

The Indiana Christian



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Spring • 2016

Lilly Grant Clergy Economic Initiative

By Cynthia Newman, Minister of Clergy Economic Empowerment

Did you know that according to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average clergy person in the U.S. earns \$46,150? A recent survey of clergy in the Indiana Region revealed that nearly 28% have more than \$30,000 in educational loans. 50% of Indiana congregations do not provide health care for their clergy. These statistics represent the pressing need and wonderful opportunity for clergy to receive relief from some of their financial challenges. Enter...the FLOURISH! Project, where clergy and congregations may find financial peace for today and hope for tomorrow.

The Christian Church in Indiana has just completed its first round of grants for the FLOURISH! Project made available through a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The grants provide funds to be applied toward debt relief, health care or retirement while offering a financial education through the Financial Literacy Academy. The structure of the grants allow clergy and lay leaders to partner together in receiving financial empowerment as pastoral and congregational leaders attend various components of the financial literacy training together.



Based on the FLOURISH! Project's initiatives, sixteen (16) Compensation Support Grants (for congregations), twenty-seven (27) Financial Relief Grants (for individuals) will be available to clergy over the next three years. While the grant programs have eligibility criteria, all clergy may attend the Financial Literacy Academy offered in partnership with the Pension Fund.

For more information about FLOURISH! initiatives or to apply for the next round of grants, visit our website at indianadisciples.org/flourish

ALSO SEE FINANCIAL LITERACY
ACADEMY STORY

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Disciples from Congo-Brazzaville Welcomed

By Sandra Gourdet, Special to the Indiana Christian

The Indiana Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) extended an extravagant welcome to families from our partner church—The Church of the Disciples of Christ in Congo (EDCC) located in Congo-Brazzaville. Their arrival was made possible through Church World Service, United Nations High Commission on Refugees, the U.S. government and Exodus, a refugee agency in Indianapolis.

Regional Minister Rick Spleth accompanied three separate delegations of Disciples to the Indianapolis International airport to receive our friends. In November of last

year, Beaujacques (Bojack) Ilondo, a young gentleman who sang in one of the EDCC choirs, was the first to arrive. Pastor Jean Baptiste Ilondo, his wife Blande and three children arrived in December. Docta Ilondo, wife Esther and four children arrived late February. They have been warmly received by several congregations in and near Indianapolis.

The Ilondos were members of the Disciples of Christ Church in Congo (CDCC) in the Equator Region. Originally from a village between Boende and Wema, they lived in

DISCIPLES
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2016 Regional Assembly

**"POST IT!" is the theme for October's Regional Assembly to be held on
Saturday October 1 at Christian Theological Seminary from 9:30am- 4:30pm**

While our ancestors of faith told stories around the campfire, and our grandparents 'posted' their messages at the post office or mailbox, today's stories are often told a few sentences at a time in some form of social media. However, we tell our story of how God is at work in us and among us, it is important to offer our witness by every means we can.

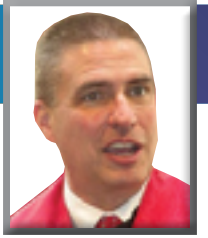
We will ask persons and congregations to tell us a bit of their stories through video, hear the news of what our regional and general ministries are doing, and celebrate "The" story of God among us in a worship service that sends us out renewed and recharged to tell others the Good News that has shaped our lives.

Join us for a day of face to face connection and recharging of your faith!

Diane Zehr is the point of contact for this year's assembly she can be reached via email at diane@indianadisciples.org †



In The Spirit Richard L. Spleth, Indiana Regional Minister



Greetings from Jerusalem!

As I write I am currently in the Middle East with a group of Disciples Regional Ministers and United Church of Christ Conference Ministers and others visiting our Global Ministries staff in the Middle East and the many partners whose mission we support. I am happy to report that the investment our congregations are making through Disciples Mission Fund, the Easter offering, and Week of Compassion is being well used. Again and again I have been impressed at the comprehensive way in which our own staff and our mission partners are accomplishing great things in providing ministerial education, university education, vocational training, and kindergartens. They are literally saving youth from a life of despair, they are



helping women find dignity and power, and they are fostering interfaith relations in ways that are a model for other parts of the world. They are serving the refugees, who exist in far too great a number, with dignity and care. I am very proud of what we are doing and encourage your support.

