March 1, 2014

At least two persons in each congregation, the Minister and Board Chairperson, and perhaps others, receive this Packet. Please review this material carefully to determine how it needs to be shared most appropriately within your congregation.

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Parish Paper
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Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA
861 Highway 52
Helena, AL 35080
(205) 425-5245
(205) 425-5246 (fax)
e-mail: alnwfl@aol.com
website: www.alnwfldisciples.org

Regional Officers and Regional Staff
May, 2012

Moderator: Stuart Price
613 Owens Road
Auburn, AL 36830
334-844-2673 (w) 334-821-1123 (h)
e-mail: pricesb@auburn.edu

Moderator-Elect: Jan Pooley
2805 Jerry Pate Court
Shalimar, FL 32579
850-651-5124 (h)
e-mail: jpooley5@cox.net

First Vice Moderator: Jeremy Harbin
P. O. Box 1188
Hartselle, AL 35640
256-773-6911 (w) 256-345-6088 (h)
e-mail: jeremyharbin@gmail.com

Second Vice Moderator: Angela Rudolph
P. O. Box 353
Hayneville, AL 36040
334-548-6222 (h)
e-mail: angela.rudolph@adph.state.al.us

Secretary-Treasurer: Edward Williams
704 Grove St.
Homewood, AL 35209
205-746-1720 (c)
e-mail: edwms5@aol.com

Regional Representative to the General Board of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2008-2013:

Lester Smith
852 Hatcher Street
Montgomery, AL 36109
334-271-3882
e-mail: lester.smith.06@gmail.com

Regional Minister: John Mobley
861 Highway 52
Helena, AL 35080
205-425-5245 (w)
e-mail: jpmobley2@aol.com

Associate Regional Minister Dale Braxton
8420 County Rd. 45
Ft. Deposit, AL 36032
334-227-4752
e-mail: braxtondale@hotmail.com

Youth Ministries Staff Person: Nisha Warbington
15561 Dockery Road
Coker, AL 35452
205-330-8968 (h) 205-454-2054 (cell)
e-mail: Nisha7@aol.com

Administrative Assistant: Susan Henderson
861 Highway 52
Helena, AL 35080
205-425-5245 (w)
e-mail: alnwfl@aol.com
ITEMS OF INTEREST
(from within the Region)

OUTREACH GIVING

The giving in 2013 by congregations in Alabama-Northwest Florida to the Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas) increased by 0.23% over the amount given in 2012. Church-wide gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings in 2013 decreased by 2.94% from the amount given in 2012. Week of Compassion giving in 2013 in Alabama-Northwest Florida (regular and designated) increased by 18.67% over the amount given in 2012. The 2013 Easter Offering total in Alabama-Northwest Florida increased from the 2012 amount by 17.4%. The 2013 Pentecost Offering in Alabama-Northwest Florida was 55.7% higher than the 2012 amount. The 2013 Reconciliation Offering increased by 36.4% over the total in 2012. The 2013 Thanksgiving Offering in Alabama-Northwest Florida increased by 36.4% over the 2012 amount. The 2013 Christmas Offering in Alabama-Northwest Florida decreased by 2.1% from the 2012 amount.

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.

NEWS OF THE CLERGY

Paul Ingram has announced his retirement after nearly twenty years of ministry with Azalea Hills Christian Church, Mobile. His final Sunday will be March 9, 2014.

CONGREGATIONS WITH MINISTERIAL VACANCIES

Athens, First (C. J. Cobb is Interim)
Mobile, Azalea Hills

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CLERGY

Pat Tucker died on February 11, 2014. In her retirement from active ministry she had been a member at First Christian Church, Tuscaloosa. The father-in-law of Roger Peadro (First CC, Ft. Walton Beach) died in January. Larry Rawls (Oakmont CC, Saraland) is recovering from some fainting spells he recently experienced. Larry Chambers (retired, Pensacola) had eye surgery in early February. Gary Edge (Valley CC, Birmingham) in recovering from surgery he had in early February. The mother of Gerri Johnson (Pleasant View CC, Camp Hill) is recovering from hip surgery and also dealing with advanced cancer. The father of Sandy Downs (Village CC, Auburn) has been diagnosed with cancer, and his mother is recovering from hip replacement surgery. Carl Flock (retired Regional Minister, Birmingham) was

(Continued on back)
JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CLERGY (continued)

hospitalized with pneumonia in late January at Brookwood Medical Center. **Paul Ingram** (Azalea Hills CC, Mobile) spent a week at Providence Hospital in Mobile in mid-February as he was being treated for an infection. The sister of **Jim Storie** (First CC, Florence) died on February 19, 2014, in Hendersonville, TN. **Carl Gebhardt** (retired, Florence) is recovering from a brief hospitalization in Florence. **Phyllis Kirk** (Grace CC, Helena) was hospitalized for treatment of a blood clot in late February and is now home and recovering.

The daughter of **James Gazaway** (First CC, Pensacola) gave birth to a daughter on January 27, 2014,

(Please notify the Regional Office of other joys and concerns.)

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**Mark your calendars for the next required training opportunities for clergy:**

Healthy Boundaries for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers - March 21, 2014  
Anti-Racism Training for Ministers – April 10-11 or 17-18, 2015.

Note: These workshops are required for all ministers who wish to maintain their ministerial standing. They must be repeated after every 10 years.

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**REGIONAL ASSEMBLY - 2014**  
April 25-27, 2014 - Fort Walton Beach, FL  
co-hosted by First Christian Church and Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana

**MIRACLE DAY - 2014**  
June 7, 2014, at First Christian Church, Tuscaloosa

**Please do not plan activities on your church calendars that conflict with these dates.**

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**DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICE AVAILABLE**

Congregations in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region can access demographic information on their communities by going to www.Link2lead.com and following the directions given (click on “register” to get started). This Region is providing this service at no cost to your congregation. If you have not downloaded recent demographic information for your community, with the latest census updates, please do so in order to lead your congregation to meet the needs of your community. Thank you for your gifts to the Disciples Mission Fund, which makes this ministry possible.

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
### MARCH

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<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 - 6</td>
<td>40th Annual Black Ministers Retreat - Johnson City, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Optional Arrival Day for Men’s Retreat - YMCA-Hargis</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 - 15</td>
<td>Men’s Retreat - YMCA-Hargis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>“Healthy Boundaries” Training for Clergy (9:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 - 23</td>
<td>“Family Camp” - Oak Mountain State Park, Pelham, AL</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Program Committee on Church Development (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Miracle Day Planning Committee (6:00 p.m.) - First Christian, Tuscaloosa</td>
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### APRIL

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<tr>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 20</td>
<td>Easter Offering (for general ministries of the church)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 27</td>
<td>Alabama-Northwest Florida Regional Assembly - Ft. Walton Beach, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Miracle Day Planning Committee (6:00 p.m.) - First Christian, Tuscaloosa</td>
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### MAY

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<td>6</td>
<td>Commissioning &amp; Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Biennial Planning Meeting (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Committee on the Ministry (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - 18</td>
<td>Second Experience Weekend for “The Journey” - St. Bernard Retreat, Cullman, AL</td>
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<td>Regional Staff Planning Meeting (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena</td>
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### JUNE

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Miracle Day - First Christian Church, Tuscaloosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 - 13</td>
<td>Beach Camp - (“The Lighthouse” Retreat Center at Romar Beach Baptist Church) - Orange Beach, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 - 23</td>
<td>Genesis Camp - YMCA-Camp Chandler</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Discovery Camp - YMCA-Camp Chandler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Regional Convocation One-Day Workshop - Edward Point Christian, Century, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 - 27</td>
<td>Junior Camp, Chi Rho Camp, and CYF Conference - YMCA-Camp Chandler</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 - 29</td>
<td>ICWF Quadrennial Assembly - Atlanta, GA</td>
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### JULY

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<tr>
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<td>Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 - 27</td>
<td>23rd Biennial Session of the National Convocation - Columbus, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 - 31</td>
<td>Gathering for Regional Youth Council members in SERF - Christmount</td>
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### AUGUST

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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Clergy-Women’s Luncheon (11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.) - Regional Office, Helena</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 - 23</td>
<td>College of Regional Ministers and Forum of Regional Moderators - Indianapolis, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Senior Adult Sunday in Alabama-Northwest Florida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on back)
SEPTEMBER
2 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
6 Anti-Racism Team (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
9 - 11 SERF (Southeast Regional Fellowship) Retreat - Christmount, Black Mountain, NC
20 Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - Location TBD
27 Program Committee on Church Development (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
28 - Oct. 5 Reconciliation Offering Promotion

