



THE CHRISTIAN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA

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The mission of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region is to encourage and equip its congregations and pastors for the ministry of Jesus Christ in local communities and throughout the world, while seeking to nurture them into deeper relationship with God, with each other, and with the whole Church.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

- 2 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - Montgomery, United
- 6 CWF/Disciples Women Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 10 Senior Adult Cabinet Planning (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 12-18 4-Member Delegation from Alabama-Northwest Florida to Honduras
- 20 Division of Administration/Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 21-28 Week of Compassion Promotion
- 27 Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - Birmingham, First
- 29 Regional Committee on Recommendations Conference Call (7:00 p.m.)

MARCH

- 5 Division of Mission (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 8 - 10 42nd Annual Black Ministers Retreat - Christ Tabernacle Church, Jackson, MS
- 10 Optional Arrival Day for Men's Retreat - YMCA-Hargis
- 11 - 12 Men's Retreat - YMCA-Hargis
- 20 - 27 Easter Offering Promotion (for General Ministries)

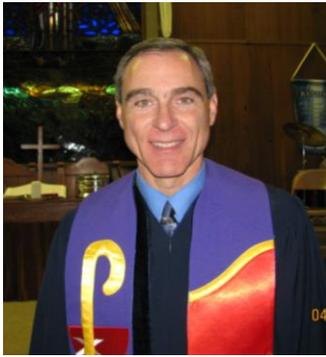
APRIL

- 1 "Healthy Boundaries" workshop for clergy (9:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 13 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 29 - May 1 Alabama-Northwest Florida Regional Assembly - Florence, First
- 30 Mission Gathering (3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.) - Florence, First

"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."

- 2007 Disciples Identity Statement

REFLECTIONS FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER



We have all heard the slogan of the State Farm Insurance Company, “Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.” The message being conveyed is that when you find yourself in need due to some unplanned circumstance, the insurance company will be able to offer assistance. Of course this only applies to those who have paid their insurance premiums and have active insurance policies through the insurance company. It is not an “across the board” statement to everyone. If you do not have an active policy with State Farm, then they are not going to be such a good neighbor when you find yourself in need. They are going to be an indifferent neighbor. They will not be involved with you and your needs. This is no criticism of State Farm; that is simply how insurance works out in the marketplace.

Now let’s think about the church. We should be saying, “Like a good neighbor, the church is there.” And shouldn’t such a statement be an “across the board” statement to all of our neighbors, not just those who are “members” of our churches? Wasn’t the Samaritan who encountered the beaten man lying in the ditch a “good neighbor” when he stopped and cared for him, even going the second mile to express compassion? He never thought about whether the man had done anything to deserve such attention. Wasn’t Jesus a “good neighbor” when he showed compassion to lepers and to those who were blind, lame, or demon-possessed? He never considered whether they had paid their premiums and had an active policy.

There are needs all around us – physical, spiritual, social, and economic, etc. Our congregations are a part of neighborhoods where people experience all kinds of problems. As these people relate to us, the church, are they finding “good neighbors” or are they finding indifferent neighbors? Do we treat them and their problems as if they have not paid their premiums and thus ignore them? Or do we act like the Samaritan, or like Jesus, and pay attention to them and their problems, going out of our way to help?

The theme of the 2016 Regional Assembly in Alabama-Northwest Florida is “...*And Who Is My Neighbor?*” May it be a time when we are renewed in our determination to be good neighbors, even better than an insurance company, because we care for all whom God places within our path, not just certain favored people.

Your Partner in Ministry,

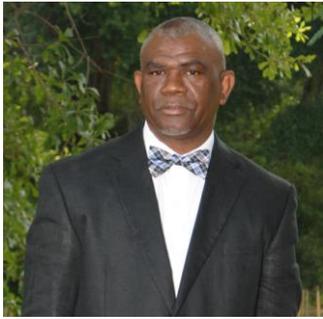
John P. Mobley
Regional Minister

CONGREGATIONS SEEKING A MINISTER

Huntsville, First (Cameron Douglas is Interim Minister)
Meridian, First (Stan Wright is Interim Minister)
Mobile, Azalea Hills (David Chambers is Interim Minister)
Montgomery, First (Edd Spencer is Interim Minister)
Pensacola, First (Paul Ingram is Interim Minister)

