



CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
A COVENANT NETWORK OF CONGREGATIONS



Ohio Regional Newsletter ~ July 2022

Responding To Feedback From You, Regional Assembly Plans Have Changed!

Better Than Ever: Regional Assembly ~ A Family Reunion September 24th at Camp Christian

Christian Church in Ohio Regional Assembly
Camp Christian ~ September 24, 2022

A Family Reunion

*"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"
Psalm 133:1*



In response to some very helpful feedback the Regional Assembly Planning Committee is reshaping our Saturday, September 24 Regional Assembly, "A Family Reunion" at Camp Christian. It is now going to be shorter and less expensive. While we do not have the exact price at the time of this newsletter "going to press," we will within a week or two and trust it will be much more affordable and accessible for all our Christian Church in Ohio members and friends. A new Registration Form will be available on the Regional Website, www.CCinOH.org, as soon as the final cost is determined.

The Regional Assembly will now begin with registration at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 24 and the program beginning at 11 a.m. We will still have a very short Regional Business Meeting (including the election of our new Regional Church Council), a picnic-style lunch, followed by an afternoon full of games (table, competitive, and group), live music, booths hosted by our Regional and General Ministry Partners, crafts for the entire family, tours of Camp Christian, fishing, boating, and "Green Chair Chats," as well as other fun possibilities. The day will conclude with

worship starting at 3 p.m. that will include Communion. We hope the new 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. time frame will be better for everyone, especially those driving from farther away.

More than anything, we are excited to offer a chance for wonderful fellowship with friends and colleagues from around the Christian Church in Ohio and beyond. Adults, youth, and children are encouraged to attend. The Assembly is designed for all ages, and there will also be child care for Children ages 4 to 12 during the opening gathering and business meeting. We would love to see as many of you as possible for this long-anticipated gathering. We hope that each church in the Ohio Region will send at least 2 members to represent their congregation.

Plan to bring camp chairs, blankets, and umbrellas, pop-up tents if you want, Also feel free to bring your favorite games and sports equipment (basketballs, pickle ball rackets & balls, soccer balls, Frisbees, etc.). Casual clothes are welcome.

Please help us create a photo collage of our extended church family in the Ohio Region, by sending a group photo of your congregation. Email high resolution group photos as jpeg or png attachments to ccio@ccinoh.org, by September 1st.

Overnight accommodations in the Monroe Lodge (if needed) either the night before, Friday, September 23, or that night, Saturday, September 24, will still be available. Meals other than Saturday lunch however will not be provided.

Regional Minister Offers Letter In Response To Akron Shooting Death

In a Pastoral Letter to the Church this past week, our Regional Pastor and President, Rev. Allen V. Harris, mourned the death of another young Black person shot by the police and ponders questions on how people of faith can ask deeper questions of the systems and structures of our society in order to be agents of change to make the world safer for all God's children.

Of course we hold all our law enforcement officers in our prayers, especially as they encounter violence directed against them, and knowing the dangerous situations in which they frequently are called to serve. We pray all of us may find a way to live in ways that are non-violent, safe and secure, and more just and equitable for all people.

You can read the entire letter on our Regional Website at: <https://www.ccinoh.com/ccio-blog/2022/july/6/responding-to-the-shooting-death-of-jayland-walker.aspx>

