May 1, 2018

Please review this material carefully to determine how it needs to be shared most appropriately within your congregation. Leader’s Packets can be accessed on our website at www.alnwfldisciples.org.

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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: alnwf@aol.com
website: www.alnwfldisciples.org

Regional Officers and Regional Staff
May, 2018

Moderator: Kathy Mason
16287 Hagler Mill Drive
Northport, AL 35475
205-339-6560 (h) 205-246-9652 (c)
e-mail: mason217@att.net

Moderator-Elect: Fannie Ashley
3126 Old Dobbins Road
Montgomery, AL 36116
334-279-1889 (h) 334-430-0255 (c)
e-mail: fannieashley@aol.com

First Vice Moderator: Jeanette Martinez
6307 Dallas Avenue
Pensacola, FL 32526
407-692-1582 (c)
e-mail: martinezjean65@yahoo.com

Second Vice Moderator: Jim Storie
108 Shadow Wood Lane
Florence, AL 35633
256-762-3998 (c)
e-mail: jim.storie@bellsouth.net

Secretary-Treasurer: John Nettles
1139 Terrace Acres Drive
Auburn, AL 36830
334-821-5714 (h)
e-mail: jwnarchitect@att.net

Regional Representative to the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2018-2021:

Stuart Price
621 Owens Road
Auburn, AL 36830
334-821-1123 (h) 334-332-2405 (c)
e-mail: pricesb@auburn.edu

Regional Minister: John Mobley
861 Highway 52
Helena, AL 35080
205-425-5245 (w) 205-533-3810 (c)
e-mail: jpmobley2@aol.com

Associate Regional Minister Dale Braxton
8420 County Rd. 45
Ft. Deposit, AL 36032
334-227-0011 (w) 334-412-4057 (c)
e-mail: braxtondale@hotmail.com

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

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

OUTREACH GIVING

The giving through March, 2018, 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 23.57% over the amount given for the same period in 2017. Church-wide gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings have decreased by 3.83% compared to the same period in 2017. Week of Compassion offerings in Alabama-Northwest Florida are showing a year-to-date increase of 47.64% over 2017. Church-wide Week of Compassion receipts are 2.6% above the 2017 year-to-date 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.

NEWS OF THE CLERGY

John Alford has ended his ministry with First Christian Church, Pensacola, due to health issues. Don McLaughlin began serving as Interim Minister with First Christian Church, Pensacola, in mid-April. Danny Shoemake will conclude his service as pastor with Union Christian Church, Tuskegee, on May 13 in order to return to his home in Georgia.

Nicki Swindle has been approved for commissioning by the Committee on the Ministry of the Region. Nicki serves with First Christian Church, Anniston, as Community Family Life Minister. A Certificate of Commissioning will be formally presented to her on June 10.

CONGREGATIONS WITH MINISTERIAL VACANCIES

Hayneville, Woods Chapel
Mobile, Azalea Hills
Pensacola, First (Don McLaughlin is Interim Minister)
Robertsdale, First (Alan Woods is Interim Supply)
Tuskegee, Union
Valley, First CC of River View

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CLERGY

Annette Peadro, spouse of Roger Peadro (pastor, Fort Walton Beach, First) had back surgery on March 26 and is now recovering. Sade’ Smith, daughter of Willie Smith (pastor, New Salem Christian Church) is recovering from back surgery on March 21. Willie Frank Miles, brother of Fannie Ashley (Montgomery) died on March 31 after a long illness. Frank Rittenberry (pastor, First Christian Church of River View, Valley, AL) died on April 21 after a long struggle with cancer. A funeral service was held at the church on April 24.

