

The Indiana Christian



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Legacy Gifts Undergird the Life of the Church

The Christian Church in Indiana is pleased to announce the receipt of a substantial gift to undergird our life and ministries from Maurice and Janalie Robeson of Flora, Indiana. This gift of \$250,000 has established the Maurice and Janalie Robeson Endowment Fund to support the general operations of the Region. The fund will be invested with the Christian Church Foundation, the general ministry of our church that holds long term endowment funds for our congregations and the Region.

In actuality the Robesons quietly provided the Region with these funds in 1997.

It was given then as a "no-interest no-term" loan to the Region to create some working capital to fund new church starts.

Shortly before his death in November 2017, Maurice Robeson communicated that he desired to make this long-term loan a gift to be used for the Region's greatest need. The Regional Board first learned the identity of this long-time benefactor couple in April 2018 and with joy and deep gratitude established the endowment fund in their name.

Janalie Robeson has recently relocated to Carmel, Indiana and has become active in the Carmel Christian Church. Their daughter, Miriam Robeson, has served for a number of years as the Treasurer for the Region, and granddaughter Samantha Pickens is a regular camp counselor at our MAD camp. We give thanks for the multi-generational commitment of this family to our church and for this most generous gift that will bless generations to come.

The Robesons are not alone in using their accumulated resources to benefit the Region and congregations of the Region. Mamie Young of Evansville, Indiana, who died in 1960, named the Christian Church in Indiana, alongside other charitable causes, in her will in 1952. Our Region has received an annual gift from her estate for 58 years and we were just informed this year that future gifts will increase.



Maurice and Janalie Robeson

In 2000, two sisters in the First Christian Church, Highland, Indiana, Rose Loretta and Florence Lovinna Sass made the Region administrator of a fund they established to support Disciples congregations in Lake County, Indiana. Each year, and in perpetuity, this fund gives us opportunity to distribute about \$7,000 to each of those four congregations.

More recently, we received notice of a gift of \$25,000 from the estate of Mary Jo Graham, a former member of Speedway Christian Church. Her gift was designated for the support of the *Indiana Christian*.

We also receive gifts each year from the Christian Church Foundation from endowment funds that faithful Indiana Disciples have established to bless their local congregation and the Region. Others have let us know that they have included the Christian Church in Indiana in their will. That is an efficient and effective way for you to use a portion of your estate to undergird the ongoing life of your local church and other ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For information on how to establish such an endowment fund with the Christian Church Foundation contact India Bobadilla, indiab@ccf.disciples.org, (317) 713-2420 †



Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana



October 5-6, 2018

Light of the World Christian Church / Indianapolis



Friday Dinner
Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows
Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis



Saturday Women's Breakfast
Bethany Watkins Lowery
Director of Development, Disciples Church Extension Fund and Hope Partnership



Saturday Men's Breakfast
Rafael Sanchez
News Anchor RTV6 - The Indy Channel Member of Tabernacle Christian Church Franklin, Indiana



Saturday Worship
Dr. Ron Allen
Professor of Preaching and Gospels and Letters Christian Theological Seminary

www.indianadisciples.org

"Can We Talk?" About Regional Assembly

You have been hearing about our next Regional Assembly, but NOW is the time to begin registering to attend. There is something strengthening about being with the larger community of Disciples as we gather from 140 congregations in Indiana. We'll sing together and pray together, hear about our shared ministries, greet old friends and meet new ones. Best of all, together we'll deepen our faith and strengthen our witness and spirit by learning to "speak the truth in love."

It has been said that the world changes 'one conversation at a time'. As people of faith we want to be sure that our conversations (even about potentially divisive subjects) are shared with hearts of grace and care for the other. That is what we will spend some time practicing during our time together. We hope you will come away with some skills to offer our communities that can really impact our world for the better 'one conversation at a time'. †

In The Spirit Richard L. Spleth, Indiana Regional Minister



2018 Regional Assembly: Join Us for Respectful Conversation

On October 5-6 the Christian Church in Indiana will gather once again for Regional Assembly. We have been doing this with regularity since we first came together as Disciples churches in Indiana in 1839. Important matters have been decided at our assemblies, like in 1883 when we decided to build a church camp, or in 1914 when we provided for the transportation needs of our Regional staff with a fleet of Model T Fords, or in 2000 when we committed to study the concerns around human sexuality, and in 2008 when we launched a partnership with Congolese Disciples. Our Regional Assembly has often given us impetus for our life together. And this year we will come together to talk, to really talk. It is most important that we do so.

There is no question that our society is polarized. It is not just our geographic states that are divided into red and blue camps. Most of our families are similarly divided. It all causes many to lose heart and lose hope. Fear and pain inhibit our capacity for conversation and robs us of the desire to initiate discussion.

