



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

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Fellowship Groups

[Carla Pearson](#), Disciples Women
[Luis Mendez](#), Disciples Men

TBA, Regional Minister of
New Church Ministry

CCK INTRODUCES TEXT ALERTS SYSTEM



To keep you up to date on the latest regional news and events, you are invited to sign-up for CCK's a new text alert system.

These alerts, about 3-5 per month, will connect you to registration information, affinity interest groups, camp program updates and other regional ministries.

This system will be in addition to all our other regional communication methods. News and events will still be

published on our website, social media pages, and in the *Kansas Messenger*.

To sign up, text **KSMESSENGER** to 474747 or fill out the sign-up form at <https://kansasdisciples.org/cck-introduces-text-alerts>. Click and submit. That's all you need to do! You will start receiving text messages according to your preferences.

Opt-out or change your preferences anytime by following the prompts in each message or call the South Central Satellite Office, (316) 775-1236, to make changes.

CONNECT WITH ENGAGE

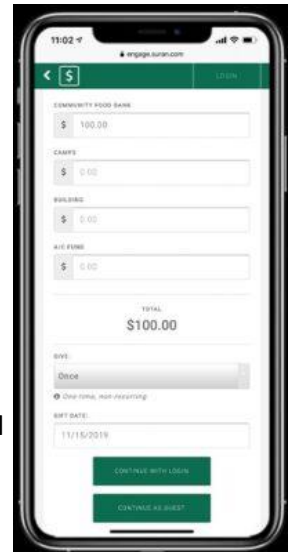
Have you tried ENGAGE? This easy-to-use, mobile-optimized system allows you to give securely online, set up auto draft giving and view your giving history at your convenience.

Engage goes beyond online giving to also provide you a way to connect with others in the region through common interest groups, update contact information and register for regional and district events.

To get started, go to www.kansasdisciples.org/give and click the Engage portal button. From there, follow the on screen instructions to create an account or log into your existing account.

If creating a new account, you will receive an email to reset your password and confirm the creation of your account. Mobile users will be prompted to add engage.suran.com as a shortcut app.

After account creation, you can update your information, manage regional and district giving, and register for events all from one login.



HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

KANSAS MESSENGER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

We are glad to receive your news articles and photographs for publication. We reserve the right to edit all materials. Submit your items online at www.kansasdisciples.org. Article submission deadline for the February issue is:

Tuesday, Jan.19

Check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

“The Work of Christmas Begins Now”



BY STEVE MARTIN,
REGIONAL MINISTER

Dear beloved friends,

I awoke this morning with these words floating through my mind, words which I was first introduced to while in my college days. I hope you can appreciate the meaning behind this poem by Howard Thurman.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

If you are anything like me, you have a fair share of concerns and somehow Christmas did not alleviate your soul. Our complex world with its global interactions and all, these often leave us feeling cold and unable to find much hope. Take another look at the poem. The words speak of what is essential in our living and serving. These words encapsulate all that you and I strive to do together in the Church.

As we enter a new year, may we strive to find ways to fulfill the call of Christ to each of us. May we be more focused on serving others that God’s kingdom will be fulfilled. And together, as Kansas Disciples we will connect and equip one another, we will experience God’s Spirit in our midst.

God bless,
Steve Martin

THE NCM SEARCH CONTINUES

The search for the new Regional Minister of New Church Ministry continues.



The New Church Ministry team met in early January to review applications from 12 candidates. The first round of Zoom interviews with six of those candidates will be in a few weeks.

We understand that our existing models of church meet the needs of those already connected but want to empower those feeling a call to share God’s Grace in broader circles.

This partnership is a three year appointment was approved by the regional board in April 2020. The Regional Minister for New Church Ministries would connect with teams across the state to start new expressions with local leaders. We also want to share the unique identity of the Disciples in a divided climate seeking wholeness.

CANCELED: 2021 SPRING RETREAT

The hope of the KCYF Cabinet and many youth workers across the region was for a couple of days at camp! We had a keynote speaker, Brad Greene ready to share with the youth. Plans were developing for several special activities.

Unfortunately, given the wide spread of the pandemic, camp leaders determined it would not be responsible to hold the retreat. This is the first time we have canceled the retreat, and we know that several youth and adults will miss it dearly.

Please stay tuned as camp promotional materials will be sent to church offices in January. Registration will open February 1. The camp schedule and registration information will be in the February issue of the **Kansas Messenger**. And, as always, we will want adults to volunteer as counselors.

If there are further questions, please send a note to Steve Martin at smartin@kansasdisciples.org.

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

CCK EVENT COVID-19 NOTE: We plan to begin meeting in-person at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. Therefore, face masks and social distancing precautions will be expected of all participants. If health authorities indicate it is not wise for large gatherings, we will move events online or cancel the event and refund registration fees.

