

Ohio Regional Newsletter ~ September 2022

Around The Region and In My Heart
Rev. Allen V. Harris

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

A Family Reunion



Now a FREE Event!!

On the 24th of this month we will gather as faithful community at Camp Christian and we will BE the Church in one of its many manifestations: We will be the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio – the Regional Church. While not everyone will be able to join us that day, those of us who will gather do so because we know the Church in every form is as needed today as much as it ever was. We also come together to celebrate, to give thanks to God for who we are created to be and who we have become in 2022. We will rejoice that, even in spite of what we've come though the last couple of years, in Christ we are, *"afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed!"* (2 Cor. 4:8-9). We will talk and sing and play and eat and worship and do the business of the church not simply because we crave gatherings where do such faithful community-building as one and face-to-face. We shall gather because that is who we are – community!

This will be a very different Regional Assembly than what most of us have experienced. Rather than suits and nice dresses and business casual you are invited to wear shorts and sundresses and panama hats and flip flops... whatever makes you feel comfortable! We will spend more time playing and chatting than receiving reports and voting. Yes, you will still want to bring your Bible, but you'll also want to bring your blanket and swing chair and sun lotion. We will still worship – of course – but the breeze will be blowing through the worshippers as much as the Holy Spirit will be.

We are planning on offering parts of the day virtually for those who cannot gather in person, such as the opening gathering, the business meeting, and the closing worship. Watch for emails and social media posts with information about that option, which will most likely be livestreamed on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OhioRegion>. Please know that whether or not you are with us on-line or on-site you are part of the gathering and we rejoice in your presence with us.

Attached you will find the one item of business we will have to vote on as a Regional Assembly: the list of nominations for the Regional Church Council. Please read this over ahead of time and if you are a voting delegate from your congregation be prepared to vote on it at the business meeting at 1 pm.

One of the other exciting reasons you will want to come to the 2022 Regional Assembly at Camp Christian will be to very tangibly help our neighbors near and far!



For those who live in the Magnetic Springs, Delaware, Marysville, and surrounding communities who are in need of household toiletries, non-perishable food, and other daily needs, the Free Store will be collecting items you can drop off while you are touring the store. For more details about this, go to <https://www.ccinoh.com/ccio-blog/2022/september/the-free-store-at-camp-christian-food-pantry-and-blessing-box.aspx>

For those neighbors who are farther away, we will be collecting Church World Service Disaster Recovery Buckets, Back To School Backpacks, Hygiene Kits, and Welcome Kits as part of our annual Festival of Sharing. For more details

about these offerings go online to: <https://www.ccinoh.com/ccio-blog/2022/august/4/disciples-and-ucc-congregations-unite-in-festival-of-sharing.aspx>

So if you have not yet taken the opportunity to register, please do so! This will help us plan ahead better, but also save you \$5! Go online to: <https://www.ccinoh.com/other-pages/regional-assembly.aspx> and take a minute to register now. Any over-and-above gifts you give will help us cover the administrative costs of the day.

So Come! Be the Church Together! I can't wait to be with you [Saturday, September 24th!](#)

Faithfully Yours,
Allen

Invite A Friend To Church Sunday

I'm in church today, quite simply, because a junior high friend of mine called me on the phone and invited me to go to youth group with him. Both of our families were members of the same congregation, but neither of us attended. That all changed when Jim invited me to church that summer Sunday night. I've never stopped attending.

While evangelism should be an everyday thing, we all know that it tends to fall of our "to do" list, especially with all the other responsibilities we have at church and with the uncertainties and precautions needed through the last few years with COVID. But now is the time to remind ourselves that if our community of faith is of value to us and is the place where our covenantal values are deepened and our spirituality is enlivened, then it is worth sharing this "good news" with those around us who we care about.



One of the most powerful metaphors ever shared with me about evangelism is that it is just like a

hungry individual who has just found bread needing to share with anyone and everyone where they found food. Perhaps when we feel that evangelism has become a chore or something only conservative fundamentalists do, we need to remind ourselves of this image. There are spiritually hungry people out there who yearn for the kind of community we Disciples of Christ offer.