Sadly, the church in our day too often reflects this division. Persons of all viewpoints can feel at odds with their pastor or their fellow congregants which can leave them feeling quite lonely and discouraged. I hear about this often as your Regional pastor and it has me concerned.



This is not a new phenomenon. The church in the New Testament was similarly fractured. The Spirit of God brought communities of faith into being in surprising places which then created unexpected and suspicious diversity. In Acts 15 we read how Paul and Barnabas testified to the Christian community in Jerusalem their first-hand experience of the church in Galatia whose life did not mirror that of their Jerusalem cousins. In describing this meeting, the scripture says that there was "no small dissension and debate." I imagine. The glaring differences forced deep reflection on identity and purpose.

That day in Jerusalem our ancestors came to an uneasy truce, a sort of "you go your way and I will go my way" kind of settlement. Likely it was the best outcome that could be derived. But the consequence was that division has always been a latent possibility in our life.

Fast forward to the 19th century and our founders Thomas and Alexander Campbell found themselves troubled about this same issue. When they migrated from Scotland to the United States they were Old Light

Anti-Burgher Seceder Presbyterians. They were part of a sect of a sect of a sect of the Presbyterian church in their day and the common rule was that you did not associate with, and certainly did not share communion with, persons whose credential was unlike your own. The Campbells believed this was wrong. It misrepresented who Christ is. It squandered the gift of unity that is offered to us by God that gives us capacity to transcend our differences.

The Campbells, with Barton W. Stone and others, launched a new movement. Their hope was not to start yet one more denomination but to inspire Christians to come together, to be a light in the world, to be the people God longs for us to be. If that could happen it would not only benefit the church, but it would provide a healing balm for the whole society.

Fast forward to today. In 2018 we know this same need. We are reminded daily of the brokenness in which we live. But what if the church could be a countervailing force that could begin to be witness to an alternative way for the people of God to live? What if we could offer that balm to our world?

To do so we would need to practice. That is what this year's Regional Assembly is all about, to have an experience, in a safe space, of talking about some difficult issues so that we feel more confident to engage in such discussions in our families, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and our church. Our Assembly this year is not about debate, in fact there are no resolutions, rather it is about practicing respectful conversation. Our intention is not to coerce or convince one another around any topic but to practice active listening with one another.

Truthfully, we do not always operate in that fashion. Most

of us who would never think of carrying a concealed weapon walk about at the same time armed with "bullet points." We do "pack heat" in that regard. The Gospel calls us to a different way.

I hope you will join me at Light of the World Christian Church for this conversation. I believe it will be worth your time. Can we talk? We must.

May God's blessings be on you and your congregation. †

Richard L. Spleth
Regional Minister

2018 Regional Calendar

AUGUST

- August 11** Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation Training - FCC, Bedford
- August 25** Youth Conversation on Race - Central Christian Church, Indianapolis
- August 29** Regional Board Meeting, Regional Office

SEPTEMBER

- September 3** Regional Office Closed - Labor Day Holiday
- September 13** Regional Elders Meeting, Regional Office

OCTOBER

- October 5-6** 2018 Regional Assembly, Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis
- October 5** Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation Training - Regional Office
- October 9** Nurture and Certification Meetings, Regional Office
- October 12-13** Financial Literacy Academy, Marriott East, Indianapolis
- October 26** Healthy Boundaries, Tabernacle Christian Church, Franklin

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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FALL ISSUE DEADLINE OCTOBER 22



Shelbyville First Christian Funds Accessible Entrance and Renovations

First Christian Church has been in its current location in downtown Shelbyville, IN since 1901. In 2004, the congregation began planning to move to a new location and even purchased land for that purpose. But the relocation of the hospital in their community suddenly gave them more options to remain in their own neighborhood if they could make their building assessible.

Their surrounding neighborhood now features a new upscale senior housing facility within a block of the church, and the city has additional plans for revitalization and improvement of retail and living spaces. First Christian Church has a unique opportunity to be a part of this resurgence by providing its



facility and its members more programs and events to meet the social and spiritual needs of the community.

With the help of Disciples Church Extension Fund, the congregation conducted a capital campaign and exceeded their goal of \$500,000 by more than \$100,000. After worshipping for several months in a local funeral home the congregation is now back in

their remodeled space. A new entrance coupled with an elevator makes all three floors of the facility accessible. Improvements to HVAC and electrical systems and a new roof have prepared the building to continue to serve for many more years. And the sanctuary is refreshed.

