



# CONNECT ➤ SUPPORT ➤ CELEBRATE

## Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City

September 16, 2020

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Regional Minister and President

### REGIONAL MINISTER REPORT

#### CLERGY

Currently, there are five candidates for ordination under the care of our Region:

- Allison Bright—Brite Divinity School
- Karen Palmer—Central Baptist Theological Seminary
- Jeffrey Stegner—graduate St. Paul School of Theology
- Ryan Baxter—graduate St. Paul School of Theology
- Madison Peterson—Eden Theological Seminary

*Please keep them in your prayers!*

Psychological Evaluations: Healing Grace, Lee's Summit, MO.

Dr. Nadin Rizk is now administering psychological assessments of candidates for ministry to help them identify strengths and distractions they bring with them into the process of formation in servant-leadership.

Rev. Dr. Greg Hunt just concluded a series of meetings with GKC clergy helping them to identify their [Immunity to Change](#). Greg is pursuing additional education in the process and we plan to apply for an Oreon E. Scott grant to offer this to clergy and lay leaders to explore and address congregational resistance—even to changes they have approved.

The General Commission on the Order of the Ministry Clergy Support Subcommittee (which I chair) is preparing a team to identify better ways of supporting deployed General Ministry staff and chaplains who often feel isolated, forgotten and frustrated by lack of access to continuing education that fulfills requirements for standing

#### Highlights

- Regional clergy and lay leaders are collaborating in fresh ways
- Congregations in transition
- Upper Midwest calls Rev. Josh Patty as Regional Minister
- Becoming Beloved Community received one of the first Ernest Newborn grants
- Tri-Regional Partnership Initiative

#### 40 DAYS OF HOPE

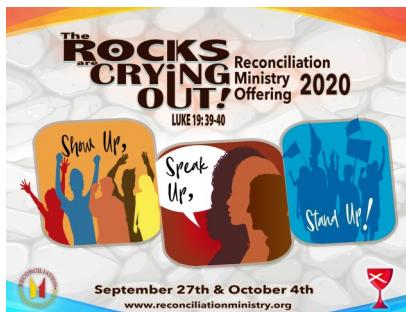
#### ***RENEWED!***

Beginning October 3rd and continuing through November 11th we will share on our website and social media your examples of hope renewed: prayers, art, music, video, photographs, poems, etc.

[office@kcdisciples.org](mailto:office@kcdisciples.org)



Cindy Molini (center) is the pastor of the Weston Christian Church. She is pictured with members of the Commissioned Ministers Commission (pre-pandemic) who approved her commission granting her standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City.



In 2020 the Christian Church Disciples of Christ has been awarded two grants from the Reconciliation Ministry!

These funds are being used to translate anti-racism workshop materials into Spanish, initiate conversations with leaders of First Nations about meaningful reparation, and create a one-stop volunteer portal so that anyone who is willing to engage in the work of justice as Jesus described it can find an organization who will welcome their help.

For more information, go to our Becoming Beloved Community web page:

[www.kcdisciples.org/bbc](http://www.kcdisciples.org/bbc)

Partners is a weekly Zoom gathering of clergy and lay leaders every Tuesday at 3 pm. Participation has decreased, however, those who participate wish to keep it going—providing a confidential space for conversation and creative ideas for collaborating among congregations.

Northland Pastors are meeting to identify how to better collaborate around mission and ministry. They have identified two missions and begun a new youth ministry collaborative.

Retirements announced:

- North Oak CC: Rev. Rob Carr — November 2020
- Pleasant View: Rev. Mike Josue—August 2020

New Callings

- Rev. Joshua Patty, Pastor. Eastgate Christian Church in Independence, MO, was called to serve as the Regional Minister and President for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest. He begins October 1st.
- Rev. Tom Minges has accepted a call to serve as Interim Minister at Eastgate Christian Church
- Rev. Mindy Fugarino will begin serving as Pastor for the Independence Boulevard Christian Church beginning November 1st
- Rev. Dr. Rene and Rev. Dr. Rick Jensen were called to Interim Ministry at Shawnee Community Christian Church

Congregations seeking leadership:

- Belton Christian Church—Pastor
- Louisburg First Christian Church—Children and Youth Activities Coordinator/part-time
- Overland Park Christian Church—Associate Pastor/part-time
- All open positions and information: [kcdisciples.org/ministry-opportunities/](http://kcdisciples.org/ministry-opportunities/)

*Thanks to all who refer strong candidates for servant-leadership in our Region*

LAY LEADERSHIP

Elders Helping Elders is a Zoom conference on second Sundays at 5 pm which provides congregational elders with opportunities to share challenges, best practices, and mutual support. Through this experience we are learning that some elders are giving exemplary leadership and strong support to their pastors and officers during this time of great challenge and opportunity. Elders now have their own Regional [web page](#) with links to resources

The Work of the People is a video-based curriculum designed to help adult disciples of Jesus to consider the need for renewed spirits among us by examining what Scripture and the counsel of familiar and new voices. I have purchased a subscription for use in our Region which comes with access to all videos and discussion guides. We are currently engaged in a study of Walter Brueggemann's Materiality. I would like to invite those with the teaching gift to visit the site and contact me about leading an online Zoom class for interested GKC Disciples that we can host. Let's take advantage of the opportunities we now have to engage people in hopeful discussion and spiritual development beyond the confines of congregation or ability to travel.

