Each congregation receives the bi-monthly Leader's Packet, along with individuals who have requested it. Leader's Packets are also available on-line through the Region's website <www.alnwfdisciples.org> Each Minister and/or Moderator (or Board Chairperson) is asked to review this material carefully and share it appropriately within the congregation.

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  October....................................................................................................................(Turquoise)
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
March, 2019

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 Dobbin Road
Montgomery, AL 36116
334-279-1889 (h) 334-430-0255 (c)
e-mail: fannieashley@aol.com

First Vice Moderator: Jeannette Martinez
2639 W. Michigan Ave., Unit A
Pensacola, FL 32526
407-692-1582 (c)
e-mail: martinezjean65@yahoo.com

Second Vice Moderator: Ed Guindon
1317 Panorama Circle
Birmingham, AL 35216
205-617-0687 (c)
e-mail: ejguindo@southernco.com

Secretary-Treasurer: John Nettles
1139 Terrace Acres Drive
Auburn, AL 36830
334-703-6360 (c)
e-mail: jwnarchitect@att.net

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

Stuart Price
613 Owens Road
Auburn, AL 36830
334-821-1123 (h) 334-707-3165 (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: alnwfl@aol.com
ITEMS OF INTEREST
(from within the Region)

OUTREACH GIVING

The giving through July, 2019, by congregations in Alabama-Northwest Florida to the Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas) has decreased by 2.96% compared to the amount given for the same period in 2018. Church-wide gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings have decreased by 0.47% in 2019 compared to the same period in 2018. Church-wide giving to Week of Compassion is up 1.4% compared to the year-to-date amount for 2018. Year-to-date Week of Compassion receipts in Alabama-Northwest Florida are showing a 7.83% increase from the 2018 year-to-date 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

Jeff Damron was installed as Minister with Union Christian Church, Tuskegee, on Sunday, August 4. Maurice Johnson has been called as Minister with Woods Chapel Christian Church, Hayneville. Lamar Randall has ended his ministry with Edward Point Christian Church, Century. Bob Powell has concluded his ministry as pastor with Cottondale Christian Church in Cottondale. Fisher Humphreys began his service as Interim Minister with Cottondale Christian Church on August 18. Dave Crosslin is currently serving as Interim Supply Minister with Pleasant View Christian Church near Camp Hill. Mary Alice Mulligan has been called to serve as Interim Senior Minister with First Christian Church, Birmingham. Her new ministry will begin on September 1. Dan Barton has been called as pastor with South Baldwin Christian Church, Foley, beginning October 1. Jim Clifford will complete his service as Interim Minister with South Baldwin Christian Church at the end of September. Gary Edge has announced his plans to retire from active full-time ministry. He will conclude his ministry with Valley Christian Church, Birmingham, on Sunday, October 6. John Churchill has retired from active full-time ministry. Diane Stephenson is also retiring from active full-time ministry. Honored Minister Pins are scheduled to be presented to John Churchill on September 15, to Diane Stephenson on September 22, and to Gary Edge on October 6.

CONGREGATIONS WITH MINISTERIAL VACANCIES

Birmingham, First (Mary Alice Mulligan is Interim)
Birmingham, Valley (after October 6)
Camp Hill, Pleasant View (Dave Crosslin is Interim Supply)
Century, Edward Point
Cottondale, Cottondale (Fisher Humphreys is Interim)
Mobile, Azalea Hills
Robertsdale, First (Alan Woods is Interim Supply)
JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CLERGY

Jerry Ridling (retired, Decatur) was hospitalized in early August and is recovering at home. Lorena Edge, mother of Gary Edge (Birmingham, Valley CC), died on August 15 after a long illness. A funeral service was held on August 18, 2019, near her home in Lanett, AL. Kathy Menser (chaplaincy, Pensacola) is in the care of medical specialists at a University of Florida Health Shands Hospital to analyze and treat a growth near her thyroid, throat, and neck.

*Please notify the Regional office of other joys and concerns.

CONGREGATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
All are welcome to participate in this workshop that is being sponsored by Week of Compassion, the Office of Disciples Volunteering, and the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. It is hoped that each congregation will be represented. Participants will learn best practices and receive guidance in becoming better prepared for a variety of situations that could arise.