REFLECTIONS FROM THE ASSOCIATE REGIONAL MINISTER

Jesus' Prayer List John 17:1-11



In 2001 right after the 9-11 attack I ran across this sermon. You can tell much about a person from his prayer list. Some people have on their prayer lists the hungry and starving of the world while others people pray only over their own full plates. Some people put at the top of their list “freedom and justice for the poor and downtrodden”; other people place a “raise and a new car” at the top of theirs. Some prayer lists are full of names—Mary, fighting cancer; John, who needs work; the Jones who have a new baby—while other prayer lists are only blank sheets. Some people put themselves on their prayer lists under “confession” (“God be merciful to me a sinner”). But others enter their own names under “adoration” (“God, I thank thee that I am not like other people”) You can learn a great deal about people from their prayer lists.

Taken in this light, Jesus' own prayer list is something of shock, perhaps even a scandal. In the John 17: 1-11 passage, Jesus is nearing the end of his life and prays a long and beautiful prayer of intercession. In this prayer he gives thanks, praises his Father, and pleads for his followers, but he also - and this is the shock - refuses to pray for the world.” “I am not praying for the world,” Jesus says but for those whom thou hast given me.” (John 17:9)

We have always been taught that it is our duty of Christians to care and pray for the world. What are we to make of the fact that our Lord himself, in his high priestly prayer, refused to put the world on his prayer list?

Some would suggest that Jesus refused to pray for the world because the world is evil and has been rejected by God. There is plenty of evidence for this idea, of course. A glance at the newspaper headlines would seem to reveal a world beyond even the power of prayer; government by bribery, business by greed, and public life by violence. Given the kind of world we live in, it seems a small wonder that Jesus said, “I do not pray for the world.”

But this suggestion is simply not true. The world has not been rejected by God. In deed, John himself has told us that God loved the world so much he gave his only Son(John 3:16). There must be some other reason why Jesus refused to pray for the world.

Another possibility is that Jesus wanted his followers to make a clean break from the world, wanted them to be “church people” uncontaminated by involvement in the world. But this suggestion is wrong, too. Later in the very same prayer Jesus says that he is sending his disciples “into the world” just as the Father has sent him into the world.

In the final analysis, the ironic truth is that Jesus refused to pray for the world at that moment not because he hated the world or rejected the world but because he deeply loved the world and finally saved the world. What Jesus was doing in his prayer was offering gifts to the Father. He offered the gift of himself because his earthly ministry was complete. He also gave his disciples to the Father, for “they are thine.” But the world was not yet ready to give as a gift. One day the world will cease to be rebellion, will cease its hating and its violence against God. Until that day, though, Jesus sends us - his disciples - into the world he loves, just as the Father sent him, so that the world may believe. The promise is that because of God's mercy to the world through our service and love, one day the world will come to the light of Christ and Jesus' prayer will finally be finished: “I pray now for the world, offering it at last to thee, for it is thine.”

We have a responsibility as disciples to pray for this world that one day we will have peace on earth. The song writer said it well, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin in me.”

HAMLETT TO STEP DOWN AS PENSION FUND PRESIDENT

James P. Hamlett, 8th President of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) announced that he will retire effective August 31, 2016. Hamlett has served as President since January 1, 2004. He will be succeeded as president by the Reverend Dr. Todd A. Adams, who was called to be Senior Vice President/President-elect by Pension Fund's Board of Directors following an exhaustive nationwide search directed by Anne F. Keating, President of Keating Associates, LLC, and consultant to the search committee, chaired by the Reverend D. James P. Johnson. Adams will join Pension Fund on March 1, 2016 and will become President on September 1, 2016.

In making the announcement, Hamlett stated "It has been my great honor to serve with extraordinary colleagues in this ministry to those who accepted the call to Christian ministry. Together we have sought to enhance the financial wellbeing of pastors, lay employees and retirees, holding firm to Pension Fund's core values of "Trust, Security and Compassion. During my years at Pension Fund, I have been blessed beyond measure by the support and encouragement of so many. I know Pension Fund will be in good hands as the mantle of leadership passes to Dr. Adams."

