

The Indiana Christian

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Regional Minister Rick Spleth to Retire in 2023

The Indiana Regional Board has received notice from Regional Minister Rick Spleth of his intention to retire September 1, 2023. At that time he will have completed 22 years of service to the Region. He is the longest serving Regional Minister in Indiana's history and one of the longest serving in the denomination.

In keeping with the Region's Personnel Policy, Regional Moderator Julia Johnson will appoint a Search Committee of "seven persons broadly representative of constituent



categories." They will begin their work, following the authorization of the Regional Board on December 3, with the goal of having the next Regional Minister in place next September. This transition plan follows the pattern that occurred when Ed Weisheimer, Spleth's predecessor, concluded his ministry September 1, 2001.

Rick Spleth came to this position after serving nine

years as the founding pastor of Creekwood Christian Church in Flower Mound, Texas. He previously served as the Senior Minister of First Christian Church, South Bend, Indiana. During his tenure, a dozen successful new congregations have been organized, the Region had an enriching ten-year partnership with the Disciples community in the Congo, and 99 pastors have received financial support and education through the FLOURISH! program.

The Search Committee will work closely with General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens and the College of Regional Ministers to secure the next Regional Minister. They will also follow the church's Executive Search Model to assure a fair and equitable search. †

Sandy Kincaid to Retire at End of the Year

Ministry Associate Sandy Kincaid has announced plans to retire at the end of the year following five years of service with the Christian Church in Indiana. A lifelong Disciples member, Sandy is a former member of the Regional Board, and former Co-Chair of the Region's Camp Commission with her late husband, Rev. Keith Kincaid. A professional graphic designer, she has brought great "polish" to the communications of the Region during her tenure, and she has blessed the whole denomination with her work designing the Christmas offering materials for the last several years, including this year's "Repeat the Sounding Joy." Her best known and loved work is the Indiana Regional logo which she designed in 2011.

Sandy plans to devote more time in the coming year to her other loves: gardening and grandparenting. We are most appreciative of her service to our Region. †



A Special Day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund supporting
the ministries of our Region

Repeat the sounding joy
of children and youth at camp

Repeat the sounding joy
of congregations welcoming their new pastor

Repeat the sounding joy
of all persons finding affirmation for ministry

Repeat the sounding joy
of congregations welcoming neighbors

Repeat the sounding joy
of racial divisions bridged

Repeat the sounding joy
of conflict resolved

Repeat the sounding joy
of relationships made near and far

Christmas Offering 2022

Your Christmas offering equips the Indiana Region to echo the joy heard in summer camp settings, congregational life, seminary classrooms, and leadership gatherings. Your gift enables our Region to give support to Elders, Sunday School teachers, youth group sponsors, worship leaders, seminarians, and pastors so that joy resounds. With your gift, connections are made between congregations and among Disciples throughout the Indiana Region and around the world.



Christian Church in Indiana

You are invited to make a generous gift to the Christmas offering supporting the Indiana Region to repeat the sounding joy across our church. Thank you.

In The Spirit Richard L. Spleth, Indiana Regional Minister



Remembering the Past and Leaving a Legacy for the Future

This past summer Diane and I visited Hawaii for the first time. It did not disappoint in any way, and fully lived up to its reputation as an island paradise. It was a lovely vacation, but also a pilgrimage of sorts.

My Dad moved to Hawaii in 1939 as a straight out of high school enlistee in the Army-Air Corps. He chose Hawaii, then a U.S. territory, because he got double time credit for serving "overseas," and it seemed to be as far away as he could get from the war that had already begun in Europe. He was due to be discharged in December 1941, but the attack on Pearl Harbor, which he experienced firsthand, changed his calendar considerably and he was in the service until 1945.

My grandparents received a telegram from him four days after the attack that he was "safe and well," but a letter detailing the horrific day did not come until the following February. He concludes that somber letter on an upbeat note, "Did I tell you that First Christian Church (Honolulu) has elected me a Deacon?"