(Please notify the Regional Office of other joys and concerns.)
Mark your calendars for the next required training opportunities for clergy:

Anti-Racism Training for Ministers – April 5-6, 2019
Healthy Boundaries for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers - March 22, 2019

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

NATIONAL CONVOCATION - 25TH Biennial Session
July 19 - 22, 2018
Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel
“A Call to Action: Onward Christian Soldiers”

A Special Invitation for Pastors currently Serving Disciples Congregations

THRI VE EVENT
(Sponsored by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region and Disciples Church Extension Fund and Hope Partnership

Saturday, August 25, 2018
11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
First Christian Church, Montgomery

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.
MAY
1 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
9 Committee on the Ministry (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
15 Staff Planning Meeting (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
18 - 19 Hispanic Encounter - YMCA-Hargis
19 Biennial Planning Session (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
13 - 20 Pentecost Offering Promotion (for new congregation establishment)

JUNE
16 Disciples Men’s Cabinet (8:30 a.m.) - Regional Office
16 Disciples Men’s Work Day (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
18 - 22 Junior Camp - YMCA-Camp Chandler
18 - 22 Chi Rho Camp - YMCA-Camp Chandler
18 - 22 CYF Conference - YMCA-Camp Chandler
22 - 24 Genesis/Discovery Camps - YMCA-Camp Chandler
23 Regional Convocation One-Day Workshop - Mt. Calvary Missionary Christian, Tuskegee

JULY
14 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
16 - 19 College of Regional Ministers/Forum of Regional Moderators - Regency Hyatt/Wynfrey Hotel - Birmingham, AL
19 - 22 National Convocation of the Christian Church - Regency Hyatt/Wynfrey Hotel - Birmingham, AL
28 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery

AUGUST
8 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
25 “Thrive” Event for Ministers Serving Congregations (11:00 am -3:00 pm) - First Christian Church, Montgomery, AL
26 “Senior Adult Sunday” in Alabama-Northwest Florida

SEPTEMBER
4 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
8 Anti-Racism Team (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
10 - 12 Southeast Regional Fellowship (SERF) Retreat at Christmount - Black Mountain, NC
22 Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - First Christian Church, Birmingham, AL
28 - 30 Women’s Retreat - YMCA-Camp Chandler

(Continued on back)
OCTOBER
6 Program Committee on Church Development (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
10 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
13 Division of Nurture (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
20 Division of Mission (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
27 Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office

NOVEMBER
3 CWF/Disciples Women Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
3 Regional Assembly Planning Committee (10:00 a.m.) - Location TBD
6 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
7 - 8 Senior Adult Retreat - St. Bernard Retreat and Conference Center, Cullman, AL
11 - 18 Thanksgiving Offering Promotion (for Disciples colleges and seminaries)

DECEMBER
10 Committee on the Ministry (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
15 Executive/Personnel Committee (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
17 Regional Staff Planning (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
16 - 23 Christmas Offering Promotion (for Regional Ministries)

JANUARY, 2019
14 Luncheon for Retired Ministers/Spouses - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach
14 - 16 Ministers and Mates Retreat - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach
18 - 20 Youhtopia - YMCA-Camp Chandler
18 - 20 Young Adult Retreat - YMCA-Camp Chandler
28 - 29 Kick-Off Retreat for 2019 Colleague Groups - Joe Wheeler State Park Lodge

FEBRUARY, 2019
2 CWF/Disciples Women Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
8 - 9 Congregational Transformation Event - First Christian Church, Birmingham
10 - 17 Week of Compassion Promotion
16 Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
23 Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - Location TBD
28 - March 2 SERF Collaboration Event at Christmount - Black Mountain, NC

MARCH, 2019
4 - 7 Black Ministers Retreat - Location TBD
14 Optional Arrival Date for Men’s Retreat - Location TBD
15 - 16 Men’s Retreat - Location TBD
22 “Healthy Boundaries” workshop for clergy (9:00 a.m.) - Regional Office

APRIL, 2019
5 - 6 Anti-Racism Training for clergy - First Christian Church, Montgomery
14 - 21 Easter Offering Promotion (for general ministries)
REGIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR
FOR MAY - JULY, 2018

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.