Choosing a Sunday in September or October as "Invite A Friend To Church Sunday" may seem a bit artificial, but think of it as a day your entire congregation can practice your evangelism skills together. Make it a big day and take a little extra time to spruce up the sanctuary and landscape around the church. In the weeks ahead give everyone a card with information about the church on it to hand to their friends, coworkers, and neighbors (see the example from Northwest Christian Church). Have some special simple gift to give visitors (but be sure not to embarrass them, call attention to them, or make them feel they are in the spotlight.)

Here is a wonderful article on a local United Methodist Church's webpage that gives some very helpful advice and counsel: <https://www.stpaulcumc.org/how-to-invite-friends-to-church-so-they-will-actually-come/> One of the best pieces of advice is for your community of faith to always have identified the next special event that others can be invited to, and to have a way for that information to be easily distribute by individuals, either a flyer to hand someone, a Facebook or Instagram post that can be shared, or a website URL QR code that can be scanned easily on a smart phone.

If your church **does** decide to have an "Invite A Friend To Church" Sunday, please take some pictures and share how it went with us at ccio@CCinOH.org and we'll share it with others.



Social Media Sunday – September 25, 2022

Social Media Sunday is the day set aside for Christians everywhere to use digital devices intentionally to share their life of faith with the world. It is always held on the last Sunday in September and so for 2022 that Sunday is **September 25th**.

Social Media Sunday originated in the Episcopal Church in 2013, but it has grown into an ecumenical event for all who use social media platforms to share their faith and the Good News. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio and a growing

number of our congregations are participating in this fun and helpful annual event.

How to participate: On Sunday, September 25, 2022 use the hashtag #SMS22 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok or whatever other platform you regularly use to share something about your church. "Check in" at church, tweet a quote from the sermon or the date of the next outreach project, post selfies of yourself and the clergy (not during worship, of course!), share a photo of people at your church (with their permission), the link to the worship's livestream, or a video of your favorite hymn being sung —be creative and have fun being a faithful witness!

Social Media Sunday is not a way to push people to use social media if they aren't or don't want to. Rather, it is a way to connect with those who do and expand the church's mission and ministry through this valuable evangelism technique. Remember, even if there are not many in your congregation who use social media, there are A LOT of POTENTIAL visitors, participants, and members out there who DO use social media!

And while we certainly don't want to encourage inappropriate or invasive use of our cell phones in church, it is imperative that those of us who don't want **any** use of cell phones to understand the vital importance this means of communication is to most of the world, and especially to those who we are trying to attract to/back to church. Putting up with someone in your pew tweeting a great quote from the pastor's sermon or taking a quick picture of the beautiful sunlight streaming in through the sanctuary's stained glass windows is a small thing to ask if that quote or photograph might inspire someone not in church to come visit!

One helpful reminder to make Social Media Sunday 2022 a success is to make sure you always share your church's Wi-Fi network name and password every Sunday either on a sign as they enter the sanctuary or in the printed bulletin and/or on the screen. Think of it as a simple act of hospitality for visitors, just like making sure there are signs to the bathrooms!

And the most important piece of advice for Social Media Sunday 2022? ***Have FUN!***

REMINDER – Ohio Women's Ministries Fall Retreat is THIS SATURDAY


Ohio Women's Ministries
Fall Retreat
at Camp Christian
September 10th, 2022

Featuring Rev. Kara Swartz

Co-Minister, Central Christian Church, Newark



The Ohio Women's Ministry Retreat Committee has designed an exciting and informative day for you this year. We are planning a full Saturday where we will join in fellowship, learning, and worship. Optional Friday night lodging at Camp available as well.

Featured Keynote Speaker, Rev. Kara Swartz, Co-Minister, Central Christian Church, Newark. A special outreach project has been designated benefiting domestic violence shelters. Our Regional Minister, Rev. Allen V. Harris, will be present to share greetings. We are extremely excited about all that is planned and look forward to seeing friends from all over Ohio!

For all of the details, including registration and service project, please go to <https://www.ccinoh.com/regional-calendar.aspx?events=10645&action=details>

Fall Silent Retreat

October 3rd – 7th at Camp Christian

We understand that not everyone has the ability to have a full week of retreat so you may come for as long as your schedule permits.

