

The Indiana Christian

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IndianaDisciples.org

Winter • 2017/2018

As the Christian Church in Indiana, we are people joined and knit together in love. The Christmas Offering is an opportunity to support the regional ministry we share with one another. It supports the work of teams that meet with students preparing for ordination. It helps send out our regional staff to meet with congregations and pastors. It allows us to offer a tremendous summer camp program for children, youth and adults. It helps us connect to partners in mission throughout the world. It provides training sessions for clergy. And so much more. Together, we gather our resources so we can collectively do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

This year on our website you are provided with materials

2017 Christmas Offering

"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

Ephesians 4:15-16

that help interpret this special offering. Share the stories in your newsletters, in bulletins, on your webpage, on your Facebook page or on a screen at worship. You can also use these graphics in communication pieces that you create for your congregation. There is even a poster that can be printed and used in your community. Joined and knit together in love.

Your gifts to the Christmas Offering encourage, inspire, build-up, support

and connect. Your generosity makes a difference in our communities and in our world.

Joined and knit together in love. Thank you. Merci. Asante. Gracias.

If you need more information or have questions, please contact the regional office. Thank you for your support of our shared ministry in the Christian Church in Indiana. †

Joined AND KNIT TOGETHER In LOVE
EPHESIANS 4:15-16

Your gift to the Christmas Offering blesses the ministry of the Christian Church in Indiana, a diverse community of congregations who strive to live faithfully as Christ's church.

Regional World Communion Sunday

Westview Christian Church opened its doors to host the first Regional World Communion Service with our Congolese brother and sister on Sunday, October 1, 2017. About 50 people gathered to worship and commune together with Rosette Matezolo and John Robert Likuwo, our partners from the Democratic Republic of Congo. We sang lovely music, heard encouraging words from Pastor Jean Baptiste Ilondo, Pastor at Southport Congolese Disciples of



Christ Church, and shared in communion together with Rev. David Vargas, President Emeritus, Division of Overseas Ministries, presiding at the table. It was a special time as a region to gather together as the body of Christ. †

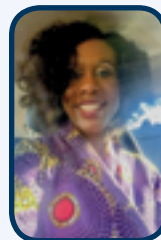


"Nurturing and caring for seminary students and congregational pastors is one of the many ministries of the Region supported by your congregation's gift to the Christmas offering. Give generously so that we can knit together in love those who are equipping themselves for leadership in our church."

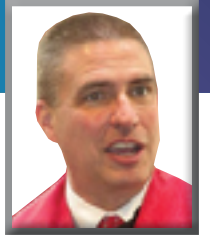
The Gift of Grace

By Shelia Spencer

One of the most treasured parts of my seminary journey is the support of those who travel alongside me. The Regional Nurture and Certification Team have been an integral part of my journey from the beginning. These sisters and brothers have prayed with me, encouraged and stretched me. They have reminded me of giving myself the gift of grace while balancing school, full time work, family, travel and everything else that goes along with living this life. I am grateful for the safe space they provide and the support that is poured into me. This is one of the many tangible and important ministries offered through the Region. This is a gift. †



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



Creating Communities of Faith Where ll Feel Welcome

The story is told of a children's Christmas pageant where the child playing the innkeeper really struggled with his line. He knew that he was supposed to turn away the expectant couple when they knocked on his door for lack of rooms in his establishment but it pained him to have to do so. So on the night of the performance he delivered his line as he had been coached, communicating the lack of vacancy, and the option, if they so chose, to lay down their head in his stables. But he couldn't stop there. Before they left, he said, "I don't have a room for you, but would you like to come in for some cookies?"



I would like to think that any young person in one of our congregations thrust into the uncomfortable role of having to turn Mary and Joseph

away at the door would have a similar twinge of conscience. Within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), from our beginning, we have tried to create communities of faith where all would feel welcome. Our founders believed that the division of the church, and the divisions of society itself, was a scandal. They believed that unity was a gift to be claimed which should not be misunderstood as the same as uniformity. True community, in their view, should not only tolerate, but embrace diversity as gifts that enhanced the fellowship.