May 6 - Birmingham, Macedonia (205-942-7274) Kenneth Hill, Minister (205-252-9455 or e-mail: <khshr@yahoo.com>)
May 13 - Falkville, Cedar Plains (256-462-3744) Phillip Gilbert, Minister (e-mail: <pwgilbert@bellsouth.net>)
May 20 - Tallassee, Macedonia (334-283-6721) David Hooks, Minister (334-283-4772)
May 27 - Hayneville, Mt. Zion – Cassandra Smith, Pastor (334-392-2165 or email: <cassandrabrock.smith@yahoo.com>)

June 3 - Ft. Walton Beach, First (850-243-8465) Roger Peadro, Minister (e-mail: <rogerpeadro@yahoo.com>)
June 10 - Saraland, Oakmont (251-675-7203) Larry Rawls, Minister (e-mail: <rawls1936@aol.com>)
- Birmingham, Roebuck (205-833-8100) Jerry McGowin, Minister
June 17 - Tuskegee, Mt. Calvary Missionary (334-727-1006) - Dan Stewart, Pastor (e-mail: <dantitusstewart13@gmail.com>)
June 24 - Hayneville, Sellers Memorial (334-563-9147) Clifford Jackson, Minister (e-mail: <cjackson80w@bellsouth.net>)
Minter, Braggs – Joe Crook, Board Chair (334-227-4100)

July 1 - Hartselle, First (256-773-6911) Timothy Clark, Minister (e-mail: <shepherdclark@gmail.com>)
July 8 - Greenville, New Bethel – Tommie Means, Minister (334-382-2819 or e-mail: <tlmatt@elmore.rr.com>)
July 15 - Birmingham, Valley (205-879-0419) Gary Edge, Minister (e-mail: <garyhe33@hotmail.com>)
July 22 - Pensacola, Arbol de Vida (407-692-1582) Israel and Jeanette Martinez, Church Planters (email: <renovandotuf@yahoo.com>)
July 29 - Lethohatchee, Big Union – Timothy Silmon, Minister (334-335-2757 or e-mail: <silmontim@yahoo.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 March, 2018

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**TOTAL:** 34,865.46 43,415.51 24.52

**NOTE:** THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JANUARY - MARCH 2017 TO GIVING JANUARY - MARCH 2018

Christian Church in Alabama - Northwest Florida, 861 Hwy 52, Helena, AL 35080
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**NOTE:** THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JANUARY - MARCH 2017 TO GIVING JANUARY - MARCH 2018
The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining new congregation is part of the Disciples’ vision. This offering supports the specialized ministry of new church development through both regional and general programs – with gifts for this offering divided between each. Fifty percent of gifts received by a region remain in that region; the balance supports the work of general, new church efforts.
An Invitation for all Alabama-Northwest Florida Disciples Men
to participate in

DISCIPLES MEN’S
WORK DAY

JUNE 16, 2018

Regional Office, Helena, AL
(10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

**Join Hands with other Disciples Men in Mission**
**Get to Know Disciples Men from across the Region**
**Grow spiritually through worshipful work and service**

A variety of tasks will be completed on the exterior of the property. Please contact John Mobley <jpmobley2@aol.com> to indicate your plans to participate. He will send more information about needed tools and skills.
2018 CAMP & CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida
(Online Registration/Payment Available at www.alnwfldisciples.org/camp-information)

PARTICIPANT'S INFORMATION – Please Print
First Name: ________________________________
Last Name: ________________________________
"Preferred Name" ________________________________
Gender: Male / Female
Age ______ Grade (just completed) ____________
T Shirt Size ______
Birth Date ______/_______/___________
Church Name: ________________________________
Camper's Home Address: ________________________________
________________________
City, State, Zip______________________________
Parent/Guardian Name: ________________________________
________________________
E-mail: _______________________________________
Phone #1 (__) _________ - __________
Phone #2 (__) _________ - __________
Parent's Signature: _______________________________________

Registration Deadline: June 1st, 2018

In order to help us have an idea of where your child may be for our planning, please indicate your child's basic swim level. YMCA Camp Chandler will require a swim test for ALL campers desiring advanced swim privileges.

