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Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City

Regional Minister Report to the Regional Board - June, 2019

Highlights

The past three months have included severe weather locally, nationally and abroad and in typical Disciples fashion, prayers, donations, and volunteers have responded where the need was greatest.

Asylum seekers from Central America have found a welcome place in the homes of Disciples here until their cases can be adjudicated in an overwhelmed immigration court system.

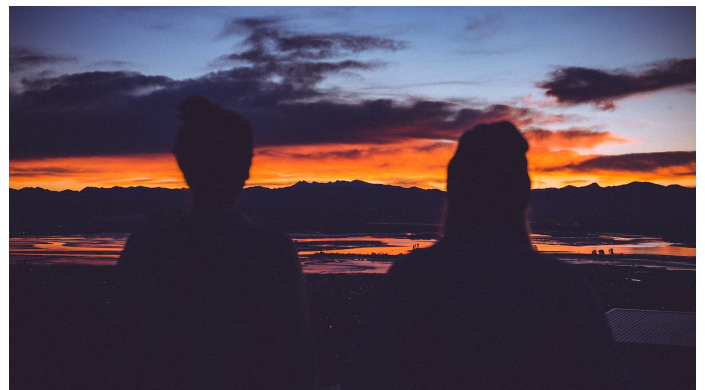
Conversations in Spanish over kitchen tables reinforce the reality that we share more values in common than some would have us believe; honesty, family, hard work, and love of God. The experience has more of us wondering why we are not connecting better with neighbors in our own communities. Are we not all beloved children of God?

There are other signs of new hope all around our Region and we have much to be grateful for.

- New Vision Christian Church launched an Adopt a Block mission to know and assist households in south Kansas City—part of a long-range plan to more fully engage the community and turn their campus into a neighborhood center complete with fitness center, computer lab, and a café.
- First Christian Church, Independence and Woods Memorial Christian Church completed New Beginnings and are working to implement plans for a future that will involve calculated



Rev. Dr. Rodney Williams gave the keynote message at the annual MORE2 celebration. He and Rev. Mindy Fugarino co-chair Becoming Beloved Community—a group of Disciples planning our Region's Anti-Racism work.



Rev. Mindy Fugarino wrote the proposal awarded a \$4,080 grant from Disciples Reconciliation Ministry to host BRIDGING TRAUMA AWARENESS TO HEALING AND RECONCILIATION. A grant from our Region's Reconciliation Fund makes it possible to offer this two-day workshop at no cost to the first 100 registrants. Information is at kcdisciples.org/ARPR. August 22-23.



Allison Bright (center) was received under care by the Ordination and Standing Commission. Ms. Bright is completing her first year at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. Community Christian Church is her sponsoring congregation.

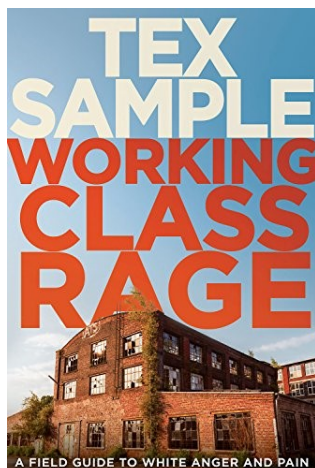


Dr. LeAnne DeTar-Newbert (center) completed a Master of Divinity with several honors at Central Baptist Theological Seminary and was approved for ordination. She has been a practicing physician and serves in several leadership roles at the Bonner Springs First Christian Church.

Recommended Reading

Dr. Sample will lead a workshop on July 13 at Merriam Christian Church.

<https://www.kcdisciples.org/workshops-and-retreats.html>



- Summer Church Camp is underway with over 325 campers and over 80 adult volunteers and Regional staff is handling registrations and administration with the guidance of our Camp and Conference Committee leaders.
- Hillcrest Christian Church sent a team to assist in hurricane recovery efforts in Texas and a team from Smithville First Christian Church have completed missions in Cincinnati.
- A new cohort of church planters is forming and will begin regular capacity building meetings this August! Our New and Transforming Church Commission has developed plans to offer coaching and mentoring and other forms of support to help new church starts in our Region to be sustainable
- Eight of our Greater Kansas City congregations are being recognized for their outstanding support of our Disciples Mission Fund.
- For the first time in many years our giving to Disciples Mission Fund has increased!
- Our Region has fewer pastoral transitions this year. This may signify that more of our pastors and lay leaders are finding ways to work better together—setting better examples and building each other up.
- When there are pastoral transitions, we are being invited more often to help congregations with processes for discernment. When they get clearer about the work ahead, they make better choices when calling new pastors.
- Many of our clergy are part of peer groups that start new ministries in their areas together.
- We are experimenting with ways to include more people in what we do; to welcome into the Church and leadership devoted followers of Jesus who have been previously excluded ,
- Our sister Regions and several General units of our Church are watching closely what we are trying in Greater Kansas City. We are sharing resources and ideas generated here to assist with ministry and mission far beyond our boundaries. We are also receiving help, welcoming critique, and working to more sharply distinguish our called place in the work of the Universal Church.
- The new NBA Explorer Cohort is coming to Kansas City on August 21 to see examples of the values of Jesus shaping life and service!

- Greater Kansas City Disciples were instrumental in creating a safe space for worship planned by LGBTQ neighbors—including emerging Disciples leaders. That service at Community Christian Church was one of the most moving, uplifting, and hopeful experiences for many of us. Once again, during PrideFest we demonstrated that although Greater Kansas City Disciples have significantly different interpretations of Sacred Scripture, we make room for each other and for the Holy Spirit to work out what it means to faithfully follow Jesus today.
- Our Executive Committee and many of our commissions are taking on more work to make sure that we are better stewards of the resources entrusted to us now. You will see evidence in the work they report.

This is an incomplete list and we will continue to tell more stories and create new opportunities for partnership around shared ministries and missions. We remember that our commission is to make disciples of Jesus first and, together, guided by Scripture and the Spirit, to find fresh ways to witness, work, and worship.

Reviewing what has occurred over the last three months leaves me feeling grateful and hopeful. Thank you for the privilege of serving with so many inspiring Disciples of Christ!

- **NEW REGIONAL WEB PAGES**

- <https://www.kcdisciples.org/workshops-and-retreats.html>
 - **Features information about opportunities for us to learn grow our faith together**

- <https://www.kcdisciples.org/on-the-go-quick-links.html>
 - **Regional Office Adminsitator, Jessica Lopez put this together to make finding current information easier**



There are over 2,700 registered for our General Assembly. It is not too late to sign up your congregational representatives.

While you are there you will see several Greater Kansas City Disciples congregations featured in the Mission Fest!

<https://ga.disciples.org/>



Raytown Christian Church has launched a new worship service after renovating their fellowship hall. They now host weekly meetings of entrepreneurs and are already at work daily preparing lunches for school children during the summer.

If you want to be inspired, check out the great ministry and mission being reported on the websites and social media of other Greater Kansas City Disciples of Christ congregations. Yours may be one of them!