My heart is heavy at the same time with what I have seen.

We have been to Palestinian refugee camps that have been existence since 1949 and to Syrian refugee camps that are just a few months old. The living conditions in each are intolerable. The Syrians we met left homes and jobs because of the danger of a raging war and are now living in UN tents in the desert in Northern Jordan just a few miles from the Syrian Border. They are barely getting by with no basic sanitary support. In all the camps half of the population is children.

I also saw the Wall. I knew about the Wall, of course, as I am sure you do. It is a separation barrier between Israel and the West Bank which is under Israeli occupation. Diane and I lived in Jerusalem for a time in the summer of 2000, prior to the Wall's construction, and several times a week we would walk back and



forth from Jerusalem to Bethlehem which sit side by side. Now a 30 foot wall and extensive and controlled check points block that easy access. The Wall is ugly as sin. The Wall is sin—brokenness and division of the human family.

Jesus' time in Jerusalem also filled him with a heavy spirit. "As he came near the city, he wept over it, saying, 'If you, even you, had only recognized

on this day the things that make for peace.'" Luke 19:41-42

I am not optimistic about the future of the Middle East. Things are way broken here. I am hopeful though. I hold on to hope even when optimism seems unwarranted. I am hopeful because of the young woman I met in the Syrian Refugee Camp, a former law student from Damascus, who has created a one room school in a tent. I am hopeful because

I met Radwa Salah in Lebanon who is working with Syrian refugee youth to provide them with conflict management and peacemaking skills which they will need to have for the day that the war ends. I am hopeful because I met Wafa Goussous in Jordan who is designing imaginative ways to give refugee women economic opportunity and address their sense of privacy and dignity. I have hope because I met Andrea Zaki in Egypt who is improving the lives of countless families with microcredit loans allowing them to start small businesses. And I

have hope because I met Mitri Raheb in Palestine who is raising his voice with clarity and conviction about the need for the occupation of the West Bank to end.

All of them are equipped for the work that they do because of the offerings we make. They need more than that though. They need us to be better informed about their challenge. You can start by exploring the wealth of resources at the website for the Global Ministries Middle East Initiative: www.globalministries.org/meinitiative You can also start by reviving your prayers for Jerusalem and the whole Middle East and all its inhabitants,

Christians, Muslims, and Jews, that they might know God's peace. "If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. Psalm 137:5-6 †

Blessings on you and your congregation,

Richard L. Spleth
Regional Minister



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**SUMMER ISSUE
DEADLINE**
July 1, 2016



2016

Regional Calendar

APRIL

- 4.....Regional Board Meeting
- 4..... **FLOURISH!** Grant deadline
- 12..... Nurture and Certification Meetings
- 15.....Spring Youth Assembly, Downey Ave
..... Christian Church, Indianapolis
- 30..... Spring Commissioned Ministers Meetings
- 30..... Spring Women's Event
.....@ Central Christian Church, Lebanon

MAY

- 3..... Nurture and Certification Meetings
- 12..... Regional Elders Meeting
- 14.....Barbee Work Day, @ Barbee Christian Camp
- 17.....Commission on Ministry Meeting
- 30.....Memorial Day, Regional Offices Closed

JUNE

- 2.....Healthy Boundaries
..... @ First Christian Church, Kokomo

- 13-18.....CYF Mission Camp @ Barbee
- 20-25.....CROSS @ Barbee
- 20-25..... Young Disciples @ Bedford
- 27-July 2..... MAD @ Barbee
- 27-July 2.....CYF @ Bedford

JULY

- 4th.....4th of July Holiday/Regional Offices Closed
- 8..... Grandparent and Me @ Barbee
- 6-8.....New Beginnings @ Bedford
- 11-16..... Young Disciples @ Barbee
- 11-16.....Chi Rho @ Bedford
- 18-20..... Grandparent and Me @ Bedford
- 18-23.....Chi Rho @ Barbee
- 25-27..... New Beginnings @ Barbee

The Indiana Christian will be published four times next year. Look for the next issue to come out in August 2016. The deadline will be July 1.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings will be held at the Indiana Interchurch Center. All times, unless otherwise indicated, are for the Eastern Time Zone. You can also view the regional calendar by visiting our website at: www.indianadisciples.org/events/regional-calendar.



