



## 2019 Disciples Youth Camp and Conference Issue

### Great River Region Update

4724 Hillcrest Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72205

August 22, 2019

[grrdisciples.org](http://grrdisciples.org)

***I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me (Hab. 2:1-2a)***

This Summer has come and almost gone! I had some wonderful experiences connecting with youth during camp. In June, I traveled from the Magnolia Camp in Morton, MS to the Disciples Crossing Camp, in Athens, TX. This was my first time at Disciples Crossing. Two years ago, our Region entered an interim partnership with the Southwest Region in providing camping opportunities for our congregations. For the last three years, we have been without a Regional Youth Pastor. I am excited to share that we hired Rev. Kaycee Young, Fort Smith, AR to provide leadership for our Youth and Young Adult Ministries here in the GRR. She began her work on August 5. She attended her first board meeting this past weekend in Greenwood, MS. Hiring Rev. Young will help us to move forward, to strengthen our partnership with you in providing excellent youth and camping ministries. We hope to see your kids at Fall Fandango and/or Snoasis.



Let's Welcome Rev. Young in this new Role!

### 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

***WE NEED YOUR INPUT – PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR CONGREGATIONS, DW GROUPS, DM GROUPS AND YOUTH GROUPS. 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 – Hammond, LA  
 November 9 – Port Gibson, MS

*The Cook family would like to express our deep and sincere appreciation to all of you in the Great River Region for your expressions of love concerning the recent death of our precious daughter, Laura. We are so thankful for the arrangement of flowers that graced our sanctuary during the Memorial Service. We are immensely blessed to be part of the Great River Region.*

*Miles and Treba Cook*

When I first began to consider applying for the position as part time Youth and Young Adult Minister for the Region, I thought: “They don’t want me... surely they are looking for someone younger!” Then I kept getting a nudge so I decided to seek out the counsel of my trusted friend and minister, and his response was immediate: “Yes! You definitely should apply! We need you!” So after much consideration and discernment, I decided to jump back into the arena of Youth & Young adult ministry alongside Chaplaincy, which is what I do as a full time vocation, or my day job as some would say.



I’m excited to explore our region and travel to the different churches, meeting everyone and discovering what their definitions of youth ministry look like. I hope we can learn together, dream together, and even change together so that we can create a place where the church of tomorrow can flourish. The lives we are tasked with nurturing are the future of our church, but also our world, and what we do now will shape our tomorrow.

It’s exciting to hear all the thoughts and plans our youth have and what they can dream up if they are only given a space and the freedom to let loose. My hope is that together, instead of building fences around the cross, we can equip our youth with the tools they need to dream with no limits, going so far as to provide the step stools or even kneeling down on hands and knees to let them climb upon our backs to give them the boost they need for their success. Together I anticipate such wonderful relationships forged along the way. I can’t wait to see what lies ahead in this great Region! Stay tuned for upcoming information on Fall Fandango (Nov. 15-17) and Snoasis (Feb 28- Mar 1, 2020)

Kaycee  
Youth & Young Adult Pastor

To learn more about Kaycee, click [here](#)

### Meet your 2019-2020 Youth Commission



**Mason Pfeiffer, FCC, Fayetteville**

For me, youth events are the places where I feel closest to God. Being surrounded by my friends and focusing on God really brings me so much closer to Him, and I want others to have that same experience. I want to make others feel welcome at any youth event, and to allow them to feel as close to God as I do at such events. I hope to gain new friendships, and to grow old ones.



**Mackenzie McTier, FCC, Rogers**

I was on the Youth Commission last year and loved it. My favorite part would have to be building new relationships with everyone on the Commission. I hope to grow more in my relationship with the Lord. I also hope to help others grow in their relationship with Him. Helping others know and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ has always been something that I have loved doing.

**From Youth Commission member, Mason Pfeiffer, FCC Fayetteville**

This summer, I had the opportunity to go to camp at Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX. Camp is always a great experience, and this year was a new experience for me, as it was my first year at CYF camp. I love going to camp because you make friends you might have never met – and sharing in fellowship and worshipping God makes you really close with them. Small groups are one of my favorite parts of camp, because you get to really dig into the keynote, and the scripture paired with it. Of course, we worship God at camp, but we have fun too – swimming in the lake, or playing nuke em’ on the volleyball courts. Camp is important to me, because I feel very close to God because the close, trusting community makes me feel safe and welcome.

I also got the chance to go on a mission trip with my church, and three other churches in the area. This year was my 5<sup>th</sup> mission trip, and I have loved every one of them. We went to Council Bluffs, Iowa where our main goal was to help with flood recovery.