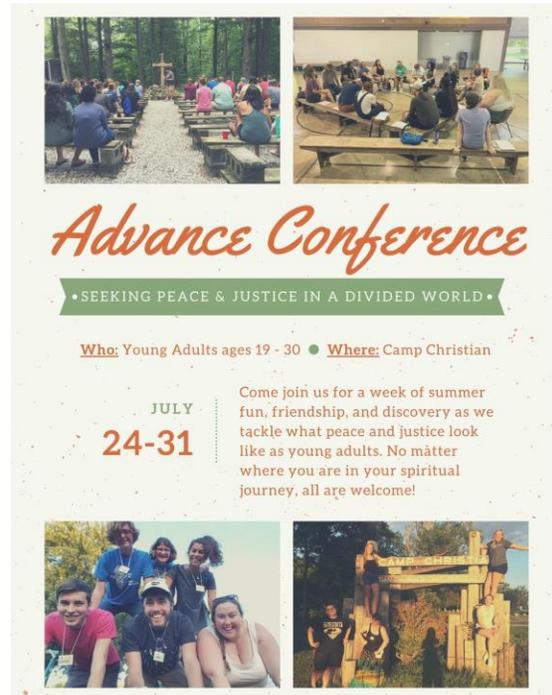
Advance Conference

July 24th - 31st at Camp Christian
For young adults ages 19-30

"Seeking Peace and Justice in a Divided World"

We have so many fun activities and new ideas all for you and we CANNOT wait to share them! Please share this flyer with your friends and invite them to join us in community this summer. If you would like to take advantage of the Advance Scholarship fund please reach out to an officer and we would be happy to help.

Seriously, this summer is going to be so fun and we can't wait to see YOU!



All of the details including registration and scholarship information can be found at <https://www.ccinoh.com/minist.../adult/advance-ministry.aspx>.



Disciples Fellowship Retreat

Disciples Fellowship Retreat – Save the Dates!

Labor Day Weekend
September 2-4 at Camp Christian

What a great way to get away from the hustle and bustle of your every day life and enjoy the out-of-doors! Spend a weekend with God and friends (both old and new) and go home feeling refreshed and relaxed. This is a great opportunity for you to come and experience camp, whether you have grown up here or are a first-time camper. It's also a great chance for younger children to see what camp is all about when they are able to attend the summer camp programs. And, if you've ever been a counselor, now it's your turn to just "be a camper"!!!!
Hope to see you there!!

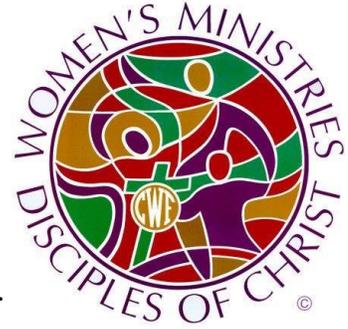
Ohio Women's Ministries Retreat

SAVE THE DATE

September 10th at Camp Christian

This will be a one day event, but overnight accommodations will be available.

We look forward to seeing you at Camp this Fall!! More details to come.



District 4 Churches Celebrated Pentecost With A Hymn Sing!

District 4 of the Christian Church in Ohio, with the guidance of Regional Elder Rev. Cynthia Klingemier, hosted a Pentecost Potluck and Hymn Sing for the district Disciples churches on Sunday, June 5. First Christian Church Niles hosted the event. Five churches participated. A wide selection of food was enjoyed first, also with time for favorite hymn selections, then participants adjourned to the

sanctuary where Rev. Chris Stark, host pastor, led the participants in the singing of favorite hymns. Music accompaniment was with piano and trumpet - really nice combo. They concluded the evening with a group photo on the chancel steps and a chorus of "Amen!" to celebrate a really nice District event. Rev. Klingemier writes, "We hope to have more such events in the future." We delight in hearing about our churches coming together in fellowship and worship.

Washington Avenue Christian Church to abolish \$1 million in medical debt

Responding to God's call to do justice, Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has committed to abolish \$1,000,000 in medical debt, specifically for Lorain County and Ohio residents.

Through a partnership with the national nonprofit RIP Medical Debt that is based in New York, the church will retire medical debt in an amount equal to three times its annual operating budget. RIP uses donated funds to purchase medical debts in large bundled portfolios for a fraction of their face value. It notifies recipients by mail if one or more of their debts has been purchased and erased. RIP only abolishes debt for those in financial hardship (those 400 percent or below the federal poverty level or who have a debt that is 5 percent or more of their annual income).