In the years leading up to the attack and following, my Dad was active in that congregation, providing him community and an opportunity to serve as a 20-year-old Deacon. So, Diane and I went to visit this church on our trip to Hawaii last summer. We discovered that this congregation continues to be focused on grooming young people for leadership.

The neighborhood that surrounds First Christian Church-Honolulu today is filled with Chuukese immigrant families from Micronesia. Our Disciples in Honolulu have grafted children from these families into the congregation so that today about two-thirds of the congregation are children. They come together on Thursday afternoons for English language classes and learning worship skills, music, and scripture, that they then share in leadership in the service the following Sunday. It is an amazing thing to see.

The pastor, Nan Riddle, knew that Diane and I were coming, and she surprised me with copies of records showing my Dad's membership and, sure enough, his election as a Deacon in January 1942. Wow.

We came away from worship that day profoundly moved, and I had three

"takeaways" that I believe are worth pondering in our congregations in Indiana. Number one is, "Who are your neighbors?" In 1939 the Honolulu church looked around and saw service personnel a long way from home, so they built their programming around serving that community. Today they recognize Chuukese children as their mission opportunity. In both eras they have welcomed newcomers, readily anointing them as leaders and then equipping them for their roles. Who are those surrounding your church who you might invite into your fellowship, not simply as observers but with an invitation to share their gifts? What potential might you unleash if you tapped into that leadership reservoir? How might your programming shift if your purpose was to form community with those outside your membership?

A second takeaway has to do with record keeping. I was astounded that the Honolulu church had preserved their membership records so well and had the capacity to access them.

How is your congregation's recordkeeping? Understanding our history can provide impetus and courage for our future. The

Disciples of Christ Historical Society recommends that our churches preserve membership records, board minutes, congregational histories, and pictorial directories. They will partner with you in keeping copies of the same for you. Learn more at www.discipleshistory.org

My third takeaway has to do with stewardship. The Honolulu church takes an offering each week and the children make contributions, but their funds are limited, of course. The congregation sustains itself today, and their important neighborhood impacting ministries, because they have been diligent through the years in inviting their members to make estate gifts to the church through their wills. It provides sufficient support so that a church that is primarily children can thrive. What about you? Have you remembered

your congregation in your will? Doing so could allow the same church that has nurtured your life and faith do so for many others who follow you and allow your church's life to continue long past your time. Information on how to make such a life sustaining gift is available from the Christian Church Foundation www.christianchurchfoundation.org.

May we strategize to invite those who surround our congregations into leadership and service so that they can share with excitement, "Did I tell you about the way my church has claimed me?"

Blessings on you and your congregation.

Rich

Richard L. Spleth
Regional Minister



2022 Regional Calendar

DECEMBER		9	Regional Elders
3	Regional Board Meeting	14	Nurture and Certification Meetings
8	FLOURISH! Graduation		
11 & 18	Christmas Offering	19-26	Week of Compassion Offerings
22	Regional Office closed for Christmas		
JANUARY			
3	Regional Office reopens		
15-21	Week of the Laity		
16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, office closed	14	Nurture and Certification Meetings
28	Regional Board Orientation		
31	2022 Camp Registration Opens		
FEBRUARY			
4	Healthy Boundaries Training		
		MARCH	
		3	Regional Board Meeting
		8	Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation Training (Justice Language)
		14	Nurture and Certification Meetings
		APRIL	
		22	Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation Training (Disruptive Theology)

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SPRING ISSUE
DEADLINE
MARCH 1, 2023





Thank You, Central Christian Church in Elkhart, IN!

At the beginning of 2022, First Christian Church of Crawfordsville began dreaming and planning for the year ahead. One of our main goals was the relaunch of our children's church ministry. Children's church meets during the worship service and had taken a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was an opportunity to evaluate our previous children's church practice and try something new. We took time to investigate the multitude of curriculum possibilities but the one that we kept coming back to, that seemed like the obvious choice for what we were looking for is the Children Worship & Wonder program.