A Flyer and Registration Form were included in the August Regional News and Notes

Saturday, September 24, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, MONTGOMERY
(1705 Taylor Road 36117)

Mark your Calendars!!

2020 Regional Assembly
in Alabama-Northwest Florida

April 24-26, 2020
First Christian Church, Meridian, Mississippi
Theme – “What Does the Lord Require of You?”

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE (through the Association of Religion Data Archives)

Congregations in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region can access demographic information on their communities by going to <www.thearda.com> and following these instructions:

* Under the US Congregational Membership tab, select GIS Maps
* Enter the zip code you are interested in (this will bring up a map of churches in that zip code)
* Click on a particular church and then select “Profile” on the right hand side of the screen
* Several categories will be offered to help you learn more about your community

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
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<th>Location</th>
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<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery</td>
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<td>Southeast Regional Fellowship (SERF) Retreat - Christmount - Black Mtn., NC</td>
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<td>9 - 11</td>
<td>Program Committee on Church Development (10:00 a.m.) - Meeting by Zoom</td>
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<td>Division of Mission (10:00 a.m.) - Meeting by Zoom</td>
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<td>Project Advisory Team for Pacific Islander Agape Church (5:00 p.m.) - First Christian Church, Pensacola</td>
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<td>27 - 29</td>
<td>Women’s Retreat - YMCA-Camp Chandler, near Wetumpka, AL</td>
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<td>29 - Oct. 6</td>
<td>Reconciliation Offering Promotion (for anti-racism/pro-reconciliation)</td>
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<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>Division of Nurture (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office</td>
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<td>Reconciliation Offering and World Communion Sunday</td>
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<td>Project Advisory Team for Nuevo Comienzo (4:30 p.m.) - First Christian Church, Anniston (or by Zoom)</td>
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<td>Hispanic Encounter - Rolling Hills Retreat Center, Calera, AL</td>
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<td>18 - 19</td>
<td>College of Regional Ministers - Toronto, Canada</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>CWF/Disciples Women’s Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office</td>
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<td>Senior Adult Retreat - Saint Bernard Retreat Center, Cullman</td>
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<td>Ministry Support Network (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) - First Christian Church, Montgomery</td>
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<td>Regional Assembly Planning Committee (10:00 a.m.) - First Christian Church, Meridian</td>
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<td>17 - 24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Offering Promotion (for Disciples Colleges/Seminaries)</td>
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<td>Christmas Party for Christian Services for Children in Alabama (CSCA) - Selma</td>
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<td>Committee on the Ministry (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office</td>
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<td>Executive/Personnel Committee (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office</td>
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<td>Christmas Offering Promotion (to benefit the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region)</td>
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<td>Regional Staff Planning (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office</td>
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<td>JANUARY, 2020</td>
<td>Luncheon for Retired Ministers/Mates (Noon) - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach, AL</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Ministers and Mates Retreat - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach, AL</td>
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<td>13 - 15</td>
<td>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</td>
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<td>18 - 25</td>
<td>Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office</td>
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<td>Youthtopia - YMCA-Camp Chandler</td>
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<td>24 - 26</td>
<td>Young Adult Winter Retreat - YMCA Camp Chandler</td>
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(continued on back)
FEBRUARY, 2020
1        CWF/Disciples Women’s Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
4        Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
8        Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
15       Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - First Christian Church, Birmingham
16 - 23  Week of Compassion Promotion
22 - 25  General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Indianapolis, IN
25 - 28  College of Regional Ministers - Indianapolis, IN
26       Ash Wednesday

MARCH, 2020
2 - 5    46th Annual Black Ministers Retreat - Nashville, TN
13 - 15  SERF Interregional Women’s Event at Christmount - Black Mountain, NC
20 - 21  Men’s Retreat - Rolling Hills Retreat Center, Calera, AL
27       “Healthy Boundaries” workshop for Clergy (9:00 a.m.) - Regional Office

APRIL, 2020
5 - 12   Easter Offering Promotion (for general ministries)
10 - 12  Easter Rally for Chuukese Disciples - Pensacola, FL
15       Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
24 - 26  Regional Assembly - First Christian Church, Meridian, MS