OCTOBER
3 - 5 Women’s Retreat - YMCA-Camp Chandler
4 Division of Mission (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
5 World Communion Sunday and Reconciliation Offering Sunday
8 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
11 Disciples Men’s Cabinet (8:30 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
Division of Nurture (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
17 - 19 Young Adult Beach Retreat - Orange Beach, AL
25 Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena

NOVEMBER
1 CWF/Disciples Women Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
4 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
6 - 7 Senior Adult Retreat - Rolling Hills Retreat Center, Calera, AL
16 - 23 Thanksgiving Offering Promotion (for ministries of higher education)

DECEMBER
2 - 4 College of Regional Ministers - Location TBD
8 Committee on the Ministry (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
13 Executive/Personnel Committee (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
14 - 21 Christmas Offering (for ministries of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region)
16 Staff Planning Meeting (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena

JANUARY, 2015
12 - 14 Ministers and Mates Retreat - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach, AL
16 - 18 Young Adult Winter Retreat - YMCA-Camp Chandler
21 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
23 - 25 Youthtopia (all youth grades 6 - 12) - YMCA-Camp Chandler

FEBRUARY, 2015
3 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
13 - 14 Congregational Transformation Event - First Christian Church, Birmingham
21 Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
28 Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - Location TBD
REGIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR
FOR MARCH - MAY, 2014

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN ALABAMA-NW FLORIDA

Note: Congregations are urged to lift up in prayer during worship the congregation(s) designated on each Sunday of the year. Special prayers are encouraged for the ministers listed as well. A phone number is listed for each congregation (in some cases an e-mail address is also listed) in order for persons to make contact with that congregation to learn of special joys and concerns prior to the Sunday when it is listed.

March 2 - Fairhope, Fairhope (334-928-8495), Danny Barfield, Minister (e-mail: <dmcbchap@yahoo.com>)
March 9 - Decatur, First (256-353-8421) Cameron Douglas, Minister (e-mail: <pastorc@fcedecatur.com>)
March 16 - Anniston, Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana (256-236-1791) Carlos Martinez, Pastor (e-mail: <carloserik@live.com>)
March 23 - Ft. Deposit, Snow Hill (334-227-0011) – Dale Braxton, Minister (334-412-4057) or e-mail: <braxtondale@hotmail.com>
March 30- Ft. Walton Beach, Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana, Jose and Ana Diaz, Co-Pastors (850-496-4386) or e-mail: <diazja@embarqmail.com><diaz.ana22@yahoo.com>

April 6 - Birmingham, First (205-991-5000) Troy Tatum and Jan Watts, Ministers (e-mail: <troy@fcc-bhm.org> or <jtwatts@charter.net>)
April 13 - Birmingham, Jeffries Memorial (205-925-3345) – Edward Williams, Minister (205-942-0082) (e-mail: <edwms5@aol.com>)
April 20 - Huntsville, Grateful Life Community Church - Sherry Birney, Minister (256-883-2982 or e-mail: <shirney@knology.net>)
April 27 - Greenville, Harrison St. – Timothy O’Neal, Minister (334-279-0349)
- Falkville, Cedar Plains (256-462-3744) Phillip Gilbert, Minister (e-mail: <pwgilbert@bellsouth.net>)

May 4 - Birmingham, Macedonia (205-942-7274) Kenneth Hill, Minister (205-252-9455 or e-mail: <klhsr@yahoo.com>)
May 11 - Tallassee, Macedonia (334-283-6721) David Hooks, Minister (334-283-4772)
May 18- Hayneville, Mt. Zion – Franklin Nettles, Minister (e-mail: <franklinnettles@hotmail.com>)
May 25 - Ft. Walton Beach, First (850-243-8465) Roger Peadro, Minister (e-mail: <rogerpeadro@yahoo.com>)
- Saraland, Oakmont (251-675-7203) Larry Rawls, Minister (e-mail: <rawls1936@aol.com>)

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
## CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA
### DISCIPLES MISSION FUND AND SPECIAL DAY OFFERINGS

**Giving Through January, 2014**

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<th>CONGREGATION</th>
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**TOTAL**

|       | 24,025.39 | 24,378.61 | 1.47 |

**NOTE:** THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JANUARY 2013 TO GIVING JANUARY 2014
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**NOTE:** THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JANUARY 2013 TO GIVING JANUARY 2014
MEN’S RETREAT
(YMCA-Hargis Retreat, Chelsea, Alabama)

March 14 - 15, 2014
(Registration/Check-in begins as early as 2:00 p.m. Retreat officially begins with dinner on March 8 at 6:00 p.m. and ends Saturday by 2:30 p.m.)

Optional Arrival Date - March 13, 2014 Men may come a day early for fishing, hiking, horseshoes, table games, and fellowship time (Added cost - $30, no meals included).

“Rise Up, O Men of God”

Resource Leader:

Rev. Arnold Nelson
Pastor, First Christian Church, Duncan, Oklahoma
Chaplain for the General Conference of Disciples Men

Registration Cost: $80/person ($70 if received before Feb. 22)
** $40/person for those coming for Saturday only

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
MEN’S RETREAT 2014

March 14 - 15, 2014 ---- YMCA-Hargis
Registration/Check-in begins as early as 2:00 p.m. on Friday. The Retreat officially begins with dinner on Friday at 6:00 p.m. and ends Saturday by 2:30 p.m.

Optional Arrival Date - March 13, 2014 Some men may wish to come a day early for fishing, hiking, horseshoes, table games, and fellowship (Added cost - $30.00, no meals included).

Men are reminded to bring their own bedding, towels, and toiletries. Men are also reminded to bring their Challenge Goal offerings to the Retreat.

“Rise Up, O Men of God”

REGISTRATION FORM
(Please use a separate form for each person)

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________
_________________________  __________________________  ________  ______
Street                  City                     State      Zip

Phone No.: ___________________________  E-Mail Address: ________________

Please check one:     _____ I will arrive March 13, one day early       _____ I will arrive March 14
(If arriving on March 13, add $30 to registration payment)
     _____ I will be coming for Saturday only (cost is $40)

Will this be your first Alabama-NW Florida Men’s Retreat?         Yes       No

Congregation __________________________________________________________

Limited financial assistance may be available upon request by pastors to either Phil Terry,
Men’s President, or John Mobley. All financial assistance grants will be kept confidential.

Please enclose payment of $80 with Registration Form (or $70, if received prior to February 22).
This payment covers the cost of registration, three meals, and lodging at YMCA-Hargis. Persons
coming for Saturday only should pay $40, which covers breakfast and lunch.
Payment in full must be received no later than March 10.

Mail To:

Christian Church in AL-NW FL, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 Phone (205-425-5245) Fax (205-425-5246)
REFUND POLICY

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region: 100% refund for emergencies, provided that notification is received prior to the beginning of the event; 50% refund for emergencies in which notification (written) is made after the beginning of the event; 100% refund for non-emergencies if requested in writing at least seven days prior to the first day of the event; No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations after seven days prior to the beginning of the event. Written requests for refunds must be received by the Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 (email <ainwfl@aol.com>), within seven days of the last day of the event.

While refunds are not available other than as outlined in this policy, substitutions will be allowed as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, is able to locate an eligible participant who is able to take the slot and as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, communicates this information to the Regional office. The Region will not be responsible in assisting in identifying a substitute. Notification should be provided to the Regional Office as soon as possible and any substitute must complete the necessary paperwork prior to arrival at the event.

Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010
Continuing Education Opportunity for Ministers and Persons in Ministry Care

“HEALTHY BOUNDARIES”

a Workshop for Ministers and those in the Ministry Care Program of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED THIS WORKSHOP IN THE PAST 10 YEARS

Attendance at this workshop is required in order to maintain Ministerial Standing or be continued in Ministry Care.

Resource Leaders:

Dr. Dale Braxton and
Dr. Nisha Warbington
(Certified Trainers through the FaithTrust Institute)

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014
9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Note: For those with Ministerial Standing or who are in the Ministry Care Program who are required to attend this workshop, there is no cost to participate. For all others, the cost is $50. Reservations are necessary for ALL persons planning to attend and must be made by calling 205-425-5245 or by emailing <alnwf@aol.com> by March 8.

