January 1, 2020

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

Regional Officers and Regional Staff
November, 2019

Moderator:                             Kathy Mason
                                        16287 Hagler Mill Drive
                                        Northport, AL 35475
                                        205-339-6560 (h) 205-246-9652 (c)
                                        e-mail: mason217@bellsouth.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:                  Jeanette Martinez
                                        2639 W. Michigan Ave., Unit A
                                        Pensacola, FL 32526
                                        850-860-5515 (c)
                                        e-mail: martinezjean65@yahoo.com

Second Vice Moderator:                 Ed Guindon
                                        1317 Panorama Circle
                                        Birmingham, AL 35216
                                        205-709-6626 (c)
                                        e-mail: ejguindo@hotmail.com

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

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

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
ITEMS OF INTEREST
(from within the Region)

OUTREACH GIVING

The giving through November, 2019, 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 0.45% 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 1.37% in 2019 compared to the same period in 2018. Church-wide giving to Week of Compassion is up 2.5% compared to the year-to-date amount for 2018. Year-to-date Week of Compassion receipts in Alabama-Northwest Florida are showing a 14.1% increase from the 2018 year-to-date amount. Church-wide giving to Reconciliation is up 18.0% compared to the year-to-date amount for 2018. Year-to-date Reconciliation receipts in Alabama-Northwest Florida are showing a 3.68% decrease 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

Nicki Arnold Swindle was ordained into Christian ministry on Sunday, December 15, 2019, at First Christian Church, Anniston. Chris Whitehead has begun a new ministry as chaplain at Talledega Federal Corrections Institute.

CONGREGATIONS WITH MINISTERIAL VACANCIES

Birmingham, First (Mary Alice Mulligan is Interim)
Birmingham, Valley (Edd Spencer is Interim)
Century, Edward Point (Associate Minister Sherry Johnson is preaching)
Cottondale, Cottondale (Fisher Humphreys is Interim)
Falkville, Cedar Plains
Mobile, Azalea Hills
Robertsdale, First (Alan Woods is Interim Supply)

(Continued on Back)
JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CLERGY

Ron Shephard (Pastor, First Christian Church of River View, Valley, AL) had surgery on Nov. 14 and is now back in the pulpit after a long medical leave. Sachuo Hacer, father-in-law of Aisek William (Pastor, Pacific Islander Agape Church, Pensacola) died in early November and a funeral service took place on November 30 in Pensacola. Jack Baldwin had surgery on December 13 and is recovering at home.

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

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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?”

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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

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Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
DATES FOR YOUR INFORMATION

JANUARY
5  Project Advisory Team - Nuevo Comienzo (4:30 pm) - First Christian Church, Anniston
13  Luncheon for Retired Ministers/Mates (Noon) - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach, AL
13 - 15  Ministers and Mates Retreat - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach, AL
18  Committee on Recommendations Zoom Meeting (10:00 a.m.)
18 - 25  Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
22  Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
24 - 26  Youhtopia - YMCA-Camp Chandler
24 - 26  Young Adult Winter Retreat - YMCA Camp Chandler
26  Project Advisory Team - Pacific Islander Agape Church (5:00 pm) - First Christian Church, Pensacola

FEBRUARY
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
2 - 5  46th Annual Black Ministers Retreat - Nashville, TN
13  Senior Adult Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
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
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
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
24 - 31  Pentecost Offering Promotion (for new congregation establishment)

JUNE
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, Greenville, AL

(continued on back)
DATES (continued)

JULY
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
12 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
18 - 21 New Church Ministry Summit - Indianapolis, IN
23 "Senior Adult Sunday" in Alabama-Northwest Florida

SEPTEMBER
1 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
5 Anti-Racism Team (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
8 - 10 "The Gathering" (an event for pastors, sponsored by Pension Fund) - New Orleans, LA
14 - 16 SERF (Southeast Regional Fellowship) Retreat at Christmount - Black Mountain, NC
19 Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - Location TBD
24 - 26 Disciples Women' Fall Retreat - Rolling Hills Retreat Center, Calera, AL
26 - Oct. 3 Reconciliation Offering Promotion