Jesus is known for taking time away to be in quiet solitude and prayer (Mark 1:35). He invites us to join him in spaces of quiet prayer today, though those times and places can be harder and harder to find. Especially with the demands of pastoral, clergy, and lay leadership in this past year, we are all needing quiet prayer now more than ever.

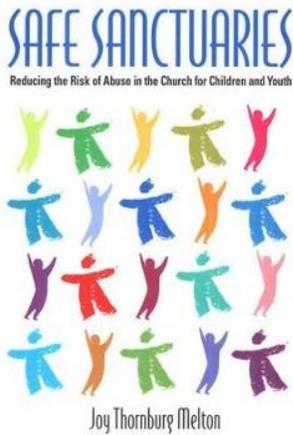


The Spiritual Life Committee of the Ohio Region issues an invitation on behalf of Christ Jesus to ALL who are weary and worn, exhausted and exasperated, to all who seem to have lost connection to the Source, to all who are in need of quiet time to come away by yourselves and rest awhile.

This is an opportunity to come to Camp Christian's Monroe Lodge for a do-it-yourself unstructured Silent Retreat. To keep costs down, we have simplified this Retreat as much as we were able, so there will be no food service. You are free to bring your own food or to go out to eat on your own . . . or even to fast as a spiritual discipline. You are free to walk among the trees and sit at the Vesper Spot or stay in the Lodge and sit by the fireplace. There will be no programs or schedules to interrupt your sleep or your time of quiet, because you will be in control of your time at Camp Christian.

An exciting addition to this year's retreat is the opportunity for retreatants to participate in Spiritual Direction. The Ohio Region is blessed to have many trained Spiritual Directors and some of them have agreed to offer their services free of charge throughout the week. If you are interested in Spiritual Direction, please mark the appropriate day on the registration form. Exact times and locations at camp will then be provided to you personally. What a gift we are being given from these folks! We hope many will take advantage of it.

For all of the details and registration, go to <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/adult/spiritual-life.aspx>



Safe Sanctuaries Workshop October 15th, 10am – 3pm at Camp Christian

Does your church need to write a Safe Sanctuary Policy? Join Reverend Lauren Roe and Director of Christian Education, Kim Paul for this one day workshop to learn how to put a policy together for your congregation. Your church may choose to send one leader to participate in this workshop or a team of leaders. You will have time to work together throughout the day on a plan for your church, so a team is encouraged. Throughout the workshop we will help your team answer the questions:

Why do we need a Safe Sanctuary policy? What should be included in this policy? Who should be involved in putting it together? What process should we follow? How do we share the policy with our volunteers and congregation?

Sample policies from different sized congregations will be provided. Throughout the day the team will have an opportunity to begin evaluating their church's current practices, identify their goals, and leave with a plan for how they will move through this process with their congregation.

Registration for the first participant from each church will be \$35 which will include lunch and a copy of the book, [Safe Sanctuaries](#) by Joy Thornburg Melton. Each additional participant will be \$15 (covers lunch and supplies). At registration, you will have the option of purchasing additional books for \$20 if you would like. **Registrations are requested by October 1st.**

If you have questions, please reach out to Reverend Lauren Roe at revroe3000@gmail.com.

Registration information can be found on the Regional Calendar at <https://www.ccinoh.com/regional-calendar.aspx?events=10383&action=details>.

Awareness Conversation, Led By The Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Commission, Set For Saturday, October 22

Save the date! The Ohio Pro Reconciliation Anti-Racism Commission invites you to our new Awareness Conversation Oct 22 at Camp Christian starting at 9am and done by 3pm. Please join us for this exciting new approach to Anti-Racism training.

More information coming soon!





Erika Harris, Ohio Seminarian, Receives John And Maxine McCaw Scholarships From The Christian Church Foundation For the Second Year In A Row

Four Lexington Theological Seminary students have received the John and Maxine McCaw Scholarship from the Christian Church Foundation for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Erika Harris received this scholarship last year as well. Dan Ricketts is an alum of LTS' MTS program and will begin the DMin program this fall. Wesley King is currently serving as the ministerial intern at The Table Nashville, an ELCA church plant in Nashville. Leah Eubanks is the Missions and Outreach Director at First Christian Church in Paducah, KY.