Children Worship & Wonder is a worship-centered program that uses storytelling, ritual, and fellowship to help children deepen their relationship with God. Children Worship & Wonder was a good fit for our church because we were looking to help our children learn the sacred stories of our faith but also explore and wonder through the Bible and scripture they are learning. While Children Worship & Wonder is the right choice for our church, it does come with the need for considerable buy-in—both financially and physically. Since it is based in storytelling, we would need to get several of our volunteers trained to lead. Additionally, each story has several pieces made of different materials that are needed and can be quite costly.

We set out to think through how we would fund this endeavor.

Before we had a chance to make a budgetary and fundraising plan, I got a call from Rev. Cheryl Russell at the regional office with a game-changing offer. Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Elkhart was looking to pass along their complete set of Children Worship & Wonder storytelling pieces to a church that was just beginning their program. Having loved them so well, Central Christian hoped that they could be given to another church so that more children could continue to learn and explore and love the stories of our faith as well. This incredible gift was unexpected and appreciated in equal measure. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of this congregation. Because of this gift, we know that we can begin our Children Worship & Wonder program on the hoped-for timeline.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Crawfordsville gives thanks to Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Elkhart for their kindness that will allow the children in our congregation continue to grow in their faith and grow closer to God!

With God's love,

Rev. Kevin Toth (he/him)
Associate Minister @ FCC, Crawfordsville

Congregations Partner to Foster Korean Cultural Awareness



In October 2021, Bethel Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, experienced vandalism to their church building. As a result, Bethel Christian Church, a member of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, began a ministry partnership with First Christian Church of Noblesville, an English-speaking congregation to share space and facilities.

As the two congregations began to settle into the partnership, several youth from First Christian Church expressed interest in learning the Korean language and culture. The Bethel community identified several Korean adults who wanted to learn English and other older adults in the community want to get help related to English, such as connecting to local community services and understanding official documents or letters. Both communities identified that a ministry of mutual learning might have appeal in the wider community as well. Additionally, as members of both communities witness and experience xenophobic, racist rhetoric and violence against Asian Americans in many parts of society, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, making this project all the more urgent. Their hope was that many issues could be mitigated by understanding each other's traditions, differences, and social contexts.

Considering this context, the congregations first launched a Korean language with an English language in development for launch later in the year. The congregations applied for support from National Benevolent Association's Mission and Ministry Grant and the Region of Indiana's Reconciliation Grant, whose funds come from the Reconciliation Ministry special offering. With the support of NBA and the Indiana Region, they launched Korean Language Classes in mid-September with 15 students. There are plans to launch ESL classes later this year.

Rev. Baek Hee Kim explains, "We hope this language project promotes and eventually expands and develops into a space for sharing cultures. We will experience the vital role of social tolerance in making a pro-reconciling community." †

Ministry Milestones

MINISTRY CHANGES

Ayanna Garrett, Associate Dean of Students at CTS, recognition of ordination, May 19

Paula Pettis-Garrett concluded her ministry as Associate Minister at Avon Christian Church, Avon on August 21

Kelly Nichols concluded her ministry at Westview Christian Church, Indianapolis on August 28

Eric Brotheridge began serving as Senior Minister at Hazelwood Christian Church, Muncie on September 6

Diana Bush-Harris was ordained at Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis on September 11

Carmen Jennings Woodson was ordained at Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis on September 11

Daren Huber transitioned from Interim Minister to Minister at New Palestine Christian Church, New Palestine on October 2

Grace Kozak was ordained at Central Christian Church, Indianapolis, on October 16 and began serving as the Indiana State Organizer for Bread for the World on October 3

Betsy Arnold transitioned to Associate Pastor (from Pastor) at River of Life Christian Church, Logansport on October 16

Cary Green transitioned to Pastor (from Bible Study Leader) at River of Life Christian Church, Logansport on October 16