Though this is primarily a congregational initiative, the church invites everyone interested to join in making this medical debt cancellation a reality. To participate in this growing effort, please make a gift online at <https://www.waccelyria.org/ripmedicaldebt> or mail a contribution to WACC; 301 Washington Ave; Elyria OH 44035; with "RIP Medical Debt" in the memo line. Following worship on Sunday, August 28, 2022, the church will announce the total amount received and the anticipated amount of medical debt to be abolished.

For the complete press release, go to https://www.ccinoh.com/media/331134/wacc_press_release_rip_medical_debt.pdf

For more information about the national nonprofit RIP Medical Debt, go to <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/>



First Christian Church of Chillicothe Administrator Retires After 41 Years

Regina Vaughan will be retiring as the Secretary/Administrative Assistant of First Christian Church of Chillicothe as of June 30, 2022. She has served at the church for more than 41 years. The congregation celebrated her service following worship on Sunday, June 26.

During her tenure, Regina reports that she has assisted in ministry working with at least 50 ministers, pulpit supply ministers, interim ministers, guest ministers, full and part-time ministers and retired ministers, including Rev. Tom Lawing, Revs. Ralph & Nancy Salzgeber, Rev. Maurice Marling, Rev. Paul Walden, Rev. John Stockbridge, Rev. Richard Wilburn, Rev. Frank Jones, Rev. Stanley Bartlett, Rev. Neal Grabach, Rev. Jayne Waggoner Chafin, Rev. David Chafin, Rev. Dr. Larry Miracle, Rev. Greg Bibler, Revs. Alan & July Cory, Rev. Lynn Martin, Rev. Jackie Nehls, Rev. Dr. Maurice Smith, Pastor Jack Synder, Pastor Wayne Hiles, Rev. Vanessa Myers-Dudley, Lay-leader Susan Hollback, and now Rev. Patrice Fatig – naming just a few.

She also served as the part-time secretary for Orchard Hill United Church of Christ in Chillicothe from 1995 – 2015 and assisted several United Church of Christ ministers in that timespan as well.

Regina writes, "I have learned much in my years here and have been blessed beyond measure with God's goodness helping to serve this congregation. My prayer is for God's clear guidance as they go forward."

The Christian Church in Ohio joins First Christian Church of Chillicothe in deep appreciation and celebration of the 41 years of faithful service of Regina Vaughn to the Church of Jesus Christ and wishes her well in her retirement.

Cleveland Christian Home Receives \$700k State Appropriation To Improve Its Main Facilities

Cleveland Christian Home, a Northeast Ohio nonprofit founded by and strongly connected to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that provides residential and community-based services to children struggling with mental illness, abuse and neglect, is honored to have received a \$700,000 appropriation from the state of Ohio. The funding was part of Ohio House Bill 687 recently signed into law by Gov. Mike DeWine.



The money will contribute to a \$5-million capital campaign for needed improvements to individual units and common areas within the home's main facility at 11401 Lorain Ave. in Cleveland. The project includes needed structural improvements, while elevating the internal spaces to a state-of-the-art, home-like center that fosters trauma-informed care through a thoughtfully designed environment.

"Our local state legislative delegation played a critical role in securing this money, and we are very grateful for their continued support and dedication to our mission," said Chuck Tuttle, CEO of Cleveland Christian Home. "Special thanks to State Rep. Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood), State Rep. Bride Rose Sweeney (D-Cleveland) and State Sen. Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood)."

"Updating the treatment and residential space will provide a safer, more dignified environment for these young men and their families." Antonio said. "I'm impressed with the work the organization does, and I'm happy to support their mission." "The Cleveland Christian Home has transformed mental-health care for this population" Skindell said. "These new spaces will play an important role in trauma-informed care through a carefully designed environment."

"Supporting Cleveland Christian Home is more than helping individuals," Sweeney said. "This kind of investment in young people offers a significant return on investment for the entire area."