Bill Horner and Beth Crouch serve this church as ministers alongside a host of generous and visionary members. †



Southside Kokomo's Little Pantry Fulfills Mission

On Pentecost Sunday, Rev. Margaret Hickman, Interim Minister, led a dedication service for the new Little Pantry at South Side Christian Church, Kokomo. The outdoor Little Pantry idea evolved when a large local food pantry closed and the organization moved to distribute food in a different manner. South Side's Outreach committee felt that there was still a large section of the local community that faced food insecurity and that the church location was ideal for a free outdoor food pantry. Tim Gasaway, congregational member, volunteered to craft an outdoor pantry.

The Little Pantry is filled three times per week with approximately 30-35 non-perishable food items and toiletries. Each time it is to be filled, it is found nearly empty. With no outside funding, South Side has moved on faith to continue this ministry.

South Side Christian's mission statement is "To Share the Love of God." The pantry joins the Little Library, the seasonal Giving Tree of warm clothing, and the annual Community Thanksgiving dinner in fulfilling their mission in the community. †

Supporting the Indiana Christian

The Indiana Christian has been in continuous publication since 1891 connecting Disciples of Christ congregations in Indiana with each other and with our mission to the world. Today the publication reaches over 5,300 households, including yours, with news about our church. The paper is supported by a portion of Disciples Mission Fund and by the annual gifts of readers who value this publication for the way it connects and energizes our congregations consistent with our mission as the Regional church. You are invited to use the enclosed envelope to make a gift, of whatever size, to undergird this communication ministry. Or go online at www.indianadisciples.org and hit the donate button to make a secure electronic gift. Thank you for your support.



Ministry Milestones

MINISTRY CHANGES

Melissa Kleinschmidt began serving as Pastor of Countryside Christian Church, Winchester on March 18.

John Rich began serving as Pastor of East Side Christian Church, Evansville on March 18.

Cheryl Russell began serving as Senior Minister of First Christian, Noblesville on April 1.

Haley Asberry began serving as Senior Minister of Wabash Christian Church, Wabash on April 1.

Becki Nunnally concluded her Interim Ministry at First Christian Church, Fort Wayne on April 8.

Tod Iseminger concluded his ministry at Eastgate Christian Church, Indianapolis on April 29.

Jeffery Deaton concluded his ministry at Central Christian Church, Connersville on May 13.

Greg Eberhard began serving as Interim Minister at Eastgate Christian Church, Indianapolis on May 20.

Rachel McLoughlin began serving as Associate Minister at West Street Christian Church, Tipton on June 11.

Will Jewsbury retired as Senior Pastor of First Christian Church, Kokomo on June 20.

Laureen Hartig concluded her ministry with Hobbs Christian Church, Hobbs on June 24.

Luis Gierbolini concluded his ministry at Danville Christian Church, Danville on June 30.

Ronn Oren began serving as the minister of Danville Christian Church, Danville on July 1.

Dan Bair began serving as Pastor at First Christian Church, Fort Wayne on July 1.

Lanny Lawler began serving as Interim Minister of First Christian Church, Kokomo on July 1.

Paula Pettis-Garrett began serving as Associate Minister of Avon Christian Church, Avon on July 9.

ORDINATIONS

James Petty was ordained on May 20 at Hazelwood Christian Church, Muncie.

Whitney Ijanaten was ordained on May 27 at Central Christian Church, Indianapolis.

Ellen Corcella was ordained on June 9 at Zionsville Christian Church, Zionsville.

BIRTHS

Jean Baptiste Ilondo, minister of the Southport Congolese Disciples of Christ Church, Indianapolis, and his

wife **Blonde Bekonda**, welcomed a son, **Jules Beau-Jack Ilondo**, on March 23. **Heath Jones**, senior minister of Northwood Christian Church, Indianapolis, and his wife, **Kelly Jones**, welcomed a son, **Abel Gene Jones**, on March 26.

MARRIAGES

Ashley Sherard Clarke, minister of Beechwood Christian Church, French Lick, was married on March 21.

CHURCH CLOSINGS

Hobbs Christian Church closed its visible ministry on June 24. †

Together

Elders Gather

By Pamela Pettyjohn
Pastor of Floyds Knobs Christian Church

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 features stories of coming together to be the region. If you have something you would like to highlight, send to Carolyn Reed, Associate Regional Minister.

On Thursday, March 22, about twenty elders from four Southern Indiana churches came together at Floyds Knobs Christian Church for a delicious dinner and an Elder Workshop with Associate Regional Minister Rev. Diane Zehr. This event grew out of a request from the Floyds Knobs elders for training from the Region, as they were preparing to more fully embrace their role as pastoral care providers in partnership with their pastor, Rev. Pamela Pettyjohn. When Pamela contacted Diane, she enthusiastically agreed to conduct a workshop, and Pamela extended invitations to other ministers and congregations in the area to join them as well. Rev. Lee Huckleberry, from Park Christian, New Albany, and Rick Hartig, from Corydon Christian attended with their elders, and Central Christian, New Albany was also represented.