Michelle Brown concluded serving as Pastor of Sixth Street Christian Church, Middletown on November 6 and began serving as Pastor of Bethany Christian Church, Evansville on November 7

Marge Graham began serving as part-time Interim Minister at Westview Christian Church, Indianapolis on November 8

DEATHS

Claudia Grant, retired Disciples minister, died on August 10

Richard Kilgore, retired Disciples minister, died on August 18

Alec Langford, retired Disciples minister, died on October 14 †

Regional Assembly Gathers over 300 on the “Promise Road”

Over 300 Disciples came together for the 2022 Regional Assembly at Geist Christian Church—Promise Road campus on Saturday, November 5, and 40 more joined online as virtual participants. Promise Road was the location of the event and the theme as well, with focus on the story of the Emmaus walk told in the Gospel of Luke.

Disciples writer and diversity consultant Sandhya Jha keynoted the event, and Light of the World pastor Janae Pitts-Murdock was the preacher for worship. Musical groups from Iglesia Christiana Hermandad, Congolese Christian Church, West Street Christian Church-Tipton, Allisonville Christian Church, and First Christian Church-Noblesville brought a delightful variety of musical styles to the event.

Special recognition was given to some key volunteers in the Region's life including Barb Hester, Bruce Barkhauer, Brooks Barrick, and the leaders of our Nurture and Certification Teams.

We give thanks to the staff and members of Geist Christian Church-Promise Road for their gracious hospitality and support of this event.





United Campus Ministries in Terre Haute Named Historic Landmark

A celebration was held on October 17 to mark United Campus Ministries in Terre Haute's inclusion on the State of Indiana Register of Historic Landmarks and National Register of Historic Landmarks. It is said to be one of the finest examples of mid-century modern architecture in the area. This exciting designation took over two years to accomplish and the celebration was held in the building's chapel which overflowed with attendees representing the Department of Natural Resources, the six supporting mainline denominations, alumni, university representatives, students, and members of the UCM Board and greater community. Speakers included Dr. Deborah Curtis, Indiana State University President and Betsy Nash Hine, chair of the Board at UCM and a member of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Terre Haute.

Through the years, the Ministry has included a coffee house, clown ministry, numerous mission trips to the Yucatan Peninsula, a Campus and Community lunch series, a twice a year Economics and Ethics Workshop, weekly Table Talks where students are served meals and engage in discussion, activities and games, a Friday Morning Book Group, a Student Food Pantry, all alongside prayer and worship. All this work supports college students and young adults in the Terre Haute area and from the four institutions of higher learning: Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, and Ivy Tech Community College.

The Terre Haute campus ministry center is a key outreach ministry of Central Christian Church, Terre Haute, and receives support from the Christian Church in Indiana, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis. †





Indiana Youth Council Reinstated

The Christian Church in Indiana doesn't believe that the youth of our region are the future leaders of the church, we believe that youth are leading now. We know that youth are leading in their congregations, in their schools, and in their communities and the Christian Church in Indiana wants to help youth become leaders in this region.

The Indiana Youth Council (IYC) is relaunching. The Indiana Youth Council is a group of young people from around the state of Indiana who serve as representatives for youth throughout the region. IYC will plan and coordinate all youth events in the region (with the exception summer camps). Successful applicants for IYC positions are active in their local congregation, attend camps and/or other regional activities, show interest in being part of youth ministry in the region, can work well on a team, have good recommendations for their pastor and other adults, and exhibit good leadership qualities.

IYC will be an opportunity to develop leadership qualities and implement those skills in a variety of settings. All youth who have completed 8th grade are welcome to apply. Applicants are invited to fill out an online application as well as provide three letters of reference. Letters of reference must include their pastor, a family member, and another adult outside of their family. Applications are due by Monday, January 16, 2023.