OCTOBER
3 Division of Nurture (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
10 Program Committee on Church Development (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
14 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
17 Division of Mission (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
24 Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office

NOVEMBER
3 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
4 - 5 Senior Adult Retreat - Rolling Hills Retreat Center - Calera, AL
7 CWF/Disciples Women Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
15 - 22 Thanksgiving Offering Promotion (for Disciples Colleges and Seminaries)

DECEMBER
1 - 3 College of Regional Ministers - Bethany, WV
5 Annual Christmas Party for Christian Services for Children in Alabama- Selma, AL
7 Committee on the Ministry (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
12 Executive/Personnel Committee (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
13 - 20 Christmas Offering Promotion (for Regional Ministries)

Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
REGIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR
FOR JANUARY - MARCH, 2020

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.

January 5 - Athens, First (256-232-5611) Clint Coffey, Minister (e-mail: <jclintjr@juno.com>)
January 12 - Anniston, First (256-236-1316) Laura Hutchinson, Minister (e-mail: <laurahutchinson@bellsouth.net>)
January 19 - Auburn, Village (334-887-5111) Pat Parvin, Minister (e-mail: <pparvin@wellsprinting.com>)
January 26 - Dothan, First (334-792-2401) Bill Smith, Minister (e-mail: <bsndhn@gmail.com>)

February 2 - Birmingham, Primera Iglesia - Roberto Rodriguez, Pastor (e-mail: <palmarito8433@gmail.com>)
February 9 - Century, Edward Point (850-256-1855) – Sherry Johnson, Associate Minister (e-mail: <sherryjohnson1161@gmail.com>)
February 16 - Foley, South Baldwin – Dan Barton and Marc Nattier, Ministers (e-mail: <bartfor@hotmail.com> or <marc@the-computer-doctors.net>)
February 23 - Fairhope, Fairhope (334-928-8495), Rick Malugani, Minister (e-mail: <ricemal57@gmail.com>)

March 1 - Camp Hill, Pleasant View – Dave Crosslin, Minister (email: <crossflame@charter.net>)
March 8 - Decatur, First (256-353-8421) Mickey Johnson, Minister (e-mail: <mickey@tvpine.com>)
March 15 - Anniston, Iglesia Cristiana - Nuevo Comienzo - Carmen Reyes, Church Planter (e-mail: <carmenreyes7@live.com>)
March 22 - Ft. Deposit, Snow Hill – Dale Braxton, Minister (334-412-4057 or e-mail: <braxtondale@hotmail.com>)
March 29 - Pensacola, Pacific Islander Agape - Aisek William, Church Planter (email: <williamaisek@yahoo.com>)

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
REGIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR FOR 2020
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 and/or email address is listed for each congregation 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.

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February 16 - Foley, South Baldwin - Dan Barton and Marc Nattier, Ministers (e-mail: <bartfor@hotmail.com> or <mare@thecomputerdoctors.net>)
February 23 - Fairhope, Fairhope (334-928-8495), Rick Malugani, Minister (e-mail: <riemal57@gmail.com>)

March 1 - Camp Hill, Pleasant View – Dave Crosslin, Minister (email: <croseflame@charter.net>)
March 8 - Decatur, First (256-353-8421) Mickey Johnson, Minister (e-mail: <mickey@tvpine.com>)
March 15 - Anniston, Iglesia Cristiana - Nuevo Comienzo - Carmen Reyes, Church Planter (e-mail: <carmenreyes7@live.com>)
March 22 - Ft. Deposit, Snow Hill - Dale Braxton, Minister (334-412-4057 or e-mail: <braxtondale@hotmail.com>)
March 29 - Pensacola, Pacific Islander Agape - Aisek William, Church Planter (email: <williamaisek@yahoo.com>)

