

# The Indiana Christian



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IndianaDisciples.org

Winter • 2016-2017

## General Assembly Provides Opportunity To Express Hoosier Hospitality

**T**he General Assembly is coming back to Indianapolis. The next biennial gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada will be held July 8-12, 2017 in the convention center in downtown Indianapolis. This gathering provides an opportunity for Indiana Disciples to welcome several thousand Disciples from around the country and around the world and connect our congregations in the ministry of hospitality. The General Assembly was last held in Indianapolis in 2009. That year there were 1,000 individuals from our churches who assisted in the event in some capacity.

The Assembly was also held in Indianapolis in 1870, 1873, 1881, 1887, 1897, 1932, and 1989. This year the Assembly will gather under the theme "One" based on Jesus' unity prayer in John 17.

At the General Assembly next summer Disciples will elect a new General Minister and President. Hoosier native Sharon Watkins will complete 12 years of service to the church in this office and will be honored for her leadership.

The Assembly serves a variety of purposes. Through business meetings the mission of the church is given direction. Through educational forums church members are equipped for service in their local



**Save  
The Date!**

**2017  
General Assembly**

**July 8-12  
2017**

**Indianapolis  
Indiana**

congregations. Worship provides moments of inspiration and recognition of the diversity of our communion. Service events provide "hands on" opportunities to work alongside others and bolster local mission sites. There is a lot for everyone to do at General Assembly.

As in 2009 we, as host Region, will need to provide numerous volunteers. The Local Arrangements Committee is being chaired by Dale Pellman, [dpellman@mdssworld.com](mailto:dpellman@mdssworld.com), a member of Geist Christian Church, and will be assisted by

Interim Associate Regional Minister Diane Zehr, [diane@indianadisciples.org](mailto:diane@indianadisciples.org). Dale and Diane are putting together an extensive group of volunteers to host this gathering. Disciples from all across Indiana can help. Contact Dale and Diane to let them know of your interest.

You are also encouraged to learn more about the General Assembly by going to <http://ga.disciples.org>.

Here you can register to attend and volunteers may register for a reduced rate. Contact Dale or Diane for the registration code. †



Dale Pellman

## Christmas Offering Provides Support for Congregations to Believe Again

**L**ife does not always play out like we imagined. This is true for us individually and also true for our churches. You plan for things to be a certain way but then "life happens." Through the Christmas offering resources are provided that assist the Christian Church in Indiana to be ready to respond when a congregation needs assistance.

The help comes, most often, "in the flesh." The Christmas offering, taken in most congregations on Sundays December 11 and 18, undergirds the salaries of Regional staff members who focus on the care and support of congregations



and clergy. Rick Spleth, Carolyn Reed, and Diane Zehr work with churches and ministers in times of change and challenge. Their efforts are augmented by a dozen Regional Elders who extend the pastoral care reach of our Region. Carolynn Miller, Maggie Archibald, and Cynthia Newman each provide program support for

churches around women's leadership, youth and camp, and stewardship and finance. Supporting all activities are Sarah Riester, Candace Boyd Wylie, and Joel Cooper who coordinate each activity of the Regional office, and Larry Brey who watches over the Barbee campground. Your congregation has a team of persons behind them.

For congregations to flourish in this time it often takes new imagination. Regional staff seek to share ideas and best practices and form connections with ministers and churches who may not know one another well. But more than that your Regional staff seeks to give congregations the courage to dream, to believe, and hope when circumstances have changed, when life has happened.

You are encouraged to contribute to the Christmas offering. It is an investment in your church and the support your church receives in all its times. Thank you for your partnership. †

In The *Spirit* Richard L. Spleth, Indiana Regional Minister



## In the Spirit of Giving

Last August I received one of my greatest gifts ever. I had been invited to preach at Southside Christian Church, South Bend, a church I have had the pleasure of visiting many times. Before worship that Sunday I made my way from the parking lot to the front door. As I approached the building I saw my friend Juan was positioned, as he often is, to greet those who were arriving. With a big grin he said hello and then said "Wait right here I have something for you." He disappeared into the building for a moment and then returned with an unusual package. "Here," he said, "I knew you were coming so I got this for you." Inside the package, wrapped in Notre Dame wrapping paper, was a wonderful used spatula. It is by far one of the nicest things I have ever received.