MAY, 2020
5        Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
13       Committee on the Ministry (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
16       Biennial Planning Session (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office

JUNE, 2020
15 - 19  Junior Camp, Chi Rho Camp, and CYF Conference - YMCA-Camp Chandler
19 - 21  Genesis Camp and Discovery Camp - YMCA-Camp Chandler
27       Regional Convocation One-Day Workshop - New Bethel Christian Church, Greenville, AL

JULY, 2020
10 - 12  “Sessions 2020” - Disciples Men’s Event - Fort Worth, TX
11       Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
18       Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
19 - 21  College of Regional Ministers/Forum of Regional Moderators - Fort Worth, TX
22 - 25  “The 2020 Experience” - Fort Worth, TX

AUGUST, 2020
12       Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
23       “Senior Adult Sunday” in Alabama-Northwest Florida

Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
REGIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR
FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER, 2019

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.

September 1 - Letohatchee, Mt. Moriah – Nathan Hartley, Minister (334-563-7764 or email: <nathanhartley5@aol.com>)
September 8 - Letohatchee, New Hope (334-548-2504) Howard Jones, Minister (e-mail: <howardjones1951@gmail.com>)
September 15 - Mobile, Azalea Hills (251-633-6161) Jane Lose, Board Chairperson (e-mail: <ahcdec@bellsouth.net>)
September 22 - Pensacola, First (850-477-1642) Tim Clarke, Minister (e-mail: <timmclarke@gmail.com>)
September 29 - Madison, Madison (256-837-8182) Beth Thomason, Minister (e-mail: <bethom66@yahoo.com>)

October 6 - Robertsdale, First – Alan Woods, Supply Minister (251-978-2901 or e-mail: <manytrees2@gmail.com>)
October 13 - Helena, Grace (205-426-1233) Brad Henderson and Phyllis Kirk, Ministers (e-mail: <brad.henderson1@me.com> or <pskirk@bellsouth.net>)
October 20 - Montgomery, First (334-270-1320) Shane Isner, Minister (e-mail: <isner.shane@gmail.com>)
October 27 - Florence, First (256-764-2192) Sylvia Hamlin, Interim Minister (e-mail: <sylviahamlin@comcast.net>)

November 3 - Tuscaloosa, First (205-758-2968) Tim Trussell-Smith Minister (e-mail: <reverendtimts@gmail.com>)
November 10 - Valhermoso Springs, First (256-778-7921) Jeremy Harbin, Minister (e-mail: <pastorjeremyharbin@gmail.com>)
November 17 - Jasper, First (205-384-6302) C.J. Cobb, Minister (e-mail: <car3y.cobb@gmail.com>)
November 24 - Valley, Fairfax (334-756-3941) Duwayne Bridges, Minister (e-mail: <burningbridges@msn.com>)
Montgomery, United(334-262-3382) La’Rue Smith, Jr., Minister (e-mail: <lsmith7106@gmail.com>)

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
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**Total** 137,379.86 133,829.48 -2.58

**Note:** This report compares giving from Jan - July 2018 to giving Jan - July 2019.
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**NOTE:** THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JAN - JULY 2018 TO GIVING JAN - JULY 2019
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 <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
We would like to invite the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and supporters to help Reconciliation Ministry to continue its mission of Anti-Racism, Pro-Reconciliation work.

**About the Special Offering**

The Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering. Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

Recent events have reignited the conversation about human brokenness evidenced in the sin of racism and perpetuated in our institutional structures and systems. Your generous giving to Reconciliation Ministry is transforming lives and strengthening Christ's witness in the world showing that we love one another, even as Christ continues to love us!