I see this happening in many places in the Indiana Region. An inclusive welcome is emblazoned on our doors and communicated by welcoming greeters. If you worship at 201 E. Epler Avenue in Indianapolis on Sundays, depending on which room you enter you could be in one of three Disciples congregations who meet in the same building—and you would find yourself welcomed in any of them whether it be the Congolese Disciples, the Chin Disciples, or the Southport Christian Church. Youth from several of our congregations, representing a diversity of races and geography, are now gathering regularly to better understand their differences and discover their commonality. In addition to offering meals, and food, and clothing for those in need, a number of our congregations house homeless families in their buildings in rotation with neighboring churches. I think that effort



would please that young innkeeper who was so reluctant to turn the Holy Family away—even in a play.

This sense of welcome and eagerness to engage the stranger may feel challenged in a time when worshippers have lost their lives by the

senseless action of an individual who entered their building with a gun. We grieve the loss of life of members of the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. We must continue our prayers for them, as well as all those in Las Vegas and the over 300 other communities in the U.S. where mass shootings have occurred this year. We must work with law enforcement and legislators and civic leaders to create safer communities. This is not simply about gun laws. This is a national health crisis which needs our full attention.

But we cannot and should not change the message on our doors or the greeting we encourage our doorkeepers to offer. The Insurance Board of our church offers good advice on emergency preparedness for congregations

for a whole variety of life threatening circumstances and may be accessed at www.insuranceboard.org. Their wise counsel does not include arming our ushers though. Nor do the scriptures suggest we do so. Mary and Joseph got turned away, to be sure, but we should strive as best we can to welcome in all others.

May the spirit of the Christ child enter your heart and the life of your church this Advent season. †

May God's blessings be on you and your congregation,

Richard L. Spleth
Regional Minister

2017 / 2018

Regional Calendar

DECEMBER 2017

December 4 – Regional Assembly Planning Meeting
December 14 – FLOURISH! Graduation Celebration Dinner
December 22, 2017 to January 1, 2018 – Regional Office Closed

JANUARY 2018

January 9 – Nurture and Certification Meetings

FEBRUARY 2018

February 8 – Regional Elder Meeting
February 10 – Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racism Training-Indianapolis
February 13 – Nurture and Certification Meetings

MARCH 2018

March 2-4 – Spring Youth Assembly at Geneva Camp
March 13 – Nurture and Certification Meetings
March 17 – Healthy Boundaries Training
March 21 – Regional Finance Meeting
March 24 – Youth Conversation on Race Opening Retreat

APRIL 2018

April 10 – Nurture and Certification Meetings
April 12 – Commission on Ministry
April 21 – Youth Conversation on Race Gathering

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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call 317.926.6051.

**SPRING
ISSUE
DEADLINE
March 8**



Indiana Youth Council

The Indiana Youth Council (IYC) is a group of young people from around the state who serve as representatives for youth throughout the region. IYC plans and coordinates all youth events in the region except summer camps. Persons applying for IYC positions should be active in their local church, attend regional camps and other regional CYF activities, show an interest in being part of the youth ministry of the region, exhibit leadership qualities, be able to work together with others as a team, and have good references from their minister, local youth advisor, and other adults. All CYF who have finished 8th grade are eligible to apply for IYC. For more information please contact Maggie Archibald at maggie@indianadisciples.org or fill out the IYC Application here: <https://goo.gl/forms/siaBhqjGNON8Uyau2> †

Indiana Youth Council Meet Your Moderator!



A senior at Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities, Allison Marie Nash has served on the Indiana Youth Council for three years. She was inspired in part by her older brother, Ethan who had served before her. Allison began attending Park Christian Church from a young age, and recently began attending First Christian Church, New Castle. Although undecided on where she'll attend college, Allison hopes to major in Peace Studies and minor in Japanese, with the intention to become an International Christian Missionary. In her free time, Allison enjoys acting, playing ukulele, and writing. She has participated in Speech Team, Literature Club, and Art Club functions. Allison is proud that she can serve her denomination in this way, and hopes to have a

positive impact on the Disciples of Christ in Indiana during the months she will serve as Moderator. †

Christian Church in
Indiana
Summer Camp 2018

BEYOND BELIEF!
THE UNIVERSE OF GOD

Camp:	Geneva Center	Bedford
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	July 9-14	July 9-14
High School (Grades 9-12)	July 9-14	July 2-7
CROSS (Grades 6-8 & 9-12)	June 11-16	
MAD (Grades 6-8 & 9-12)	June 18-23	
Explorer (Grades 4-5)	June 11-16	June 25-30
New Beginnings (Grades 1-3)	June 25-27	July 16-18
You & Me (Grades K-3)	June 18-20	July 19-21
You & Me 2 (Grades K-3)	June 25-27	