I have no idea what caused Juan to think of me, to plan to surprise me with a gift, or why he came up with a spatula. But I do know that my delight and pleasure in receiving it was only exceeded by his thrill in providing it. That is how giving works. When done from the heart it benefits both the giver and the receiver.

December is a season for giving. We exchange gifts with loved ones, friends, and co-workers to let them know our love and appreciation for them. I love to surprise our garbage man with a gift during this time. Without him my life

would be a giant mess for real. I want him to know my appreciation for all he does.

We read in the Christmas story that the three wise men were gift givers. Their choice of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, seem a bit unusual for baby gifts but maybe it was what they had with them or what they could acquire, like Juan's spatula. Even though in most crèches I have ever seen the wise men look a bit old and stogy, I like to think that they actually had the same grin on their faces as my friend from South Bend when they presented their gifts.

There are lots of ways to give. Recently the Region received a gift of \$10,000 from the estate of Marion Warpenburg of Poseyville, Indiana. Marion was an active leader in his congregation and also served many years ago on the Regional Board. He loved to grin too. I think it was an expression of his joyful spirit, but it may have been an advertising gimmick. He was a dentist. Estate gifts like his provide ways that we can significantly support the congregations we love and the church beyond our congregation—beyond our days.

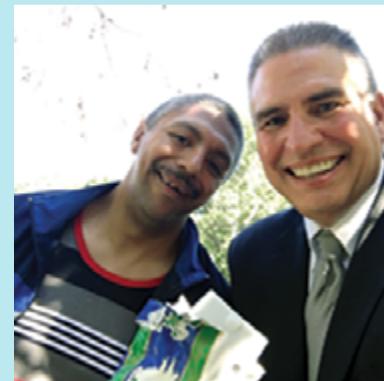
I encourage you this season to make those gifts that make you happy like Juan and Marion. Or if you are not really certain about that you might try making a gift as a means of

discovering happiness. Giving is one of the healthiest things we can do.

On behalf of the Christian Church in Indiana let me express our thanks for the way in which you gift our ministries, through the support your congregation provides to Disciples Mission Fund and the Christmas offering. We are most appreciative. It equips our ministry and allows us in turn to be givers too. †

Blessings on you and your congregation,

Richard L. Spleth  
Regional Minister



(l to r) Juan and Rick at Southside Christian Church, South Bend and Juan's wrapped gift for Rick

### 2016-2017

### Regional Calendar

#### DECEMBER

**23-1/2** Office Closed through January 2 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Holiday

#### JANUARY

**3** Office Reopens  
**10** Nurture and Certification Meetings  
**30** Regional Board Meeting

#### FEBRUARY

**14** Nurture and Certification Meeting  
**17** Regional Elders Meeting  
**21** Commission on Ministry Meeting

#### MARCH

**14** Nurture and Certification Meeting  
**22** Finance Committee Meeting

#### APRIL

**11** Nurture and Certification Meeting  
**29** Spring Commissioned Ministers Meetings

*The Indiana Christian* will be published four times next year. Look for the next issue to come out in April 2017. The deadline will be March 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: <http://indianadisciples.org/upcoming-events>.

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**SPRING ISSUE  
DEADLINE**  
**March 1, 2017**



# Standing Committee Oversees Annual Process for Clergy

**E**ach year the Christian Church in Indiana certifies the standing for over 350 Disciples ministers who serve in our Region. These persons are engaged in congregational ministries and also serve as chaplains in institutional settings. Some are professors and a number are retired. Standing recognizes that they are in an accountable ministry or in Search and Call seeking a ministry opportunity. Disciples ministers with standing, both commissioned and ordained, have opportunities to vote in Regional and General Assemblies, can use Search and Call processes, and are eligible for continuing education scholarships. Our clergy are accountable to the Commission on Ministry for the ethical and professional expression of their ministry. The standing of Disciples ministers who work in general ministries based in Indiana and overseas is certified by the General Commission on Ministry.