Great discussion about the important role of elders in the church ensued. Participants had a chance to ask questions and all attendees felt the workshop was very worthwhile. Rick Hartig suggested that all congregations consider hosting such an event for the elders in their areas as well, as a refresher for seasoned elders and a training course for newer ones. Lindsey Fleming, the Elder Chair at Floyds Knobs, felt that an added benefit is that it signaled to the congregation that pastoral care is not just for the pastor, but part of the expectation of elders. And that the elders are taking this responsibility seriously by attending training from the regional staff.

This was not the first time that Floyds Knobs Christian hosted a training event with Rev. Diane. On September 23, 2017, Pastor Relations Committee (PRC) members and pastors from Floyds Knobs, Corydon, and Evansville had a wonderful training with her on the role of the PRC in their churches. †



Rev. Pamela Pettyjohn (left)
and Rev. Diane Zehr



The Haven Youth Center celebrates its 20th birthday.

First Christian Martinsville Celebrates Twenty Years Supporting a Youth "Haven"

By Rev. Linda Presley, Director, The Haven Youth Center

This summer, First Christian Church (FCC), Martinsville celebrated the 20th anniversary of The Haven Youth Center. Their ministry provides a free and safe place for middle school youth to hang out with friends and learn new skills. The Haven, run by church volunteers, is open afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00pm during the summer, and 2:30-5:30pm during the school year. Youth are allowed the freedom to drop in for a short time or spend the afternoon visiting, playing computer or board games, shooting hoops, playing pool, and enjoying snacks.

This summer, Haven youth met with and heard from community leaders including the mayor, a county sheriff, Morgan County District Prosecutor, artists, and

prevention professionals. Topics included honesty, creativity, forgiveness, caring, responsibility, respect and purpose. On Fridays, they took field trips in the Haven van to places they've helped choose. The van also transports students from the two middle schools to The Haven during the school year.

FCC worked over the years to purchase a building that would provide a safe place for youth. Through memorials and gifts to the Morgan County Foundation, permanent funds for The Haven were established. The Haven has also received many County and Federal Prevention grants over the years, allowing them to purchase computers and recreational equipment, and to employ staff. Just

this summer they received a grant from the Morgan County Substance Abuse Council, to help underwrite the cost of sending 12 youth and 5 adults on an overnight prevention retreat at Highland Lakes campground.

During the last school year, The Haven Youth Center served a total of 70 youth with approximately 45 different students attending during the week. The average attendance during the 2017-18 school year was 22 youth per day. Students were offered homework help when needed and given opportunities to serve the community. They helped with the town square clean-up, provided music and cookies at the community Christmas Cookie Stroll, and baked cookies and served food at First Christian's Monday Community Table that is held quarterly. †



South Haven Youth Center kids help pick up trash on the town square.



MHS Basketball Coach Kip Staggs speaks to Haven kids about hard work and the "pay day" for it.



South Haven Youth Center provides kids with computer and gaming activities.



Church Security: Emergency Procedures

By Catherine Carvey, CCFM

Member, Allisonville Christian Church; Director of Facility Management
and Security, Second Presbyterian Church Indianapolis

When the discussion of church security comes up these days, which it does often, people immediately want to know what we are doing about active shooters. Have we increased our security? Have we changed our procedure? I think these are the wrong questions and the wrong focus. Homeland Security and local law enforcement will tell you to prioritize your emergency procedures based on those which are most likely to occur. In Indiana, you would never have a tsunami procedure, but you better have a severe weather procedure.

What are the emergencies most likely to happen at your church? For us at Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis it is a medical emergency. We have had two people die of natural causes in our church building in less than six months. Preparing for those emergencies will prepare you for more serious emergencies. Questions you should be able to answer are:

- What is the church's address?
- Where is the nearest exit?
- Where are the first aid kits and AEDs (automated external defibrillator)? Are the batteries and pads in good use?
- How do first responders find the emergency?
- What will you do if the person doesn't survive?
- How will you notify a family member?
- How will you support those who provide emergency help? Especially if it was unsuccessful. This should include first responders.
- What will you do if first responders call law enforcement to clear and secure the area until the coroner arrives?