ADAMS NAMED SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

The Board of Directors of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has called the Reverend Dr. Todd A. Adams to serve as Senior Vice President/President-Elect beginning March 1, 2016. Adams will become the Pension Fund's 9th Chief Executive on September 1, 2016, following James P. Hamlett in that role. Adams currently serves as the denomination's Associate General Minister and Vice President.

The Reverend James P. Johnson, search committee chair, stated, "After a comprehensive, nationwide search, and following the Executive Search protocols of the church, Todd Adams rose to the top of our list. Over the past 8 years, he has demonstrated the key executive leadership skills the Board was seeking in our next President to continue to the legacy of leadership of William Martin Smith, Lester Palmer, Art Hanna, and Jim Hamlett."

In his remarks to the Pension Fund Board, Adams shared his excitement about collaborating with Pension Fund's staff to continue the legacy of a strong, smart and secure retirement for the church's employees. "We have a legacy of providing one of the best-managed and financially-sound defined benefit programs in the country. I am humbled by the Board's confidence and call to step into a long line of faithful leaders, caring for our church's servants."



The Rev. Dr. Adams is a 1994 graduate of Chapman University. In 1997, he completed his Master of Divinity at Phillips Theological Seminary. He earned a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in 2007. He was awarded the honorary Doctor of Divinity from Bethany College in recognition of his service to the church.

Todd has been married to Kimberly Hall Adams for over 21 years. Todd and Kim met at the Pacific Southwest Regional Assembly, hosted by Chapman University. They have two children, Claire and Jackson. Claire, a high school senior, is a world junior record holder and a member of USA Swimming's National Team. She has committed to swim for the University of Texas. Jackson, a freshman, plays baseball for the Indiana Prospects and Carmel High School.

**WEEK OF COMPASSION SPECIAL OFFERING
FEBRUARY 21 - 28, 2016**

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. This ministry seeks to equip and empower Disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities. Please visit <www.weekofcompassion.org> to find resources for promoting the many ways that Week of Compassion is touching lives in the name of Christ all around the world, all around the year. Your support of the Week of Compassion offering, collected in most congregations February 21 and 28, is much-needed and greatly appreciated.

ISLAMIC SEMINAR

Valley Christian Church, Birmingham, is pleased to invite those who are interested to a seminar at Valley led by Ashfaq Taufique, President of the Birmingham Islamic Society, on Sunday, February 7, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. President Taufique, who came to America from Pakistan forty-one years ago, is very knowledgeable and concerned about the lack of information and communication between our religious groups.

Plan Now to Attend the 2016 Regional Assembly

April 29 - May 1, 2016

First Christian Church, Florence, Alabama

Theme: “...And Who Is My Neighbor?”

Special Guests Include:

Rev. Bill Lee, Pastor, Loudon Avenue Christian Church, Roanoke, Virginia

Rev. Rebecca Hale, Vice-President of Mission/Ministry, National Benevolent Association

Rev. Vy Nguyen, Minister of Week of Compassion

Registration Information was included in the January Leader's Packet.

2016 MEN'S RETREAT SET FOR MARCH 11-12



The annual Men's Retreat is planned for March 11 -12, 2016, at YMCA-Hargis. For a nominal added cost, men have the option of arriving on Thursday, March 10, for fishing, hiking, and fellowship prior to the beginning of the retreat on Friday afternoon. The Disciples Men's Cabinet has put together a great retreat filled with fun, fellowship, and challenge for all men in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. The theme for the 2016 Men's Retreat is "Reflections with Jeremiah: Judgment and Hope." The guest leader for the retreat will be Rev. Dr. Cameron Douglas,

Interim Senior Minister, First Christian Church, Huntsville. Rev. Douglas will help men of the Region consider their own ministries as they think about four key elements of the life and ministry of the prophet Jeremiah: the Call, the Covenant, the Crime, and the Consequences.

Cameron Douglas (pictured right) has been in ministry for more than 30 years, serving as pastor in congregations in the Indiana Region and the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. Most recently he has served as Interim Senior Minister with First Christian Church, Meridian, MS, and prior to that he served as pastor with First Christian Church, Decatur, AL, for eight years. Cameron began his ministry in Huntsville in September, 2015.