Full Week Cost: \$300
New Beginnings and You & Me Cost: \$195
After May 15, 2018 - \$25 Registration Cost Increase

For more information and to register online,
please visit: www.indianadisciples.org

2018 Summer Staff Positions Available!

Bedford Christian Camp is searching for Summer Staff Persons to fill camp needs, including a First Aid Director, Lifeguard, and Assistant Cook (must be 18+).

For more information please contact Maggie Archibald at maggie@indianadisciples.org.



Ministry Milestones

MINISTRY CHANGES

James Petty concluded his ministry at Yorktown Christian Church June 30.

Susan Beamer concluded her ministry at New Hope United Church of Christ, Sunday July 16.

Paul DeHart concluded his ministry at Poseyville Christian Church, Sunday July 16.

Ashley Sherard began her ministry at Beechwood Christian Church, Sunday July 16.

Melinda Kammerer began serving New Hope United Church of Christ, Bippus, IN on Sunday, July 23.

Susie Beamer concluded her ministry at New Hope United Church of Christ on Sunday, July 16.

Don DeWeese concluded his interim ministry at Main Street Christian Church, Winchester on July 30.

Bruce Naylor retired from his position as co-pastor of Southside Christian Church, South Bend on July 31.

Doug Cripe began serving First Christian Church, Mishawaka on August 1. This congregation will be yoked with Central Christian, Elkhart, where Doug will also remain as their Pastor.

Jessica Singleton concluded her interim ministry at Mishawaka on July 31 and began her new ministry as Co-Pastor with Southside Christian Church on August 1.

Penny Brown retired from First Christian Church, Eaton on Sunday, August 27.

Meadlawn Christian Church, Indianapolis held its final service of worship on Sunday, August 27.

Doug Burns began his ministry as Pastor of Brooklyn Christian Church on August 1.

Dawn Barnes began serving as Interim Associate Pastor at Central Christian Church, Indianapolis on September 1.

Lanny Lawler began serving as

the Interim Pastor of Countryside Christian Church (formerly Main Street Christian Church), Winchester on Sunday, September 10.

Jeff Castetter began serving Yorktown Christian Church as their new pastor on September 10.

Stephen Eberhard began serving as Pastor of Smartsburg Christian Church on September 10.

Luis Gierbolini began serving as the Interim Pastor of Danville Christian Church on September 11.

VJ Stover concluded his service as Interim Pastor of East Lynn Christian Church, Anderson on September 24.

Kevin Greenwald began serving as Pastor of First Christian Church, Eaton on September 24.

Kimberly Holley began serving as Pastor of First Christian Church, Flora on October 8.

Becky Sundquist concluded her ministry at South Side Christian Church, Kokomo on October 15 and began

serving as Pastor of First Christian Church, Highland on October 30.

Heath Jones began serving as Pastor of Northwood Christian Church, Indianapolis on November 1.

Michael Sinclair concluded his ministry at First Christian Church, Highland on October 29 and began serving as Interim Minister at Central Christian Church in Danville, Illinois on November 1.

Beth Crouch concluded her service at West Street Christian Church, Tipton on October 28 and began serving as Associate Minister at First Christian Church Shelbyville on November 5.

Steve DeFields-Gambrel concluded his ministry at First Christian Church, Vincennes on November 12 and began serving as the Transitional Minister at East Lynn Christian Church, Anderson on November 13.

Peggy Hickman began serving as the Interim Minister at South Side Christian, Kokomo on November 12. †

Wabash Christian Church Celebrates 175 Years

Rev. Haley Asberry

On Sunday, September 4, 1842, several people gathered in Wabash to hear Judge Daniel Jackson speak and read scripture. At that moment, what we now know as Wabash Christian Church was born. The congregation has taken many forms, been in several buildings (the current church being built between 1865 and 1871), and had other names (formerly First Christian Church). Church members gathered on Sunday, September 24, 2017 to remember and to celebrate 175 years of faithful service to God and community while thinking about the future and how the congregation is called to serve.