April 5 - Ft. Walton Beach, Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispaina, Jose and Ana Diaz, Co-Pastors (850-496-4386 or e-mail: <diazja1@outlook.com><diaz.ana22@yahoo.com>)
April 12- Birmingham, First (205-991-5000) - Mary Alice Mulligan and Robin Blakemore, Ministers, (email: <mmulligan@cts.edu> or <robin@fecake-hmn.org>)
April 19 - Birmingham, New Vision (205-925-3345) – Edward Williams, Minister (205-942-0082 or e-mail: <edwins5@aol.com>)
April 26-Huntsville, Grateful Life - Sherry Birney, Minister (256-883-2982 or e-mail: <birneysherry@gmail.com>)
April 26 - Greenville, Harrison Street – Timothy O’Neal, Minister (334-279-0349 or email: <onealt216@gmail.com>)

May 3 - Birmingham, Macedonia (205-942-7274) Kenneth Hill, Minister (205-252-9455 or e-mail: <kblshr@yahoo.com>)
May 10 - Falkville, Cedar Plains (256-462-3744) Jack Goodman, Board Chairperson (256-777-7667)
May 17 - Tallasee, Macedonia (334-283-6721) David Hooks, Minister (334-283-4772)
May 24 - Hayneville, Mt. Zion - Cassandra Smith, Pastor (334-392-2165 or email: <cassandrabrock.smith@yahoo.com>)
May 31 - Ft. Walton Beach, First (850-243-8465) Roger Peddro, Minister (e-mail: <rogerpeddro@yahoo.com>)

June 7 - Saraland, Oakmont (251-675-7203) Larry Rawls, Minister (e-mail: <rawls1936@aol.com>)
June 14 - Tuskegee, Mt. Calvary Missionary (334-727-1006) - Dan Stewart, Pastor (e-mail: <dantitusstewart13@gmail.com>)
June 21 - Hayneville, Sellers Memorial (334-563-9147) Clifford Jackson. Minister (e-mail: <cjackson80w@bellsouth.net>)
Minter, Braggs – Joe Crook, Board Chair (334-227-4100)
June 28 - Hartselle, First (256-773-6911) Timothy Clark, Minister (e-mail: <shepherdclark@gmail.com>)

(continued on back)
July 5 - Greenville, New Bethel – Tommie Means, Minister (334-382-2819 or e-mail: <timatt@elmorer.rr.com>)
July 12 - Birmingham, Valley (205-879-0419) Edd Spencer, Interim Minister (e-mail: <eddtheking@outlook.com>)
July 19 - Pensacola, Arbol de Vida (407-692-1582) Israel and Jeanette Martinez, Co-Pastors (email: <renovandotufe@yahoo.com>)
July 26 - Letohatchee, Big Union – Timothy Silmon, Minister (334-335-2757 or e-mail: <silmontim@yahoo.com>)

August 2 - Hayneville, Little Union –Willie Timmons, Minister (334-399-1614 or email: <timmonsw@live.com>)
August 9 - Huntsville, First (256-881-0150) Paul Allen and Laura West, Ministers (e-mail: <allen0719@att.net> or <lauraf@fcc-hsv.org>)
August 16 - Cottondale, Cottondale – Fisher Humphreys, Interim Minister (email: <fisherhumphreys@gmail.com>)
August 23 - Tuskegee, Union (334-727-2556) Jeff Damron, Minister (email: <jeffdamron1952@gmail.com>)
August 30 - Letohatchee, Mt. Moriah – Nathan Hartley, Minister (334-563-7764 or email: <nathanhartley5@aol.com>)

September 6 - Letohatchee, New Hope (334-548-2504) Howard Jones, Minister (e-mail: <howardjones1951@gmail.com>)
September 13 - Mobile, Azalea Hills (251-633-6161) Jane Lose, Board Chairperson (e-mail: <shcedoc@bellsouth.net>)
September 20- Pensacola, First (850-477-1642) Tim Clarke, Minister (e-mail: <timmelarke@gmail.com>)
September 27 - Madison, Madison (256-837-8182) Beth Thomason, Minister (e-mail: <bcthomason66@yahoo.com>)