Cameron Douglas completed his undergraduate studies at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, prior to obtaining his M.Div. from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN, in 1985. He earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Anderson University School of Theology, Anderson, IN, in 2003. Cameron has been actively involved in the communities where he has lived, serving in leadership roles on agency boards. He has been actively involved in the Regions where he has served, giving leadership in a variety of ways. In Alabama-Northwest Florida he has served on the Regional Board, the Program Committee on Church Development, and the Committee on the Ministry. He served for several years as an instructor in the PEPP training program for ministry candidates. Currently Cameron serves as Regional Moderator-Elect and will become Moderator at the 2016 Regional Assembly. He and his wife, Diane, have two grown daughters.

The guest musician for the retreat is Wallace Lee, who is also a part of the staff at First Christian Church, Huntsville. Wallace Lee (pictured left) has served as the worship leader for the early worship service at First Christian Church, Huntsville, for more than 20 years. He has been a part of the music ministry in several different churches and he has taught music in the public school system in Huntsville. A native of Bermuda, Wallace completed his undergraduate studies at Alabama A & M University in 1995 in music education. He received his master's degree in music education at Alabama A&M in 1998. He has received numerous certifications from professional organizations for his accomplishments in music. He will bring his keyboard to the Men's Retreat and will assist the men in praising God through music.

The Men's Retreat formally begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and concludes by 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. All men of all ages are encouraged to participate in this time of renewal, inspiration, fellowship, and fun. You will not want to miss this very special time together.

Each year at the Men's Retreat there is an important offering collection which provides resources for the Disciples Men to support specific mission efforts in and beyond the Region. Men's groups in congregations are urged to collect their money in advance of the retreat so that each congregation's gifts may be included with the offering collected at the retreat. Registration forms and information on costs were included in the January Leader's Packet. The early-bird deadline for registration is February 26. After that date there is an increase in the registration fee. Please contact the Regional office if more information is needed.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS for the 2016 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The 2016 Alabama-Northwest Florida Regional Assembly at First Christian Church, Florence, Alabama, will include sermons and/or presentations by some excellent leaders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Each of them is most qualified to help develop the theme, "...And Who Is My Neighbor?" They include **Rev. Dr. William Lee**, **Rev. Rebecca Hale**, and **Rev. Vy Nguyen**.



Rev. Dr. William Lee served as Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada from 2006-2008. For 37 years Dr. Lee has served as Pastor at Loudon Avenue Christian Church in Roanoke, Virginia. He and his congregation have been active in leadership in his community. The Roanoke City Council named the Rev. Dr. William L Lee as the citizen of the year for 2011.

Dr. Lee received his Bachelors of Science degree in Special Education from Virginia State University with honors (Cum Laude) in 1974, his Masters of Divinity from the Divinity School at Duke University in 1978 and his Doctorate of Ministry Degree from Ashland Theological Seminary in June 2009.

Dr. Lee has served on numerous Boards of ministries related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He has preached and given lectures at denomination-wide events and Assemblies. He has given outstanding leadership across the life of the church for many years.

Dr. Lee has been married to the former Dana Barnes for 40+ years and they are the proud parents of two adult children, Aaron Michael and Sarah Barnes.

Dr. Lee will preach on Friday night and lead a workshop on Saturday.



Rev. Rebecca Hale serves as the NBA Vice President for Mission and Ministry. In her role, she supports the creation and implementation of mission programs of the National Benevolent Association. The position brings together her passion for supporting congregations as they seek to be missionally centered and nurturing partnerships across the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Prior to serving with the NBA, Rebecca worked in congregational and regional leadership for the Disciples church in Pennsylvania, Northwest Region, and Florida. She was called to serve as Transitional Regional Minister and President in both the Northwest and the Florida Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Her denominational commitments also include working as the Transformational Partner for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana and she served for three years as chairperson for the Week of Compassion Advisory Committee.

Two core commitments energize Rev. Hale's ministry: The first is her commitment to helping Disciple communities explore landscapes for ministry opportunities and develop faithful missions based on assessment of those landscapes. This passion arises out of the theological commitment that "God so loves the world" and that the church exists to advance God's mission in the world. The second core commitment to her ministry is partnership development that encourages communities to more clearly visualize and formulate a shared mission and to fulfill that shared mission in powerful life-changing ways.