Wabash Christian Church has a deep commitment to community. Each month of the year has a local mission for which the church collects an offering.

Church members volunteer to make and serve meals at Helping Hands, which provides a hot meal to those in need in the community and also houses a thrift store. The church helps with rent and utility assistance for members of the community. On the first Sunday of the



month, there is a food offering taken along with the monetary offering. The food goes to the local food pantry, FISH (Friends In Service Here). During the growing season, the church has a community garden in which church members and members of the community are encouraged to

plant, water, harvest, and meet under a large tree for fellowship. The produce is given to FISH so that people who are food insecure can have fresh vegetables. It is estimated that this year's growing season in the garden produced over 1,200 pounds of produce. In addition to the produce from the WCC Community Garden, several church and community members were inspired to also give to FISH from their gardens and several farms donated produce as well making the direct and indirect effort of the Wabash Christian Church Community Garden 2,000 pounds of fresh produce to those in need in the community.

WCC looks to its 176th year with hope and a firm commitment to God and God's people. †



Photo by Lou Ann Millett

The Free Little Pantry

The free little pantry in the yard at West Street Christian Church now has a dedication plaque attached to it. The Indiana Disciples of Christ are in partnership with the Congo Disciples of Christ, most specifically with the Mbandaka District of the 10th Community Disciples of Christ in Congo. West Street dedicated its free little pantry in honor of Mama Rosette Matezolo who runs a nutrition center for malnourished children in Mbandaka. As Disciples the two groups are united in feeding the hungry, both in Mbandaka and Tipton, Indiana.

A plaque of dedication was presented to Congolese Disciples partners Jean Robert Likuwo and Mama Rosette Matezolo by representatives of West Street: Rev. Linda McKiernan-Allen and Mike Tolle, the builder of the free little pantry. These two Congolese visitors were also informed that West Street members had donated over a \$1,000 to the Nutrition Center and over \$1,000 to Disciples 4 Water, an Edmond, Oklahoma group that builds simple-to-operate water wells in Congo. †



SAVE *The* DATE

2018 INDIANA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 5 & 6, 2018

Light of the World Christian Church

4646 North Michigan Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46228

Theme: "Can We Talk?"

Save the dates now to join your Indiana Disciples family as we gather and grow together in spirit and in truth. The Rev. Terri Hord Owens will be our featured preacher. We will gather Friday evening for an all Assembly dinner, worship service and time to see friends for casual conversation. If you can't be there Friday you will still get a full experience of our assembly on Saturday with breakfast opportunities for men and women's ministries and a continental breakfast for others. There will be worship, workshops and exhibits, conversation, celebration of our life together as well as our ministries of mission and service to our communities and world.

Let the conversation begin!

Bedford First Christian Church Hosts Congolese

Several members of Bedford First Christian Church met with Rosette and Jean Robert at the end of their visit to southern Indiana churches.

Rosette spoke about the work at the Nutrition Center which provides meals as well as education and a micro-credit program for mothers and children. In this way, they are able to meet the immediate need and help provide the tools for the future. She also mentioned that she had helped create a pharmacy to assist

with medical needs.

Jean Robert also expressed sincere, heartfelt gratitude to the congregation for its financial assistance which has enabled them to purchase a much-needed saw and for the recent contribution of \$3748 for help in digging additional water wells.

Please continue to hold Rosette and Jean Robert and all of the Mbandaka District of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in your prayers. †



Congo Partnership Visit

The partnership between the Disciples of the Christian Church in Indiana and the Disciples of Mbandaka District began officially with the signing of a partnership agreement in Mbandaka in May of 2008. The match was made by the Africa Office of Global Ministries with the blessing of the General Ministers of both the Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada and the Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo. We have learned much about each other and the relationships between the churches and between individuals have grown during these years of partnership.

The Indiana Region was honored to host Rosette Motezolo and Jean Robert Likuwo September 30 to October 16, 2017. During their time in Indiana, they visited churches from

Evansville to Auburn and many points in between. Our guests experienced churches providing afterschool programs, health care and hot meals to the community, a forum on hunger, Bible study, and many varied worship services. Their time in Indiana also included a school visit and a visit to a WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) clinic, a visit to the archives at CTS, and meals shared with friends. They

were also able to enjoy some tourist attractions around the state during their time here.