*Donations on behalf of emergency grants on behalf of impacted communities and congregations toward healing for the communities of Ferguson, Staten Island, Charleston, S.C., and Baltimore can be directed to the Reconciliation Annual Fund/Racial Justice Response.*

*The form of this ministry may be changing, but the need for addressing racism has never been more obvious.*

As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) lives into its identity as a “movement for wholeness in a fragmented world” contributions to this offering facilitate camp and conference and leadership development opportunities as well as programs for dialogue across difference that promotes life-giving community within our beloved church and among the whole family of God.
RECONCILIATION GRANT APPLICATION
(For a Regional Partnership in Reconciliation Ministries)

NOTE: “Reconciliation Ministries” are understood to be congregational programs of education and outreach that address the issue of racism in North America and which have the effect of building racial understanding, healing, and harmony for participants in these programs. Congregations are encouraged to sponsor such programs and, if needed, request grants from the Reconciliation Fund. In the past, two or more congregations have formed partnerships in sponsoring Reconciliation Ministries. The Anti-Racism Team of the Region, which takes action on grant requests, encourages these partnerships and will look favorably upon grant applications that originate from such partnerships. The Anti-Racism Team also welcomes grant requests from Districts that need funding for special initiatives that intend to foster an anti-racist/pro-reconciliation identity.

Date

Name of Congregation(s) (or District)

Minister (or Contact Person)

Address

Phone Email

Please offer a brief description of the program which clearly states: (Attach a separate sheet)
1) the purpose, description, and anticipated goals of the program
2) the number of persons who will be involved in leadership of the program
3) the number of persons served through the program
4) the budget for the program, which itemizes anticipated expenses and lists sources of income for the program, including the amount the congregation(s) (or District) will allocate
5) any other relevant information concerning the history and development of this program

Amount of Funds Requested

Do you anticipate making additional grant applications for this program in the future? (Yes or No)

Signature of Person Completing Form

Role/Position in the Congregation

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Birmingham, AL 35080

08/2012
CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA
(Disciples of Christ)

MILDRED B. WATSON MEMORIAL FUND

**Purpose**
The Mildred B. Watson Memorial Fund is a permanent fund established by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region, in partnership with Valley Christian Church, Birmingham, and the Christian Church Foundation, that will provide annual income to support leadership education for persons in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. Mildred Watson supported the entire Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and had a strong desire to see young people and young adults gain exposure to the ministries of the wider church. She valued education for all Disciples and she particularly wanted to see ministers have the education, resources, and support they need for their service to the church. The Mildred B. Watson Memorial Fund will provide resources which address these commitments that were dear to Mildred Watson during her lifetime.

APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE WATSON FUND
(Application Deadline: September 30, 2019)

Name of Applicant ___________________________ Date of Application ___________________________

Address of Applicant ___________________________ City ___________ State ___________ Zip Code ___________

E-Mail Address of Applicant ___________________________ Phone Number of Applicant ___________________________

Congregation Where Applicant is a Member ___________________________ Minister’s Name ___________________________

Based on the Purpose of the Mildred B. Watson Memorial Fund, as described above, please attach a separate sheet summarizing the opportunity for which you are requesting a grant and how it relates to the purpose of the Watson Fund. (Please limit to one page)

What is the total amount needed to participate in this opportunity. $ ________________

Of this amount, how much will you be able to pay? ________________ How much do you anticipate obtaining from other sources, if any? ________________

What amount are you requesting from the Watson Fund? ________________

Please return Application to: Regional Minister, Christian Church in Alabama-NW Florida, 861 Hwy. 52, Helena, AL 35080
Disciples Women

Fall Retreat

September 27-29, 2019

Camp Chandler YMCA, Wetumpka, AL

Resource Leader: Marilyn F. Williams, President IDWN

International Disciples Women Ministries (IDWM) of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) United States and Canada

Theme: Ephesians 6: 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. (NIV)

Pay the Early-bird Registration Fee of $115 by the Deadline of September 6, 2019
Pay the Regular Registration Fee of $130 after September 6, 2019

Pay the Early-bird Registration Fee of $35 for Friday only by September 6, 2019
Pay the Regular Registration Fee of $50 after September 6, 2019

Pay the Early-bird Registration Fee of $75 for Saturday only by September 6, 2019
Pay the Regular Registration Fee of $100 after September 6, 2019

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ONLY APPLIES IF FORM AND Full PAYMENT ARE POSTMARKED BY SEPT. 6TH.