Rev. Hale will preach on Saturday morning, lead a workshop and speak at the Women's Luncheon on Saturday.



Rev. Vy Nguyen was called to serve as Executive Director of Week of Compassion in 2014. He is a native of Viet Nam and came to the U.S. as a child with his family as they sought safety. Through the ministry of Week of Compassion, Vy came to know the Disciples of Christ and became active in the church.

Vy holds a Master of Divinity from the Divinity School at the University of Chicago, and earned his B.A. in religious studies with a minor in environmental sciences from Texas Christian University. He joined Week of Compassion after serving more than 5 years with Church World Service for the Southwest Regional Office where he worked with congregations and donors to increase their fund-raising portfolio. Prior to his work with Church World Service, Vy worked with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps office in Berkeley, CA, where he strengthened relationships between volunteers, congregations, and non-profit agencies.

Vy and his wife, Linh Bui, live in Oakland, CA.

Rev. Nguyen will lead a workshop and speak at the Men's Luncheon on Saturday.



What is "Mission First" all about?

It's likely your faith community has done some visioning in the last few years. The general expression of the Church is doing the same. As the year 2020 nears, it is time to listen for God's continuing call and to seek together where God is calling Disciples next in our shared mission and ministry.

Addressing the 2014 General Board, General Minister and President Sharon Watkins set out a challenge: "The time has come to lighten our load and tighten our focus – on mission! I am inviting our church, in all its expressions, to join in a conversation on God's mission for Disciples today." <http://disciples.org/Portals/0/Audio/GB2014/SharonWatkins-Sermon-GB14.mp3><http://disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/generalboard/2014/2014Communique.pdf>

Since General Board, a group of Disciples from many professional and cultural backgrounds has been meeting about just how to find this new focus. The proposal called Mission First! was presented to the General Board in April 2015. It includes a call to mission and a pilot model for helping us identify a common direction in mission.

Mission First! addresses the need to find a new shared focus in mission. We are not setting aside pro-reconciliation/anti-racism, new and transforming churches or leadership development. Mission First! seeks to help Disciples identify the next mission priorities God has for us as we move toward the year 2020 and beyond.

Watch Sharon Watkins' State of the Church's Mission from the 2015 General Assembly describing how Mission First! will help Disciples find our mission focus.

At the heart of this process are Mission Gatherings where we hope you and your leaders will participate in sharing what your congregation is passionate about doing in the mission field.

These gatherings may take place at your 2016 regional or racial/ethnic assemblies or at camp or other places where Disciples gather. A Church-wide Mission Council will receive the information from the gatherings and identify a mission focus for a specified time.

Moving forward in this way would call for reorganization of our general church governance structures, so Watkins is asking for a provisional try – a trial run up until 2017. Based on what we learn, we would anticipate making some permanent changes at the 2017 assembly.

MISSION GATHERING IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA

On Saturday afternoon of the upcoming Regional Assembly, all Disciples are invited to participate in a Mission Gathering from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Mission Gathering will take place at the Baptist Campus Ministries building which is adjacent to First Christian Church, Florence. Even if persons are unable to attend the Regional Assembly, they are welcome to participate in the Mission Gathering on Saturday afternoon.

Within a context of worship, the Mission Gathering will include small group conversations about how we believe God is working in the world and what God's call may be to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as we seek to be a part of God's work in the world. The information gleaned from each Mission Gathering that is taking place across the life of the church in 2016 will go to a Mission Council that will develop strategies and recommendations to help the church be faithful to its missional calling.

Please be in prayer for the Regional Assembly and for the Mission Gathering that will take place on Saturday afternoon, April 30, 2016, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.



New Bethel Christian Church Angel Praise Dancers donated school uniform polos, baby clothes and baby food to Greenville DHR. The Praise Dance Coordinator, Melissa Sias Robinson, emphasize to the dancer the importance of giving back to the community. Pictured back row from right to left is Rev. Tommie L Means Pastor, Bernadette Robinson, Kendra Robinson, front row from right to left, Natasha Mack, Lisa Butts, DHR, Martasia Savage, Ja-liah Mc Means, and Daisha Mack.



New Bethel Christian Church Drama team and Angel Praise Dancer collected old eye glasses for recycling for the Lions Club in Greenville, AL. The Lions Club "Recycle for Sight" program provide eyeglasses for indigent and low income individuals.

