



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

June 28, 2019
grrdisciples.org

Regional Elders Ministry, Great River Region **Rev. Miles Cook, Regional Elder Coordinator**

Initiated at the November 2012 Regional Assembly in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the ministry of Regional Elders has now been active for close to seven years. Regional Elders serve the Great River Region as pastoral leaders, supporting the Executive Regional Minister and offering pastoral support and friendship to all ministers and their families in the Region. Geographical “shepherding groups” are formed with each Regional Elder providing pastoral support to the ministers in her/his group.



A major focus of this ministry is that of prayer. Each Regional Elder is charged with the responsibility of ongoing individual/personal prayer for the Executive Regional Minister, staff and the Region as well as for the ministers, families and congregations within our various shepherding groups. Along with the Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, our Executive Regional Minister, we get together on the first Tuesday of each month via video conference, and we spend our time praying specifically for the various needs, joys, cares and concerns of our ministers, congregations, region, etc. Even though we pray for all of our congregations, our ministry is specifically to the ministers and their families rather than to the congregations. Our belief is that if ministers and families are healthy, so too are our congregations.

We held our most recent “retreat” June 4-5 at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center in Little Rock with Rev. Judy Turner of Christview Ministries in Eureka Springs, AR as our retreat leader. Our theme was: **“Connecting to God Through Spiritual Practices.”**

Below are our current Regional Elders along with each one’s home church and the geographical area of each one’s shepherding group. We each count it a special joy and honor to serve our region in this way.

- Rev. Miles Cook – Park Hill Christian Church, North Little Rock, AR, serving Central Arkansas
- Rev. Laura DeMann – First Christian Church, Bossier City, LA, serving Northern Louisiana
- Rev. Holly Jo Engle – First Christian Church, Blytheville, AR, serving Northeast Arkansas
- Rev. Don Hubbard – First Christian Church, Hot Springs, AR, serving Southwest Arkansas
- Rev. Zena Marshall – First Christian Church, Ft. Smith, AR, serving Western Arkansas
- Rev. Carol Miles – Pulaski Heights Christian, Little Rock, AR, serving Northwest & Northeast Mississippi
- Rev. Russell Myers – United Christian Church, Jackson, MS, serving Central Mississippi
- Rev. Ryan Pfeiffer – First Christian Church, Fayetteville, AR, serving Northwest Arkansas
- Rev. Ann Pickett-Parker – New Generation Christian Fellowship, Pascagoula, MS, serving Southern and Northeast Mississippi
- Rev. Bobbie Yellott – First Christian Church, Sulphur, LA, serving Central and Southwest Louisiana

Regional Elders 2019



Miles Cook,
Coordinator



Laura DeMann



Holly Jo Engle



Don Hubbard



Zena Marshall



Carol Miles



Russell Myers



Ryan Pfeiffer



Ann Pickett-Parker



Bobbie Yellott

Great River Region Shepherding Groups

Elder Miles Cook

Dennis Bell
Leroy Bryant
Nadine Burton
Fred Danforth
Billie Dreher
Will Feland
Jason Ferguson
Shannon Gattis
Ryan Gibbons
David Grandgeorge
Tom Haley
Rick Hendricks
Joe Hodges
Linda James
Joe Jorgensen
Linda Kline
Searcy McBurnett
Stan McDougal
Hart Moore
Robert Palmer
Holly Patton
Jim Robinson
Alison Robuck
Donna Rountree
Sara Rudolph-Pollard
Steven Sherrill

Jack Singleton
Jerry Swan
Dan Thornhill
Thom Walker
Charlie Wallace
Ruth Wallace
Don Warren
Linda White
RL Williams
Odette Woods

Elder Laura DeMann

Dwight Bailey
David Brice
Ellie Bulnes
Jesus Bulnes
Barbara Driscoll
W. Thomas Edmonds
Craig Ferguson
Mona Lisa Garrett
Clifford McCall
Tony Nations
Cheryl Roach

Elder Holly Jo Engle

Ralph Biram, Jr.
Tommy Carney

Kelly Craft
Gil Hogue
Randy Jumper
David Langston
Don Martin

Elder Don Hubbard

Joseph Bryant
Mark Garner
Paul Grove
Glen Hudspeth
Lucian Lee
Bob Parks
Les Patterson
John Richardson
Kevin Robbins

Elder Zena Marshall

Jarrett Banks
Soniyyah Blue-Key
Scot Crenshaw
Randy Jay
Mike Jones
Wendell Keller
Brad Kidder
Howard Marshall
Jim Mattson

Rita Richardson
Kaycee Young

John Shearer
Percy Terrell

Elder Ann Pickett-Parker

Lester Brooks
Calvin Hutchins
LaShaundra McCarty
Rodger Moore
Vance Moore
Roger Nickerson
Orlando Richmond
Mims Roberts
Johnny Wray