Location of the Workshop
Regional Office
861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080

Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, Alabama 35080
FAMILY CAMP 2014

FAMILIES of ALNWFL are invited to a weekend getaway with WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, FUN, and FAMILY!!!!

Friday, March 21 – Sunday, March 23

The festivities will be held
Oak Mountain State Park in Pelham, AL

Cost: $15.00 – Adults & $10.00 – Children
(MAX OF $50 PER FAMILY)

This includes Meeting Spaces, S’mores on Friday Night and a Cook-Out on Saturday Night.

Lodging will be on your own


Nearby hotels offer convenient locations right outside park. Consider: Fairfield Inn and Suites, Best Western Plus- Oak Mountain Inn, and Sleep Inn if a hotel better suites your needs!!!
Family Camp 2014
March 21-23, 2014
Oak Mountain State Park
Pelham, AL
http://www.alapark.com/oakmountain/

General Information & Directions:
Oak Mountain Charges a small fee for entrance into the park each day: $3.00 for Adults $1.00 for Children (up to age 11) and Senior Citizens over age 62.

Camp Begins with Opening and Campfire at 7:00 p.m. on Friday Night

**Friday Night Campfire** will be held in the **Group Camping Area**!! This is the area you should come to upon arrival Friday Night. From the main entrance of Oak Mountain State Park, follow the signs to the Campground. The campground is 5 ½ miles from the Main Entrance. Signs are very visible along the route. Campground staff will be at the Campground Entrance to direct you to the Group Camping Area. Park Closes at 9:00 p.m. each night so those staying outside the park should plan accordingly.

All **Saturday Activities** will be held at the **LAKESIDE** Pavilion in the **Day Use One Area**-Lakeside. The Day Use Area is located on the main road, and signs directing you to this area are easily visible along the route.

Camp Ends with **Closing Worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday Morning**, which will be held back at the **Group Camping Area**!!

What to Bring:
Personal Belongings; Lawn Chairs; Lawn/Board Games; Comfortable Shoes; Picnic Lunch for Saturday; Money for Extra Activities (Horseback, Boating, Etc…)

Lodging Information:
PRIMITIVE TENT CAMPING (IN THE GROUP CAMPING AREA) HAS ALREADY BEEN RESERVED FOR OUR GROUP. IF YOU WISH TO TENT CAMP WITH OUR GROUP, YOU WILL SIMPLY PAY $6.00 PER NIGHT/PER PERSON. THIS CAN BE DONE ON-SITE UPON YOUR ARRIVAL. OTHER TYPES OF LODGING WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH FAMILY. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS THIS IS SPRING BREAK WEEK!! THE FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTIONS: OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK CABINS – Call 205-620-2524 from 8a.m. until 4p.m. seven days a week.
OAK MOUNTAIN CAMPING (RV SITES OR TENT SITES AWAY FROM GROUP AREA) – Call 205-620-2527 Monday through Thursday from 9a.m. until 4p.m.
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS – 260 CAHABA VALLEY ROAD - 1 (800) 315 2621 – Average around $99 per night
SLEEP INN – SOUTHGATE DRIVE, PELHAM, AL-1-866-599-6674 – Average around $75 per night
**Meal Information:**
**Friday**
S’mores will be provided at Campfire!

**Saturday**
Breakfast – On Your Own
Lunch – BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic)
Dinner – Cook-Out (included with registration fees)

**Sunday**
Breakfast – On Your Own

**Schedule:**

**Friday Night**
7:00 p.m. – Welcome and Opening Prayer – Rev. Dale Braxton, Associate Regional Minister –
**Location: Group Campground Area – Follow Signs to Campground!!!**
7:30 p.m. - Campfire (with S’mores and Evening Devotional Time)
9:00 p.m. – Campground Closes – All those not staying at Oak Mountain should exit the park by this time!!!

**Saturday – All Activities will be held in the Day Use Area**
9:00 a.m. – Morning Devotional – Day Use Pavilion
10:00 a.m. – Activities Block # - All groups will depart from Lakeside Pavilion
   Petting Zoo Trip (extra fee)
   Morning Hike
   Fishing (bring your gear)
   Horseback- (The minimum age for riding is 8 years old with or without an adult. Trail Rides are $35 per person for 45 minutes). - Reservations should be made ahead of time by calling 205-620-3575. **Pony Rides are $10 for Ages 2 and Up. No Reservations are needed for Pony Rides!!!**
11:55 a.m. – Lunch Prayer at the Pavilion
12:00 p.m. – BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic)
1:00 p.m. – Activities Block #2 - All groups will depart from Lakeside Pavilion
   Marina Activities (pending weather)
   Fishing
   Nature Hike
3:00 p.m. – Lawn Games & Board Games – Pavilion Area (Bring Your Favorites!!!)
6:00 p.m. – Cook-Out
7:30 p.m. – Evening Devotion
8:00 p.m. – Day Use Area Closes – All those not staying at Oak Mountain should exit the park by this time!!!

**Sunday**
9:00 a.m. – Closing Worship & Communion – Group Camping Area!!
11:00 a.m. – Check-Out – all those camping in the group tent area MUST be cleaned-up and leaving!!!
Family Camp Registration Form

Please mail to:

Christian Church in AL/NW FL, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
Make check payable to Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida

DEADLINE: MARCH 17, 2014

PRIMARY ADULT NAME ______________________________ CONGREGATION ______________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________ CITY __________________ ZIP ______

PHONE (home) ___________________ (cell ) __________________ Email: ______________________________

LODGING PLANS: ___ PRIMITIVE TENT (in group area) ___ RV/Private Tent Area ___ CABIN ___ OUTSIDE OF PARK
(USED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY. IT IS NOT REQUIRED THAT YOU BE 100% SURE AT THIS TIME).

TAG NUMBER OF VEHICLE YOU EXPECT TO BE DRIVING:

(CHANGE IN VEHICLE IS NO PROBLEM, JUST NOTIFY US UPON ARRIVAL. THE PARK REQUIRES THIS
INFORMATION!!!)

Please List Other Family Members Attending:
(Please indicate age if member is a child)

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

Registration Fee is $15.00 per adult and $10.00 per child.

Maximum cost per family is $50!!!!

Registration includes: Park Admission, S’mores on Friday Night & Cook-Out on Saturday Night.

I anticipate that my family will attend ___ Friday Night ___ Saturday ___ Both

# of Adults _____ x $15.00 per adult = _____________

# of Children _____ x $10.00 per child = _____________

Total Fee Enclosed: ____________________

(Example: 2 adults ($30) + 2 children ($20) = $50.00)

_____ I plan to pitch a tent in Group Camping Area for an additional $6.00 per person/per night (payment can
be made upon arrival)!!
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Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010
Living Waters

2014 Easter Offering

The 2014 Easter Offering will be received in many congregations on April 13 and 20.
Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama–Northwest Florida

April 25–27, 2014
Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Co-Hosted By:
First Christian Church and Primera Iglesia Cristiana
Of Ft. Walton Beach

For More information contact the Regional Office at
861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 • 205-425-5245
Alnwfl@aol.com • www.alnwfldisciples.org
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

REGISTRATION SUNDAY

MARCH 2, 2014

Copies of all the necessary forms are enclosed in the Leaders’ Packet. You may want to make additional copies for your congregation and lor request additional copies from the Regional Office.