Because much of Mama Rosette's work in Mbandaka is with the Nutrition Center that she founded and Disciples in Indiana have supported over the past ten years, many discussions were had about the differences and similarities in hunger and malnutrition in Congo and in the United States. Several Indiana congregations presented

gifts of funds to continue to support the Nutrition Center as well as efforts to provide clean water. Gifts such as these are sent to Global Ministries to be transferred to the church in Congo.

Thank you to the many hands, prayers, and financial gifts that made this visit possible. ✝





Southport Christian Church Chancel Choir Sings in Carnegie Hall

Southport Christian Church Chancel Choir began their 2017 holiday season by spending 5 days and 4 nights in New York City in preparation to sing a concert in Carnegie Hall on Sunday November 19, presented by Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY). They participated with 15 other choirs from across the United States in the New York Premiere of the "International Carol Suites" by Mark Hayes, who composed, orchestrated, and conducted the concert. †

Bethany Christian, Evansville at Fall Festival

2017 marked the 20th anniversary of Bethany's participation in Evansville's West Side Nut Club's annual Fall Festival. Fall Festival is the second largest street festival in the U.S. second only to Mardi Gras. The festival includes a traveling carnival complete with every ride imaginable, and (the best part) food booth trailers staffed by local non-profits. One can find anything from Bethany's award winning bread pudding, to deep fried brain sandwiches. This year over 85 people helped dish up Bethany's menu, 17 of which were friends of Bethany and nonmembers. By the end of



the week, Bethany's crew dished out:

- 1,080 cheesecake slices
- 1,404 apple dumplings
- 2,016 bread pudding servings
- 900 zippy chicky servings

All of the monies raised throughout the week go directly to supporting the mission and ministry of Bethany. More importantly however,

Fall Festival is a chance to get to better know the members and friends that are connected with Bethany. The opportunity for fellowship is worth far more than any amount raised, or any number of dishes served out. Talk has begun about how to make the 21st year even better! If you happen to be in Evansville around the first week of October, make sure you add Fall Festival to your list of things to do. And don't leave without stopping by the friendliest booth (as voted), Bethany, #24. There will be plenty of smiling faces AND delicious menu options. †

Disciple Churches Continued Support of Habitat for Humanity

According to Disciples News Service, Habitat for Humanity has built well over 300,000 homes for those who would otherwise never own their own home. Since their beginning over 1,300 Disciple congregations have been involved in their mission and have raised over \$2 million toward the construction of these homes. The report goes on to say, "Habitat for Humanity International was founded by Millard and Linda Fuller after the couple served as Disciples missionaries to Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo). The Fullers began their housing ministry in Mbandaka, an impoverished community in western Zaire. Before they left Africa, the Fullers had overseen construction of 114 houses. After returning to the United States, they began the ministry of Habitat for Humanity to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ by building homes in partnership with families in need."

The Indiana Region has long been a partner with Habitat for Humanity. In fact, each year the region awards a \$1000 grant for GIDA (Greater Indianapolis Disciples Area) to participate and sponsor a build which comes from a gift left by Third Christian Church. As

far back as I can recall the Indianapolis area churches have either built a home, sponsored a panel build and/or worked on a build site to confirm our partnership with Habitat.

The Indiana Region is dedicated to this partnership which is reflected in the fact that First Christian Church in Bloomington houses their local office of Habitat for Humanity in the Campbell House which is located on the church

did the work of construction inside the Convention Center. People from all across the country and from all walks of life with hammer and nails in hand built this house. It was a powerful statement of continued mission to reach out to those in need through charity and compassion.

If you have an interest in sharing in a future Habitat for Humanity build (especially the one sponsored by



Habitat house framed at the Disciples General Assembly being moved to its permanent location

property. Plus, each year many Disciples work on build sites such as: Women's Build, Interfaith build, and individually sponsored builds.

During the July 2017 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) our brothers and sisters in Christ helped to build the home in these photographs for Sebastian. One of the wonderful things is we actually

GIDA) please contact our Indiana Regional Office or your local Habitat for Humanity office. Thank you all for making homes possible for others. †

Much peace,

Rev. Brooks Barrick
Chair, Local Missions
2017 General Assembly

Youth Conversations on Race

FAITH

Poverty, Homelessness

MENTAL HEALTH

Sexuality & Gender

Justice System

Immigration

2 retreats
5 experiential workshops
1 national trip

Interested? Contact us!
bere@indianadisciples.org

CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) IN INDIANA

RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

You can now set up a recurring gift to the region!