October 4 - Robertsdale, First – Alan Woods, Supply Minister (251-978-2901 or e-mail: <manytrees2@gmail.com>)
October 11 - Helena, Grace (205-426-1233) Brad Henderson and Phyllis Kirk, Ministers (e-mail: <brad.henderson1@me.com> or <pskirk@bellsouth.net>)
October 18 - Montgomery, First (334-270-1320) Shane Isner, Minister (e-mail: <isner.shane@gmail.com>)
October 25 - Florence, First (256-764-2192) Sylvia Hamlin, Interim Minister (e-mail: <sylviahamlin@comcast.net>)

November 1 - Tuscaloosa, First (205-758-2968) Tim Trussell-Smith Minister (e-mail: <reverendtims@gmail.com>)
November 8 - Valhermoso Springs, First (256-778-7921) Jeremy Harbin, Minister (e-mail: <pastorjeremyharbin@gmail.com>)
November 15 - Jasper, First (205-384-6302) C.J. Cobb, Minister (e-mail: <car3y.cobb@gmail.com>)
November 22 - 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>)
November 29 - Valley, River View (334-756-3538) Ron Shephard, Minister (email: <parson63@yahoo.com>)

December 6 - Pensacola, Westwood (850-456-2092) Betty and David Massey, Co-Pastors (e-mail: <dmassey745@aol.com> or <howdybetty@aol.com>)
December 13 - Ambassadors for Christ, Pamela Wilson, Minister (334-437-5423 or e-mail: <pamlove@camelliacom.com>)
December 20 - Hayneville, New Salem, Willie Smith, Minister (334-324-4338 or email: <pastorwjsmith@gmail.com>)
December 27 - Meridian, First, Mark Benson, Minister (252-933-3733 or email <mark@fccmeridian.com>)

***Let us be a Region that is committed to praying for one another. Let us strengthen our covenant with one another and with God as we undertake this important spiritual discipline.

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
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**NOTE:** THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JAN - NOV 2018 TO GIVING JAN - NOV 2019

Christian Church in Alabama - Northwest Florida, 861 Hwy 52, Helena, AL 35080
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**NOTE:** THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JAN - NOV 2018 TO GIVING JAN - NOV 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% 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 <alnwf1@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
2020 MINISTERS AND MATES RETREAT
Hilton Garden Inn – Orange Beach, Alabama

January 13 -15, 2020

A Time for Reflection and Discussion with Colleagues in Ministry

Theme

“It’s 2020: Now What?”

Two former General Ministers and Presidents for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), plus our current General Minister and President, will offer written reflections on the priorities for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as we move into 2020 and beyond. Although Richard Hamm, Sharon Watkins, and Terri Hord Owens will not be present at the retreat, panelists from the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region will offer their responses to the written reflections of these key leaders in the life of the church. There will be ample opportunity for all participants to express their own thoughts about where the church needs to be placing its greatest energy and resources as it moves into a new decade.

Cost — $40 per person
(includes administrative costs and cost of Monday banquet)

The Ministers and Mates Retreat is open to all ministers with standing—active or retired, commissioned or ordained—in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. Those who are under the care of the Committee on the Ministry in the Region are also welcome to attend. Hotel information and registration forms were sent to all ministers with standing in October. Please contact the Regional office if this information is needed. Join us for a stimulating event, combined with opportunities for rest and relaxation in a beautiful setting.

Christian Church in Alabama-NW Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
Retired M & M Luncheon

January 13, 20/20 12:30 - 2:30

Hilton Garden Inn - Orange Beach, Alabama

The PAST The FUTURE

Focus for the Retreat:

?It’s 20/20, Now What?

Focus for the Retirees’ Luncheon:

?It’s 20/20, What Did We Learn?

Sign up on the M&M registration form.

Cost of meal per person $10.00
YOUNG ADULT
WINTER RETREAT

YMCA-Camp Chandler
near Wetumpka, Alabama

January 24-26, 2020

Theme

"To Thine Own Self Be True"

Guest Presenter

Elizabeth (Beth) Gregory
(Exploring personality insights through the Enneagram)

Cost – $50 per person
(This event is subsidized by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region)

******************************************************************************

The Young Adult Winter Retreat is open to all who consider themselves to be young adults in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. Persons in this group might be students, and non-students, married or single, with children and without children. Young adults in Alabama-Northwest Florida are a diverse group, yet they all are needing to be nurtured in their faith and strengthened through their fellowship with one another. Being together in the retreat setting will allow participants to grow closer to God and to each other.

