmers. Two swimsuits are required, but the camp will provide all other equipment.

**FOR EACH CAMP, REGISTRATION CLOSES TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE START DATE OF THE CAMP**

### Magnolia Camp & Conference – June 24-30

## Disciples Women

**SAVE THE DATES**

#### ROSES InterRegional Assembly

Sept 13-15, 2019  
at First Christian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma

#### Great River Region Disciples Women Retreat -

Theme: "Dream on, Sisters"  
Friday-Sunday, Sept 27-29, 2019  
at The Wesley Center, in Woodworth, LA

Stay tuned for more exciting news from the Great River Region Disciples Women!

### Happy 145<sup>th</sup> Birthday Disciples Women!!

In recognition of this history of service and worship, we celebrate our 145th birthday. To observe this milestone and to participate in the ministry ahead, Disciples Women invites you to give a gift of \$145. We appreciate and celebrate all gifts and hope you will celebrate our birthday with us throughout the year. Please make checks payable to Disciples Women with a notation in the memo line of "145th birthday" and mail to:

Disciples Women  
PO Box 1986  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Or you can give online at: [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org)  
Click on "Support Disciples Women" and choose 145th Birthday from the drop down menu.

## Around the Region in our Congregations

### Mission Trip to Haiti

First Christian Church of Little Rock and the Great River Region will be co-sponsoring a mission trip to Haiti October 18-26. The central purpose of this mission trip will be to accompany our sister and brother in Christ who minister with the National Council of Spiritual Churches of Haiti (CONASPEH). This will be primarily an educational mission trip. We will learn about the culture and history of Haiti.

Our partner church has asked us to bring musical instruments so we will be collecting used band instruments. We will teach a seminary class with the Bishops of CONASPEH. We will also share a day at Wings of Hope which has ministry with the Restavek children who are transitioning from slavery into freedom.

The cost of the trip has tentatively been set at \$1700. Those traveling will participate in fundraising efforts that should defray the cost of about \$500. The first organizational meeting was held on Monday February 4. If you are interested in participating on any level or have questions, please contact Charlie or Ruth Wallace at [crwallace35@gmail.com](mailto:crwallace35@gmail.com) or 317-459-9220.

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### An invitation to the Great River Region – Join the Delegation to attend Winter Talk 2019

**February 25 – 27, 2019**  
**Yakama Christian Mission**  
**Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK**

The Sixth annual Winter Talk is a 3-day conversation about the Christian Doctrine of Discovery (DOD) and its influence on Christian theology and polity, with an emphasis on the CC (DOC) relationship with Indigenous tribes and peoples. Yakama Christian Mission Council and Phillips Theological Seminary are cohosts for this conversation.

If you are interested in joining this delegation or would like more information, please contact  
Rev. Linda James at: 314-448-9333

## Across the Disciples



Registration is now open for the  
2019 Black Minister's Retreat

Register online [here](#)  
(pre-registration deadline is March 1, 2019)

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**General Assembly 2019**  
July 20-24, 2019 ~ Des Moines, IA

Promote General Assembly in your congregations  
– [click here for Promotion RESOURCES](#)  
Registration is now open

[General Assembly Registration](#)





## Resources for your congregation?



This event is going to be super! If you are interested in promoting generosity in your congregation, then you will want to attend **Generosity Transformed** in Indianapolis, April 30 – May 3, 2019. For information about this event, click [here](#)

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### Chalice Press – Final Printing of the Chalice Hymnal

Replace those scuffed-up, dog-eared Chalice hymnals and stock up so you can continue using these resources for years to come.

This is the final printing of this beloved classic - place your order by Feb. 28 so you're ensured copies this spring (May delivery).

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### Disciples Home Mission Chain of Prayer 2019 It is not too late for your congregation to join the Chain of Prayer



The purpose of Chain of Prayer is to offer a 24-hour Prayer Vigil for congregations and persons who want to share an opportunity for a time of uninterrupted dialogue with God. When your congregation keeps its Prayer Vigil, it becomes an essential link in a vast Chain of Prayer. Disciples' congregations are thus joined together in unbroken prayer from the early hours of **January 1 until the beginning of Easter morning each year.**

Chain of Prayer Resources can be downloaded here:

- [Prayer Vigil Handbook](#)
- [Chain of Prayer Brochure](#)
- [Chain of Prayer Signup](#)

For more information, visit the Chain of Prayer website [here](#)



### From The Steward:

Does your church have a policy addressing sexual harassment, bullying and abuse?

*The #MeToo and #Timesup movements along with the allegations of misconduct in the six Pennsylvania Roman Catholic dioceses have led to the public's heightened awareness of and sensitivity to sexual harassment, bullying and abuse. Churches and their boards, employees and volunteers need to be prepared to operate in this new environment and ensure they are protecting those at risk for abuse, the interests of the church and themselves. The best place to start is to update or create an abuse prevention policy. This is not an easy task, but it need not be overwhelming.*

Is Your Church Acting as a Warming Shelter this Winter?  
*As winter weather sets in, and there are prolonged periods of extreme cold, some churches may choose to act as warming shelters for those impacted by power outages or for those who do not utilize homeless shelters. A warming center is a short-term emergency shelter that operates when temperatures or a combination of precipitation, wind chill, wind and temperature threaten to cause cold related harm, such as frostbite or hypothermia. Their purpose is the prevention of injury from exposure to the elements. Before opening your doors to help those in the community,*

All this and more in the Winter issue of The Steward from our friends at Insurance Board. Click [here to read more](#)