Helping families in crisis for more than 120 years, Cleveland Christian Home is the most trusted and reliable choice for kids struggling to overcome the toughest emotional and behavioral challenges. The home offers one of the only residential treatment programs in Cleveland with an intensive treatment center. The success in treating children with trauma has made Cleveland Christian Home the area's leading organization for children and families in crisis.

Congregational Items Available

Western Reserve Christian Church in Hudson has the following items available for the cost of shipping. Shipping costs and delivery instructions need to be received by 15 September 2022.

- 19 white choir robes with the red shoulder
- 13 white choir robes with the red insert on the sleeve
- 71 Songs for Praise Worship Hymnals
- 14 Hymns For The Family of God Hymnals
- 40 Bibles

Please email Ed Allen if you are interested in any of these or would like more information. Email is: edallenera@gmail.com

General Ministry News



Covenant Project Town Halls Invites All Disciples Of Christ Members Into Reimagining Church

The future of the church is more connected. The future of the church is in deeper conversation. The future of the church is a future with deeper covenant. The Covenant Project is the work of changing structures to be more just and relationships across the church to be more connected.

The Covenant Project began more than three years ago as part of the work of Governance Committee of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. When the Governance Committee met in retreat in the fall of 2019, they committed to the work of aligning the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with God's design for the church and to claim the power and potential of covenant. To that end, the committee took two important steps: the first was the development of the [Covenant Curriculum](#), a small group resource for congregations to explore their identity as covenantal partners in the wider church.

The second step was a process of a review of the [Design](#), with an aim to explore how the church's

structures and practices might shift to better serve the church, with two main areas of focus. The first area of evaluation and recommendations is the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which refers to not just a gathering but the structure of how congregations relate to and engage with the larger church to provide feedback, prioritize vision and lead. The second area of evaluations and recommendations is centered around the General Board.

To learn more about the Covenant Project and to sign up for an upcoming Town Hall, go online to: <https://disciples.org/covenant-project/> It is important for leaders and members in the Christian Church in Ohio to participate in these conversations so that our perspectives are integrated into the decisions being made.



[Disciples Home Missions Names New President & CEO](#)

The Board of Directors of Disciples Home Missions is glad to announce the call of **Rev. B. Chris Dorsey** to serve as its new President and CEO. In an extensive search process, led by Rev. Derrick Perkins, the Search Team sought a transformative and visionary leader who can help DHM move into this important time in the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Rev. Dorsey came to DHM highly recommended by many leaders in the church and leaders of institutions of higher learning. The Board of DHM believes that Rev. Dorsey is the one who can help Disciples Home Missions develop resources to form changemakers and leaders, support the ministries of both congregations and regions, as well as offer leadership to bring innovation and intention to address equity and justice and strengthen ministry support for youth and young adults.

Rev. Dorsey is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciple of Christ) and has most recently served as President of Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM). He has also served as a Professor of Theology and Preaching at Western Theological Seminary and as the Vice President of Development and Marketing at Chicago Theological Seminary. Rev. Dorsey has also served as Chaplain and Director of Religious Life at Clark Atlantic University, Atlanta, GA and as Senior Pastor at Woodlawn United Methodist Church, Chicago.

To read the full announcement, go to <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm-president-called/>.

National Benevolent Association (NBA) Announces Spring 2022 Mission & Ministry Grants

One Ministry Partner in the Christian Church in Ohio received an NBA Mission & Ministry Grant: The Cleveland Christian Home of Cleveland received a \$5,000 grant for "Trauma-Focused Therapy to Improve Academic Performance."

The National Benevolent Association is proud to announce its Spring 2022 Mission & Ministry Grant awardees. NBA's [Mission & Ministry Grants program](#) awarded a total of \$203,000 to 28 Disciples projects and ministries that work with older adults, children, and youth. 2022 marks the first year that NBA will offer applications for Mission & Ministry Grants twice a year, beginning with this Spring cycle and the upcoming Fall cycle. NBA is thankful for our [Board of Trustees](#) who approved expanding the number of application periods and funding for the grants program during their [June 2021 meeting](#).