IMPROVE YOUR CHURCH'S COMMUNICATION AT 2021 AOCC WORKSHOPS

Join Communications Specialist, Jessica Marston for this five-week workshop series taught Wednesday mornings, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in March. Both in-person and video options are available. In-person participants will meet at Tawakoni.

Each workshop will include an interactive presentation, guided hands-on activities, and real-world church applications. Workshops are for anyone (not just church office staff). If you're interested in church communication ministry, regardless of skill level, you are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Individual cost is \$30 per workshop or \$120 for all five workshops. Church groups of three or more from the same church can register for \$100 per person when they sign-up to attend all five workshops.

Register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events or through your ENGAGE account.

DISCIPLES MEN INVITED TO A 'SOUL-FILLED' ODYSSEY RETREAT



Join the next, Disciples Men's Odyssey Project beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 17, at Tawakoni. All men and boys, 10 years and older, are encouraged to attend.

The project started in 2015 to help teen boys and men in general, grow in faith and develop Christ-like

character. In one of our past retreats, participants explored different ways to live a soul-filled life using ideas from Thomas Moore's book, *Care of the Soul*.

As Christian men, it should always be our goal to first be an example, so we can then guide our sons and grandsons to develop a Christ-like character. This retreat will be a helpful tool to help us carry out our responsibilities. Not just as fathers, some of us are not parents, but we become a father figure without us even knowing it.

Register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events or through your ENGAGE account.

STRESS AND HOW IT IMPACTS YOUR MINISTRY 2021 HEALTHY LIFESTYLES BOUNDARIES TRAINING



The first of three 2021 Boundaries Trainings will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, by Zoom video conference.

The remaining two sessions will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni; and 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on

Tuesday, October 19, at First Christian Church of Great Bend.

All clergy are invited to participate in one of these sessions. **Note:** if you have not attended a boundaries training since 2018 you are required to attend this year in order to have your standing renewed at the end of the year.

The theme, "Healthy Lifestyles," explores how the stress of ministry affects the body, mind, and spirit, and how that impacts the choices we make in our professional and personal relationships with others.

The cost is \$10 for anyone attending the virtual Zoom session. For the two in-person sessions the cost for ministers is \$35 and \$10 for church leaders. Clergy spouses are free.

Register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events or through your ENGAGE account.

ANNUAL R³ CLERGY RETREAT TO FEATURE DR. JOE BESSLER

The 2021 Relax, Refresh, Renew Clergy Retreat will be Tuesday, April 27, through Thursday, April 29, at Tawakoni. The retreat begins with dinner around 6 p.m. on Tuesday and goes through mid-morning on Thursday.

Our visiting scholar is Dr. Joe Bessler, the Robert Travis Peake Professor of Theology at Phillips Theological Seminary where he is currently serving as Interim Chief Academic Officer and Dean.

The cost is \$70 for overnight lodging at our camp and four meals (lunch on Wednesday is not provided). The cost is \$50 if a participant is not staying overnight at the camp.

Register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events or through your ENGAGE account.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

TIME AND DATE CHANGED FOR 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In a special called virtual meeting in December 2020, the General Board of the Christian Church (DOC) voted on behalf of the General Assembly to change the time and place of the 2023 General Assembly. In 2023, the General Assembly will meet in Louisville, Kentucky, from July 29 to August 1.

In 2019, the invitation was extended by the Christian Church in Kentucky and approved by the General Assembly to hold the 2021 General Assembly in Louisville. Also in 2019, the invitation was extended by the Christian Church in Tennessee to hold the 2023 General Assembly in Memphis, Tenn.

In the late spring of 2020, the moderator team of the General Assembly, the General Minister and

President, and the staff of the Office of General Minister and President (OGMP) began discussion of whether the 2021 General Assembly could be held due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. On July 19, 2020, at a special called meeting of the General Board, the 2021 General Assembly was cancelled.

Later that fall, Louisville's team approached the OGMP with a proposal to hold the 2023 General Assembly in Louisville from Saturday, July 29, to Tuesday, August 1, 2023, with the understanding that the deposit paid for 2021 be applied to 2023, and that all 2021 cancellation fees will be waived. After careful review of many options, the moderator team determined that

to be good stewards of the church's resources, the best course of action would be to move the 2023 Assembly from Memphis to Louisville.

"I am grateful for the region's flexibility and graciousness in making this change," said Rev. Terri Hord Owens, general minister and president. "I want Memphis to be at the top of our list as we plan future gatherings."

No decision has yet been made regarding the time or place for any assemblies beyond 2023.

"After this difficult time apart," said moderator Belva Brown Jordan, "it will be good to gather in Louisville in 2023 to worship together and do the work of the Church."