Elder Carol Miles

Rena Baker
Zedric Clayton
Roosevelt Howard
Kenyun Johnson
Kenneth McClung
Bernice McKay-Higgins
Ray Morton
Jim Woods

Elder Ryan Pfeiffer

Amy Artman
David Artman
Donald A Brady, Jr
Johnathan Farler-Hoyt
Skip French
Peggy Hicks
Jack "Doc" Irwin
James Johnson
Bill Keller
Douglas R. Miller
Jim Moore
Don Morrow
Ronny Nowell
Sealast Relech
Cody Robertson
Terry Rothermich
Paul Seal
Cheryl Sybrant
Raymond L. Ticknor
John Turner
Judy Turner
Shawn Wallace
Laura Whitaker
Jerry Young

Elder Bobbie Yellott

David Britt
David Chisham
Lucy Cody
Tom Cody
Garry Eldridge
Michael Elmore
Vince Endris
Frank Johnson
Eronica King
John Kirby
James "Jim" Looney
Dedrick Minor
Judy Rizzo
Angie Kretzer
Shannon Greenhaw
Stephen W. Thompson

Elder Russell Myers

Ray Bardin
Canaria Bell
Curtis "Curt" Burge
Walter Chambers
James Devine
Rufus Edwards
Columbus Felton
Freddie Harris
Brad Hartzog
John Holifield
Jeremiah Lutch
Jeffery Murphy
Lonnie O'Quinn
Fred Rohlfs
Eric Ross

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: New Church Planter for Covington, LA Project
- Hiring of Part-time Regional Youth Pastor, 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

Mark your calendar now for Fall Future Story Visioning Sessions – let your voice be heard!! Dates and locations for these sessions with Dr. Burton are:

October 12 – Central Arkansas
November 2 – Central Mississippi
November 9 – Southern Louisiana

Regional Office Building has been sold!

It's official – as of June 28, 2019,
the regional office building
has been sold.



The Business of the Region

Great River Region May 2019 Financial Statement, click [here](#)

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

- Giving by Congregation - [May 2019](#)
- Giving by DMF amount - [May 2019](#)

Great River Region Giving as of May 2019:

- Disciples Mission Fund (includes Blessing Box) giving is **down 3.1%**
- Christmas Offering **up 41.6%**
- Designated for Operating is **down 5.4%**
- Week of Compassion is **down 41.7%**
- Reconciliation is **down 60.3%**
- GRR Operating deficit of – **\$32,483**

Regional Board Update

Regional Board meetings are scheduled for August 8-9, 2019 at East Percy Street Christian Church in Greenwood, MS; October 25-26, 2019 (via Zoom conference) and January 31-February 1, 2020



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.

To donate to the Annual Fund – make your check payable to Great River Region and indicate “Annual Fund” on the memo line.

SEARCH AND CALL

The region currently has five congregations engaged in a search process to call a new pastor:

FCC, Berryville; FCC, Mountain Home; FCC, Leesville; FCC GNO, Metairie; and Kings Highway CC, Shreveport.

The New Church Committee reports that the search has begun again for a New Church Planter in Covington, LA.

REGIONAL COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

RCOM will meet on July 8-9, 2019 in Vicksburg, MS and again on October 1-2, 2019 in central Arkansas

Are you a clergy candidate In need of the Disciples History & Polity course? Contact Wendy in the regional office for upcoming course offerings

GRR TRAINING INSTITUTE

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

**Pro-Reconciliation / Anti-Racism training event
and
Elder Training**

Registration required – no cost to attend

Click [here](#) to register now

Wednesday July 10 - 9 am-3 pm (lunch on your own)

Training will be held at Christian Church of
Deliverance,
4196 Highway 18, Port Gibson, MS

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

Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention (MCMC) 132ND ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

July 11-13, 2019

Christian Church of Deliverance (DOC)

4196 Highway 18, Port Gibson, MS

Host Pastor: Minister Columbus Felton

“How to Survive in a Wicked World”

2nd Chronicles 7:14

Guest Speaker

R. Wayne Calhoun Sr., is the Executive for the Office of Evangelism & Congregational Transformation for Disciples Home Missions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. He began his tenure on October 1, 2003. Dr. Calhoun’s major focus is on providing leadership in evangelism, church growth, transformation, and vitality for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with an emphasis to African-American congregations.



Youth Activities – Friday afternoon

The youth will visit the Windsor Historical Place in Claiborne, Alcorn University campus, the Old Church in Rodney MS where James Brown movie was filmed as well as the Poplar Hill School and Museum of African American history.