More information and the link to the application can be found on the Indiana Disciples website. Or you can contact Rev. Cheryl Russell (cheryl@indianadisciples.org). If you know a youth in your congregation that you think would be an excellent addition to the Indiana Youth Council, I hope you will encourage them to apply. †



FruitFULL Faith
A Spirit-filled Life!

2023 CAMPS

Geneva

- June 12-14 **You & Me 1** (age 5+ and an adult)
- June 12-17 **Explorers** (completed grades 4-5)
- June 15-17 **New Beginnings** (completed grades 1-3)
- June 19-21 **You & Me 2** (age 5+ and an adult)
- June 19-24 **M.A.D.** (Music Art & Drama - completed grades 6-12)
- June 26-July 1 **High School Traditional** (completed grades 9-12)
Middle School Traditional (completed grades 6-8)
- June 26-July 1 **C.R.O.S.S.** (Christian Recreation and Outdoor Sports Skills - completed grades 6-12)

Bedford

- June 19-24 **Explorers** (completed grades 4-5)
- June 26-28 **New Beginnings** (completed grades 1-3)
- June 29-July 1 **You & Me** (age 5+ and an adult)
- July 3-8 **High School** (completed grades 9-12)
- July 10-15 **Middle School** (completed grades 6-8)



Speedway Christian Church Volunteers Help with Tornado Recovery



ineteen youth group members and eight adults from Speedway Christian Church spent part of their fall break helping people in the Princeton, Kentucky area recover from damage caused by a series of 30 tornadoes that devastated their community in December of 2021.

The volunteers' first assignment was picking up branches, rocks, and trash so a field that once held at least three houses could be used to park recreational vehicles to house the next wave of restoration volunteers. At another site, the group removed two truckloads of concrete blocks from a lot where all that was left of a house was a porch and steps leading up to it. Removing the blocks was the last remaining task before Habitat for Humanity would rebuild the house.

The third worksite turned out to be the most touching. The owner, whom the students called "Mr. Jim," was living in a small space until his home could be repaired. Due to previous disabilities, his wife was moved to a nursing home after the tornadoes made their house unlivable.

Mr. Jim was eager to get his home repaired and his wife back home. The home's exterior was in fair shape, but the inside had extensive water damage. Over two days, the students and adult volunteers removed interior walls, ceilings, and floors, taking those rooms down to the studs and making way for the restoration that would follow. The volunteers then wrote messages on the studs to give Mr. Jim encouragement about the next phases of the renovation, and to describe what it meant to them to be making a difference.

The mission trip was organized and supervised by Rev. Katie Griffin, Speedway Christian Church's associate minister and leader of the church's youth groups.

"It was a moving experience to watch the youth move through their days, processing what they were seeing and feeling throughout, and then again at the day's end," said Rev. Griffin. "We had deep discussions about where we experienced joy and where we saw God in the rubble."

"We are thankful to Week of Compassion for guidance as we planned this trip," Griffin added. "In the planning stages, I was reminded of Week of Compassion's incredible work. The national media and our societal attention spans have long since moved on from these tornadoes, and yet Week of Compassion remains until the work is complete and lives are rebuilt." †



Anti-Racism & Pro-Reconciliation Training Updates

By Candace Boyd Simmons, Reconciliation Program Coordinator

Reconciliation work is not for the faint of heart. It is a call to live out with what Micah 6:8 tells us to do: “He has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” There is a call to action here, and I believe it is to be the basis of our reconciliation work in our region. We are putting ourselves in place to do justice.

This year, we embarked on a new journey with our anti-racism and pro-reconciliation training modules. We held 4, three-hour in-depth sessions with Disciples minister and author Sandhya Jha. During our time together, we looked towards:

- The theology of the definition of racism
- What theologies shape our work in the pursuit of justice
- Applying hands-on tools to help define what being anti-racist means
- Speaking to the powers and doing our part to tear the negative systems down

The first inaugural sessions trained over 100 clergy.