No Payments or Registrations Will Be Accepted After September 20 (electronically or mail)

This Event Is For Adults Only. Please Adhere To This Guideline.
DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

Theme: WOWW! Weekend Of Women Worshipping (Ephesians 6:12)
September 27 thru September 29, 2019
YMCA Camp Chandler, Wetumpka, AL

Resource Leader: Marilyn F. Williams, President of the International Disciples Women Ministries (IDWM) of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ United States and Canada

INSTRUCTIONAL OVERVIEW

What to Bring: Bible, bedding, sheets, pillow, blanket, towels, toiletries, casual wear, rain gear, new or used items for silent auction, journal or writing materials, coffee cup, water bottle. Flashlight, Shoes must always be worn. Camp Chandler does not rent linen supplies.

Donations for Service Projects will be collected: Gift Cards Preferred.

Registration: Begins on Friday, September 27th at 3:30 p.m. Retreat begins with dinner at 6:30 p.m. & ends Sunday at 10 a.m. All guests must register and receive name tag and bed assignment.

Payment Options: Mail checks to the Regional office or pay electronically. No money for registration will be collected at the retreat. All registration forms and fees must be submitted to the Regional Office before the Retreat.
Mailing address: Christian Church in AL-NW FL, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080.
Make Checks Payable to: Christian Church in AL-NW FL.
Register and Pay Electronically at http://www.alnwfldisciples.org/ministries/women

Cost: Full Weekend: $130 / early bird $115 EARLY BIRD DATE IS SEPTEMBER 6, 2019
Friday Only $50 / early bird $35 (1 meal, no lodging)
Saturday Only $100 / early bird $75 (3 meals, no lodging)

Non-registered persons are not eligible to take the place of persons already registered unless the exchange is communicated with the Regional Office at least 5 days prior to the start of the event. FINAL Registration Deadline is September 20, 2019.

This Event Is for Adults Only. Please Adhere to This Guideline.
DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT
September 27 — September 29, 2019 AT YMCA Camp Chandler, Wetumpka, AL

REGISTRATION FORM

Theme: WOWW! Weekend of Women Worshipping
(Ephesians 6:12)

Resource Leader: Marilyn F. Williams, President of the International Disciples Women Ministries (IDWM) of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ United States and Canada

NAME____________________________ CONGREGATION____________________________

ADDRESS____________________________________________________________________

CITY_________________ STATE_________ ZIP_________________

HOME PHONE_________________ CELL_____________________

E-MAIL__________________________

IS THIS YOUR FIRST RETREAT? YES____ NO____ HOW MANY RETREATS HAVE YOU ATTENDED?__________

________ I NEED A LOWER BUNK BECAUSE OF PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

________ I NEED TO BE NEAR AN ELECTRICAL OUTLET BECAUSE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

________ I NEED SPECIAL SEATING ___________ I NEED TRANSPORTATION FOR WORKSHOPS

ROOMMATE REQUEST________________________

IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY RESTRICTIONS PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SPECIAL MEALS AND THE CAMP WILL PREPARE IT. Microwave & refrigerator are available.

Per Regional Office Directives, No Money for registration (cash, check, electronic transfer) will be collected at the retreat. All funds and registration forms must be submitted to the Regional Office before the Retreat. You may mail this form and full payment to: Christian Church in AL-NW FL, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080

Make checks payable to: Christian Church in AL-NW FL

OR you may register and pay electronically at http://www.alnwfdisciples.org/ministries/women

For questions or assistance please call the Regional Office at 205-425-5245

Fee enclosed (Choose only one)

________ Friday only ($50 or $35 Early Bird, if postmarked by Sept 6th, one meal no lodging)

________ Saturday only ($100 or $75 Early Bird, if postmarked by Sept.6th, 3 meals no lodging)

________ Full Weekend ($130 or $115 Early Bird, if postmarked by Sept 6th)

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ONLY APPLIES IF FORM AND Full PAYMENT ARE POSTMARKED BY SEPT. 6TH.
No Payments or Registrations Will Be Accepted After September 20 (electronically or mail)

This Event Is For Adults Only. Please Adhere To This Guideline.
Eighteenth Annual

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT
Wednesday, Nov. 6 - Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019
(Begins at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday and concludes by 1:30 p.m. on Thursday)

“Stories”

Retreat Leaders and Music Leaders:
George and Judy Dudley
Columbiana, AL

ST. BERNARD RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER
1600 St. Bernard Drive, Cullman, AL 35055 (Phone: 256-734-3946)
(at I-65, exit #308, go about 3-4 miles on Hwy. 278 E., to the retreat center entrance)