Donate

Click on our DONATE page to set yours up today!

<http://indianadisciples.org/donate/>



LILLY FAMILY
SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis



FLOURISH! Introduces New ECRF Educational Program

As year two of the FLOURISH! Project comes to a close; the last component of the program comes into the forefront. Enter the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising (ECRF) educational opportunity. Designed to train clergy and lay leaders around our state in stewardship issues relative to religious organizations, the course is offered by the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving at Indiana University's School of Philanthropy. (<https://philanthropy.iupui.edu/institutes/lake-institute/courses/religious-fundraising.html>).

This four-day intensive course with a practical application project provides research, tools, and customized training to meet the growing needs of leaders in religious communities and fundraisers of faith-based organizations. The focus of the ECRF is on the cultural, organizational, and philanthropic practices unique to religious institutions.

The Christian Church in Indiana will open twelve slots for leaders around the Re-

gion to receive the certification so that they can provide training to other congregations and clergy seeking knowledge in this area. The application process is slated to open in early January 2018 with program awards to be decided by early March.

Since January 2016, the FLOURISH! Project has conferred grants to 36 clergy, and educated more than 120 lay leaders from 32 congregations around our state. The goal is that The Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising Program will extend the reach of FLOURISH! and create ripples of education and empowerment to additional congregations while strengthening our regional partnership with those we serve. We look forward to seeing this impact take shape in the years to come.

For more information on FLOURISH!, the ECRF program or how you might support clergy as a donor, please contact cynthia@indianadisciples.org. Thank you in advance for your support. †

First Christian Church, Bloomington Recognized

Regional Minister Rick Spleth presents a certificate of thanks for the generous support of First Christian Church, Bloomington to Disciples Mission Fund, to Joanne Weddle, an Elder in the congregation. Joanne is also active in the Region's life. She recently completed serving 6 years on the Reference and Counsel Team of the Commission on Ministry. (Photo by David Shank, Elder at Speedway Christian Church, who also completed 6 years!)



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.

Three Congregations Gathered for Pastoral Relations Committee Training

By Kyle Hunter, Pastor, Bethany Christian Church, Evansville

"There are just some things that we do better together, than apart." Reverend Dick Hamm said to a group of Disciples seminary students at Christian Theological Seminary one fall day. Thanks to the work of Reverend Diane Zehr, three congregations from southern Indiana put Reverend Hamm's words to the test. Corydon Christian, Floyds Knobs Christian and Bethany Christian, Evansville all gathered together and received training on how to have an effective Pastoral Relations Committee. Floyds Knobs graciously hosted the gathering that included the

three ministers from each congregation as well as lay leaders representing their Pastoral Relations Committees (PRC). One of those in attendance was thankful to know that there are other congregations in the Indiana Region who had some of the same questions that their PRC was asking. Those in attendance reviewed the Revised Guidelines for the Pastoral Relations Committee published by Disciples Home Missions. After receiving an introduction to the material by Reverend Zehr, the combined group split up into small groups

that included members from other congregations and then presented a section of the guidelines to the whole group. After the small groups presented their sections, Reverend Zehr closed with prayer and sent each congregation home with a candle. An invitation was also extended to light the candle at the next PRC gathering, to represent the presence of Christ burning within their midst, and perhaps as a reminder that there are just some things that we do better together, than apart. †



The Indiana Women's Council (IWC), Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is in the process of examining what our role might look like in serving Indiana Disciples women for the next few years.

One prevalent need resulting from IWC's initial discussion regarding our future role is that of listening. We want to listen to you and your church women! We would love to meet with the ladies of your church whether that be a CWF group, a study group, a ladies' luncheon or dinner, and/or an interested group of women.

We envision topics of our conversation to include:

- How do today's Disciples Women want to connect with each other?
- How can the IWC enhance faith relationships among today's Disciples Women?
- In what ways can the IWC improve communication among the Indiana Disciples Women?
- What is the future role of the IWC in respect to today's church?

Please consider participating in our Listening Tour. Members of the IWC are willing to come to your church for this discussion. All we need is an invitation!