In addition to new training modules, our region embarked on a book study. For 12 weeks, we dived into the book, “*Stakes is High: Race, Faith, and Hope for America*” by Michael W. Waters. The book blends hip-hop lyricism and social justice leadership to speak on behalf of an awakened generation crying out against racism. Each week participants journey through the pain of hard, but holy, work and answer the call to join in the faithful struggle for justice. The book study was co-led by Candace Boyd Simmons and Disciples Minister, Rev. Dr. Al Adams.

2023 will offer even more exciting opportunities for training and connection with anti-racism work. We will walk alongside each other again with another book study and four more training sessions.

I look forward to walking humbly and doing justice together. †



Mexico Initiative Sponsors “The Big Read”

Continuing our desire to equip our congregations and members to understand the immigration challenge at our nation's border, and the challenge immigrant people face in our own communities, the Indiana Region's Mexico Initiative will provide resources for study in 2023. That will start with The Big Read. Mexico Initiative Chair Kimber Nicoletti-Martinez has recommended two books for individuals and congregations to read.

Welcoming the Stranger

By Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang

Immigration is one of the most complicated issues of our time. Voices on all sides argue strongly for action and change. Christians find themselves torn between the desire to uphold laws and the call to minister to the vulnerable. With careful historical understanding and thoughtful policy analysis, this book debunks myths and misconceptions about immigration and shows the limitations of the current immigration system. Ultimately it points toward immigration reform that is compassionate, sensible, and just and offers concrete ways for you and your church to welcome and minister to your immigrant neighbors.



The House That Love Built: Why I Opened My Door to Immigrants and How We Found Hope Beyond a Broken System

By Sarah Jackson and Scott Sawyer

How should Christians respond to the stranger? A stirring memoir of a woman who once thought justice meant building stronger barriers, then met families terrified by threats in their home countries and traumatized by U.S. policies. She founded Casa de Paz, a hospitality house in Denver, which now has 700 volunteers serving immigrants in detention.

Watch for more resources coming your way in 2023. †



Luis Gierbolini to Serve as New Moderator

Rev. Luis Gierbolini, Associate Pastor at Central Christian Church, Indianapolis, has been elected as the new Regional Moderator for the Christian Church in Indiana. He will begin January 1.

Luis was born and raised in New York City and grew up at Sinai Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a Spanish-speaking congregation in Brooklyn. He earned an undergraduate degree in culinary arts, but, feeling a pull towards ministry, he enrolled at Christian Theological Seminary, the alma mater of his pastor.

After earning his MDiv in 2011, he spent six years as a Chaplain in the Indiana Department of Correction at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, taught four years of culinary arts at the Art Institute of Indianapolis, and served as an interim minister at Danville Christian Church in Danville prior to joining the staff at Central Christian.

Luis served on the Regional Board in 2015-2016 as the Chair of the Faith Formation Commission, and he also Chaired the Associate Regional Minister Search Committee last year that selected Cheryl Russell. He has also been a Convenor of one of our Nurture and Certification Teams working with seminarians. †





Some Things Just Can't be Quantified...

The Christian Church in Indiana is nearing the end of the second phase of the FLOURISH! Program. As 2022 draws to a close, we are completing the work of the second Lilly Endowment implementation grant that has helped fund Financial Literacy Academies, Compensation Support Grants and Financial Relief Grants, scholarships for Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising courses and Stewardship Mini-Grants. Over the past seven years, we've reported dozens of times on matching fundraising totals and grant dollars distributed; we've counted pastors receiving grants and congregations participating in sessions on stewardship or financial best practices; we've celebrated news of student loans, medical debt, or tax debts paid or retirement dollars saved...

But despite all these things that can be counted and reported, there are the impacts that these numbers cannot fully capture... What kind of difference is FLOURISH! making in the lives of Indiana Disciples pastors? Hear from them...