Beginning in 2004 Disciples ministers in Indiana were asked to participate in periodic “healthy boundary” training to maintain standing. The 2016 Regional Assembly added periodic anti-racism training as an additional educational requirement.

Certifying standing is one of the principal responsibilities of the Region as described by the The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), our denomination’s bylaws. It is one of the original roles of our Region as well dating back to our beginnings in 1839. Forms submitted by our clergy are prayed over and reviewed by a volunteer team of clergy and lay leaders. Serving this year in that role were Allen Whitehurst, Chair, David Livingston, Bob Riester, Greta Adams, Susan McNeely, Kathy Riester, Willy Almodovar, and Candace Boyd Wylie. †

## New Regional Board Set to Begin in 2017

The Regional Assembly voted unanimously to approve a new set of officers and leaders to form the Regional Board for the next biennium, 2017-2018. Members of the new Board will be:

- Matt Rosine**, Moderator
- Julia Johnson**, Vice Moderator
- Michelle Hall**, Secretary
- Miriam Robeson**, Treasurer
- Laura Arico**, Chair of the Commission on Unity and Witness
- Andy Bell**, Chair of the Commission on Resources and Structure
- Scott Cox**, Chair of the Commission on Ministry
- Rebecca Sundquist**, Chair of the Commission on Faith Formation
- William Almodovar**
- Beth Burch**
- Anthony Cobb**
- Sarasopa Enari**
- Rex Henthorn**
- Belinda King**
- Andrew Raker**

The new Board represents 9 new members and 6 continuing members.



Consistent with the requirements of our Constitution it is a majority lay with 9 lay members and 6 clergy. There are 8 men and 7 women and one-third of the Board are people of color. the Board is geographically diverse and frequently uses video conferencing technology assist in holding the quarterly meetings.

We give thanks for the following persons who complete their service on the Regional Board at the end of this year:

- Monique Spells**
- Lorna Hernandez-Ramos**
- Luis Gierbolini**
- Eric Glasco**
- Linda Parker**
- Betty Sivis**



Old friendships at Linwood rekindle.

## Linwood Strong: 100 Years and Counting

**L**inwood Christian Church has been celebrating 100 years of ministry. They celebrated all year long with a “visit” from their founding pastor, a mass renewal of wedding vows in February, and a renewal of our covenant to serve God and God’s people in June, 2016.

The largest celebration occurred in September with the Friday Night Dance Reunion, which was a throwback from the 60’s & 70’s when youth from neighboring high schools gathered each week to dance the night away. Close to 150 people gathered, most of whom hadn’t been back in 40 years, to dance to old favorites, reminisce, and ask, “When are you going to do this again?”

As we continue to ponder, “What does it mean to love our neighbor,” we remember that people are hungry for relationships, no matter what their age! †

## Ministry Milestones

### CHANGES

- Todd Barnhizer** concluded his ministry on Sunday, July 31 at Milton Christian Church, Milton.
- Lee Yates** concluded his ministry at Mt. Summit Christian Church, Mt. Summit and as Minister of Faith Formation with the Region on Sunday, July 31.
- Robert Harmon** concluded his ministry at Sixth Street Christian Church, Middletown on Sunday, July 31.
- David Wilde** retired from Floyds Knobs Christian Church, Floyds Knobs on July 31.
- Pamela Pettyjohn** began serving as Pastor of Floyds Knobs Christian Church, Floyds Knobs on August 1.
- Brian Nelson** concluded his interim ministry at First Christian Church, Crawfordsville on August 7.
- Michele Brown** began serving as Pastor of Sixth Street Christian Church, Middletown on August 7.