ANNOUNCING: Sessions 2016
July 8-10, 2016

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me . . . it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139: 1 & 13.

*The above scripture makes it clear that God is an intimate God. Our God KNOWS us and "knit us together. . ." This is powerful language. Isaiah uses similar language: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; **I have called you by name**, you are mine." Isaiah 43: 1b.*

Sessions 2016 will be gathering at Texas Christian University on July 8-10, 2016 around the Theme: **You Are Called by Name**. Disciples Men from across the United States and Canada will be coming to experience God's presence with us and God **Calling us by Name** to be leaders of God's Church.

Come experience the southern hospitality of the Texas Christian University. Speakers for the weekend include: Todd Adams, Newell Williams, Alvin Jackson, and Rita Nakashima Brock. **Come Hang Your Hat in Fort Worth at Sessions 2016.**

For further information: go to the Sessions 2016 webpage at: www.sessions2016.org

or to register for the event: <https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/2016DisciplesMen> †

Save the Date!
July 17-22, 2016



Association of Disciple Musicians
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

at the University of Evansville, Evansville, IN
For more detailed information visit www.adm-doc.org

Ministry Milestones

CHANGES

- Todd Barnhizer** began serving as Interim Minister at Milton Christian Church, Milton on Dec. 1.
- Jarrel Hartle** concluded his ministry at Lawton Christian Church, Monterey on Dec. 6.
- Lawton Christian Church**, Monterey held their closing service of worship on Dec. 6.
- Mark O' Brien** concluded his ministry at Mt. Summit Christian Church, Mt. Summit Dec. 31.
- Saint Samuel Johnson** retired as Chaplain at Robin Run Retirement Village Dec. 31.
- Patty Jones** began serving as Chaplain at Robin Run Retirement Village effective Jan. 1.
- Michael Dodds** concluded his ministry at River of Life Christian Church, Logansport Jan. 3.

- Bruce Naylor and Dean Heisey** were installed as Team Ministers at Southside Christian Church, South Bend on Jan. 17.
- Sam Davenport** began serving as Interim Minister at New Lisbon Christian Church, Union City on Jan. 17.
- Keith Strain** retired as Senior Minister at First Christian Church, Crawfordsville on Jan. 24
- Tonja Gerardy** began serving as the Pastor at Entry Point Church, Carmel on Jan. 24.
- Brian Nelson** began serving as Interim Minister at First Christian Church, Crawfordsville on Jan. 25.
- Michael Sinclair** concluded his ministry at Central Christian Church, Connersville on Jan. 25.
- Stephen Yarbrough** concluded his ministry at Little Eagle Creek Christian Church, Westfield on Jan. 31.

- Sue Shadburne Call and Robert Riestter** began serving as Co-Interim Ministers at River of Life Christian Church, Logansport on Jan. 31.
- Rick Abbott** concluded his ministry at First Christian Church, Winamac on Jan. 31.
- Jeff Seger** began serving as Interim Minister at First Christian Church, Winamac on February 1.
- Vernon Stover** retired as Pastor at Sheridan First Christian Church, Sheridan on Feb. 7.
- Kathi and Jim Elliott** concluded their ministry at Russellville Community Church, Russellville Feb. 14.
- Julie Mullins** concluded serving as Pastor at East Lynn Christian Church, Anderson on Feb. 28.
- Becki Nunnally** concluded serving as Interim Pastor at First Christian Church, Marion on February 28.