Launched in 2017, the Mission & Ministry Grants program has made purpose-restricted funds available for Disciples congregations and health and social service ministries. This year, the NBA Grants Committee met virtually to evaluate and accept applications; grant funds are now in the hands of the selected organizations.

For more information about all of the grantees, their projects, and the program in general, go to <https://www.nbacares.org/news/nba-announces-spring-2022-mission-and-ministry-grantees/>



Volunteer : Domestic Disaster Recovery

Volunteers Still Needed For Tornado Recovery in Dayton

In response to the May 2019 tornado outbreak, Week of Compassion is supporting an

innovative collaboration called the Tornado Survivors' Pathways to Homeownership, which helps families displaced from tornado-damaged rental housing become first-time homeowners.

In partnership with the Christian Church in Ohio, the Heartland Conference United Church of Christ, and the United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, we are hosting volunteer teams of 4-10 people through July 2022 to finish interiors of new/rehabbed homes.

As the long-term tornado recovery continues in Dayton, Week of Compassion is working with many churches, including Disciples of Christ from across Ohio. Recently, high school youth from [CYF Missions & More](#) - the combined venture of [Mantua Center Christian Church](#), [Hiram](#)

[Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\)](#), and [Hilltop Christian Church](#), - were hard at work, and having fun!

Follow the CYF Missions & More photos (like the one to the right) and reflections, and offer a word of prayer and encouragement: <https://www.facebook.com/cyfmissions> **AND** go to Week of Compassion's volunteer page at www.weekofcompassion.org/volunteer for more information and to sign up to be part of the work in Dayton.



Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older (mixed age groups must have 1 adult for every 4 volunteers under 18).

Housing is provided, if desired, (\$50/person/week) at United Christian Church, where teams will have access to a kitchen to prepare meals. Showers will be at the YMCA across the street. Preferred work schedule is Monday-Friday, but other schedules can be accommodated as availability allows.

There are a few weeks available in July, and we need your hands in Dayton, Ohio! [Contact Week of Compassion](#) for information and to sign up!



Navigating Grief in Children and Youth Ministry

Online Event presented by New Church Ministry
July 27 at 3:00pm est

Our young people have been through a lot of compound grief in the last several years. Between school shootings and other forms of mass gun violence, racial injustice, and the climate crisis, the youth in our communities are feeling the stresses of our society on top of a global pandemic that has killed over 6 million people. How do you minister to them during this time? In this webinar, [New Church Ministry](#) will explore tangible ways we can minister to our young people and help them navigate the grief they are experiencing.

Register at https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HzBtw85Tzu122guYktXAA

DMF Day Set For August 4th – Get Ready To Support The Movement For Wholeness!

Make a gift on August 4, DMF Day, to support [Disciples Mission Fund](#), which makes it possible for the whole church to work together, doing far more than we could alone.

Individuals and congregations make contributions to DMF, which funds the work of regional and general ministries, who make it possible for us to be the church together, in many ways and in many places.

On August 4, 2022, we will celebrate the work we do together as church because of Disciples Mission Fund. Follow [Disciples social media](#) for live events, stories, and updates throughout the day. Be sure to tag your posts with #DMFDay.

Tell us your DMF story!

How has DMF made an impact on your congregation or your life? Send us your story (news@disciples.org) and a picture, and share it on social media tagged #DMFDoesThat.

Gift A Gift Online Now!

If you're uncertain you'll remember to give on Thursday, August 4, then go ahead and give to support the mission and ministry of the whole church. Give securely online at: <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/dmfday/>



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10335 Maple Dell Rd | Marysville, OH 43040 | Phone 614-433-0343 | Fax 614-433-7285 | ccinoh.org