Ask a member (s):

- to create a display of the Assembly (see materials enclosed in the January Leader’s Packet)
- to serve as registrar and position a registration table for March 2
- to speak of their experience at an Assembly (several minutes in Church School or Morning Worship)

Please encourage those unable to attend to consider participating through a support gift.
SUMMARY
2014 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Fort Walton Beach, Florida
April 25-27, 2014

Theme
“Love One Another - Amemonos Unos A Otros”

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

3:00 p.m. Registration begins at First Christian, Fort Walton Beach
7:30 p.m. Worship -- Communion -- Special introductions (at City Auditorium)
           Message by Rev. Juan Rodriguez
9:00 p.m. Reception/Fellowship
9:30 p.m. Youth Gathering

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration Open at First Christian, Fort Walton Beach
8:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Child Care for infant-pre-Kindergarten at First Christian Church
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Children’s Program (grades K-5) at First Christian Church
9:00 a.m. Worship (at City Auditorium) - Message by Rev. April Johnson
10:00 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m Plenary Workshops (will be repeated in the afternoon)
           At City Auditorium (Juan Rodriguez, leading)
           At First Christian Church (April Johnson, Leading)
11:30 a.m. Business Session and Speak-Out/Installation of Officers (City Auditorium)
12:15 p.m. Break
12:30 p.m. Women’s Luncheon/Program at First Christian Church
12:30 p.m. Lunch at Liza Jackson Park for older children, youth and men
2:30 p.m. Break
2:45 p.m. Plenary Workshops (same locations as morning workshops)
3:45 p.m. Break
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Open House at Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana (745 N. Beal Pkwy.)
6:30 p.m. All Assembly Fish Fry (At Pavilion A at Liza Jackson Park)
8:00 p.m. Recognitions and Presentations
8:45 p.m. Break for the Evening

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

9:30 a.m. Closing Worship – Communion (featuring leadership from host congregations)

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
SPECIAL GUEST LEADERS FOR THE 2014 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Rev. Dr. Juan Antonio Rodriguez was born in Puerto Rico, raised in New York City, but "grew up" in Indiana. Both his grandfather and father were lay Disciple preachers in Puerto Rico and New York. His childhood church home was Primera Iglesia Discipulos de Cristo en Brooklyn. He later served for 30 years as the organizing Pastor of Iglesia del Pueblo-Hope Center in Hammond, Indiana. This 1981 new church start is now a predominantly Latino multi-cultural congregation which has become a growing urban ministry center seeking to serve the diverse community which surrounds it. Rev. Rodriguez also served as pastor for First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Hammond for the last six years of its faithful 100 year plus ministry (1986-1992). He has also served as Pastoral Psychotherapist Intern (1989-1992) and as Adjunct Professor for Field Education at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago (2007-2010). In 2012 Rev. Rodriguez began his service as Regional Minister in Florida. For 41 years he has been married to Sonia Colon, a life-long Disciples leader. They share life with Rico, their "wonder dog."

Rev. Rodriguez is guided in his life and ministry by certain beliefs and commitments. He states: "I am committed to building community. I believe that openness and respect go far toward insuring that individuals feel safe to learn, grow, and serve. I believe in speaking the truth in love. I believe in continuous consultation and collaboration."

Rev. April G. Johnson serves as the Minister of Reconciliation for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. She brings to this work a deep passion for racial justice and compassion. As Minister of Reconciliation, Rev. Johnson facilitates the church-wide process of awareness and action toward healing the fractures in the body of Christ caused by systemic racism. She collaborates with trained facilitators, regional and congregational staff leadership, and ecumenical partners to guide the Church's effort toward racial reconciliation. In her capacity as both pastor and administrator, Rev. Johnson emphasizes the importance of relationship-building across difference to promote pro-reconciliation as a guiding principle of the church's global witness.

Prior to her current call, Rev. Johnson served at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois as Assistant Dean of Students/Director of Diversity Services and as Associate College Chaplain. During her tenure at the College, Rev. Johnson provided leadership in developing a campus climate of welcome and inclusion. She also led several cross-cultural short-term service-learning opportunities for students in Belize, Central America and Kenya, East Africa.

Rev. Johnson received her Bachelor's of Arts from the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana and her Masters of Divinity from Howard University in Washington, DC. While at Howard, she was the Assistant to the Editor for the Journal of Religious Thought and the editor of the school's weekly student-staff newsletter. She enjoys writing, travel and would like to return to playing golf. Rev. Johnson is a native of Chicago, Illinois.
“Love One Another - Amemones Unos a Otros”
2014 Regional Assembly
Co-Hosted By: First Christian Church and Primera Iglesia Cristiana, Ft. Walton Beach, FL
April 25 - 27, 2014

Assembly Schedule

**Friday, April 25**
- Registration begins at 3:00 p.m.
- Evening worship begins at 7:30 p.m.
- Reception following worship
- Youth Gathering (following reception)

**Saturday, April 26**
- Worship begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Workshops at 10:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.
- Biennial Business Session at 11:30 a.m.
- Installation of Officers at 12:15 p.m.
- Women’s Luncheon (at FCC) at 12:30 p.m.
- Lunch for Others (at Liza Jackson Park) 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Lunch and Activities - Noon - 4:00 p.m.
- Open House at Primera Iglesia Cristiana (745 N. Beal Parkway) 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- All Assembly Fish Fry at 6:30 p.m.
- Recognitions/Presentations at 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, April 27**
- Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Hotel Information
Blocks of rooms has been reserved for the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the hotels listed below. **Make your reservation prior to March 25, 2014, for the special rate.** (Mention “Christian Church Regional Assembly” to get Group Rate.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Inn Bayside</th>
<th>Super - 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>322 Miracle Strip Parkway</td>
<td>333 Miracle Strip Parkway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548</td>
<td>Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850-275-0300 (phone)</td>
<td>850-244-4999 (phone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850-275-0315 (fax)</td>
<td>850-243-1928 (fax)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate: $89 + tax (Dbl. or Kg.)</td>
<td>Rate: $60.00 + tax (Dbl. or Kg.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes continental breakfast</td>
<td>Includes continental breakfast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assembly Registration and Meal Costs
- Adult Registration - $40.00 ($35.00, if postmarked on or before March 24)
- Youth Registration (grade 6 to 12) - $20.00
- Children Registration (grade K-5) - $10.00
- Women’s Luncheon at First Christian Church on Saturday - $8.00
- Luncheon at Liza Jackson Park on Saturday - $8.00 per adult/youth; $4.00 per child (grade K-5)
- All Assembly Fish Fry - $12 per adult/youth; $6.00 per child (grade K-5)
- Suggested Non-Attending Support Registration - $40.00

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway S2, Helena, AL 35080
2014 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida
April 25 - 27, 2014 - First Christian Church, Fort Walton Beach, Florida

REGISTRATIONS AND MEAL RESERVATIONS AND BOOK PURCHASES FORM

SECTION ONE: REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Attach appropriate forms for each person reflected here:

Pre-registration postmarked **on or before March 24.**
(Fill in the number attending in each blank)

- Adults $35.00
- Youth (grades 6-12) $20.00
- Children (grades K-5) $10.00
- Children (pre-K) NO FEE

- OR -

Pre-registration postmarked **after March 24**
(Fill in the number attending in each blank)

- Adults $40.00
- Youth (grades 6-12) $20.00
- Children (grades K-5) $10.00
- Children (pre-K) NO FEE

Suggested Donation for Non-attending Support Registration is $40.00

Total Amount Enclosed for SECTION ONE Registration Fees $__________

SECTION TWO: MEAL RESERVATIONS INFORMATION

Reservations for meals on Saturday, April 26th are needed **before April 11**

*ATTACH A FORM LISTING SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS*
List the number of tickets needed for each meal in the blank provided.

- Women's Luncheon - $8 per person
  (This luncheon will be at First Christian Church)

- Lunch at Liza Jackson Park- $8 per youth/adult
- Lunch at Liza Jackson Park- $4 per child (K-5)

- All Assembly Fish Fry - $12 per youth/adult
- All Assembly Fish Fry - $6 per child (grades K-5)

Total Amount Enclosed for SECTION TWO Meal Reservation Fees $__________

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR REGISTRATIONS & MEAL RESERVATIONS

$__________________________

Checks should be made out to: Christian Church in AL-NW Florida and mailed to: 861 Hwy 52, Helena, AL 35080
Pre-registrations must be postmarked by April 18. After this deadline, persons will have to register at First Christian Church, Fort Walton Beach.

NAME(S)__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________
(Please print the name(s) that you would like to appear on a name tag for each person registered on this form in Section One)

ADDRESS__________________________________________________________

______________________________________  (City)  (State)  (Zip)

PHONE__________________________________________________________

(Home)  (Cell)

EMAIL__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

CONGREGATION NAME - INCLUDE CITY
2014 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
YOUTH REGISTRATION
(CHI RHO AND CYF)
(GRADES SIX THROUGH TWELVE)

Chi Rho and CYF will be planned as follows:

Friday, April 25    9:30 p.m.    Youth Gathering First Christian Church (tentative)
Saturday, April 26  10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Youth Activities and Lunch at L:iza Jackson Park
                   (Lunch will be served; $8/person)

Youth are encouraged to participate in all worship services and are welcome to attend each session of the Regional Assembly.