- Roslyn Harrison** began serving as Pastor of First Christian Church, Marion on March 6.
- DEATHS**
Bryon Rose, retired Disciples minister, died Jan. 27.
- Bobbie Brown**, retired Disciples pastor, died Saturday, February 27.
- ORDINATIONS**
Aaron Smith was ordained at Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis on November 22.
- Nick Orange** was ordained at Olive Branch Christian Church, Indianapolis on Dec. 6
- Chimiste Doriscar's** Recognition of Ordination service of worship was held at Allisonville Christian Church, Indianapolis Dec. 21. †

A Green Chalice Story

South Side Christian Church of Kokomo led the way as the first Indiana Green Chalice congregation when they were qualified in 2012. Tonia Sherrod learned about Green Chalice at about the same time their pastor, Rev. Rebecca Sundquist, did. Darrell Sherrod, who had been a “card-carrying” environmentalist for many years, was gratified to discover that there was an organized movement within the Disciples of Christ that reconciled the denomination’s spiritual values and environmental concerns. And they got started.



The congregation was already working on some initiatives, but began to do many more. Darrell speaks of the realization that there were a number of wasteful energy practices which were impacting the congregation’s budget. So he took on the project of replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs. Other efforts included replacing electrical components, such as refrigerators, furnaces and air conditioners, which were more energy efficient, recycling paper, plastic (including communion cups), aluminum soft drink cans, and fluorescent light tubes. Also there were “common-sense” daily measures, such as thermostat monitoring, weatherstripping, etc.

The Sherrods found the main challenge was in changing old, established habits and mind-sets. Not all members of the congregation have readily accepted the necessity of certain changes. But framing the argument as a financial saving has certainly helped. Other members, especially younger ones, join in the understanding that these actions are an expression of moral concern and spiritual duty.

But Darrell states as a word of advice, “If we can do it, anyone can.” Thank you, friends from South Side Christian Church, for sharing your experiences. †



Southside Christian Church Creates a Giving Tree

Early last spring, Southside Christian, Kokomo member, Mary Buchholz had lunch with a friend Beth. During their time together, this friend shared her dream of having a giving tree. Unfortunately, Mary’s friend Beth passed away. Mary decided to honor her friend and bring that dream to fruition. She contacted the Downtown Civic association and started asking for donations. Before long a tree behind the Kokomo library was adorned with hats, mittens, gloves and coats. Beth wanted warm clothing items to be available, without judgement, to anyone with a need.

The tree was a success, needing to be filled almost daily. Building on this idea, Rev. Becky Sundquist decided to fill a Giving Tree at the church in Mary’s honor. With help from several members of the congregation the tree was filled and refilled and will be until the end of February. Sharon Herr, another member, built on the idea by encouraging people to put Care Cans under the tree. These are waterproof cans filled with toiletry items and snacks. Many people across Kokomo are truly Sharing the Love of God. †

Ministry Happens...

Reverend Michael Gilbert Minister of Pastoral Care at Avon Christian Church administering the imposition of ashes to begin Lent from 6:00 am to 8:00 am on Ash Wednesday morning as well as from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm that same evening for Avon Christian Church neighbors coming and going from work (in bitterly cold temperatures).



Michele Wood, pictured in center with members of the Northwood Christian Church, Indianapolis

Disciples Impacting Our World

Michele Wood, member of Northwood Christian Church, Indianapolis and CTS Student (and artist-in-residence) was nominated for an NAACP Image Award.

Michele was nominated as the illustrator of *Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony, Inspired by Historical Facts*, a book that imagines the two American icons reminiscing over tea. The NAACP Image Awards celebrate the “outstanding achievements and performances of people of color in the arts, as well as those individuals or groups who promote social justice through their creative endeavors.” †



2017 General Assembly

July 8-12, 2017

Indianapolis, Indiana

Save the Date!



Holy Place Gets New Lease on Life

Reprinted with permission of Disciples Church Extension Fund

Members of the small congregation on the east side of Indianapolis knew something wasn't right. Due to a lack of young families, much of the education space in Eastgate Christian Church was going unused except for the occasional Bible study class and monthly board meetings, and they were troubled by a sense that God was calling them to do and be more in the Holy Place they had inhabited since 1957. But what would that look like?