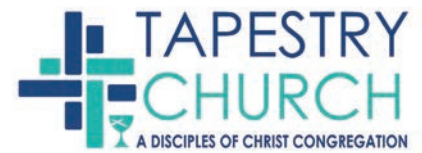
- How will you handle the media, if it is a slow news day or the person is prominent in the community?

If you aren't able to answer all those questions you won't be able to respond if the unthinkable occurs.

Other Emergencies which should be at the top of your list are:

- **Fire** – As a third grader I watched a church burn from my classroom window; and as a youth I experienced a small fire in my church that caused significant smoke damage. I bet you can think of other church fires of congregations you know personally or may even have been a member.
- **Severe Weather/Tornado** – Churches in Henryville, Kokomo, and Monticello can attest to the impact tornado damage can have on the life of a church.
- **Missing Child** – Children become separated from even the most diligent parent. Are you able to lockdown your building? When do you decide you have searched long enough and need to call law enforcement?
- **Suspicious Package** – See something, say something. If something seems out of place report it to law enforcement. They will not ridicule you. No one wants to be that person that says yes, I saw that but just figured it wasn't important until it was too late. Someone placed a wooden pumpkin at the exterior sanctuary door. The mailman saw it and thought it looked odd, so we evacuated the building. It turned out to be nothing, but police agreed it was suspicious behavior.

Taking time to work through the possible procedures for these emergencies will prepare you and your congregation for the next emergency. †



Southport Christian Church is Now Tapestry Church

(a Disciples of Christ Congregation)

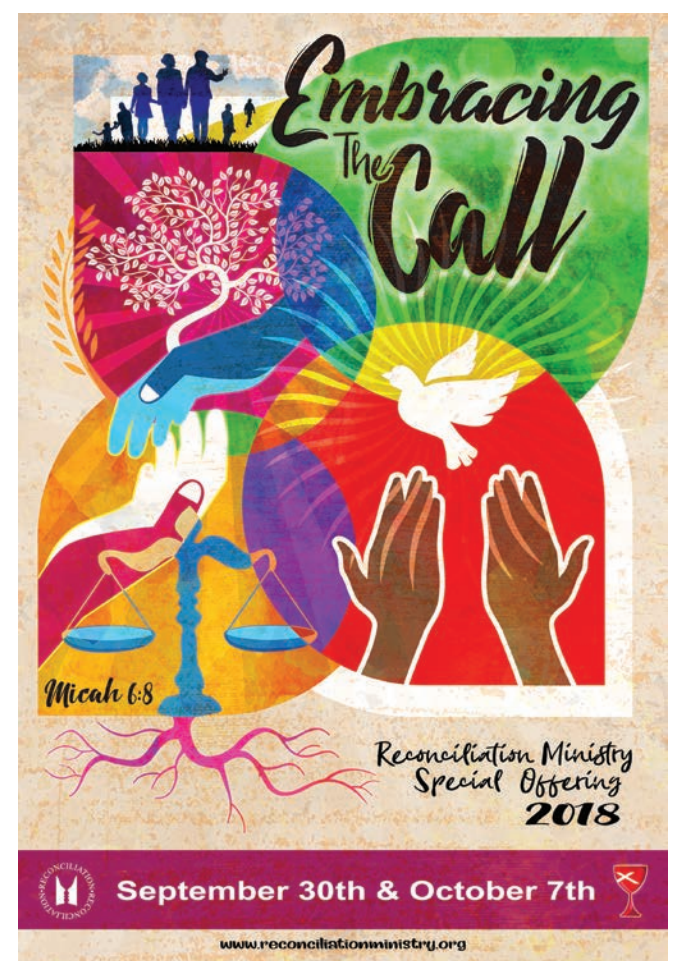
The Southport Christian Church in Indianapolis has taken a new name. The congregation is now known as Tapestry Church (a Disciples of Christ Congregation).

This renaming of the church coincides with the physical relocation of the congregation to northern Johnson county and an increased focus on mission-based and inclusive ministries. The change to Tapestry represents the honoring of the different strands and gifts that make up the church.

Tapestry will soon leave their current location of over 60 years and relocate for 18 to 24 months to the Sugar Grove Elementary School, 4135 Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, Indiana.

The church has purchased nearly 13 acres of land on Smith Valley Road, just east of Hwy. 135 (Meridian) which will give the church high visibility when it relocates. Smith Valley has been identified as a primary east-west connector between Indiana State Road 37 and Interstate 65.