Once a date is agreed upon, we will send you a personalized invitation for your ladies in the form of a flyer, bulletin insert, letter and suggested email.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or text at 317-362-6344 or email: jschantz@franklincollege.edu, to schedule a visit from members of the Indiana Women's Council. I look forward to hearing from you.

Janet Schantz

President, Indiana Women's Council
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Anti-Racism Workshops Launched

By Rev. Bere Gil Soto, Regional Reconciliation Program Minister

In the midst of today's tense political and social climate, where mass killings, deportations, racial profiling, and many other expressions of evil are threatening people's lives and dignity, thirty ministers gathered on Saturday, November 11, 2017 for the first Anti-Racism & Pro-Reconciliation training for all commissioned and ordained ministers of the region.

It was a transforming moment where grace and mercy showed each one of us new ways in which we can continue doing ministry in ways that reflect the Realm of God, in ways in which justice and reconciliation become part of the Church's DNA. Through the leadership of Rev. Yvonne Gilmore (Illinois) and Rev. Nathan Hill (Maryland), the training turned into a safe space for thinking critically and theologically about our identity as the body of Christ, and how the call to ministry of each individual can be a transformative agent for today's society starting with our own religious policies and structures. Honesty, compassion, challenge, reassurance, and love were words used to describe what people experienced during the day. "It is not an easy thing to be




willing to be uncomfortable and dig deep in the pain," said one of the participants, "but if we want to heal this nation, we have to clean the wounds."

At the end, the pressing question among the group was how to continue the work from the training, while moving forward and not let this be just one more check mark on their standing process. Immediately, the group began to respond, wanting to hold small group conversations with other ministers in their area, hosting book clubs on race and justice, and bringing together congregations through gatherings of "One Bag of Tea, One Conversation, One Relationship" initiative.

As the Reconciliation Program Minister for the Region, I know that indeed the work ahead is hard and difficult, but after having witnessed our ministers during this training, I am hopeful and excited to see what the Holy Spirit is doing in our Region.

If you have not signed up for it, go to our website and register for any of the upcoming trainings; I tell you, this is something you do not want to miss!

2018 Trainings: February 10, May 5, August 11 and October 5.
Sign up today at www.indianadisciples.org. †



2018 SPRING YOUTH ASSEMBLY

MARCH 2-4, 2018

BE THE LIGHT!

GUEST SPEAKER: REV. YVONNE GILMORE

\$115 All Inclusive Cost Per Person

- * 4 Meals (Sat. Breakfast - Sun. Breakfast)
- * Lodging Friday & Saturday Night
- * Assembly T-Shirt IF registered by February 1
- * Learning, Worship, Snacks, Fun!

SIGN UP TODAY AT:
[HTTPS://WMT.SURAN.COM/MAIN/PREVIEW/6645](https://wmt.suran.com/main/preview/6645)
Geneva Center
5282 N Old US 31 Rochester, IN 46975

THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO PUT IT: YOU'RE HERE TO BE LIGHT. BRINGING OUT THE GOD-COLORS IN THE WORLD. GOD IS NOT A SECRET TO BE KEPT. WE'RE GOING PUBLIC WITH THIS, AS PUBLIC AS A CITY ON A HILL. IF I MAKE YOU LIGHT-BEARERS, YOU DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO HIDE YOU UNDER A BUCKET, DO YOU? I'M PUTTING YOU ON A LIGHT STAND. NOW THAT I'VE PUT YOU THERE ON A HILLTOP, ON A LIGHT STAND—SHINE! KEEP OPEN HOUSE; BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR LIVES. BY OPENING UP TO OTHERS, YOU'LL PROMPT PEOPLE TO OPEN UP WITH GOD, THIS GENEROUS FATHER IN HEAVEN. MATTHEW 5:14-16



The Young Adult Retreat

By Holly Black



The Young Adult Retreat is a biannual weekend event that brings us together in fellowship, study, and worship with old and new friends from across the region. Often, as young adults, it can be hard to feel as though we have a place within our own church. The retreats offer a community who understands this struggle to belong in a faith community. We offer each other guidance and explore the ways in which we can act in the ministries of the church. We are grateful for strengthened faith journeys and for the connections made across the Christian Church in Indiana. †