A vision began to take shape in 2014 when it occurred to Eastgate Pastor Tod Iseminger and other church leaders that their space could be used better by others outside their immediate congregation. So, they went looking for and found a potential partner in Stillwaters Adult Day Care that operates out of space attached to Castleton United Methodist Church, which oversees its operation. Stillwaters was as attracted to the idea of expanding their services to the east side of the city as Eastgate Christian Church was to finding new mission and purpose for their unused space.

Perhaps it was fortuitous that in the spring of 2015, Eastgate leaders attended JumpStart Indiana, cohosted by DCEF, the Indiana Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Episcopal Church Building Fund. The day-long event focused on the creative use of buildings to enhance mission and ministry. At

JumpStart, Rev. Iseminger spoke with DCEF Advisor Jim Michel about the possibility of sharing space in their facility, perhaps with Stillwaters. A month later, Jim was onsite at Eastgate to discuss needed changes to the building to accommodate licensed adult day care and the possibility of a DCEF loan to fund that renovation.

Long story short: Once the vision became clear, Eastgate Christian Church developed a business plan and signed a lease agreement with Castleton United Methodist Church/Stillwaters Adult Day Care to provide needed services to seniors in the church's immediate neighborhood. Before the year was out, DCEF approved the church's loan request and the project was off and running.

Rev. Iseminger is excited about the "new lease" on life that this new ministry provides for his congregation. "This new adult care program will allow Eastgate to serve its neighborhood in a way that we are currently not doing," he explains, "and will provide volunteering opportunities for Eastgate members and other churches in the area. There is new energy in our congregation as a result of a renewed sense of purpose." Jim Michel agrees, "Eastgate is an excellent example of what can happen to a congregation when they do a new thing with their 'place' for all the right reasons." He adds, "DCEF is honored to be a part of this transformation." †

Solar Panels on Downey Avenue Christian Church in Indianapolis

On October 8, 2015, the 28 new solar panels began producing electricity for Downey Avenue Christian Church on the east side of Indianapolis. They were installed after the congregation received a grant from the Indiana Office of Energy Development with the assistance of Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light. A dedication service for the panels was held on October 18, with the Interim pastor, Steven Moore, standing on the roof beside the panels. Each panel produces 285 watts of energy. It is anticipated that the yearly energy bill will be reduced by at least 20%. †



CONGO CONNECTION



Updates and a Call for Help

The Christian Church in Indiana is 8 years into our partnership with the Mbandaka Post in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and there is much to share.

Our region has welcomed three of many refugee Disciples families from the Congo. These families have fled the Republic of Congo, and are immigrating to the U.S. now that they have received official UN status as refugees. We anticipate that there may be as many as five more Disciples families coming in the future.



Ilondo family arrival

The Exodus Refugee program provides major assistance to these families, but as you can imagine, this is an exciting opportunity for us to extend Hoosier hospitality to these brothers and sisters in Christ. Several congregations have provided contact persons to assist with the effort; if your congregation wants to help, and has not yet provided a contact name, please reach out to Susan McNeely via email at kyvoyageur@gmail.com or by phone at 317-514-7617.

Secondly, two of our partners from Mbandaka will be joining us at Regional Assembly this fall. Rev. ILUMBE Ndjongo Bernard, Principal Supervising Pastor of Mbandaka Post (equivalent to Regional Minister) and PEKOMBE Ikinga Oscar, Secretary of the Partnership Committee of Mbandaka. They will arrive in September and be available to visit various congregations while they are in the USA.



Congo flooding

The Congo Task Force, which assists in all things related to the Congo partnership, is in need of additional members to assist with our ongoing projects. If you have a calling to be part of this exciting ministry, please contact Sarah Riester at the regional office, sarah@indianadisciples.org.

Finally, please keep the Disciples of Christ in Congo, and particularly the Mbandaka Post, in your continuing prayers. Massive flooding has been experienced along the Congo River, along which many Mbandaka churches are located. This has made it impossible for a number of churches to meet, and has placed a severe strain on the finances of local churches. Any financial assistance you might want to offer can be offered as a designated gift through the Christian Church in Indiana, by check or on-line offering. †

Together

The Manna Process reiterated the need for our region to renew relationships and connections with one another. Staffing is now configured to intentionally nurture relationships throughout the region. Some of our congregations have already found ways to share ministry. Other congregations are seeking these opportunities. This "Together" column is a space to celebrate the bridges being built and the ministries being shared. It will feature stories of coming together to be the region. If you have something you would like to highlight, send to Carolyn Reed, Associate Regional Minister.