___ Can't Swim ___ Beginner ___ Advanced

New Pricing Information for 2018 - Tiered Pricing

Tier #1 is Christian Church (DOC) in ALWNFL Summer Camp's historical rate. This rate is a heavily subsidized rate and does not reflect the full per-camper cost associated with providing summer camp programs.

Tier #2 is between the subsidized published camper rate and the full cost of providing a Christian Church (DOC) in ALWNFL summer camp program for each camper.

Tier #3 accounts for the full cost of providing a Christian Church (DOC) in ALWNFL summer camp program including the expenses of the volunteer counselors' lodging, meals, and other expenses.

Campers are encouraged to pay the rate that is possible based on your own circumstances. All campers receive the same camp experience, and the family's decision is private and confidential. See insert for More Information.

Based on the new tiered pricing, I am included in the following payment for camp fees:

- Tier I ($170)  Tier II ($195)  Tier III ($220)
- Add $20 for Late Registration if After June 1st
- Tier I ($280)  Tier II ($330)  Tier III ($380)
- Add $30 for Late Registration if After June 1st

Refund policy can be reviewed at: http://www.alnwfldisciples.org/camp-information/

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 Initial) Yes ______ No ______

Please mail this form with your full payment by JUNE 1 to:

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

By registering for this event held by the Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida you are agreeing to the Region's Refund Policy posted at www.alnwfldisciples.org

Genesis Camp (K/1st) – June 22-24
Discovery Camp (2nd/3rd) - June 22-24
Junior Camp (4th, 5th, 6th) - June 18-24
Chi Rho Camp (6th, 7th, 8th) - June 18-24
CYF Conference - June 18-24

All Camps will begin and end at 10:00 a.m.

Camp Attending:
___ Genesis Camp ___ Discovery Camp
___ Junior Camp ___ Chi Rho Camp
___ CYF Conference
2018 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

Summer Camping Program Policies
- 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.
- Technology is not encouraged at camp. If you must bring it to camp, you agree to use it only as allowed by your director, and you assume all liability for your technology.

Camper/Conferee Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature
(MUST BE SIGNED REGARDLESS OF AGE)

2018 MEDICAL INFORMATION AND RELEASE

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 expect to have any difficulty with normal event activities?
- ______ Do you have any food or other allergies?
- ______ 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? __ Yes ___ No

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.

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
YMCA OF GREATER MONTGOMERY – CAMP CHANDLER
RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY
AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration for being permitted to utilize the facilities, services and programs of The Young Men’s Christian Association of Montgomery, Inc. (“YMCA”), the undersigned, on behalf of himself or herself and his or her heirs, personal representatives and next-of-kin, does hereby agree to the following:

1. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY RELEASES, WAIVES, DISCHARGES AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE the YMCA, its successors and assigns, and its directors, officers, employees, and agents (collectively, the “Releasees”) from any and all claims, demands, damages, actions, causes of actions, or suits of whatever kind or nature arising or resulting from any loss or damage to property or injury or death to person, whether caused by the negligence of Releasees or otherwise, while he or she is in, upon, or about the premises of the YMCA or using any of its facilities, services or equipment, or participating in any program or activity offered by or affiliated with the YMCA.

2. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the Releasees and each of them from any loss, liability, damage, or cost they may incur, whether caused by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, due to his or her presence in, upon, or about the premises of the YMCA or use of its facilities, services or equipment, or participation in any program or activity offered by or affiliated with the YMCA.

3. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY EXPRESSLY ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND RISK OF BODILY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, whether caused by the negligence of Releasees or otherwise, while he or she is in, upon, or about the premises of the YMCA or using any of its facilities, services or equipment, or participating in any program or activity offered by or affiliated with the YMCA.