- Darla Goodrich** began serving at First Christian Church, Crawfordsville on August 15.
- Doug Cripe** began serving as Pastor of Central Christian Church, Elkhart on September 1.
- Bob Harmon** began serving as the Long-term Interim Pastor of First Christian Church, Hartford City on September 1.
- Roxie McNelly** began serving as the Pastor of First Christian Church, Martinsville on October 1.
- Sam Davenport** was installed as the Pastor of New Lisbon Christian Church, Union City on October 9.
- Lanny Lawler** began serving at Mt. Summit Christian Church on September 4.
- Kyle Hunter** began serving as Pastor of Bethany Christian Church, Evansville on October 10.

### DEATHS

- Frisco Gilchrist**, retired Disciples minister and long time missionary to Paraguay, died on August 29.
- Pat Helme**, long time office administrator of the Christian Church in Indiana, died September 16.

### ORDINATIONS

- Dean Heisey’s** Recognition of Ordination service was held on Sunday August 7 at Southside Christian Church, South Bend.
- Mia Smith** was ordained at Federated Christian Church, West Lafayette on Sunday, July 31.
- Reuben Sancken-Marx** was ordained at Central Christian Church, Indianapolis on Saturday November 12. †

# Still Waters Adult Day Center Opens

By Tod Iseminger, Eastgate Christian Church

**O**n October 10th, 2016, Still Waters Adult Day Center welcomed their first guest at Eastgate Christian Church. This adult day center is a place where people who are caring for loved ones can find care for them while they work during the day or need a break from that care.

Eastgate Christian opened this facility as a result of many months of praying and reflection. As is the case for many Disciples churches, Eastgate Christian Church found themselves not using all of the building for their ministries.



In addition, through the years, the number of children coming to Eastgate had declined significantly. As such, the education building, which for many years, cared for and taught many generations of children, was not being used for its intended purpose.

Because the number of children at Eastgate had declined, beginning in the winter of 2014, conversations began on how to use that space more effectively to do ministry.

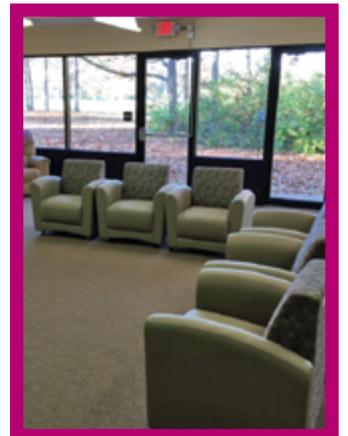
One of the first meetings was with Kathy Pellman, director of Still Waters Adult Day Center at Castleton United Methodist in northeast Indianapolis. She had started the adult day center and had the kind of expertise Eastgate needed to start a ministry of this type.

These discussions and reflections continued until the fall of 2015 when a vote was called to see if Eastgate and Still Waters Adult Day Center would proceed together to do this important ministry. The congregation voted to begin the construction process with the intent of opening an adult day care facility in the fall of 2016.

This project was not undertaken by Eastgate alone. All along the way, the Board of Church Extension helped guide us as this project began to take shape. In addition, Castleton United Methodist, which helped create Still Waters, was a vital partner to Eastgate in the development of this important ministry.

This project is really about many things. One of the important aspects of this process is the idea that Eastgate believes its best days are ahead. By entering into this ministry, Eastgate has found a creative solution to an unused space which made a positive statement about its future.

Finally, maybe the most part of this exciting project is that through Still Waters Adult Day Center, the Board of Church Extension and Castleton United Methodist, Eastgate Christian can now minister to a whole new group of people who are in need of care for their loved one. †



## North Christian Church to Participate in National Grant-Making Program

Reprinted with Permission from National Fund for Sacred Places

**T**he historic North Christian Church of Columbus, Indiana has been selected to participate in a national grant-making program. The church will receive a planning grant and in-kind professional services leading to the opportunity to access up to \$250,000 in capital grants. The building dates back to 1964 and was designed by Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen, best known for the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

The award comes as part of an unprecedented \$14 million National Fund for Sacred Places announced by Partners for Sacred

Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to assist aging churches in need of repair and restoration. The Fund will provide up to \$250,000 in capital grants, in addition to planning grants and an array of services, for at least 50 individual congregations from a diversity of faiths over four years.