YOUTH REGISTRATION

Return the following registration form before April 11 to:
Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida
861 Highway 52
Helena, Alabama 35080

NAME ____________________________________________
ADDRESS _________________________________________
CITY ________________________ STATE ______ ZIP _____ CELL PHONE ____________
CONGREGATION ________________________________

(Note: Please attach a separate sheet listing any food allergies or special needs that you have)

Check which special activities you will attend. (Transportation will be provided, as needed)

WILL YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE YOUTH GATHERING ON FRIDAY?    YES    NO
WILL YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES ON SATURDAY    YES    NO
ADULT COMING WITH YOU TO THE ASSEMBLY ________________________________

In case of emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the leaders to hospitalize and secure proper treatment for my child named above. I release the leaders and the Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida from all responsibility for sickness and accidents. (The Region carries accident insurance on the youth.)

Signature of parent/guardian ____________________    Cell Phone (if available) ______    Date ______

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRATION/MEALS/BOOK PURCHASE FORM.
2014 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
OLDER CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES
(KINDERTGARTEN THROUGH GRADE FIVE)

Children’s activities during the Regional Assembly will be under the leadership of Aurora Figueroa (850-218-8171, cell). The children’s will share in assembly activities with adults at various times, but there will be times when the children may be off-site at the nearby Liza Jackson Park. Their activities will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and conclude at 4:00 p.m. They will be a part of the lunch gathering at Liza Jackson Park from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. on Saturday under the supervision of an adult. Men will also be having lunch at the Park on Saturday during this time frame. Children are welcome to attend any of the Assembly worship services with their parents.

1. Lunch will be provided for children on Saturday. Note that there is a $4/child cost for this meal.
2. Parents are welcome to bring their children to the Open House at Primera Iglesia Cristiana on Saturday, 4 - 6 p.m.
3. Parents will be expected to supervise their children during the All-Assembly Fish Fry on Saturday. Note that the cost for children (grade K-5) is $6/child for the All-Assembly Fish Fry.

Return this registration form before April 11 to:
Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida
861 Highway 52
Helena, Alabama 35080

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OLDER CHILD REGISTRATION

HOURS FOR CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES  Please check the sessions your child will be in children’s activities.

Saturday, April 26
- _______9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Except for lunch break 12:30-2:30 pm)

PARENT’S NAME
__________________________________________________________

HOME ADDRESS
__________________________________________________________

(Note: Please attach a separate sheet listing any food allergies or special needs of your child)

NAME OF CHILD
______________________________________  AGE
______________________________________  AGE
______________________________________  AGE

In case of emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the leaders to hospitalize and secure proper treatment for my child named above. I release the leaders and the Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida from all responsibility for sickness and accidents. (The Region carries insurance on the children.)

Signature of parent/guardian

Cell Phone (if available)  Date

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRATION/MEALS/BOOK PURCHASE FORM.
2014 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
NURSERY AND YOUNGER CHILD CARE
(INFANT THROUGH PRE-KINDERGARTEN)

Special arrangements have been made for child care during the 2014 Regional Assembly. The child care is provided so that parents are able to participate in the Assembly.

The following guidelines are for your information:

1. The child care facilities at First Christian Church are for pre-kindergarten aged children.
2. All infant needs, including formula and all foods are to be provided by the parents. Child care will end at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. No evening meal will be provided other than the All-Assembly meal (no cost for children under 6). Parents will need to pick up children by 4:00 p.m.
3. There is no registration cost for children (pre-kindergarten and younger), but forms are required.

Return this registration form before April 11 to:
Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida
861 Highway 52
Helena, Alabama 35080

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NURSERY AND YOUNGER CHILD CARE REGISTRATION

Please help the attendants by picking up your children on time. The schedule is:

HOURS FOR CHILD CARE  Please check the sessions your child will need care.

Friday, April 25  - 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. __________________________
Saturday, April 26  - 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. __________________________
Sunday, April 27  - 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. __________________________

PARENT’S NAME ________________________________

HOME ADDRESS __________________________________

(Note: Please attach a separate sheet listing any food allergies or special needs of your child)

NAME OF CHILD ___________________________ AGE ____________

NAME OF CHILD ___________________________ AGE ____________

NAME OF CHILD ___________________________ AGE ____________

In case of emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the leaders to hospitalize and secure proper treatment for my child named above. I release the leaders and the Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida from all responsibility for sickness and accidents. (The Region carries accident insurance (secondary) on the children.)

Signature of parent/guardian ___________________________ Cell Phone (if available) ___________________________ Date ___________________________

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRATION/MEALS/BOOK PURCHASE FORM.
MAP for the 2014 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Fort Walton Beach, Florida
[Note the two host churches (A and B), the two hotels where we have blocked rooms (1 and 2), and Liza Jackson Park where we will gather on Saturday (3)]
An Invitation for all Alabama-Northwest Florida Disciples
to participate in

MIRACLE DAY

JUNE 7, 2014

First Christian Church, Tuscaloosa
(8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

**Share in Strengthening a Congregation’s Witness**
**Join Hands with other Disciples in Mission**
**Build Relationships with Disciples from other places**
**Grow spiritually through worshipful work and service**

A Local Coordinator in each congregation will receive a packet of materials from the Miracle Day Committee to assist in promoting Miracle Day.

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
2014 BEACH CAMP REGISTRATION FORM
at LIGHTHOUSE BEACH RETREAT AT
ROMAR BEACH, AL

Questions and Answers???

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in
Alabama-Northwest Florida

PARTICIPANT'S INFORMATION - Please Print

First Name & Middle Initial: ____________________________

Last Name ____________________________

Preferred Name ____________________________

Gender: Male / Female Age _______ (At start of Camp)

Grade (just completed) ____________________________

Birth Date _______ / _______ / _______

Church Name: ____________________________

Camper's Home Address:

City ____________________________

State _______ Zip __________

Camper's E-mail Address:

______________________________

Camper's Home Phone (____) _______ - _______  

Camper's Cell Phone (____) _______ - _______

Parent/Guardian Name ____________________________

Parent/Guardian's E-mail Address ____________________________

Work Phone (____) _______ - _______

Parent's Cell (____) _______ - _______

Parent's Signature: ____________________________

Sponsoring Minister's Signature: ____________________________

Beach Camp Dates
June 8th - June 13th

Activities will begin at 7:00p.m.
(a sandwich bar will be offered for the evening meal,
and will be available as groups arrive)

Departure time is 10 a.m.

Camp is located at: 23370 Perdido Beach Blvd,
Orange Beach, AL 36561
http://www.romarbeachbaptist.org/

Beach Camp is for those who have
completed 6th - 12th Grades

Cost: $250.00 -- after June 1st - $265.00

Please mail this form with your full payment prior to the deadline to:

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA
861 HIGHWAY 52
HELENA, AL 35080

Photography and Publicity Permission Form

Every camp experience includes a group photograph which is given
to all participants, used in a camp display, and posted on our website.
Do you give permission for individual and small group pictures of
your youth or child to be taken and posted on our website or used in
publicity brochures and posters for future camps? If a choice is not
marked, it will be assumed that your child’s photo CAN be used for
publicity.

(Please check one) Yes _______ No _______

Participant Signature: ____________________________

Date ____________

(For all Campers under the age of 18)

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________

Date ____________

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the
Alabama-Northwest Florida Region:
(Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010)

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region: 100% refund for emergencies, provided that notification is received prior to the
beginning of the event; 50% refund for emergencies in which
notification (written) is made after the beginning of the event; 100% refund for non-emergencies if requested in writing at least seven days prior to the first
day of the event; No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations
after seven days prior to the beginning of the event. Written requests for
refunds must be received by the Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL
35080 (email: atlf@acol.com), within seven days of the last day of the event.
While refunds are not available other than as outlined in this policy,
substitutions will be allowed as long as the original registrant, or responsible
adult, is able to locate an eligible participant who is able to take the slot and as
long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, communicates this
information to the Regional office. The Region will not be responsible in
assisting in identifying a substitute. Notification should be provided to the
Regional Office as soon as possible and any substitute must complete the
necessary paperwork prior to arrival at the event.
2014 COVENANT for Campers
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Please read (or have read to you) the following. Sign this covenant, obtain parent signature and mail with completed camp registration form and appropriate fees. Thank you for your help:

- I will come to camp expecting to grow in my faith and in relationship with others, becoming a special part of the camp community. In order to do this, I covenant to follow all the rules and guidelines set by the Christian Church in Alabama Northwest Florida and any others set for this event. With this, I commit myself to the following: To be on time, attend and be attentive for all camp/conference activities and participate in them fully.
- Have fun and make sure everyone else has a great time.
- To respect each other regardless of age and to respect others' feelings and thoughts.
- I will not go from adult to adult until I get the answer I want.
- Be myself and open to making new friends.
- Be inclusive at all times.
- Cooperate with the counselors, keynoter, director and other staff members at all times.
- Be respectful of God's beauty in this special place and only leave footprints behind.
- To take all that I learn about God and share it with my friends, family and church.