In the event of injury, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Releasees to provide or cause to provide such medical care and treatment to him or her as may be necessary and appropriate. The undersigned understands that he or she is solely responsible for all costs incurred for such medical care or treatment.

The undersigned hereby gives his or her permission to the YMCA to use indefinitely, without limitation or obligation, photographs, film footage, or tape recordings which may include the image or voice of the undersigned for the purpose of promoting or interpreting YMCA programs and activities.

I HAVE READ AND VOLUNTARILY SIGN THIS FORM AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.

_____________________________  ____________________
Signature of Participant             Date

_____________________________  ____________________
Parent or Guardian of Minor Child or Ward

I, as parent or guardian of the above named minor, hereby give my permission for my child or ward to participate in any program or activity offered by or associated with the YMCA and further agree, individually and on behalf of said minor or ward, to be bound by all of the terms set forth above.

_____________________________  ____________________
Signature of Parent or Guardian             Date
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% 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 <alnwfl@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

ADDENDUM

Non-registered persons are NOT eligible to take the place of persons who have already registered unless they communicate the exchange with the Regional Office at least 5 days prior to the start of the event. A late fee will be assessed as required by the Fee Schedule.

Approved by the Regional Board, February 24, 2018
Regional Convocation of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
In Alabama-Northwest Florida

ONE DAY EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP
Saturday, June 23, 2018

THEME: “Disciples of Christ: Many Members, One Body”

HOSTED BY
MT CALVARY MISSIONARY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Rev. Dan Stewart, Pastor
Chisholm Community Center
3031 County Road 69
Tuskegee, AL 36083

Early Registration Fee (before May 23)
$25 per Adult
$20 per Child

Late Registration Fee (After May 23)
$30 per Adult
$20 per Child
2018 REGIONAL CONVOCATION
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) IN AL-NW FL
ONE-DAY WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018
MT. CALVARY CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA

REGISTRATION AND MEAL RESERVATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEES:

Registration postmarked on or before May 23, 2018:

__ADULT $25.00 per person
__YOUTH $20.00 per person

Registration postmarked after May 23, 2018:

__ADULT $30.00 per person
__YOUTH $20.00 per person

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $____________

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Convocation of the Christian Church in AL-NW FL

MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS, CHECKS, AND CHALLENGE GOAL TO:
PATRICIA JONES – TREASURER
3537 OAK SHADOW COURT
MONTGOMERY, AL 36116

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING:

Name______________________________________________________________

Address___________________________________________________________

City________________________ State__________ Zip____________________

Congregation______________________________________________________

IMPORTANT NOTE:
A COPY OF THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PERSON REGISTERING.
NATIONAL CONVOCATION
JULY 19-22, 2018

A CALL TO ACTION
Onward Christian Soldiers

It’s a call to fight against injustice, racism, abuse, poverty, hatred, sexism, apathy, and hopelessness.

2 Samuel 10:12 | Ephesians 6:13

SPEAKERS

Rev. Dr. William Barber
Thursday, July 19, 2018

Bishop Teresa Snorton
Friday, July 20, 2018

Rev. Shannon Dycus
Sunday, July 22, 2018

Come to worship, to fellowship, to break bread, to learn and to inspire...
as we lift up Jesus Christ, the author, and finisher of our faith.