Disciples Men have not met as a Regional group in recent memory. That changes Saturday, September 19 with a 10 am gathering online with the Director of Disciples Men for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Rev. Dr. Greg Alexander and Assistant Director Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth. We are forming a steering committee to form a Regional Disciples Men ministry to support the continuing spiritual development of men through quarterly work projects, online Bible study, annual retreats and fellowship. This will be an opportunity for Disciples men to explore new ways of being the hands and feet of Jesus while honoring the wisdom and sacrifices of our fathers and grandfathers in the faith. It starts with registration at no cost for the September 19 first part of our Regional Assembly. Are you registered? Click [here](#).

Congregations Online are opening their offerings to the whole Church. Worship services, classes, prayers, etc. Our online [Regional Directory](#), while still being revised and updated, has websites listed for most of our congregations. See the Good News they are putting into action and remember to comment or leave a  on their Facebook page to help boost their presence among those seeking inspiration and an invitation to get to know Jesus.

Transitions at Tall Oaks continue addressing deferred maintenance while usage is down due to precautions around Covid19. Special thanks to Jeff Hon and members of the Tall Oaks Board, Regional Executive Committee and our Budget and Finance Committees for good work above and beyond expectations. We are blessed to be working with UCCR and their site manager Jeff Clark. Jeff and his wife Kathy, and Retreat Assistants

Congregational Giving Records as of July, 2020 are online and available for anyone to view [here](#).

Thank you for your support of the Disciples Mission Fund. Special Day Offerings, and Regional Ministries!



Greg Alexander  
Director Disciples Men



Alex Ruth  
Associate Director Disciples Men



Jeff Clark clearing dead trees near Delaware Cabin.



Debra and Lanette (Yes, she is staying on as a UCCR employee!) are welcoming limited numbers of guests while reducing operational costs.

#### GENERAL MINISTRIES

General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens continues to inspire and lead the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through digital media. She leads prayer services, organizes panel presentations and offers timely messages via <https://www.facebook.com/terrihordowens>.

Disciples Church Extension Fund—a co-sponsor of our Regional Assembly—has been hard at work coming up with new ways to assist congregations. It is well worth your time to visit their [website](#) for resources that your congregation can use right now. Rev. Dr. Craig Walls is our DCEF Building and Capital Services advisor and he lives in Liberty, MO. He knows our Region and has offered invaluable help to many of our congregations. Send him an [email](#) to ask for a free initial consultation

The College of Regional Ministers meets twice a month online and the Executive Committee on which I serve as President-elect meets monthly. Our focus of late has been finding new ways to collaborate across the life of the whole Church to provide resources and support—especially with congregations that are struggling. We are working out ways to offer high quality online continuing education and practical workshops available to anyone. We are organizing online meetings with Regional Moderators and Moderators-elect to give them a forum for sharing best practices and offering mutual support

Governance Committee of the General Board (which I chair) is preparing to roll out a denomination-wide exploration of what it means to live in covenant partnership. We are re-examining our current governance structures and taking advantage of the flexibility built into the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to ask where decision-making authority need to reside in an age calling for quicker responses to urgent needs. By now most of you know that the General Assembly for 2021 has been cancelled by a vote of the General Board due to the uncertainty of safeguarding a gathering of three thousand or more in confined spaces. General Assemblies may look different after this.



*We continue to raise funds for needed repairs completed in the Dining Hall and ongoing in the Director's home. We are grateful to many wonderful donors. You can join them [here!](#)*

*Volunteer and donate to the ministry of Tall Oaks: and make plans now to participate in the virtual auction for Gala 2020 November 8-15. <https://www.talloaks.org/gala>*

What began as a conversation about duplication of services for congregational support among three Regional Ministers has become a formal proposal for exploring partnership among the Kansas, Nebraska and Greater Kansas City Regions. Three representatives from each Region, their Regional Ministers and our General Minister and President work with a coach to design a way to identify how we can make better use of resources and information and reducing duplicate work.

## 2020 counts are critical

Posted on August 28, 2020

Filling out the census and voting are two ways you can show up and speak up for your community. Disciples are helping in many ways and you can learn more!

Also in September – a new title from Chalice Press, [A House Divided: Engaging the issues through the politics of compassion.](#)

And [here is a word](#) from Rev. Gary Kidwell, president of the [Christian Church Foundation](#), on the effect of elections on investments.

**CONCILIATION • RECONCILIATION**

**OGMP**  
Office of the General Minister & President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
in the United States and Canada

**Love is an Action Word:  
National Convocation,  
and Black Lives Matter**

**September 24, 2020**  
7pm ET | 6pm CT | 4pm PT

**Invited Panelists:**

Timothy James      Irie Session      Antonio Redd      Cherisna Jean-Marie

**REGISTER IN ADVANCE** [Zoom](#) [Facebook](#) [YouTube](#) [christianchurchdoc](#)