PreRegistration is NOT required

Lodging – A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Suites, 100 Berryman Road, Vicksburg, MS
Phone: 601-638-2290

Regional Camp & Conference

From the desk of Rev. Cody Robertson, Bentonville

The coming of summer means it’s time for one of the most important ministries for our youth: summer church camp! We have youth from all over the Great River Region heading to Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX for several camps over the next month or so. Disciples Crossing not only serves our region but also is the campground for Disciples churches from central, north, and east Texas. It’s great to be with Disciples from such a wide geographic range!

At camp, our youth do all sorts of fun activities like swimming in the lake or the pool, canoeing, hiking, fishing, and all sorts of sports and group games. Even more importantly, they take an entire week to learn about God from adults and peers through keynotes, worship, spiritual practices, fellowship, and time away from the normal busyness of our lives.

At CYF Conference, which is the camp for youth in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade, our regional Youth Commissioners will also serve as leaders of small groups and various activities throughout the week. Cole Langham, Lark Sybrant, and Martha Arambel deserve a special shout out for their leadership.

Camp is an amazing and life changing experience that makes an incredible impact on our youth and adults. If you know anyone who would like to go to camp as a camper or as a counselor, please contact the regional office so we can help get them connected!

Disciples Crossing Camp Dates 2019

June 24-29	Eighters
June 24-29	Magnolia Camp & Conference
July 1-5	ChiRho 2
July 28-30	JYF 1
July 31-Aug 3	Water Sports Camp 1 (Jr high)
August 5-9	JYF 2 and Water Sports Camp 2 (Sr high)

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

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

Regional Camp & Conference (cont'd)

	Reg Fee
Grand Camp	\$ 210
Discovery Camp	\$ 210
JYF Camp	\$ 370
Chi Rho Camp	\$ 430
Eighter's Camp	\$ 480
Niner's Camp	\$ 430
CYF Conference	\$ 440
Family Camp:	
Ages 12 & up	\$ 200
Ages 6-12	\$ 155
5 & under	Free
*Adventure Camp	\$ 370
**Water Sports Camp	\$ 370

Disciples Women 2019 Events

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

For those Disciples Women who were unable to attend their local workshop – all handouts will be on the Disciples Women page of the regional website – www.grrdisciples.org.

Around the Region in our Congregations

On the Road with Dr. Burton



Lunch with the Central Mississippi Clergy Group



Regional Elders Retreat 2019
"Spiritual Practices Connecting Us to God" with Rev. Judy Turner



Across the Disciples

Did You Know? Disciples Home Missions (DHM) would like to connect with you and your congregation through our new App! Connect to share about great things happening in your congregation!

If you are looking for congregational help, we offer a wide range of congregational resources and support including - Seasonal Bible studies; congregational transformation support; education and faith formation support; family and children's ministries support; creation and environmental care support; refugee and immigration support; elders, deacons, chaplains and clergy pins; scholarships for chaplains, youth ministry, clergy, clergy spouses, African American seminarians, women seminarians, Pacific/Asian seminarians; men's ministry; women's ministry; youth leadership and young adult leadership opportunities; clergy search and call and volunteer opportunities.

Let us know how DHM can assist you in your ministry or share how God is showing up in your congregation!

You can connect with DHM by downloading our new free App! <https://tithely.app.link/disciples-home-missions>; Connect on Facebook [discipleshomemissions](#).

General Assembly 2019

July 20-24, 2019 ~ Des Moines, IA

The GA BUSINESS docket can be reviewed [here](#)

VOTING DELEGATES INFORMATION

If you are a voting representative (lay or clergy)

1. Print your badge at the kiosk.
2. Take your badge to the Voter Credentials desk.
3. A volunteer will scan your badge and record which kind of voter you are.
4. You will receive a voter ribbon to attach to your badge. You must be wearing this ribbon on your badge when seated in the designated voting sections on the floor of the arena for the business sessions.

The credentials booth, located in the Registration Lobby of the Iowa Events Center, will open on Saturday, July 20, 2019, at 8:00 am and will remain open during registration hours Saturday through Tuesday morning.

Resources for your congregation



Insurance Board's Risk Management (IBRM)

service is a benefit offered to participants intended to help you protect your church and your congregation. We are experienced in addressing the risk management and insurance challenges our participants face. Risk management and loss control are not concepts that most people readily connect with churches, but our goal is to empower churches and church leadership to differentiate good risks from bad risks, and to the extent possible, eliminate risks with the potential to harm people and church assets.

IBRM will carefully research your questions and offer solutions to meet the unique needs of your organization and assist you in achieving your safety and risk management-related goals. We can help explore risk management topics relating to your property, liability, and workers' compensation concerns. Some common services include, but aren't limited to, the following:

- Abuse prevention policies and procedures to protect those at risk;
- Contract review to insure your church is properly indemnified;
- Emergency planning resources;
- Money and check handling procedures.

To connect with your agent, go to www.InsuranceBoard.org and click "Find An Agent"