HYATT REGENCY
The Wynfrey Hotel
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

REGISTER ONLINE
www.nationalconvocation.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION
About the Biennial Session • Registration • Exhibit Space • Sponsorship • Advertisement •
Contact: Brenda Rossy • Email: brossy@disciples.org • Phone: (317) 713-2406
Children Worship & Wonder Training Event

Date: Fri. September 14, 6p–9pm
Sat. September 15, 9am–5pm

Location: Union Christian Church
1111 Co Rd 69
Tuskegee, AL 36083

Cost: $120 per person
Plus purchase of book
Young Children and Worship

Register online:
www.discipleshomemissions.org/

Deadline: September 7, 2018
(Cost after deadline: $150)

For more information or to register by phone:

(317) 713-2641
Marissa Ivey, Ministry Associate

Trainer: Jane Nettles
Auburn, AL
THE PARISH PAPER
MAY 2018

HOW TO BALANCE HOSPITALITY AND CHURCH SECURITY

When Jack picked up his car after repairs at the local dealership, he noticed instructions securely taped on the main desk where all customers could easily read it.

What to do if an alarm goes off:
Everyone MUST leave the building immediately. Provide assistance to people to find exits. Designate where people are to gather outside, so a volunteer leader can do a head count.
EXIT away from rooms with hazardous materials.
Do NOT use the elevator if your building has one.
Do not allow people to enter the building until instructed by the fire/police department or a staff member.

Jack immediately thought of his church and wondered if such a clear plan existed and, if so, could staff and visitors follow such instructions. As a governing board member, he felt some responsibility to follow up on possible steps the church might take to be better prepared for an emergency.

Reducing Risk and Maximizing Hospitality
Churches live on the frontier of hospitality. They see their building and spaces as safe places to worship, grow in faith, and serve others. Churches wish to offer comfort and support to those who come in for any number of reasons. Weather-related emergencies arise (snowstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes) as well as events related to accidents (fires, flooding, toxic fumes), and people will often approach churches when they face difficult economic circumstances or challenging personal issues. Because of this commitment to serve all people, thinking about safety and security on church properties is far more complex than for most businesses, hospitals, and schools.

Nevertheless, some persons may pose a threat because they are desperate or have mental health issues that distort their view of the church, its staff, and its members. And unfortunately, sometimes people precipitate an emergency (illness, violence) in the church because they abuse the mission of hospitality. Even with this knowledge, leaders do not make emergency plans, believing “it couldn’t happen here.” But preparation not only enhances hospitality by constructing a safe environment, it can also help avoid crisis situations.

Prepare a plan. If the congregation does not currently have an emergency plan, form a special task group or committee to develop one. An existing committee typically does not have the diverse expertise needed to assess risks and compare solutions. Recruit someone from the property committee, one or more staff members, and any member with emergency management, insurance, or law enforcement experience. This team can contact:

- the church’s insurer and ask for guidance. When was the last time an on-site assessment was conducted?
- local law enforcement. What suggestions do they have for general security and what risk patterns do they see in the community?
- local security firms or locksmiths. What new ideas do they have for low-cost, effective technology?

THE NUMBER OF DISCIPLES... MINUS THE NUMBER OF MINOR PROPHETS... MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF SALOMON'S WIVES?

WHEN THE PASTOR DETERMINES THE CHURCH'S SECURITY CODE.
Examine church property. Collect information to answer these and other questions: Do all doors have secure locks? Are exits marked and are exit signs and doors properly lit? Are there alarms on some or all the doors? Are they functioning properly? If there are no alarms, should you have alarms on certain doors to alert staff when they are opened? Are all first-floor windows locked and secure? Are there remote sections of buildings that can be used to gain entry away from view? Are there security cameras and what can they see? Have there been past issues with theft, breaches of security, break-ins, or threatening visitors? What steps were taken to address these problems? One reoccurring problem is the theft of personal property (purses, wallets, coats) while a group is meeting, when volunteers are serving, or during worship services. Consider providing a secure closet or space where volunteers, members, and choir members can leave valuables.