Tapestry will celebrate its final service at 201 E. Epler on August 26th. That building will continue to house the Chin Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Southport Congolese Disciples Church. †

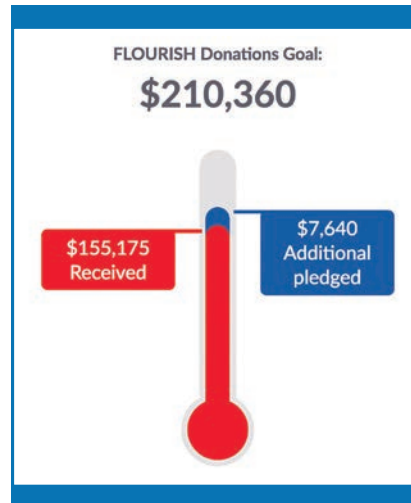




FLOURISH! UPDATE: *From Hope to Impact*

As we approach the completion of phase one of FLOURISH!, the Region's clergy economic initiative, we are excited to report tremendous success. What began as "hope" for clergy has now translated into "impact" after three years of education and training for both clergy and congregational grantees. During this time, we have:

- Conferred 24 Financial Relief Grants offering direct financial assistance of up to \$15,000 with and additional 20% funding to offset taxes
- Conferred 12 Compensation Support Grants to congregations providing \$21,000 over three years to bolster the compensation base of clergy staff (when combined with ladder Regional funds)
- Graduated the first cohort of grantees where we issued \$220,000 in checks to program participants
- Conducted five (5) Financial Literacy Academy events equipping nearly 200 leaders from 32 congregations in personal and congregational finance
- Trained 32 clergy and lay leaders in the Lake Institute's Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising (training to be completed by September 2018)
- Hosted nine Launch and Progress events around the state to raise over \$160,000 in matching funds
- Opened the conversation about clergy and congregational economic challenge



Due to the success that we have garnered, we have been invited by Lilly Endowment, Inc. to submit a proposal for the second phase of FLOURISH! which will allow us to expand the program and broaden our reach. While we have made great strides, we continue to seek generous donors to partner with us as we raise matching funds to complete matching funds as required by our Lilly grant and support clergy in our Region.

If you would like more information about FLOURISH! or you desire to be a financial contributor in this worthwhile effort, contact the Project Director, Cynthia Newman at cynthia@indianadisciples.org.

Thank you for your support! †



Sixth Financial Literacy Academy is on The Horizon!

As we near the completion of phase one of FLOURISH!, the Region's clergy economic empowerment program, we prepared to host the sixth installment of the Financial Literacy Academy. Sponsored in collaboration with the Pension Fund of the Christian Church, the academy will take place on October 12-13, 2018, at the Marriott East Hotel and Conference Center.

The Friday session (October 12) will focus on Preaching and Teaching Stewardship and features Dr. Ron Allen, Professor of Preaching and Gospels and Letters at Christian Theological Seminary and author of *Sermon Treks: Pathways to Creative Preaching*. This session is for clergy only and will explore effective ways to preach and teach stewardship by casting a dynamic vision. Clergy do not have to be a FLOURISH! grantee to attend.



Dr. Ron Allen

Saturday's session (October 13) features Rev. Dr. Eric Law, Founder and Director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, and author of *Holy Currencies: Six Blessings for Sustainable and Missional Ministries*. During the session, clergy and congregational leaders will explore stewardship as entrepreneurship through creative ways of funding mission and ministry.



Rev. Dr. Eric Law

All Financial Literacy Academy sessions are open to all Disciples churches and both clergy and congregational leaders are highly encouraged to attend. Cost for training is \$25 per session and includes breakfast, lunch and materials. Commissioned ministers may use FLOURISH! educational events to earn continuing education credits. Interested parties may register at <http://indianadisciples.org/commissions/commission-on-ministry/lilly-grant/financial-literacy-academy/>.

For questions regarding the academy and any aspects of FLOURISH!, contact cynthia@indianadisciples.org. †

Women Are Called, Connected and Charged for Christ

On June 22-24, nearly 100 women of the Heartland Regional Fellowship gathered on the campus of Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri. It was a weekend of networking, learning, worshiping, and having fun while getting to know sisters in Christ from Nebraska, the Upper Midwest, Kansas City, Kansas, Mid-America, Illinois-Wisconsin, and our own delegation from the Christian Church in Indiana. The event encouraged women to be "Called, Connected and Charged for Christ."

There were messages from Dietra Wise, on Friday, Lori Tapia on Saturday, and Rev. Terri Hord Owens who preached the Sunday morning

worship service. Using her father's reminder as she was growing up, that "you are not the only person in this house," Rev. Hord Owens challenged the women of the Heartland Regional Gathering to remember that whatever our personal preferences might be, we are not the only participants in the life of the church. Therefore, our charge for Christ is to engage



in reconciliation by appreciating the many points of view present in the church. Rev. Dr. Marti Steussey provided a Bible lecture on creation as told in the two opening stories of Genesis 1 and 2. Workshops and networking time rounded out a very full schedule.