Here is a "Together" story from Donna Herring, Pastor at Madison Christian Church, Frankton.

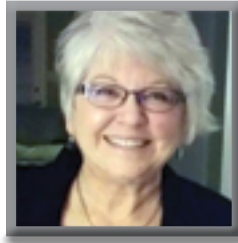
First Christian Church in Alexandria, First Christian Church in Gas City and Madison Christian Church in Frankton have joined together in a partnership for planning future ministries. Representatives of the churches and the pastors have been meeting on a regular basis to discuss the book *Real Good Church* by Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette. The meetings began in September of 2015 and after completing the three required meetings the group felt a common bond and decided to continue gathering for discussion, encouragement, and accountability. The group has enjoyed meeting at each of the churches and touring the buildings. Ideas and conversations have included ministries in each of the communities, children's programs, worship services, how to make our buildings and congregations welcoming to visitors, inclusiveness (Open and Affirming) as well as outreach and growth.

Rev. Julia Bratton, Alexandria, Rev. Dave Shephard, Gas City, and Rev. Donna Herring, Frankton took turns leading the group discussions and hosting the meetings. The group bonded rapidly and appreciated being able to learn from each other and share ideas. Many times as we worship and work in our home congregations, we can fall into patterns and keep looking at things and doing things the same old way. (Habits and Sacred Cows sometimes die hard.) Being able to brainstorm together and see things from new perspectives has truly been a gift.

Each church is now busily planning a new ministry project and has applied for a \$300 grant from the Indiana Region to help with the finances. Our group will be meeting again in April to see how plans are going. We have agreed to continue to encourage each other and hold each other accountable to follow through with our projects as well as share any frustrations. We also plan to celebrate our successes! With God's help we are hoping to have a positive impact for Christ in each of our respective communities! Pray for us, fellow Disciples, and look for a report this fall about how God has blessed our endeavors. †

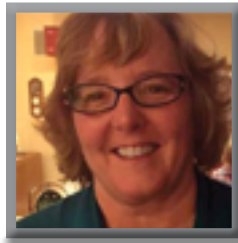
The Region Calls New Staff

The Regional Board of the Christian Church in Indiana voted on January 19 to call three new persons to the Regional staff. Each are part-time and together will address the ministry areas that were carried by former Associate Regional Minister, Cheryl Cloar.



Diane Zehr, Interim Associate Regional Minister

Diane graduated from CTS in 1984 and was ordained that year by the Indiana Region. She has served as a local church pastor in several locations in Indiana and Kentucky. She was Interim Associate Regional Minister in Indiana in 1990 and 1991. She was Program Coordinator for the 2003 General Assembly in Charlotte, NC. Most recently she served as the Interim Minister at Hazelwood Christian Church in Muncie, Indiana. Diane lives in Carmel, Indiana and is married to Jerry Zehr, the minister of the Carmel Christian Church. She will provide pastoral care and support to congregations and clergy in southern Indiana and will provide coordination for the Regional and General Assembly.



Carolynn Miller, Regional Coordinator for Women's Ministries

Carolynn graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 2005 and was ordained that year by the Christian Church in Georgia. She has been active in women's ministries in the Georgia and Indiana regions. She currently serves in the leadership of Indiana Disciples women. She works in human resources for St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. She lives in Indianapolis and is married to Brad Miller, minister of Central Christian Church, Lebanon.



Sarah Haas, Regional Coordinator for Global Ministries (volunteer)

Sarah is the Associate Minister of the Friedens United Church of Christ in Indianapolis. She is a graduate of CTS and a former Board member of Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ. She is seeking to more deeply connect Disciples and UCC congregations in Indiana with Global Ministries and has formed a joint committee of the Region and Conference and plans to give volunteer time overseeing that group and individually working with congregations. †

DISCIPLES

continued from page 1

Mbandaka before their move to Kinshasa. They fled the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2000 when family members loyal to the Mobutu regime were being persecuted by the then president, Laurent Kabila.