PHILLIPS OFFERS NINE AUDIT COURSES

Phillips Theological Seminary has nine courses available for auditing in the 2021 spring semester, prerequisites may apply. All courses are online. You can find course descriptions, meeting dates and more information online.

SPRING 2021 AUDIT COURSES

- **AH 880.13** The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre: Lessons and Legacies, taught by Karlos Hill, Intensive, (limited space)
- **HB 500** Introduction to Hebrew Bible, taught by Lisa Davison
- **HB 600.02** Exegesis of the Hebrew Bible: Psalms, taught by Lisa Davison (prerequisites HB 500)
- **HC 504** History of Christianity II, taught by Lisa Barnett
- **HC 650** History of Religions in the U.S., taught by Lisa Barnett, concentrated
- **NT 600.09** New Testament Exegesis: Gospel of Matthew, taught by Warren Carter (prerequisites NT 500)
- **PR 500** The Art and Practice of Preaching, taught by Robin Meyers, J-Term, synchronously (four prerequisites)
- **TH 500** Introduction to Theology, taught by Sarah Morice Brubaker
- **TH 535** Exploration of Postcolonial Theory and Theologies, taught by Lisa Dellinger (prerequisites TH 500)

Email the Student Services office or call (918) 270-6464 to register for any of the audit courses this spring semester.

WELCOMING REFUGEES

2021 TRAINING SERIES

A six part webinar training series for community sponsors and volunteers



JAN 11 Session One: INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

JAN 25 Session Two: ORIENTATION TO THOUGHTFUL VOLUNTEERING

FEB 01 Session Three: ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

FEB 08 Session Four: WELCOMING DURING A PANDEMIC

FEB 22 Session Five: REFLECTIONS ON RESETTLEMENT

MAR 01 Session Six: CREATIVE WELCOMING INITIATIVES

All webinars will begin at noon EST and will last approximately 45 minutes.

To sign up for the webinars visit:
<https://cwsglobal.org/community-sponsorship>

For questions please contact Stacey Clack and Christine Baer at refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org

Check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR CHURCH YEARBOOK REPORT

From January through March 15, you will be able to enter all your Yearbook data using the new ALEX: Data for Disciples system. While there your church can also capture your weekly attendance and giving data to see trends.

It is hoped that the Alex database will enable us to more effectively connect congregations with new ideas and those who have similar interests, as well as indicate the places where general or regional ministries might be able to assist.

The submitted information will be forwarded to the regional office for approval before going on to the yearbook database. If the regional staff has any questions, they will be contacting you.

The Yearbook & Directory of the Christian Church is a snapshot in time of our church, collectively—taking inventory of our ministries, resources, and overall health, providing information to one another and to the church at large for our

mutual ministry. It is only complete if every congregation and ministry reports accurate information.

Each congregation which is listed is covered under our church-wide 501(c)3 designation, and a copy of the completed Yearbook & Directory is provided to the IRS in lieu of each listed congregation filling out quarterly reports.

Several training opportunities are available to introduce the ALEX reporting process. They are:

- Tuesday, January 19, 10 AM & 7 PM
- Thursday, January 21, 3 PM
- Tuesday January 26, 9 AM & 1 PM
- Thursday, January 28, 2 PM
- Thursday, February 4, 1 PM

To sign up, go to www.disciples.org/alex/training-for-alex-database/.

MINISTRY TRANSITIONS

Kelly Gindlesberger

retired as pastor of Shelton Memorial Christian Church, Ulysses, Dec. 31, 2020

Bill McConnell retired as pastor of Hillside Christian Church, Wichita, Dec. 31, 2020

Jerry Muncy begins

January 11, 2021 as Interim Pastor of Hillside Christian Church, Wichita

Thom Scott ended his ministry at First Christian Church, Lyons, November 2020

IN MEMORIUM

Dwight E. Bailey

(Louisiana) died Sept. 17, 2020. Ordained in Texas 1976, he served the now-closed Second Christian Church, Lawrence from 1978-80.

Ike Gillett (KCH, Newton) died Dec. 4, 2020. Ordained in 1952, Ike served Kansas congregations in Stafford, Colby and Marysville.

Rex Heavin (Overland Park) died Dec. 9, 2020. He was ordained at Baxter Springs FCC in 1959 and had served at Herington FCC.

Harold W. "Hap" Walters,

member of Park Place CC, Hutchinson, died Jan. 5, 2021. Hap served as the Steering Committee Chair for the region's 2000 Raise Up Leaders capital campaign.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Your gift can benefit the church for years to come. For information about bequests, contact the Christian Church Foundation at 1-800-668-8016, by email at kgould@ccf.disciples.org or on the web at www.christianchurchfoundation.org.