The Summer Camping Program Policies includes:

- All campers will be transported to/from our mission sites by the camp staff. Campers are expected to conduct themselves appropriately while riding to/from mission site, and follow all policies and guidelines provided by the mission site while involved in mission work.
- Participants are expected to remain for the entire event. No one should expect to arrive late or leave early without prior permission from director. The only visitors will be those invited prior to camp by the director.
- No one, including counselors, will leave the camp without special arrangements with the director.
- All cars will be parked for the duration of the event. Keys will remain in the possession of the director.
- Events for youth in Alabama-Northwest Florida are "smoke free".
- Possession or use of intoxicating beverages, drugs or marijuana is prohibited. Violators will be sent home.
- Stewardship of camp property is important. Camp must be left in as good or better shape than it was found upon arrival. Repair of damage to property will be paid by the person(s) responsible.
- Food must be kept out of the dorm area. If you have special foods, arrangements can be made with director.
- Dorms are off limits to members of the opposite sex.
- Offensive, insensitive and foul language is not acceptable.
- Pagers and Cell Phones are not permitted. If you must bring one to camp – You must turn in to the director.

2014 MEDICAL INFORMATION AND RELEASE
MEDICAL HISTORY

Please answer with (yes or no):

- ______ Do you have any health problems?
- ______ Are you currently under the care of a physician or psychologist?
- ______ Do your require handicapped-accessible facilities?
- ______ Do you have any food or other allergies?
- ______ Do you expect to have any difficulty with normal event activities?
- ______ Do you take any prescription medication?

(If "YES" To Any of the Above Questions, Please Explain Below or attach a separate letter describing the camper(s') health situation)

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Detail Any Special Medical or Other Concerns
(if more room is needed, please attach a sheet to this form)

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Will you allow appropriate over-the-counter medications to be given as needed? ________

SIGNATURE, AGREEMENT AND RELEASE:

In case of emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp director to hospitalize, order injections, anesthesia or surgery for the child named above in order to secure necessary, proper medical care. I understand that I will be contacted immediately in the event that something unforeseen happens requiring my attention. I release the Noah's Ark staff and management, camp directors and counselors, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida and its staff, from all responsibilities in case of sickness or accidents causing injury occurring during camp. I have provided proof of insurance to those in charge. I agree to pay/reimburse any medical fees incurred related to my child.

Signature of Parent/Guardian
(Signature required regardless of age of camper)

Emergency Contact(s) Name & Phone Number:

__________________________________________________________________________

Verification of Insurance:

Name of Insurance Company, Address and Telephone Number

__________________________________________________________________________

Member Name Member ID

THIS MEDICAL FORM MUST BE COMPLETED TO PROCESS YOUR REGISTRATION.
2014 CAMP & CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION FORM

Traditional Summer Camps
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in
Alabama-Northwest Florida

Select the event you wish to participate in:

(e.g. Junior Camp, Chi Rho Camp, CYF Conference, Genesis
Camp, or Discovery Camp.)

PARTICIPANT'S INFORMATION – Please Print

First Name & Middle Initial

__________________________________________________________

Last Name________________________________________________

"Preferred Name" ________________________________________

Gender: Male / Female  Age ______ (At start of Camp)

Grade (just completed) _________  T Shirt Size ______

Birth Date _______/_____/______________

Church Name: ____________________________________________

Camper's Home Address:

________________________________________________________

City ______________________________________________________

State _______  Zip ______________________________

Camper's E-mail Address:______________________________

Camper's Home Phone (_____) ___________ -

Camper's Cell Phone (_____) ___________ -

Parent/Guardian Name

________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian’s E-mail Address

________________________________________________________

Work Phone (_____) ___________ -

Parent's Cell (_____) ___________ -

Parent's Signature: ________________________________________

Sponsoring Minister’s Signature: ____________________________

Camp Information - All Camps Begin & End at 10am

Genesis Camp – June 21-23 , 2014
For those who have completed Kindergarten or 1st Grade
Cost: $140.00 -- after June 1st - $165.00
(Campers at this camp are expected to have an adult chaperone
on the campgrounds during their experience – see attached page
for more information)

Discovery Camp-June 21-23, 2014
For those who have completed 2nd or 3rd Grade
Cost: $140.00 -- after June 1st - $165.00

Junior Camp-June 23-27, 2014
For those who have completed 4th or 5th Grade
Cost: $240.00 -- after June 1st - $265.00

CYF Conference-June 23-27, 2014
For those who have completed 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th Grade
Cost: $240.00 -- after June 1st - $265.00

Chi Rho Camp-June 23-27, 2014
For those who have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade
Cost: $240.00 -- after June 1st - $265.00

Please mail this form with your full payment prior to the deadline to:

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA
861 HIGHWAY 52
HELENA, AL 35080

Photography and Publicity Permission Form

Every camp experience includes a group photograph which is given
to all participants, used in a camp display, and posted on our website.
Do you give permission for individual and small group pictures of
your youth or child to be taken and posted on our website or used in
publicity brochures and posters for future camps? If a choice is not
marked, it will be assumed that your child’s photo CAN be used for
publicity.

(Please check one) Yes ______ No ______

Participant Signature:____________________________________

Date___________________________

(For all Campers under the age of 18)

Parent/Guardian Signature:________________________________

Date___________________________

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the
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(Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010)
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notification(written) is made after the beginning of the event; 100% refund for
non-emergencies if requested in writing at least seven days prior to the first
day of the event; No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations
after seven days prior to the beginning of the event. Written requests for
refunds must be received by the Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL
35080 (email: slhwd@acoi.com) within seven days of the last day of the event.
While refunds are not available other than as outlined in this policy,
substitutions will be allowed as long as the original registrant, or responsible
adult, is able to locate an eligible participant who is able to take the slot and as
long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, communicates this
information to the Regional office. The Region will not be responsible in
assisting in identifying a substitute. Notification should be provided to the
Regional Office as soon as possible and any substitute must complete the
necessary paperwork prior to arrival at the event.
2014 COVENANT for Campers
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Please read (or have read to you) the following. Sign this covenant, obtain parent signature and mail with completed camp registration form and appropriate fees. Thank you for your help!

- I will come to camp expecting to grow in my faith and in relationship with others, becoming a special part of the camp community. In order to do this, I covenant to follow all the rules and guidelines set by the Christian Church in Alabama Northwest Florida and any others set for this event. With this, I commit myself to the following: To be on time, attend and be attentive for all camp/conference activities and participate in them fully.
- Have fun and make sure everyone else has a great time.
- To respect each other regardless of age and to respect others' feelings and thoughts.
- I will not go from adult to adult until I get the answer I want.
- Be myself and open to making new friends.
- Be inclusive at all times.
- Cooperate with the counselors, keynoter, director and other staff members at all times.
- Be respectful of God's beauty in this special place and only leave footprints behind.
- To take all that I learn about God and share it with my friends, family and church.

The Summer Camping Program Policies includes:
- Participants are expected to remain for the entire event. No one should expect to arrive late or leave early without prior permission from director. The only visitors will be those invited prior to camp by the director.
- No one, including counselors, will leave the camp without special arrangements with the director.
- All cars will be parked for the duration of the event. Keys will remain in the possession of the director.
- Events for youth in Alabama-Northwest Florida are “smoke free”.
- Possession or use of intoxicating beverages, drugs or marijuana is prohibited. Violators will be sent home.
- Stewardship of camp property is important. Camp must be left in as good or better shape than it was found upon arrival. Repair of damage to property will be paid by the person(s) responsible.
- Food must be kept out of the dorm area. If you have special foods, arrangements can be made with director.
- Dorms are off limits to members of the opposite sex.
- Offensive, insensitive and foul language is not acceptable.
- Pagers and Cell Phones are not permitted. If you must bring one to camp — You must turn in to the director.