"We have a gigantic need for a new air conditioning system," says Reverend Tonja Gerardy, who points out that the air conditioner is original to 1964. "It might sound like a vanity thing, but

it's really important as we host a number of groups and nonprofit organizations in the community that we are able to offer them some level of comfort. Two-thirds of this air conditioning unit are no longer functioning."

**"We are excited to support this congregation."**

Chad Martin, Director of the National Fund

North Christian was selected for Fund support due to its unique architecture and its commitment to serving the community. The facility was designed by Eliel Saarinen (architect) and David Kiley (landscape architect), influential modernist

designers who also teamed together on the design of the St. Louis arch. Preserving the inner workings of such a facility takes extra care and resources, making this project an ideal fit for the Fund.

"We are excited to support this congregation. The architecture of their building is unmatched across the country. And their commitment to growing their ministry and partnerships for positive community impact are commendable," says Chad Martin, Director of the National Fund.

The National Fund for Sacred Places is a collaboration that builds on Partners for Sacred Places' decades of work

helping churches use best stewardship practices with their historic facilities in order to strengthen, serve and celebrate their communities for the common good.

The Fund was launched with two grants totaling nearly \$14 million from the Lilly Endowment Inc. Through this initiative, \$10 million will be disbursed for capital improvements, with the remainder used for planning, technical assistance, coaching and program oversight.

More information, details about the application process, eligibility requirements and selection criteria are available by visiting [www.fundforsacredplaces.org](http://www.fundforsacredplaces.org). Applications are now being accepted for the next round of grants, which will be awarded in the fall of 2017. †

# New "Post Office" in Mbandaka

Our partners in the Mbandaka District or "Post" of the Disciples Community in the Congo celebrate the completion of the new "post office" to house the office of Principal Supervising Pastor Rev. Bernard Ilumbe. This building is the equivalent of our Regional Office. It is located on the grounds of the Mbandaka III church, the largest congregation in the Mbandaka District. Funds for the construction of the Mbandaka III church were provided a number of years ago by the Northwood Christian Church in Indianapolis. Funds for the construction of the new Post Office have been contributed by the West Street Christian Church in Tipton and the Allisonville Christian Church in Indianapolis along with persons who attended the Regional Assembly in October.



The Christian Church in Indiana has been in formal partnership with the Disciples in Mbandaka since 2008. We most recently enjoyed a three week visit to Indiana by Rev. Ilumbe and Oscar Pekombe who visited two dozen of our congregations as well as giving leadership at our Regional Assembly. They are pictured here on their arrival back in Mbandaka.

We have received a variety of gifts and blessings from this partnership. If you would like more information on this global relationship or wish to explore ways in which your congregation can connect with this partner and their projects go to <http://indianadisciples.org>.

# CONGO CONNECTION



## Mbandaka Partnership Visit

In September 2016, the Christian Church in Indiana welcomed a delegation from the Mbandaka District of the Disciples of Christ Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Reverend Ilumbe and Oscar Pekombe arrived on September 14 and spent three weeks visiting approximately 20 Disciples churches around Indiana. This was the third delegation to Indiana from the Mbandaka District since the Indiana Mbandaka Partnership began in 2008. Similarly, three groups of Disciples from Indiana have visited churches in Mbandaka. The partnership was formed with the guidance of and continues with the blessing of Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

Photo credit to Randy Kuss and Rick Spleth.



1. Exchanging of gifts 2. Rev Ilumbe with Southport youth 3. Visiting Eastside Evansville 4. Visiting South Side Kokomo 5. Gift from Congolese 6. At Casa del Alferero 7. With Scott Seay 8. Congo Partnership

# Southport Christian Church Makes Historic Decision

Southport Christian Church voted to sell its building to the Chin Christian Church which has been nesting at Southport for the last 12 years. On Sunday May 22nd over 340 members cast their ballot on this important issue with 86% approving the sale.