Specialize the plan for the church's schedule. An effective plan takes into account the day of the week and day vs. evening activities. Planning for emergencies during Sunday worship may be different from planning for the rest of the weekdays in active church. Talk through the specific safety needs of the following groups and situations:

- Church staff and volunteers who are often alone in the building
- Groups using the building during week days, such as committee meetings, classes, adult support groups (Alcoholics Anonymous), children and youth groups (Boy Scouts), after school programs (music lessons, tutoring)
- Day care or preschool programs
- Church-hosted community feeding programs, food pantry, clothing closets
- Groups using the building for week-day evening sessions (church youth activities, choir practice, governing board meetings)
- Sunday worship and classes or meetings

Who has a key? Because of high volunteer turnover, people pass along their keys to others or have them duplicated. Establish a policy that all key holders (exempting church staff) must pay a $100 deposit, which is returned when the key is returned. Also ask them to sign an agreement that outlines their responsibilities for securing church property. Make sure that the church keys cannot be duplicated (consult a local locksmith for details). Other options include various digital locks, key pads, key cards or fobs, and software packages that generate audits on each device.

Change the church locks every three years as a matter of policy. A written and established policy depersonalizes the action and avoids pointing fingers at former staff or volunteers who are negligent.

The role of ushers and greeters. These church volunteers represent the congregation and are typically the first to welcome visitors. In terms of enhancing security, their main task is to observe people and assess situations as they unfold. Any time an usher or greeter has a concern about the potential for harm, he or she should alert others and seek help. Getting assistance is a wiser strategy than trying to handle a situation alone. One church organized a team to walk through halls and classrooms after services begin as an additional security check.1

Plan, train, share. Developing a plan is only the first step. Staff and volunteers need training about how to respond to different types of emergencies. How many ways can the church share information about what people in the building should do in case of an emergency? For example, could there be a set of instructions and floor plan on the back of every door, just as there is in a hotel room? Or does the church have the capacity to send a text message alert?

Other Resources

Consider reviewing these excellent resources for additional ideas:


Making the Nursery a Place of Belonging

"Where is the nursery?" That is often the first question when young parents visit a new church. At a minimum, they expect their question to be answered with confidence, not bewilderment. Beyond simply asking directions, the inquirer wants to know, Does this church care about us and our children? Is this a place where we can belong?

Out of the Basement

Diane Olsen, a children’s ministry specialist, describes how her church’s ministry for children when she was a child occupied a place in the humid, slightly dark, and largely inaccessible basement. When visiting after returning from college, she noticed that the recently erected new building included only one floor and no basement. Suddenly it felt like the children’s ministry existed on the same level with every other aspect of church life.

“Out of the basement” began to function for her as a metaphor for integrating children’s ministry into the congregation’s overall mission. The same applies to the congregation’s ministry with infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds. Wherever located, the nursery deserves equal treatment with other aspects of church life.

What about room size and location? Offer at least thirty-five square feet of playroom floor space per child, not including bathrooms, closet space, or hallways, as children need space to explore. Choose a central location, ideally adjacent to a primary hallway with visual access for security reasons. A bathroom should be located nearby with a sink low enough for toddlers to use, and a potty chair and diaper changing table located somewhere in the nursery area. The main nursery should be open, bright, and comfortable. Allow space at the entrance for parents to gather when they sign children in and out.

Calling Mr. Clean

Granted, some congregations may not have much choice in where to locate the nursery, but they can still keep it clean, well-lit, and safe. The cleaning operation starts with four large boxes or trash cans labeled: Keep, Discard, Ask, and Recycle. (“Ask” means consulting with someone before discarding or recycling an item.) Look for toys that need to be thrown away or replaced due to missing parts, broken pieces, or otherwise being unsafe. Next, examine basic equipment such as cribs, tables, chairs, and high chairs. Trust your instincts. When in doubt, toss it out! Finally, clean and wash the floors, walls, toilet, and wash or dry-clean the rugs or draperies. Making the space clean and safe can be an easy way to revitalize your nursery.

Volunteers or Paid Staff?

Caregivers provide the heart of any childcare system. It all starts with a nursery coordinator to recruit and supervise nursery staff, keep important information about each child, greet parents when they arrive, and generally set the tone for nursery care. With the
coordinator in place, the question becomes. Should we use paid staff, volunteers, or a combination?