One of the main reasons I loved this mission trip is because I never felt useless – the work was constant, but it was good, and I really felt like I helped make a difference in what was going on in the neighborhood. We prepared the build site for rebuilding, loaded their storage shed with construction supplies and ripped up/replaced floors. We work hard on mission trips, but we play hard too. We went to the Henry Doorly Zoo, and to an Omaha Storm Chasers game. I love mission trips because it’s where I feel closest to God. The work we do and the community we build with each other is powerful.

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 **National Benevolent Association XPLOR Program**

The goal of **NBA XPLOR** is to partner young adults with Disciples congregations and the communities which they serve — impacting neighborhoods, congregations, and young adults. Through NBA XPLOR, Residents live in a diverse community of peers, where they engage in communal and personal spiritual practices ranging from prayer to simple daily meals together. They care for and learn from others in community-service internships, and they relate to Disciples host congregation(s). We are proud to share that this year, three of our former youth will be participating in the NBA XPLOR Program:

- Tristan Cole, FCC Rogers, has been a part of the GRR Youth ministry in the past, graduated high school in 2014 and has helped in Youth Ministry at FCC since graduation. He will be living and serving in Spokane WA.
- Natalie Langham, FCC Fayetteville, will be serving in Hiram, Ohio at Hiram Farm, "a community project born out of the desire to provide inspiration and meaningful work for the individual growth of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities."
- Also, from FCC Fayetteville, Adrian Griffin will be serving at Habitat for Humanity in Bloomington, IN.



**Mark your calendars now for Fall Fandango 2019!**

Director: Rev. Ronny Nowell  
November 15-17, 2019  
Camp Couchdale, Hot Springs AR  
Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>  
Registration coming soon

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## The Business of the Region

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

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

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

**Great River Region Giving as of June 2019:**

- Disciples Mission Fund (includes Blessing Box) giving is **down 7.5%**
- Christmas Offering **up 41.6%**
- Designated for Operating is **up 1.6%**
- Week of Compassion is **down 39.6%**
- Reconciliation is **down 60.3%**
- GRR Operating deficit of – **\$28,125**

## Regional Board Update

Current meeting schedule: November 4-5, 2019 (5 pm each evening via Zoom conference) and January 31-February 1, 2020 in Louisiana



### 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:

- Kings Highway CC, Shreveport, LA
- FCC Greater New Orleans, Metairie LA
- FCC, Leesville, LA
- FCC, Berryville, AR

The New Church Committee reports that they are interviewing a candidate for a New Church Planter in Covington, LA.

### GRR TRAINING INSTITUTE

#### Pro-Reconciliation / Anti-Racism training dates 2020

- July 2020 – MCMC PreEvent
- November 2020 – Regional Assembly

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

### Disciples Women

#### Great River Region Disciples Women Retreat -

Theme: "Dream on, Sisters"

Friday-Sunday, Sept 27-29, 2019

at The Wesley Center, in Woodworth, LA

**Don't miss the Early Bird registration deadline, this Friday - August 23, 2019**

Online Registration available [here](#)

Download registration forms [here](#)

### Disciples Men SESSIONS 2020



Online registration is now open!!  
[Click here](#) for more information and  
the online registration link  
(or to download paper registration form)  
Early bird registration ends May 20, 2020

### ROSES InterRegional Assembly

#### ROSES Everywhere: Empowering Women for God's Call

Sept 13-14, 2019

at First Christian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Registration: \$40

Registration deadline: September 6

Keynote Speaker: General Minister & President  
Terri Hord Owens

Special performance of the Bible Women's Project  
by Eastern Nazarene College

Lodging at Holiday Inn Express downtown – Call  
Stephanie at 918-585-5898, extension 7151.

### 2019 General Assembly resources available

Whether you were one of the 3,200+ Disciples who joined us in Des Moines for the **2019 General Assembly** or not, the experience is one you'll want to share with your congregation and beyond. A print GA News publication will be mailed to all congregations in late August, filled with photos and summaries from the general ministries who helped make the Assembly so meaningful and productive. A PDF of the publication will be posted online when available.

**Streamed videos of daily worship services** will be available for a year. Extracted videos of the sermons will be available in September. You can also **download Bible studies**, written by a variety of Disciples scholars, to use in your congregation or small group.

All **reports and resolutions from our business sessions** are available online as well. Additional resources for GA 2019 are available online – [click here](#)

We invite everyone to save the date for the **2021 General Assembly: July 31-August 4 in Louisville, KY!**

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

A few photos from summer camp 2019