Southport has been located since its founding by Olive Branch Christian Church for the last 58 years at 201 East Epler in Indianapolis. During the last decade, the settling of displaced Chin families from Burma have found their new community in large part in and around the church. The Chin Christian Church has been experiencing tremendous growth and needed to seek out their own building for ministry as the two churches together were hard pressed to make both programs work.

For over a decade Southport Christian has been considering, off and on, a potential move to a new location better suited to its demographic. Leaders of both the Chin Christian Church and Southport determined that the current location was perfect for the Chin congregation so a sale was put together.

Citing Southport's generous gift of 12 years to the Chin Christian Church, the Chin Christian Church extended an offer to Southport to stay for 2 years at no charge and with no significant change in shared calendar while making its decision as to where God is currently calling the church to serve. Southport is in the initial stages of beginning that process of discernment with the help of the Indiana region, Hope Partnership, and the Center for Congregations.

"This was all about God's timing," said Senior Minister Doug Lofton. "We had attempted this conversation several times before but it never gained traction. This time God simply put the pieces in place and the congregation was ready to respond. Getting an 86% approval to almost anything in the church is unheard of. It is obvious that God was moving both congregations to this historic decision."

The final sale will take place in early July and Southport hopes to move to its new home sometime in the Spring of 2018.

**"This was all about God's timing."**

*Doug Lofton, Senior Minister*

# 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 in the region. If you have something you would like to highlight, send to Carolyn Reed, Associate Regional Minister.

## Neighborhood Bash Reformed, Renamed, and Rescheduled

By Donna Herring, Pastor, Madison Christian Church, Frankton

As you may remember from a previous issue of the *Indiana Christian*, Madison Christian Church, Frankton had partnered with First Christian, Alexandria and First Christian, Gas City to study and discuss the book, *Real Good Church*. Each church planned a way to reach out into their respective communities to raise awareness about the church and promote our public images. Each church received a \$300 grant from the region to carry out their plan.

Madison Christian planned a Neighborhood Bash on August 20th and invited the closest neighbors to the church for a festival type event including games, a raffle, food, science experiments and all kinds of fun activities all for free.

As the event date approached Mother Nature was not cooperating, there were predictions of rain and high winds. If that wasn't enough we decided to move the event inside two days before the event and then received word that our electrical power would be out that day as the electric company transferred lines to new poles.

Our planning group and PRC quickly decided to postpone the event and to spend some discernment time in prayer. With God's help we decided to keep the event inside and rename it an Open House with sign-ups for Frankton Steam Central, a new science and technology program that we planned to offer after school for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. We chose Tuesday evening, August 30th.

The event was well attended and well received. There were smiles on the faces of the children who took turns playing games, bouncing in the bounce house and working at the science table. Food and raffle items were enjoyed as well. The whole congregation came together in greeting and entertaining our guests and we feel the event was a big success.

Soon we will be meeting with the other two churches to compare notes and evaluate our projects. Our group has bonded and really looks forward to sharing together how we have been able to share the love and welcome of Christ in each of our communities.

For more information on the Mission First! process, go to: [www.missionfirst.disciples.org](http://www.missionfirst.disciples.org) †