The women of Indiana oversaw a Hospitality Suite which provided opportunities for women to gather after each evening session. The suite allowed for games, conversation, and refreshments (of course). Indiana women attending the event consisted of Janet Schantz and Becky Canary from Union Christian Church, Franklin; Kay Koenig, First Christian Church, Shelbyville; Linda Brown and Melissa Kleinschmidt, Countryside Christian

Church, Winchester; Catherine Carvey, Allisonville Christian Church, Indianapolis; Kris Ohneck, First Christian Church, Fort Wayne; and Maribeth Westerfield, First Christian Church, Martinsville and Christian Church in Indiana. Marti Steussey, Christian Theological Seminary, also attended, along with General Church staff ministers Pat Donahoo and Chesla Nickelson.

We look forward to seeing many Indiana Disciples women at the Regional Assembly in October. The Assembly Women's Breakfast on October 6 will feature speaker Bethany Watkins Lowery. There is also a task force planning an event for women in the spring of 2019. Stay tuned for details as they develop. †



A Word from Your Regional Elders

By Fred Dorisse

The Christian Church in Indiana is blessed with regional elders who work hand-in-hand with the regional ministers. Most are retired ministers who have found the ministry of being a regional elder an opportunity to honor our ordinations and serve the larger church. Each elder is assigned a given area in Indiana where we are elders or overseers of several congregations. We meet as a group three to four times a year at the regional office where we report on our ministries, support to one another, and pray God's blessings on our congregations and pastors. The volunteer ministry is designed to aid the overall ministry of keeping in touch with our Disciple congregations as well as caring for our pastors and their families.

I serve what was once called the Four Rivers Area, overseeing congregations in northeast Indiana including Kentland, Rensselaer, Rochester, Winamac, Logansport, Monticello, and Flora. I seek to meet with pastors once a month however, their busy schedules, time constraints, and emergencies sometimes make it difficult to schedule our gathering. But when we do meet it proves to be very helpful.

A personal goal of mine is to visit a worship service in each congregation in a given year. Regional elders also can be available to pastors who need someone to fill the pulpit when they are on vacation. Over and above, I keep in touch with pastors by phone and seek to care for them and their families, especially in times of crisis. I also may pop in on a special congregational

event just to be in touch with our Disciple folk.

The regional elder ministry is challenging and rewarding. There have been moments when congregations have had to iron out problems and I have joined one of the other regional ministers to help care for a given congregation. My area has had a series of clergy, clergy spouse, and lay deaths so that I have sought to be of care in these difficult circumstances.

I have also had the privilege of presenting Outreach Certificates to congregations and celebrating their missional endeavors. All in all, being a regional elder is a blessing in my life. I am overjoyed that I can be a part of this vital ministry to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana. †

Crawfordsville First Facilitates Reconciliation

By Raymond B. Williams, Member of First Christian Church Crawfordsville, and LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities Emeritus, Wabash College

Nearly four years ago, First Christian Church Crawfordsville began the work of reconciliation in their community. Their vision was to embrace their love of neighbor by partnering with Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church to preserve a church building for their worshipping congregation.

First Christian collected an offering that made it possible for the church's restoration, including the purchase of new front doors that replicate the facade of the original 1892 building.

Restoring the physical appearance and functionality of a building was just a beginning. Restoration of broken

relationships between diverse people was First Christian's larger vision for their community. The partnership of these two churches spilled over into other areas, including:

- A joint worship service and fellowship lunch of First Christian and the African-American congregations of Bethel AME and Second Baptist Church
- A member of First Christian received a Lilly grant for Public School Teachers
- Members of Primera Iglesia Bautista, once housed at First Christian for a decade, provided volunteer labor to help with the preservation of Bethel AME.
- Wabash students and members of the Malcolm X Institute for Black Studies volunteered restoration labor, while the Bethel historian introduced them to Bethel and Black history each time they gathered.
- Members of FCC helped a young woman from Bethel with tuition to attend Ivy Tech and another student received



The Poor People's Campaign: 16 Long Hours

By Rev. Heath Jones, Pastor, Northwood Christian Church, Indianapolis

On May 14, 2018, I risked arrest for the Poor People's Campaign. (Read more about it at www.poorpeoplescampaign.org). This, I believe, is in keeping with my calling as a disciple of Jesus whose followers have often found themselves in jail. Here is a very brief account of my 16 long hours.

Upon arriving at the Marion County Jail we were brought into a holding cell that was about 10' x 15'. Everything was concrete, except for the metal toilet. By the time we were moved there were 30 people packed into that small, hot, humid space.