Cost Options
$100/person, double occupancy room w/ 2 twin beds (Early-Bird cost is $90)
$125/person, single occupancy room w/ 2 twin beds (Early-Bird cost is $115)
$70/person for participants lodging off-site (Early-Bird cost is $60)

**Limited Financial Aid is Available upon Request**

Early-Bird Deadline is October 16, 2019

Christian Church in Alabama-NW Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
SENIOR ADULT RETREAT - Wednesday, Nov. 6 - Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019
St. Bernard Retreat Center, 1600 St. Bernard Drive - Cullman, AL 35055 (Phone: 256-734-3946)
(at I-65, exit #308, about 3-4 miles on Hwy. 278 E. to the retreat center entrance)

“Stories”
Led by: George and Judy Dudley, Retired Pastor and Spouse, Columbiana, AL

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

Name ___________________________________________ E-Mail ____________________________

Address ________________________________________________

____________________________________________________ Phone Number _________________

Home Congregation _______________________________________

**Please describe any dietary restrictions, food allergies, or physical limitations on a separate sheet.

Please check ONE of the following options:

Option One  [Enclose $100 with this form (before October 16, pay only $90)]
      (Option One includes registration and all four meals at St. Bernard Retreat Center.)

_____ I am planning to room in the dormitory (double occupancy) at St. Bernard Retreat Center.

_____ I plan to room with ___________________________________.

_____ Please assign a roommate.

Option Two  [Enclose $125 with this form (before October 16, pay only $115)]
      (Option Two includes registration and all four meals at St. Bernard Retreat Center.)

_____ I am planning to room in the dormitory at St. Bernard Retreat Center without a roommate.

Option Three  [Enclose $70 with this form (before October 16, pay only $60)]
      (Option Three includes registration, plus four meals at St. Bernard Retreat Center: lunch and dinner on
      Wednesday, and breakfast and lunch on Thursday.)

_____ I am planning to find lodging on Wednesday somewhere other than St. Bernard Retreat Center.

Note: Those choosing to stay at a hotel may make their reservations directly with their hotel of choice.

Send appropriate payment with this registration form to:
Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080

[Early-Bird Deadline is October 16, 2019]
Save the Date for SERF 2020 Women’s Event
March 13-15, 2020 at Christmount Christian Assembly, Black Mountain NC

Join your Disciples sisters for “A Mountaintop Experience” featuring
- The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale – Founder and Senior Pastor of the Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur GA, and
- The Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada
- Dynamic Worship and Workshops, Fellowship, and Fun

Registration and more information coming soon!
(“SERF” is the Southeastern Regional Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which includes Alabama/NW Florida, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.)
A Team Approach to Worship Design

Audrey Wells, director of *Under the Tuscan Sun*, describes how the use of non-professionals enriched the film crew’s effort to tell their story. For scenes in the town’s piazza, local people who walked there every day were asked to serve as “extras.” For the food scenes, a nearby restaurant cooked the meals. After its release, many local participants gathered at the movie theater, which itself had appeared in the film, to enjoy the story they had helped to tell. From the director’s perspective, non-professional involvement only served to enhance the filmmaking experience.¹

The same can be true for worship. Appreciation increases when everyone, professionals and non-professionals alike, take part in the preparation. In this method, the pastor gives up the role of solo operator to recognize the part that worship leaders can play in “producing” the worship service. Though more complicated than working alone, it can also be more spiritually rewarding. Len Wilson and Jason Moore, writing for the context of contemporary worship, offer a model for worship teams that can be adapted to a variety of worship styles.²

**Recruiting Team Members**

A worship team does not have to be large to be effective. In fact, large teams may be more complicated to manage and more prone to conflict than small ones. The best size for brainstorming appears to be between four and seven persons. In recruiting, seek generalists rather than specialists, and try to represent the church’s demographic makeup such as age, gender, race, and cultural or political perspectives. People who get along well with others are always a plus.³