## 2017 Camp Dates

### GENEVA CENTER—ROCHESTER, INDIANA

**June 12-17** | High School Camp (grades 9-12)

Traditional  
MAD  
CROSS  
Hands on Mission

**June 13-15** | You and Me #1 Camp (ages 5 and up with adult)

**June 19-June 24** | Middle School Camp (grades 6-8)

Traditional  
MAD  
CROSS

**June 23-25** | You and Me #2 Camp (ages 5 and up with adult)

**June 26-July 1** | Explorer Camp (grades 4-5)

**June 26-July 1** | Leadership Camp (age 16-grade 12)

**June 27-June 29** | New Beginnings Camp (grades 1-3)

**June 29-July 1** | You and Me #3 Camp (ages 5 and up with adult)

### BEDFORD CHRISTIAN CAMP—BEDFORD, INDIANA

**June 19-24** | High School Camp (grades 9-12)

**June 23-July 1** | Middle School Camp (grades 6-8)

**July 5-7** | You and Me Camp (ages 5 and up with adult)

**July 13-15** | New Beginnings Camp (grades 1-3)

**July 17-July 22** | Explorer Camp (grades 4-5)



# FLOURISH! is in Full Bloom

By Cynthia Newman, Minister of Clergy Economic Empowerment

**T**he inaugural year for the FLOURISH! Project, the clergy economic initiative created in partnership with Lilly Endowment, Inc., has been a whirlwind! Thanks to the efforts of our Regional staff, board and steering committee, we have been able to make significant strides in equipping both our clergy and congregations to prosper, thrive and grow!

To date, we have conferred twenty four grants to deserving constituents around our state. These grants totaling nearly \$340,000 will assist our pastors in relieving debt, funding retirement and covering healthcare costs, while some congregations will be able to employ new staff clergy to meet its worship needs. Round two of grant applications will begin in March 2017.

Through our spring and fall sessions of the Financial Literacy Academy (in partnership with The Pension Fund), we have educated over 250 clergy, spouses and congregational leaders on both personal and congregational finance. These learning opportunities are open to all congregations and are sure to pay dividends for those investing time and energy to steward their resources well.

We send a heartfelt "Thank YOU!" to the many donors who have helped us raise over \$72,000, nearly one-third of our matching funds goal!

There's still time to be a part of this effort. For more information on becoming a donor, educational opportunities or submitting an application, check our website at

<http://indianadisciples.org/commissions/commission-on-ministry/lilly-grant/flourish> or contact [cynthia@indianadisciples.org](mailto:cynthia@indianadisciples.org)



FLOURISH Donations Goal:

\$243,000



## Just Women 2017 Bible Study

**Freedom:  
Promise and Struggle**

**NEW THIS YEAR**

The 2017 Bible study will be offered in winter!

**Advance orders can be placed  
until December 1, 2016.**

The Bible study will ship in January.

This is a self-contained multi-lesson study. Leaders instructions are included in the publication.

**ORDER ONLINE AT:**

[www.discipleshomemissions.org](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org)

## Regional Assembly Approves Resolution Requiring Anti-Racism Training for Clergy

**I**n a moment of solidarity and concern for the brokenness of our society delegates to the Regional Assembly unanimously passed a resolution in October that requires clergy in the Region to participate in "Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Preparedness Classes at least once every five years in order to maintain standing. This parallels the requirement that clergy participate in healthy boundaries classes addressing ministerial ethics and conduct that began in 2004 and were mandated at the 2014 Regional Assembly. The resolution, which was submitted by the Regional Board with the encouragement of a number of congregations, noted that eight other Disciples Regions require anti-racism training for their clergy, and current Search and Call papers used by our church inquire if ministers have had such a class. In 2001, under the leadership of then General Minister and President, Disciples adopted at "20/20 Vision" including a hope of "becoming a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church."



The Region will partner with the denomination's Reconciliation Ministries office to plan and lead the anti-racism classes which are expected to begin in 2017. †

## Post Scripts, Regional Assembly Recap

Diane Zehr, Interim Regional Minister

Thanks to all who participated in our Biennial Regional Assembly on October 1, 2016. Just over 380 people from 87 congregations attended a beautiful autumn day of worship, education, important decision making and recognition of good work being done. Julia Johnson gave leadership to an excellent planning team.

We unanimously voted that our clergy participate every 5 years in anti-racism, pro-reconciling preparedness training. We hope this training inspires pastors to be about this work in congregational life.

We celebrated the good work of our Regional Board led by Rev. Monique Crain-Spells, who finished her term and reminded us to prayerfully care for the incoming board.

Moving forward, we now have an opportunity to care for the larger church as we Disciples in Indiana give leadership to the local arrangements for the General Assembly in July of 2017.

Thank you for making Regional Assembly 2016, one of our best yet! †