Christian Church in Alabama-NW Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
YOUNG ADULT WINTER RETREAT 2020
[Special Guest Presenter, Elizabeth (Beth) Gregory, PhD., LPC]

January 24 - 26, 2020 ---- YMCA-Camp Chandler
Check-in begins as early as 4:00 p.m. on Friday. The Retreat officially begins after dinner on
Friday at 7:00 p.m. and ends Sunday morning after worship and before lunch

Please note: Lodging is dormitory-style.
Attendees are reminded to bring their own bedding, towels, and toiletries.

“To Thine Own Self Be True”

------------------------------------------------------------------- Please detach and return -------------------------------

REGISTRATION FORM
(Use a separate form for each person)

Name: ______________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________
Street __________________________________ City ____________________________
State ______ Zip

Phone No.: ___________________________ E-Mail Address: __________________

Congregation __________________________________________________________

**Please note any food allergies on this form.

Any young adult who is wanting to participate in this event but who is unable to pay the
registration fee is asked to contact John Mobley <jpmobiley2@aol.com>. Limited financial
assistance may be available. All grants will be kept confidential.

Please enclose payment of $50 with this Registration Form
Payment must be received by January 15, 2020.
On-line registration is also available at www.alnwildisciples.org/young-adult-ministry

Mail To:

Christian Church in AL-NW FL, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 Phone (205-425-5245) Fax (205-425-5246)
2020 Youhtopia
Winter Retreat for Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12)
At CAMP CHANDLER
www.campchandler.org

Join us as we enjoy a weekend of games, challenges, and adventures led by your Regional Youth Council

WHEN: January 24-26, 2020
(Begins at 7:00 pm Friday - ends at 10:00 am Sunday)

Cost: $130.00 (includes lodging, meals, snacks, and T-shirt)

Each church is expected to provide one paid registered adult for every 1-6 youth attending the event. All adults attending must register and pay fees.

What to Bring?

BIBLE
Offering
Sleeping bag/ bedding
Fitted twin sheet/Pillow
Toiletries
Towel

SNACKS to share
[Girls Sweet and Boys Salty]

Sturdy shoes
Flashlight
Jacket/ Raincoat
Camera
Closed toe shoes for high ropes
Bug spray

We Are a Drug-Free Community - no drugs, alcohol, or tobacco!!!
REGISTRATION FORM FOR Youthtopia
DEADLINE: January 6th, 2020

NAME__________________________________________

M/F_______ GRADE_____

ADDRESS__________________________________________ CITY ____________

STATE_________ ZIP_______

PHONE______________________

EMAIL__________________________________________

T-SHIRT SIZE - (subject to availability if registration is not received by deadline) _________

CONGREGATION_____________________________________

ADULT ACCOMPANYING YOU: _________________________________________
**2020 COVENANT for Participants**  
**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 retreat expecting to grow in my faith and in relationship with others, becoming a special part of the retreat 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 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 leaders, 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.

______________________________
Youth Signature

______________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature

**2019 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?

**Detail All Medical and Dietary Issues Below:**  
(if more room is needed, please attach a sheet to this form)

______________________________

Circle Below: Should your child be allowed appropriate over-the-counter medications to be given as needed?

Yes or 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 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.

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

**Emergency Contact(s) Name & Phone Number:**

______________________________

**Insurance Information:**

______________________________
Name of Insurance Company, Address and Telephone Number

______________________________
Member Name Member ID

THIS MEDICAL FORM MUST BE COMPLETED TO PROCESS YOUR REGISTRATION.
CHAPERONE REGISTRATION FORM FOR Youhtopia  
DEADLINE: January 6th, 2020

NAME________________________________________

M/F_______ Have You Completed Safe Gatherings Training? ___ Yes ___ No

ADDRESS_______________________________________CITY______________

STATE_________ ZIP_____

PHONE______________________________

EMAIL_____________________________________

T-SHIRT SIZE - (subject to availability if registration is not received by deadline) __________