The people detained with us were gripped by various degrees of fear, resignation, and inebriation. I was sitting on the floor by the holding cell's entrance, when a man had his head slammed into the window next to my own head. His response was, "Why'd you slam me? Why'd you slam me?" He proceeded to request medical help for over 1 ½ hours and was eventually taken to the hospital.

After 2 ½ hours we were moved to a larger cell filled with close to 60 people. This room was twice the size as the holding cell, and again, everything was concrete, except the toilets. The spigots on the top of these toilets are the only source of water.

We were fed twice; mystery meat sandwiches with a very small container of apple juice. I was told that this is the meal always served. Many use the sandwich in the brown paper

bag as a pillow, as it is the softest thing they have. I myself tried to rest. This was difficult as everything was concrete, filthy, and smelled of urine.

Through conversation, I learned that the county jail can keep arrestees up to 72 hours without charge. I met several who claimed to have been held for 72 hours only to be released without a charge.

Sometime in the early morning hours we were processed and moved to a different room. We were finally, after 10 hours, allowed a phone call. Before this moment we were unable to contact our families or a lawyer.

We sat in this room for an additional 4 hours, while receiving contradictory information about our release. It was but 30 minutes after being told we'd be in for another 12 hours that my name was finally called and I was released.

At 9:00am, I left the jail after 16 hours of being under arrest for obstructing traffic—a glorified traffic ticket. Sixteen hours under arrest seems harsh for such a crime, at least to me.

This experience has changed my life and opened my eyes. I was a tourist. I was in a world that I did not have to confront except by choice. Others have no choice. For many who were locked up, that jail served as a gateway to a life of institutional living, disenfranchisement, and deep-deep-deeper poverty. We cannot be ok with this. Something's got to give. †

help in completing college scholarship applications.

Most importantly, members of First Christian Church are enthusiastic about their

partnership with Bethel, which is evident in the changes in attitudes and hearts. †



Ten Great Reasons We Love Camp!

By Rev. Bere Gil Soto, Reconciliation Program Minister
and Pastor, Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana

In June, Alex, Leanne, Mimi, Rubi and Vicente, all children from Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana, attended CROSS and Explorer summer camps. For a couple of them this was their first summer camp EVER, and though the rest had previous camp experience, they all were very excited about it. Upon their return we asked them what they liked most about camp? These are their answers:

1. *It was like living in a perfect world*
2. *The hikes were so fun*
3. *The balance of church and sports was perfect*
4. *Conocí muchos niños y niñas que se volvieron mis amigos*
5. *I didn't want to come back!*
6. *Afternoons at the pool were awesome*
7. *I like that I could go with all the other kids from church*
8. *We learned about God AND we had fun*
9. *¡Quiero regresar el año que entra!*
10. *Our counselors were super cool!*

Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana extends a big thank you to the Christian Church in Indiana for granting scholarship funds so our kids were able to have this amazing experience. The generous giving of every congregation has made a huge impact in the lives of this younger generation. ¡Gracias! †



This poem was reproduced from the 1913 Year Book of Churches of Christ, a publication of that time by The American Christian Missionary Society. That annual publication was a precursor to our current day Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Year Book & Directory.

I AM THE IMMIGRANT.

Since the dawn of creation my restless feet have beaten new paths across the earth.

My uneasy bark has tossed on all seas.

My wanderlust was born of the craving for more liberty and a better wage for the sweat of my face.

I looked toward the United States with eyes kindled by the fire of ambition and heart quickened with new-born hope.

I approached its gates with great expectation.

I entered in with fine hope.

I have shouldered my burden as the American man-of-all work.

I contribute eighty-five per cent of all the labor in the slaughtering and meat-packing industries.

I do seven-tenths of the bituminous coal mining.

I do seventy-eight per cent of all the work in the woolen mills.

I contribute nine-tenths of all the labor in the cotton mills.

I make nineteen-twentieths of all the clothing.

I manufacture more than half the shoes.

I build four-fifths of all the furniture.

I make half of the collars, cuffs and shirts.

I turn out four-fifths of all the leather.

I make half the gloves.

I refine nearly nineteen-twentieths of the sugar.

I make half of the tobacco and cigars.

And yet, I am the great American problem.

When I pour out my blood on your altar of labor, and lay down my life as a sacrifice to your god of toil, men make no more comment than at the fall of a sparrow.

But my brawn is woven into a warp and woof of the fabric of your national being.

My children shall be your children and your land shall be my land, because my sweat and my blood will cement the foundations of the America of tomorrow.

If I can be fused into the body politic, the melting pot will have stood the supreme test.