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2014 MEDICAL INFORMATION AND RELEASE
MEDICAL HISTORY

Please answer with (yes or no):

- _____ Do you have any health problems?
- _____ Are you currently under the care of a physician or psychologist?
- _____ Do you require handicapped-accessible facilities?
- _____ Do you have any food or other allergies?
- _____ Do you expect to have any difficulty with normal event activities?
- _____ Do you take any prescription medication?

(If “YES” To Any of the Above Questions, Please Explain Below or attach a separate letter describing the camper(s)’ health situation)

________________________________________________________________________________________

Detail Any Special Medical or Other Concerns
(if more room is needed, please attach a sheet to this form)

________________________________________________________________________________________

Will you allow appropriate over-the-counter medications to be given as needed? __________________

SIGNATURE, AGREEMENT AND RELEASE:

In case of emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp director to hospitalize, order injections, anesthesia or surgery for the child named above in order to secure necessary, proper medical care. I understand that I will be contacted immediately in the event that something unforeseen happens requiring my attention. I release the YMCA-Hargis Retreat staff and management, camp directors and counselors, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida and its staff, from all responsibilities in case of sickness or accidents causing injury occurring during camp. I have provided proof of insurance to those in charge. I agree to pay/reimburse any medical fees related to my child.

__________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian
(Signature required regardless of age of camper)

__________________________
Emergency Contact(s) Name & Phone Number:

__________________________
Verification of Insurance:

__________________________
Name of Insurance Company, Address and Telephone Number

__________________________
Member Name Member ID

THIS MEDICAL FORM MUST BE COMPLETED TO PROCESS YOUR REGISTRATION.
STATE OF ALABAMA )

_______________________________ COUNTY )

YMCA HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I, ____________________________________________, as the parent or guardian for

(Parent’s Name)

__________________________________________, a minor child who is in my care and

(Child’s Name)
custody, do hereby grant my permission for my child to attend a program or event at YMCA Camp Chandler. I fully understand the nature of camping and recreational activities associated with the use of the camp facilities and/or programs includes an inherent risk of danger, which may result in personal injury or harm to my child. I understand that my child will be under adult supervision at all times but, notwithstanding any level or degree of supervision, that accidents may occur which may result in physical injury or harm to my child. It is with the full understanding of the risks associated with these types of activities that I grant permission for my child to participate in the program to be conducted at YMCA Camp Chandler, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless YMCA Camp Chandler, the Montgomery Metro YMCA, its staff, directors, employees, agents and/or representatives from any claim for any injury or damage which may result from my child’s attendance and participation in the program conducted on camp property. Permission is granted for my child to participate and I understand that by signing this form I am voluntarily and knowingly accepting responsibility for my child’s participation in the activity or program to be conducted at YMCA Camp Chandler. I also grant permission for pictures and images of my child to be taken while participating in activities and used for YMCA promotional purposes.

Dated this ___________ day of ___________________, 20 ____________.

Parent’s Signature:__________________________________________________________
We plan to honor all of the women ministers in the Alabama/Northwest Florida Region at the upcoming Regional Assembly during our luncheon at First Christian Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Our luncheon is on Saturday, April 26, 2014. News about our Honduran woman to attend Quadrennial will be shared along with the Region’s partnership with Honduras. More Disciples Women info will be shared, also. Make plans to save the date for that weekend now!

**JUSTWOMEN**

Order at [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org). This is now written by Disciples Women. Celebrating 5 years! Please help support our magazine!

Make plans to attend Quadrennial 2014 in Atlanta June 25th – June 29th at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. Go to [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org) and click on Quadrennial Assembly for all information. The CWF/Disciples Women Cabinet voted to have some monies available for partial scholarships for women who needed financial help. Put your request in writing and send it in an email to Ellenrawls@aol.com. Deadline date is April 15th. Let’s have a good representation of women at this Quadrennial since it is so close to home. Get on Facebook if you would like to carpool or share a room at Disciples Women In Al-Nwfl Region.

Margie Lee from Dothan is our Quadrennial Promotional Coordinator. Arlene Pimentel, Quadrennial Assembly Coordinator of the International Disciples Women’s Ministries encourages all of us to like the Facebook page at [www.dhm.disciples.org](http://www.dhm.disciples.org) or check out [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org). There are a multitude of resources available at the IDWM website. The theme is “I See You”. Participants are encouraged to create a mask to enter into a fundraiser for Human Trafficking. The entry fee is $10 and all proceeds will go to fight Human Trafficking. Human Trafficking victims are hidden in plain sight behind whatever masks their hidden feelings. Our Global Service Project will be the Minnie Vautrin China Fund to help women in China. Our Regional Service Project is split between The WellHouse (Human Trafficking Victims’ shelter) in Birmingham and bringing a Honduran woman to Quadrennial 2014.

**Fall**

Retreat plans are in the works for October 3rd – 5th. “We Are Beautifully and Wonderfully Made” is our theme. We will have Tajuan McCarty, Executive Director of The WellHouse as our key note speaker. Volunteer to help on our Facebook page or call 251-675-7884.
When Less Is More: The Consequences of Clergy Turnover

James served on the staff of two large churches before accepting a call as a solo pastor for a small rural congregation. After three years, he wonders if his leadership has made a difference. Gloria accepted a call to lead an urban congregation immediately after seminary. After a decade in ministry there, she wonders if she is still the best leader for the church. Jeremy heard from his seminary mentor that a wonderful church, served for twenty-five years by an esteemed pastor who has announced his retirement, is seeking a new pastor. Should he apply?

Pastoral change is a part of every congregation’s life. Pastors serve a congregation about five years before leaving for another call. Protestant pastors currently in ministry have served, on average, in three or four church positions. Pastors tend to stay longer in any particular ministry position the longer they are in ministry because frequent job changes tend to occur in the earlier years of ministry service.

In addition to the individual circumstances of each church, the amount of time a pastor remains in any single position vary greatly by denominational affiliation, theological training, and career stage. However, research conducted over an eight-year period tracked a sample of congregations to explore how a change in pastoral leadership affected those churches. What did the study reveal?

About half of the congregations experienced a pastoral transition. Conservative Protestant churches were the least likely to experience a pastor turnover; only 29 percent of these churches welcomed a new senior or solo pastor between 2001 and 2008. Similarly, relatively few Catholic parishes experienced priest turnover, with only 36 percent of these parishes welcoming a different senior pastor. The biggest clergy turnover occurred among mainline Protestant churches. Two-thirds of these churches received a new senior or solo pastor during those eight years.

Church Conflict Makes a Difference

Clergy often leave congregations when conflict, resistance to change, and diminished ministry opportunities discourage them. One in four churches with different pastors in 2008 than in 2001 said that the church had experienced major conflict, leading a pastor or minister to leave.

What is the conflict about? One out of three pastors reported leadership style as a source of the church conflict. But other disagreements erupted into conflict around church finances, changes in worship services, or renovating or building new facilities.

Even more serious is major conflict that leads to a church split. One in ten pastoral leaders serving their congregation since 2001 reported that one outcome had been the departure of members to form a new church.

Negative Consequences of Clergy Turnover?

Many mainline Protestant churches that went through a pastoral transition also declined in size. Mainline Protestant churches that lost their 2001 pastor also experienced a loss in worship attendance between 2001 and 2008. And the majority of churches (seven out of ten) with different pastors in 2008 reported some decline in worship attendance. Those mainline Protestant churches that retained

"REMEMBER US?...THE MITCHELLS?...YOU PASTORED OUR CHURCH FOR SIX WEEKS IN 1998?..."
their pastor reported almost no change in worship attendance. Only half of churches with the same pastor reported any decline in worship attendance.

The relationship between clergy turnover and growth is less clear in conservative Protestant churches. Conservative Protestant churches that lost their 2001 pastor actually increased their worship attendance by an average of almost 18 attendees. Those conservative Protestant congregations that retained their pastor declined slightly in size.

Do pastoral turnovers create numerical decline? It’s complicated. Many factors play a role in decreasing or increasing worship attendance and growing church vitality. Sometimes numerical decline even precedes the pastor’s departure. Any picture of clergy turnover does not capture the quality of pastoral leadership. The consequences for the congregation are quite different when an effective leader departs versus when an ineffective pastor leaves for a new call.

**Positive Consequences of Clergy Turnover?**

Research indicates that longer tenures give pastors more time to build relationships, lead through a period of change, and resolve long-standing conflict. Further, a new pastor can take several years to reinvigorate members’ energy and investment in congregational life after such a transition.