"I feel so blessed to have received a FLOURISH! Relief grant. The financial counsel and peer support offered through this project is nothing short of transformational. This year I have lowered my personal debt, committed myself to tithing, and greatly reduced my anxiety level over money issues. Thank you to everyone who is making FLOURISH! a remarkable success!"

"I learned that I am not alone in my struggle to become more informed and responsible in my approach to money. Prior to entering the program, I was unaware that many of my clergy colleagues struggle financially. FLOURISH! created a safe space for us to share our stories and learn from one another. As a result, I do not feel the shame, isolation, and fear that I once did about my personal finances."

"Coming into this process, I was very distressed and fighting depression regarding

financial issues... I was lost financially, harboring guilt, and my ministering efforts were hindered. ...today I am free to live, to give, and to help others more effectively in becoming responsible and disciplined stewards."

"When people ask me about my call to ministry, I often share that I couldn't imagine myself doing anything else with my life. As part of that call, prior to the FLOURISH! Program, I had always just assumed that meant that I would be in a bad financial state and that this was simply a burden that I would need to accept as part of the deal. This program has opened up my world and given me the breathing room necessary to begin thinking not just about the health of my congregation (which is very important), but also about my own financial health."

"Seeing fundraising as ministry has been liberating because it opens the door to a new and creative way to share the opportunity to give to the mission of the church. Because of the program we are moving in the direction of a narrative budget and away from a line-item budget so that we can truly tell a story about who we are as a community through our financial resources."

"I would again like to thank Lilly and the Indiana Region for the opportunity to participate in this process. It was a blessing not only financially, but spiritually and emotionally. I am in a much better place on all fronts because of FLOURISH!"

Phase 3 of FLOURISH! continues next year with additional grantees and programs designed to support pastors, particularly those financially impacted most heavily by COVID-19. Thank you to all who have supported and continue to support the FLOURISH! Program with your gifts and your prayers. If you have any questions about FLOURISH!, contact Sarah Riester, sarah@indianadisciples.org. †

New Board Elected at Regional Assembly

A new Regional Board will begin service on January 1, 2023. The Regional Assembly unanimously affirmed the proposal of the Nominating Committee in the business meeting portion of the Assembly. Assuming leadership in 2023 and serving the next two years are:

Moderator
Luis Gierbolini
(Indianapolis, Male, Latino, Clergy)

Vice Moderator
Lorna Hernandez-Ramos*
(Indianapolis, Female, Latina, Lay)

Secretary
Jessica McCracken
(Fishers, Female, Anglo, Lay)

Treasurer
Eric Brotheridge
(Muncie, Male, Anglo, Clergy)

Commission on Faith Formation
Melissa Kleinschmidt
(Winchester, Female, Anglo, Clergy)

Commission on Ministry
Bere Gil Soto*
(Indianapolis, Female, Latina, Clergy)

Commission on Stewardship
Kyle Hunter**
(Whitestown, Male, Anglo, Clergy)

Commission on Unity and Witness
Brooks Barrick*
(Noblesville, Male, Anglo, Clergy)

Members At-Large:
Kelly Allen
(Jeffersonville, Female, Anglo, Lay)

Steven Garrett*
(Indianapolis, Male, African-American, Clergy)

Chris Gibson
(New Albany, Male, Anglo, Lay)

Brian Gould
(Shelbyville, Male, Anglo, Lay)

Stella Lee*
(Indianapolis, Female, Asian, Lay)

Denise Rogers
(Indianapolis, Female, Anglo, Lay)

Elaine Scaife*
(Indianapolis, Female, African-American, Lay)

(*) re-elected to a second term

(**) serving first term after completing an incomplete term

Sheridan Installs a Liturgical Clock In Their Sanctuary

Daylight savings time continues to be debated, but First Christian Church, Sheridan is very clear about what time it is now that they have installed a Liturgical Clock in their sanctuary. The clock is adapted from the Children's Worship and Wonder curriculum and handcrafted by members of the congregation. The clock reminds worshippers of the current liturgical season and helps them anticipate the one to come.