The John and Maxine McCaw Scholarship Fund for Prophetic Living, Teaching, and Preaching is a testament to the commitment to prophetic witness, which was embodied by Dr. and Mrs. McCaw. In their scholarship statement, Dr. and Mrs. McCaw write, "The term 'prophetic' is used to indicate a lifestyle that is in constant tension with contemporary society and seeks to eliminate evil and enhance goodness in human relations and in international relations. The pulpits of the land must become unmuzzled and fearlessly must those who occupy the pulpit shed light on the darkness that prevails in the land."

The purpose of the scholarship is to further the recipients' seminary education and help them continue to grow and develop their own understanding of prophetic ministry and where God is calling them to serve in this world.

"I appreciate the John and Maxine McCaw Scholarship Fund for this generous gift and know that it will contribute immensely to my growth in ministry in multiple ways," said Wesley.

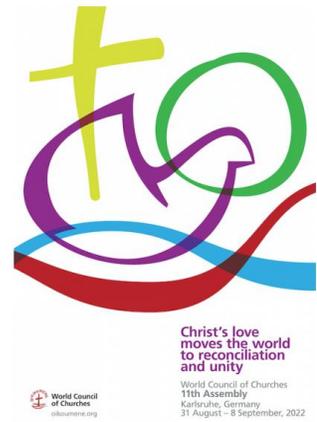
"I am tremendously grateful for the scholarship since it will allow me to pursue my DMin project that I've wanted to do for years," said Dan, who serves at Winchester Avenue Christian Church in Martinsburg, WV.

"The McCaw Scholarship is quite a tremendous blessing for which I truly thank the Lord," said Erika, who is the associate minister at Bethany Christian Church in Cleveland. "I am likewise grateful for the generosity of the McCaw Family, as this wonderful gift will afford me the opportunity to complete 2022-23 year unencumbered."

"I am so grateful for this scholarship and the opportunity to continue to pursue my education," Leah said. "As I continue on this journey, my prayer is that God will give me the wisdom to speak truthfully, the courage to speak boldly, and that my life be a living example of God's calling for hope and justice in the world. Thank you to Dr. and Mrs. McCaw for their commitment to prophetic witness and their example of faithful service."

Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. Represents Disciples At World Council Of Churches Meeting In Germany

Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches and a Disciples of Christ clergy, flew to Karlsruhe, Germany for the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches! He served as advisor to the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council of my denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The 11th Assembly starts on August 31 and will end on September 8. Congratulations and thank you for representing the Disciples and Ohio so well!



Rev. Sullivan also served as preacher of the week at Ohio's Lakeside Chautauqua. The Rev. Dr. Sullivan, was Preacher of the Week from August 28 – September 1. He lead the 10:30 a.m. Chautauqua Community Worship Service on Sunday, Aug. 28 in Hoover Auditorium. He preached on Luke 4:16-21. To watch a video of the service and Rev. Dr. Sullivan's sermon, go online to:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=385442323665116

District 1 Men's Rally

DISTRICT 1 MEN'S RALLY

Sunday, October 30th

Gathering/Fellowship 3 pm

Worship & Speaker 4 pm

First Christian Church, Wauseon—129 E. Elm St., Wauseon, OH 43567

Rev. Allen V. Harris, Regional Pastor & President, Christian Church in Ohio, is our speaker for the Rally.

It will be so good to be together again!



Sunday, October 30th at 3:00pm at the First Christian Church in Wauseon. Regional Pastor & President, Rev. Allen V. Harris will be the speaker at the Rally.

Ordination of Leila Jindra



You are invited to the Ordination of Leila Jindra on Sunday, September 11th at 3pm, at the United Church of Christ, Congregational in Medina. Pastor Jindra is currently a Commission Minister and has been serving as the Pastor of the Christian Temple - Disciples of Christ Congregation in Lorain since 2019.

Westlake Christian Church Receives Award For Work Addressing Human Trafficking

Westlake Christian Church, and their pastor Rev. Jim Link, is proud to be a 2022 award recipient from the 2022 Breaking The Chains of Human Trafficking Gala Awards ceremony. They received the Community Service Award. We are so proud one of our congregations is a part of the important work that Renee Jones Empowerment Center is doing!