**Team Member Roles**

To facilitate planning, roles may be assigned to certain team members. The pastor selects a theme and interprets the Scripture lesson that supports it. However, the role of producer (or team leader) is better filled by a lay person. Though this role is frequently overlooked, the producer manages the team and acts as the point person in all stages of implementing the worship plan. The key purpose is not to act as the decision maker, but to implement decisions that were made as a group.⁴ The band leader or music director ensures that the music selections align with the team’s design for the service. Some churches opt for full team involvement in selecting the songs, while others will leave this entirely up to the music leader. A writer develops language and metaphors that express the theme set by the pastor. This can be a call to worship or more informal opening remarks by the person who opens the service. For leaders who prefer not to read from a script, “talking points” can be used so that the speaker can then improvise. A technical director is needed to deal with various aspects of media, including sound, lighting, and projection.
How Often to Meet

Worship planning can be time intensive. Team members' available time and the team's scope of responsibility are important considerations when determining how often to meet. Most churches select one of three options.

Some churches use a **single team meeting once per week**. One advantage of this approach is that frequent meetings tend to be an aid to relationship building. This arrangement can often seem better suited to paid staff members than to volunteers with busy schedules to navigate, and it can be wearing over time.

To alleviate the burden, some churches spread responsibilities out by creating **multiple teams that meet weekly** or on rotation. In the rotation option, different teams take responsibility for one Sunday out of three or four, meeting one time ahead of the service to do planning.

Finally, some churches hold a **single team meeting once every few weeks or monthly**, gathering for several hours to plan multiple services. This model may work best for a small church or one in which volunteers, not staff, do much of the work. In this approach, the team may find it necessary to focus more on the big picture by brainstorming themes, metaphors, songs, and other creative elements without worrying at this point about how it will all fit together. Some of the details may need to be left up to individual team members to determine outside of the meeting.

**A Weekly List of Team Decisions**

No matter how frequently it meets, every worship team or its appointed leader must make a series of decisions:

1. the Scripture lesson on which the service is based
2. the central theme or main idea of the service expressed as simply as possible
3. a statement of the human condition, the real life issue that the good news of the service addresses
4. a visual metaphor, a single image that expresses the main idea in a way that the congregation can connect with
5. the goal that the team is trying to achieve
6. the creative elements to include in the service to get the idea across, which could include photos, video clips, graphic images, or anything else that worshippers can see, hear, feel, taste or touch that might help them experience the message.

These decisions, when made by the group, become action items to check off and report back to the group about.

**Organize Loosely**

Cathy Townley, a worship consultant, offers another way to think about worship teams that emphasizes building relationships over filling specific roles based on skills. Based on her experience in starting a new church, she advocates organizing loosely, allowing newcomers to seek their own level of participation, and resisting attempts to be locked into a set pattern. As a church planter, she discovered that she was really a one-person team, and that she spent much of her time networking with a variety of people, building relationships with them, and asking them to take one piece of a particular week's worship plan to help her with. The result may be a worship service that is not highly produced, but immensely satisfying for participants, and it can spur member involvement and church growth over time.

**A Richer View from Many Perspectives**

Marcia McFee, a worship consultant, compares the congregation's experience of worship to a circle of people viewing a beautiful sculpture from the perimeter of the room. The experience is richer from many perspectives than from only one or two angles. In the same way, worship planning using teams can create a fuller, more meaningful experience than if only one or two persons are involved. That fuller experience is what congregations are all about.

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3. Ibid., 25-29.
4. Ibid., 39-48.
5. Ibid., 49-55.
6. Ibid., 79-92.
8. Marcia McFee, *Think Like a Film Maker*, 65.
Let's Take a Walk: The Ministry of Accompaniment

Walking alongside someone in a time of need can be vastly reassuring. The ministry of “accompaniment,” often provided by churches in support for immigrants facing deportation, takes the metaphor of “walking alongside” to mean a commitment to be present and bear witness to the struggle for fair treatment. With a little imagination, the accompaniment model could be stretched to include a ministry of presence to anyone who struggles, whether due to immigration woes, poverty, or addiction. Accompanying someone who feels vulnerable or threatened can offer something intangible—the gift of reassurance.

With Immigrants

Some churches have begun recruiting volunteers to accompany immigrants faced with the possibility of deportation by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These friends of the detained are typically not lawyers and do not offer legal advice. Instead, they provide something more simple and intangible—a ministry of presence and of bearing witness for individuals who might be forced to face government attorneys alone, given that the Sixth Amendment does not guarantee immigrants the right to a lawyer. The experience can be daunting, and it is complicated by the fact that many immigrants lack basic English proficiency. Walking with such a person may not provide all the answers for them, but it may render the process a bit more humane.