They became members of the Disciples' Church in Brazzaville where they were actively involved in church life. Pastor Jean Baptiste served as an evangelist throughout the country of Congo-Brazzaville as well as leading mission work in several countries in Central and Southern Africa. Before leaving Brazzaville, he pastored a church in a rural town approximately 62 miles from Brazzaville and served as assistant pastor at the "mother" church in Brazzaville. Docta was in charge of development projects at church level for refugee families in Brazzaville. Most recently he was appointed Coordinator of the EDCC Health department.

The Ilondos were a strong presence in the EDCC denomination. Their absence will create a huge void for the EDCC, but they bring gifts and talents that will enhance the lives of many Disciples in the USA. We welcome the Ilondos to the Disciples of Christ family in the USA and Canada. †



Hands ON Mission Camp

By Lee Yates, Minister of Faith Formation

What would happen if Church Camp and a Mission Trip merged together? Well this year for CYF Camp they have. New for this year, the Indiana Region introduces Hands ON Mission Camp! This camp is scheduled for June 13-June 18 at Barbee Christian Camp.

Youth in grades 9-12 will have a chance to serve in an off-site, hands on ministry project, benefiting Indiana communities. This project, in conjunction

with REAL Services will put youth to work with disadvantage individuals in the community who need help with painting, landscaping or cleaning. Campers will also provide support to special projects on-site at one of the Indiana Disciples' outdoor sanctuaries, Barbee Christian Camp.

Connect with other Disciples youth from all over the state. Get Hands on and register for camp, today! †



Financial Literacy Academy

May 13 -14 Marks the kickoff of the **FINANCIAL LITERACY ACADEMY** for clergy and congregational leaders within the Christian Church in Indiana. Created as an initiative of the FLOURISH! Project through a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the academy seeks to educate and empower clergy in the areas of personal finance, congregational finance, fundraising, and preaching/teaching stewardship.

LOCATION:

May and October 2016

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Indianapolis Airport
2017 & 2018: TBD

COURSE OUTLINE

Clergy Personal Financial Literacy

(Spring Day 1):

Living debt free, saving for retirement, understanding the Pension Fund, budgeting, insurance and investment counsel, understanding clergy taxes, reporting and tax benefits. This is to be attended by the pastor and spouse, where applicable.

Congregational Best Practices

(Spring Day 2)

Clergy compensation and benefits, creating and adhering to a balanced budget, handling money, accountability and transparency, financial examinations. This is designed for the pastor, board chair, and treasurer (or two church appointed designees)

Clergy Preaching and Teaching Stewardship

(Fall Day 1)

Creating compelling sermons on tithing and giving, stewardship as a holistic approach to managing God's resources, pastoral ethics and integrity in stewardship, outreach and missional giving, and leaving a legacy for future generations. This is designed for clergy only.

Congregational Fundraising

(Fall Day 2)

Finding alternate sources of income, creating a culture of generosity, effective use of building resources as a stream of income, creating green by going green, programs that pay, and cultivating and managing estate gifts. This is designed for the pastor, board chair, and treasurer (or two church appointed designees)

NOTE: Not all topics will be covered in each session. Consequently, it is imperative that the participants attend each session over a two year period

For more information about the Financial Literacy Academy, visit our website indianadisciples.org/flourish

Or contact Cynthia@indianadisciples.org



Rev. Ilumbe in the pulpit



Congo Partners share in supporting Week of Compassion



Rev. Ilumbe, Principal Supervising Pastor of the Mbandaka District of the Disciples of Christ in the Congo, recently contacted the Indiana Regional office with a question. "What is the theme for the Week of Compassion offering this year? It is time to promote it again." We relayed to him that it was Ruth 1:16, "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay." He understood the reference and emphasis quickly to be a focus on refugee ministry.

A few weeks later Rev. Ilumbe challenged his congregations to give so that they could share in this vital ministry of our church. They raised over \$500 U.S. It is a gift of great generosity and abundance. Relative to the comparative resources of the people of those Disciples congregations it is not an exaggeration to say that the Mbandaka District Disciples congregations contributed the most to Week of Compassion this year than any other set of congregations in our church. Thanks be to God!