Using volunteers may be financially advantageous by saving money on staff salaries, and it may give church members opportunities to use their gifts in the congregation. On the downside, scheduling volunteers may take up too much of the supervisor’s valuable time, and volunteers who are less than committed may not show up on the appointed day, leading to a panicked search for a replacement. In addition, some children may feel unsettled by a round robin of ever-changing volunteers and prefer a more consistent routine.

Youth who want to volunteer because they enjoy working with children form a special category of their own. These young persons may already be known by the parents or even babysitting for them. Be advised that at least one adult supervisor must be present at all times, which may stretch some volunteer teams thin. Also, youth need to understand that their primary responsibility is to attend to young children, not socialize with other youth. Some churches provide training to youth on basic matters like changing diapers or sanitation or even offer to pay for a certified babysitting or childcare course in return for a certain number of hours worked.

Paid staff may result in the best guarantee of reliable caregiving, though for smaller churches, expense may be a factor. In recruiting, look for parents of older children or youth, or parents of young children who might be willing to give a few hours per week as long as they can bring their own child along. Other ideas include posting a job announcement at the student center of a local college, talking with a professor of child development, or checking with congregations with worship hours different from your own. With paid staff as the foundation, some churches fill their needs using a combination of employees and volunteers, with one or two paid caregivers ensuring continuity and a safety net for volunteers who step in as the need arises.5

Protecting Children from Harm

Churches must screen all staff, whether volunteer or paid, to ensure that young children are safe from inappropriate behavior or sexual abuse. At a minimum, everyone must be required to complete an application form and be subject to a criminal background check conducted by an agency such as Trusted Employees (www.trustedemployees.com). Include documentation concerning background checks in the personnel file. Make sure to have at least two nursery attendants present at all times, with at least one worker who is eighteen years old or older. For more information, see Church Mutual’s web page, “The Background Screening Basics.”

The Nursery Home Visitor

To maintain ongoing care for a family with young children, Mary Alice Gran recommends recruiting a nursery home visitor who sees the family at home at least once after a child is born in order to welcome the child on behalf of the church. This person’s primary role is to be someone who listens, supports the family, and, if necessary, acts as an advocate for the family’s needs with the congregation. Given the time and stress that young families experience, plan to stay only a brief time. The visitor may bring information about baptism, a nursery handbook, a statement of the church’s philosophy on caring for the young child, or a gift such as a book on parenting. Mary Alice Gran’s The First Three Years provides a variety of parent support leaflets.6

Commit to Children’s Ministry

As one pastor said, “I learned as a pastor that if the preschool ministry was not going well, the rest of the church probably was not going well either.” Conversely, a church that pays special attention to its nursery may be laying the foundation for revitalization. It signals to young families a commitment to provide a place of belonging for anyone, no matter what age.

6. Mary Alice Gran, “The Role of the Nursery Home Visitor” and “Parent Support Leaflets,” in Mary Alice Gran, ed., The First Three Years, 101-102, 91-105.
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- **Vacancy**

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- **P.O. Box 36**
- **Greenville, AL 36037**

#### Greenville, Harrison St.
- **502 Harrison St**
- **P.O. Box 176**
- **Greenville, AL 36037**
- Phone: 334-382-9381

#### Greenville, New Bethel
- **Contact Person: Gracie Perdue**
- **737 Old Central Rd**
- **Greenville, AL 36037**
- Phone: 334-382-0977

#### Hayneville Christian
- **PO Box 215**
- **Hayneville, AL 36040-0215**

#### Hayneville, Little Union
- **PO Box 853**
- **Hayneville, AL 36040-0853**
- Phone: 334-548-2755

**Paulette Miller**
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- Phone: Letohatchee, AL 36047
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**Mrs. R.V. Harrell**
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- 334-548-2351 (H)

**Percy Simpson**
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Ministerial Vacancy

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