NEWS OF THE CLERGY

La'Rue Smith Jr. was ordained into ministry at United Christian Church, Montgomery, where he serves as Pastor, on Sunday, January 3, 2016.

Shane Isner has accepted a call to serve as Senior Minister with First Christian Church, Montgomery, beginning sometime in the spring of 2016. Previously Rev. Isner served as pastor with Plymouth Creek Christian Church in Plymouth Creek, Minnesota. **Timothy Clark** has been called as pastor with First Christian Church, Hartselle, beginning in March. **Jerry Ridling** will conclude his service at the end of January as Interim Minister with First Christian Church, Hartselle.

Jan Watts has announced her plans to retire from active ministry on February 7, 2016. She has been serving as Minister of Music at First Christian Church, Birmingham.

OUTREACH GIVING UPDATE

The giving in 2015 by congregations in Alabama-Northwest Florida to the Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas) has increased by 6.49% over the amount given in 2014. Church-wide gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings in 2015 decreased by 3.25% compared to 2014. Week of Compassion giving in Alabama-Northwest Florida increased 64.20% compared to 2014. Church-wide Week of Compassion giving was 9.2% higher than in 2014. The Reconciliation Offering in Alabama-Northwest Florida increased 75.56% over the 2014 total. Church-wide Reconciliation giving was 9.2% higher than in 2014. The Easter Offering in Alabama-Northwest Florida decreased 20.5% in 2015, the Pentecost Offering increased 20.5% in 2015, the Thanksgiving Offering decreased 7.1% in 2015, and the Christmas Offering increased 13.8% in 2015 compared to the 2014 total.

Disciples outreach ministries are carried out in partnership between general ministries, ministries of higher education, Regions, congregations, and other related ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The financial support given by your congregation enables this partnership to be effective in carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ. Your commitment to our shared ministries is greatly appreciated.



La'Rue Smith, Jr. was ordained at United Christian Church, Montgomery, on Sunday, January 3, 2016. Ministers participating in the service included (pictured l-r) Howard Jones, pastor at New Hope Christian Church, Letohatchee, Regional Minister John Mobley, Former Associate Regional Minister Lionel Young. At the far right is Associate Regional Minister Dale Braxton and beside him is Fletcher Fountain, Pastor at Lily Baptist Church, Letohatchee. (Pictured center), is La'Rue Smith, Jr., his daughter and his wife, Renee.



Youth from around the Alabama-Northwest Florida region gathered on Jan 22-24 at YMCA Camp Chandler, Wetumpka, AL, to enjoy "Youthtopia 2016". Our theme was "And Who Is My Neighbor?"

STATEMENT AFFIRMING AN ANTI-RACIST IDENTITY

Recognizing the division that exists within the human family due to the sin of racism, the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region confirms its commitment to the call of the gospel of Jesus Christ to be an ambassador of unity and reconciliation. The Alabama-Northwest Florida Region confesses its own participation in the sin of racism and is committed to the dismantling of racism wherever it exists in its own institutional life and in the life and witness of its congregations.

Therefore, the Regional Board, on February 23, 2002, affirms all current and future efforts within the Alabama-Northwest Region to become an Anti-Racist manifestation of the Body of Christ. This affirmation will be demonstrated through prayer, allocation of resources, and organized efforts to challenge racism wherever it exists within the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region.

Congregations that have formally committed to expressing "true community" through intentional efforts to work against racism and toward reconciliation.

First Christian Church, Anniston
Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana, Anniston
Village Christian Church, Auburn
First Christian Church, Birmingham
Valley Christian Church, Birmingham
First Christian Church, Dothan
First Christian Church, Florence
Snow Hill Christian Church, Ft. Deposit
First Christian Church, Ft. Walton Beach
Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana, Ft. Walton Beach
Sellers Memorial Christian Church, Hayneville
First Christian Church, Huntsville
Grateful Life Community Church, Huntsville
Madison Christian Church, Madison
Mt. Pleasant Christian Church, Mathews
First Christian Church, Pensacola
Mt. Calvary Missionary Christian Church, Tuskegee
Union Christian Church, Tuskegee
First Christian Church of River View, Valley