New pastors are more likely to lead effectively if they listen to members’ responses to the following:

- What issues and questions dominate the discussions at governing board meetings?
- What are the most important things that happened in the congregation in the past several years?
- What are some of the best things happening in the congregation right now?
- What are some of your hopes and dreams for the congregation over the next five years?

The first few years of a new pastorate set the stage for long-term effectiveness. In smaller churches especially, new pastors must first earn the trust of members. Visiting and building relationships helps the new pastor identify and affirm the gifts and talents in the congregation. In larger congregations, lay leaders want to see if the new pastor is a proactive leader who is willing to take the initiative or a more reactive leader who responds to others’ initiative.

New ministers invariably inherit staff currently employed by the congregation. Lay leadership smooth the way when they quietly inform existing staff members that the new pastor will be given the authority to build a new staff team and those terminations may be made by the new pastor. In this way, lay leadership and not the new pastor introduce the idea that staff changes may be necessary.

Advice to new pastors: Proceed with caution—only so much can be accomplished in the first year. It is enough to start a process where members begin to grasp a new vision for the future and become increasingly aware of new possibilities.

**Long Pastorates as More Chapters**

If a new pastor negotiates the first year or chapter with an interim understanding—as a transitional leader between the past and the future, the stage is set for the next successful chapter. Long pastorates are actually a series of terms or chapters. Change necessitates that the current contract between the pastor and the congregation must be renegotiated. A new contract calls for retraining lay leaders, recruiting leaders with different skills, employing a new leadership team, and perhaps even revising existing rules. Likewise, pastors must reassess their role, leadership style, and ability to recreate themselves for the new congregation forming before them. Pastors who grasp the concept of chapters are better equipped to serve beyond the first or second term, which lasts between five and ten years.

In year three, James is still in his first term as pastor of the small rural church. Absent any major conflict, after another two or three years, he can discern whether his gifts and skills are right for the congregation’s next chapter. Gloria, in year ten, has clearly finished a first term. Her discernment will center on whether her call to the congregation is going to be a long-term pastorate. If Jeremy is going to seriously consider a new call, his job is to ask questions to learn about the congregation’s focus and commitments. Together he and the lay leadership can discern if his gifts are likely to bear fruit for the church’s next chapter.

In every chapter of ministry, the goal is to flourish. Lillian Daniel, a United Church of Christ pastor captures the joy of ministry: “I do love being a minister. I love the agility it calls forth in me and the chaos that only Jesus could organize into a calling.”

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Money doesn’t buy all that it used to; neither do we spend it the way that we used to. In 2010, electronic payments accounted for 75 percent of all financial transactions. But in churches that same year, 90 percent of gifts came via cash or check. Not surprising when as few as one in ten churches offer parishioners the opportunity to give electronically.

Church leaders consistently offer three reasons for why they are slow to change: electronic transactions will rupture the traditional act of giving funds in worship service, it’s too expensive, and it’s too complicated. These concerns are fair. But here’s the catch—if your congregation hasn’t enacted online giving, it is missing an opportunity to expand the way members think about giving.

Don’t Mess with the Offering Plate
A Virginia pastor recently summed up what hundreds of pastors have said about electronic giving: “The act of giving is, and has always been, central to the act of worship. Electronic giving could well undermine this.”

Experience and data suggest those concerns deserve a second look. In the pews in any given worship service there are three types of people. Each group responds to calls for giving in different ways. Online giving will assist some more than others, but traditional giving practices can continue to have a prominent place in worship.

- **Established Members.** This group may or may not respond to online giving. Some will embrace it because it’s easier; others will prefer dropping their offerings in the offering plate. **Net benefit:** No change—this group will give regardless. Online giving may make their act easier, but it won’t motivate them to give more.
- **Engaged Nonmembers.** Increasingly, a growing percentage of people are not connected to worship services on a regular basis. In fact, 30 to 60 percent of people in a given congregation fit this category. Therefore eGiving makes it possible for people who want to give regularly, but do so erratically because they are not regularly in worship, to do so. **Net benefit:** Possible significant positive change because giving is not tied to regular worship attendance.
- **Visitors.** These are people who probably feel comfortable giving during the service—indeed, they may expect to. Some new online giving opportunities are emerging (QR codes that allow people to give using their mobile device, for example), even while traditional giving modes remain attractive. **Net benefit:** May increase giving for some because people expect to make a financial gift during a worship service.

Free the Spirit
Leaders may still resist online giving for fear that they are asking eGivers to sit through an offering with no chance to physically engage in the act of giving. Or they fear that eGivers may feel like they’re being asked to give more than once. This need not be the case: eGiving may actually liberate this portion of the worship service for expanding on the idea of giving back.

“I PREFER TRADITIONAL GIVING PRACTICES...
LIKE SLIGHTLY SHAKING MY HEAD
WHEN THE USHER LOOKS MY WAY.”
Among the options some churches practice:

- **Project giving:** In addition to the traditional offering, some worshiping communities use the offertory to highlight a special project, educate the community about its value, and collect funds. Projects can include humanitarian aid, special building funds, feeding programs, or mission work.

- **Telling the story:** Some use this time to have individuals talk about how giving has strengthened and improved their spiritual lives, or about the good that comes from their gifts. Giving becomes not a one-sided affair—the church asks, the people give—but a community event that gets everyone involved in both giving and celebrating the good that comes from financial gifts.

**Mind the Cost**

While it’s true that most eGiving comes with a cost, not all costs are the same. In fact, it’s a misnomer that the term “eGiving” refers to only one method of giving because there are many possibilities.

- **Online Banking:** In online bill pay, the donor authorizes an amount to be sent to the congregation through the donor’s financial website.

  - **The Good:** Nothing for the church to do; no cost.
  - **The Bad:** Time lag from authorization to payment.
  - **The Tricky:** Usually, givers can set up recurring payments, but not all will. You will need to remind people about giving with monthly or quarterly statements.

- **Electronic Funds Transfer:** Known as EFT, this involves the church’s financial institution receiving a fund from the donor’s bank or financial institution.

  - **The Good:** Once set up, it’s easy; recurring payments can be established.
  - **The Bad:** The church has to set it up, and costs vary greatly.
  - **The Tricky:** Good EFT providers are out there, but there are a lot of them and leaders need to practice due diligence.

- **Credit and Debit Cards:** Works the same as an EFT, but with credit or debit cards.

  - **The Good:** Same as for EFT.
  - **The Bad:** Same as for EFT.
  - **The Tricky:** The last thing many churches want to do is to encourage people to take on debt; it is possible with some providers to limit these transactions to debit cards only.

- **PayPal:** A third-party vendor through which parties exchange funds.

  - **The Good:** Easy and fast to set up.
  - **The Bad:** Many people are turned off by these services, and they can be clunky for users.

  **The Tricky:** If you go this route, stay on top of changes in fee structures.

**Throw Me a Lifeline!**

Concerns over complexity are clearly legitimate. Online giving requires serious planning and testing. And eGiving represents a cultural change in how churches operate. Because of this, church leaders should consider the following strategy:

- **Come to the table.** Most people expect to be able to pay for things electronically. So unless the church is very small or it ministers to a community where a majority don’t conduct their day-to-day affairs through traditional banking institutions, eGiving is here to stay.

- **Come with a servant’s heart.** Although eGiving usually increases the total number of dollars given, a more important reason is serving members. Through eGiving, educational opportunities to talk about financial responsibility and stewardship arise. Through highlighting service, eGiving showcases ways to support the church’s ministries, the community, and the world.

- **Come with a worshipful spirit.** Far from a threat to the traditional practice of gift-giving, eGiving can free members to think broader and deeper about giving.

- **Come with a student’s mind.** The eGiving world is constantly in flux as new systems and better ways of moving money come online. Stay atop the trends and don’t be afraid to make a change if deemed appropriate.

- **Come with an analyst’s attitude.** Measure the results. Ask parishioners what works best for them. If it’s failing, end the program. And if it’s succeeding, work to discover how to improve.

**Make It Easy**

Make it easy for your congregation to use these new tools. Explain what the church is doing—on the website, with videos, in newsletters, in materials to new members, and in quarterly or annual statements. Most people today expect to be able to transact business electronically. Let them know they can and how. But most importantly, let them know why.

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**About the Writer:** Martin Davis owns Sacred Language Communications, formerly directed Alban’s Congregational Resource Guide, and has 20 years of experience working with congregations (www.sacredlanguagecommunications.com).

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