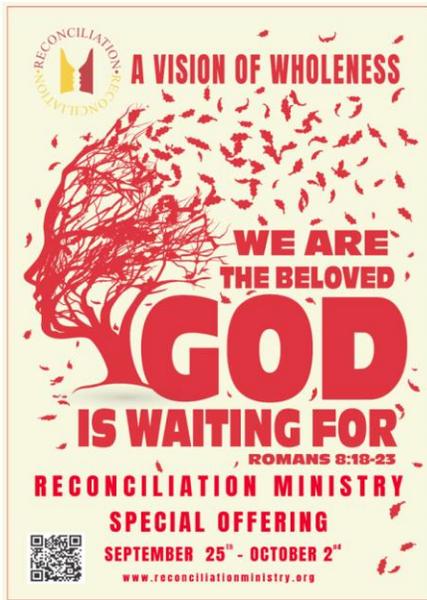
Renee Jones Empowerment Center (RJEC) is a non-profit organization that is unique in providing holistic restorative services for minor and adult human trafficking and sexual assault victims. These victims face many adverse challenges such as physical and emotional abuse, poverty, and addiction. The Center's mission is to empower these individuals to advocate for themselves and to improve their quality of life through personal, social, and professional development. The Center is devoted to preventing human trafficking and sexual exploitation by actively engaging the community in anti-trafficking efforts and educating service professionals, law enforcement, educators, students, parents, and the community on the realities of this growing crime.

To listen to the podcast of the awards ceremony, listen here:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1957523/11086004>



2022 Breaking The Chains of Human Trafficking Gala Award Recipients
RJEC Project Red Cord Chronicles



Reconciliation Offering

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.

For more information, including worship resources, go to <https://reconciliationministry.org/2022-give-to-reconciliation-ministry-special-offering/>

Virtual NAPAD Convocation

Please join us virtually for the 22nd NAPAD Biennial Convocation on Saturday, Sep 24, at 5pm.

The main session, including a business meeting and worship, will start at 6 pm, Eastern Standard Time.

There will be a pre-convocation workshop on 5 pm about the "Covenant Project," the denominational work of changing structures to be more just and relationships across the church to be more connected.

Register at <https://docgeneralassembly.regfox.com/2022-napad-convocation>





Leadership Academy Early Bird Special Ends September 16th

Are you interested in attending Leadership Academy, an online training academy from New Church Ministries, but concerned about the cost? Until **September 16**, participants who sign up using the **code EARLYBIRD** will receive **15% off the registration fee!** So join [New Church Ministry](#) from **October 18-20** to hear from keynote speaker [Rev. Sandhya Jha](#), join your [peers](#) wherever you're at in the church launch process, and explore [workshops](#) on financial essentials for the new church planter, creation care, LGBTQ+ affirmation, and starting church on a dime.

Click this link to [learn more](#) and be sure to let our Regional Minister, Rev. Harris, know you are interested in attending by emailing him at: AHarris@ccinoh.org.

Krista Johnson Weicksel named as Division of Overseas Ministries Vice President for Administration and Programs

Global Ministries is pleased to announce that Krista Johnson Weicksel will serve as the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) Vice President for Administration and Programs. Krista brings exceptional administrative and professional skills and a strong understanding of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Global Ministries to this position. She begins on September 1, 2022. Many Ohio Disciples will remember Krista from her time as a Camp Christian Staff Person and from Advance Conference.



"I vividly remember being an eleven-year-old sitting in a church fellowship hall and listening to mission co-workers share stories about their ministry in Nepal," Krista shares. "Global Ministries opened my eyes to a bigger world as a child, offered an opportunity to volunteer internationally as a young adult, and continues to model what it looks like for our church to engage internationally with integrity. It is an incredible honor to help to shape the future of this beloved ministry as the Vice President for Administration and Programs."

Since 2019, Krista has served as Global Ministries Program Associate for Advocacy and Education. From 2006 to 2008, she served as a Global Mission Intern appointed to the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Israel/Palestine. Before returning to the Global Ministries staff in 2019, Krista served as the Mennonite Central Committee Peacebuilding Coordinator.