Church leaders can be present with immigrants: (1) at check-ins required by ICE, (2) at court hearings for individuals who have not been detained, and (3) at court hearings for those who have already been detained. According to Sara Gozalo, an organizer who trains volunteers, accompaniment involves “advocacy without confrontation. Even if you feel like you’re not doing anything, your presence there means a lot. I promise you. It’s much harder to deport someone when people are watching.”

In addition to being present at court hearings, church leaders can support immigrants by accompanying families with children to school and assisting with enrollment, or sponsoring an open house for parents, teachers, and administrators to discuss ways to help. Beyond this, build a relationship with the Department of Homeland Security office by attending Community Relations Meetings sponsored by the agency. Finally, help immigrants find lawyers by holding information sessions about reputable immigration service providers.

With Prisoners

Accompaniment methods can be used in support of ministry with prisoners. For instance, St. Anne’s Catholic Community, thirty-two miles northwest of Chicago, became involved in a program for mothers in prison that allows these mothers the opportunity to visit with their children. Sponsored by the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, the “Visits to Mom” program provides free transportation to children whose mothers...
are incarcerated. For volunteers from St. Anne's, this typically translates into an eleven- or twelve-hour day due to the drive required to and from the Decatur and Logan Correctional Centers. That's a three-hour round trip from Barrington to Chicago and a five-hour round trip to and from the two prisons. These visits often represent the only chance for many of these mothers, a number of them serving time for drug offenses, to see their children.

With Others in Need

Likewise, a ministry of presence and support can be achieved through mentoring or advising for persons struggling with poverty or addiction. The West Side Campaign against Hunger (WCAH), located in the basement of the St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church in upper Manhattan, offers a supermarket-style food pantry that allows customers to choose which foods they will receive. Every new customer can receive the aid of a social service counselor who explains how to shop, how to apply for a health plan, how to find a doctor, and how to determine eligibility for federal programs such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program); Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and Free and Reduced Price School Meals, as well as the pantry’s own programs. Mentoring may also lead customers to job training and classes in General Educational Development (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL). WCAH’s social service counseling metaphorically “walks with” customers who might be confused by the complicated web of services available.

Taking the First Steps

To get started with immigrant ministry, consider offering training for volunteers using online resources from the New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops campaign, or Justice for Immigrants.

For prison ministry, consult with a prison chaplain before visiting a state or federal facility or read the article, “Six Rules of Thumb for Prison Ministry: Advice for Pastors and Ministry Leaders” available from the United Methodist Church’s General Board of Discipleship. For a deeper dive, explore online resources for church leaders on in-prison, re-entry, family, and mentoring ministries as well as justice reform offered by Prison Fellowship, founded by Chuck Colsen.

For persons struggling with poverty, sponsor nutrition and cooking workshops to educate food pantry or lunch program patrons on the importance and availability of fresh food. Give referrals to free or low-cost health care and social service benefits in the area. Recruit and train patrons to become volunteers in running the program. Start community discussions on hunger, poverty, and food security using resources from organizations such as WhyHunger and Bread for the World, both of which focus on empowering individuals and changing public policy related to food.

“A Purpose to Being a Christian”

Accompaniment can have a profound impact for both the accompanist and the one accompanied. Grace Yukich, a sociologist, documents this in her study of the New Sanctuary Movement’s earlier work with immigrants in New York City in 2008. One woman, a member of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Brooklyn, testified to a group of immigrant support activists about her newfound faith that resulted from an accompaniment experience. She had been accompanying a Chinese couple to check-ins for several months. Though she had little prior experience with immigrants, she found her faith commitment deepening as she attended church with the couple, met occasionally at a restaurant to check on the couple’s situation, and also went with them to periodic check-in meetings with immigration officials. Though never particularly committed to immigrant rights before, she began to experience a newfound sense of faith. “This is the first time I have felt there was a purpose to being a Christian.”

5. https://www.prisonfellowship.org/resources/training-resources/