We continue to learn and receive from our partners. We are delighted that Rev. Ilumbe and Oscar Pekombe will be with us at our Regional Assembly on October 1. We look forward to seeing them, and you, there. †



Disciples Church Extension Fund inspires and empowers congregations to create Holy Places where people connect with God, each other and the community.

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The same, but more. Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) has always been about church places, as the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that provides congregations with building planning and capital funding services for their church facilities, with loans for new construction, renovation, repair, relocation and more. The need to provide these services still exists, but in this time of monumental change for churches, Disciples Church Extension Fund is called to be and do more.

The new mission statement above reflects DCEF's reinvention as a ministry that helps congregations create, recreate, fund and use church places, conventional and otherwise, as a tool for connecting with the Holy, places to come together to be formed as Christians who are called to love and serve each other and their neighbors, inside AND outside church walls.

We are excited to share stories with you in the months ahead about congregations who are responding to our challenge to think first of how their Holy Places can serve their ministry and not the other way around. †

2016 SPRING YOUTH ASSEMBLY

"Connecting the Dots" will be the theme of the 2016 Youth Spring Assembly on April 15-17. This youth-led event will include a day of hands on service (Saturday) and conversation about the mission of the Church with Regional leaders. Downey Avenue Christian Church in Indianapolis will host the event with hotel blocks available at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites-East, and Best Western-Crossroads. Check-in will start at 7pm at DACC on Friday and end after worship on Sunday morning, about 11:30am. Questions can be directed to Lee Yates at Lee@IndianaDisciples.org†

Disciple Woman and Youth are Invited:
LAVISH HOSPITALITY
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016, 9:30AM-2:30PM



Central Christian Church, 311 E. Main Street, Lebanon, IN

**LAVISH
HOSPITALITY
SATURDAY
APRIL 30, 2016
9:30am-2:30pm**

Rev. Kathy McDowell, Editor of *Just Women Magazine* will lead a Bible Study on God's hospitality. Indiana Woman-to-Woman Participants will share their 2015 journey to Israel and Palestine, and we will worship and learn about service opportunities. Morning refreshments and lunch will be served.

Child care provided.

Contact
Rev.Carolynn Miller
for information
404-281-5607.

Please register for \$15 at:

<https://wmt.suran.com/main/preview/5040>

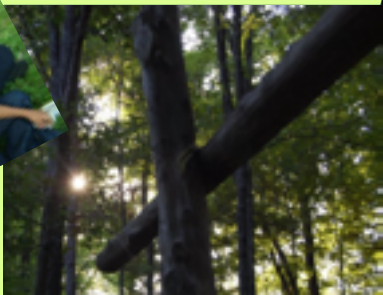


Christian Church in Indiana Summer 2016 Camp and Conference Schedule

Camps

Grandparent & Me:
New Beginnings:
Young Disciples:
Chi Rho:
CYF:
CYF Mission Camp:
Music, Art & Drama (MAD):
Christian Rec & Outdoor Sports Skills (CROSS):

Completed grades K-3 and grandparent
Completed grades 2-3
Completed grades 4-5
Completed grades 6-8
Completed grades 9-12
Completed grades 9-12
Completed grades 6-12
Completed grades 6-12



Dates

June 13- 18	CYF Mission Camp-Barbee
June 20- 25	CROSS (SPORTS AND REC)- Barbee
June 20- 25	Young Disciples- Bedford
June 27- July 2	MAD (Creative Camp)- Barbee
June 27- July 2	CYF- Bedford
July 6- 8	Grandparent and Me- Barbee
July 6-8	New Beginnings- Bedford
July 11-16	Young Disciples- Barbee
July 11- 16	Chi Rho- Bedford
July 18-20	Grandparent and Me- Bedford
July 18-23	Chi Rho- Barbee
July 25-27	New Beginnings- Barbee



If camp dates do not fit your Church or family schedule, visit our ministry partners in the United Church of Christ at:
www.ikcucc.org

For more information, please visit: www.indianadisciples.org