"I am energized by the opportunity to help shape the future of this ministry, to collaborate with the DOM President to build a vibrant healthy staff culture, and to find innovative and meaningful ways to engage in accompaniment with international partners in an ever-shifting context of mission," says Krista. "I love this ministry and look forward to the opportunity to offer more to a ministry that has offered so much to me."

Please join Global Ministries in welcoming Krista Johnson Weicksel to this new position.

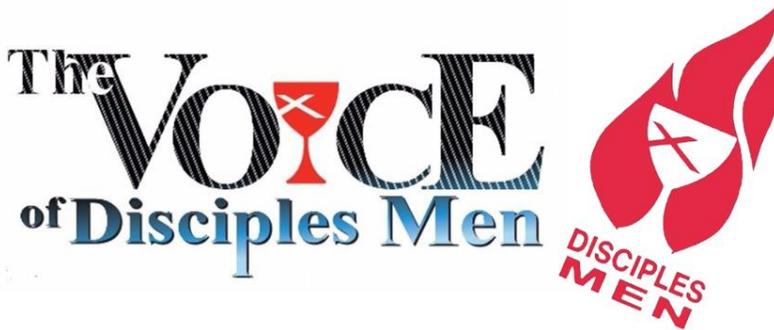
Register today for the Pension Fund Insider Update on Wednesday, September 21st

Pension Fund of the Christian Church invites you to be a part of their annual Pension Fund Insider Update! The Insider Update is a presentation specifically for our region and provides a wealth of knowledge every year that will support you in ministry. This year, they will cover key ways that Pension Fund can help create financial stability in an increasingly uncertain economy, products and programs that you may be missing out on, and resources for pastors in need. Your Pension Fund Area Director, Raquel Collazo, will host this event on Wednesday, September 21st at 11am EDT.

We believe this will be a beneficial event, and we hope you will be able to attend. Please be sure to register here: <https://PFCC.easywebinar.live/registration-77>

This event will be recorded. If you are unable to attend in person, please fill out the registration anyway as registration will ensure you receive the replay. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to your Pension Fund Area Director at rcollazo@pensionfund.org.

What's Been Happening in Disciples Men? – Voice Newsletter



To read the latest news from Disciples Men, go online to:

<https://mailchi.mp/3ccc34dde430/updates-on-disciples-men?e=233a83fd02>

Be the Neighbor Youth Trips 2023

Connect Ministries and Reach Beyond Mission are joining together as **Be the Neighbor**. They are hosting justice-focused service-learning weeks in more locations with more theme options than ever before. Be the Neighbor is related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.



Be the Neighbor is offering two types of youth group trips in 2023

1. Connect trips empower groups to put their faith into action through service and justice in ways that are relational, sustainable and dignity-giving. **Connect** trips are being planned in Dallas, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Nashville, and Tuscon

2. Reach trips focus on learning about structural and systemic issues so that groups may go back to their communities with new vision, empowered with tools to advocate for change. **Reach** trips are being planned in Albuquerque, Austin, Chicago, and Tulsa

For more information, go to <https://www.betheneighbor.org/2023trips>



**Administrator Position Available
Chautauqua Association Disciples of Christ,
Chautauqua. New York**

The Chautauqua Association of The Disciples of Christ (CADC) has a mission of hospitality which offers affordable housing for Disciples and others to participate in the Chautauqua Institution 9-session summer program, plus a year-round facility for retreats and family gatherings.

The CADC Administrator works with the Board of Trustees, committees, and volunteers to accomplish the CADC Mission. Responsibilities include oversight of reservations, building maintenance, finances/accounting, promotion, public relations, and participation in the Chautauqua Organization of Denominational Houses.

The administrator is expected to be present on the grounds for the 9-week summer season plus at least one week prior to and following the season, and to handle various administrative duties throughout the year including oversight of the off-season use of the year-round facility.

The position will officially begin on January 1, 2024, but the candidate will be employed part time during 2023 to work with the current administrator.

Remuneration will include salary and expenses.

For further information, to receive a job description, or to submit a resume contact:

Jill Barrile, Board President
6073 Dover Road
Lake View, NY 14085-9656
barrilejc@gmail.com
716-628-3693