CONGREGATION________________________________

Safe Gatherings trainings is required for all Regional Youth Volunteers. If you have not already completed this training, please contact Nisha7@aol.com to begin the process. While adults are allowed to attend events without the training, they are not able to serve in the full capacity of leadership during the weekend. The process can take several weeks so please contact Nisha ASAP if you need to complete Safe Gatherings.
2020 COVENANT for Participants  
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 retreat expecting to grow in my faith and in relationship with others, becoming a special part of the retreat 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 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 leaders, 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

Youth Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

2019 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?

Detail All Medical and Dietary Issues Below:  
(if more room is needed, please attach a sheet to this form)

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.

Emergency Contact(s) Name & Phone Number:

Insurance Information:

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: ________________________________
SERF WOMEN'S RETREAT 2020

March 13-15, 2020
at Christmount, Black Mountain, NC

Featured speakers are
the Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale
and the Rev. Terri Hord Owens

It will be a mountaintop experience to remember!

What is the SERF 2020 Women’s Event?

It is a gathering for women of the Southeastern Regional Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which includes the Regions of Alabama/Northwest Florida, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Theme: “Shout from the Hills”

Sisters will come together for inspiration to proclaim with joy the goodness, mercy, and justice of God.

The Women’s Event will include:

- Fellowship with Disciples Sisters
- Inspiring Keynote Speakers
- Informative Workshops
- Stories from International Sisters
- Dynamic Worship and Music
- Exhibits and Ten Thousand Villages Shopping
- Delicious Meals
- FUN! FUN! FUN!

Cost and Deadline: $75 Registration plus housing and meals
($100 registration after Feb. 18).
Deadline: No refunds on registration after March 1.
Registration is available online at christmount.org/serf-2020
Meet our Keynoters:

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale is the Founder and Senior Pastor of the Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, GA.

A woman of vision, Dr. Hale is revered for her leadership, integrity, and compassion. She is a recipient of numerous honors and recognitions and is a contributing writer to many books and publications. In 2010, Dr. Hale authored I’m A Piece of Work: Sisters Shaped by God.

Originally from Roanoke, VA, Dr. Hale received a B.A. in music from Hollins University; an M. Div. from Duke University; and a D. Min. from United Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens was elected as the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in July 2017. She is the first person of color and second woman to lead the denomination. A descendant of one of the oldest African-American free settlements in Indiana and a Disciple since young adulthood, Hord Owens was dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School and pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL, prior to her election.

Hord Owens is widely sought after as a preacher, speaker and workshop facilitator. She has been married for over 30 years to Walter Owens, Jr. They are the proud parents of an adult son, W. Mitchell Owens, III.

Schedule:
(Women are welcome to come a day early to enjoy the sights!)

Friday, March 13 –
3:00 Registration opens
4:00-5:00 Optional pre-event inspirational time
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Evening Session with Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale preaching

Saturday, March 14 –
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Morning session with Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale preaching
Exact times tba: Workshops/Panel with International Sisters
Evening Worship with Rev. Terri Hord Owens preaching

Sunday, March 15 –
Worship with Communion with Rev. Terri Hord Owens preaching
11:00 Safe Travels
MEN'S RETREAT
(Rolling Hills Retreat Center - Calera, Alabama)

March 20 - 21, 2020
(Registration/Check-in begins as early as 2:00 p.m. Retreat officially begins with dinner on March 20 at 6:00 p.m. and ends Saturday by 2:30 p.m.)
Optional Arrival Date - March 19, 2020 Men may come a day early for fishing, hiking, table games, and fellowship time (Added cost - $35, no meals included).

“Men in Motion”

Retreat Leader:

Rev. Roger Peadro
Pastor, First Christian Church, Ft. Walton Beach, FL

Registration Cost: $100/person ($90 if received before March 6)
** Saturday Only - $60/person ($40 if received before March 6)
MEN’S RETREAT 2020

March 20 - 21, 2020 — Rolling Hills Retreat Center, Calera, AL
Registration/Check-in begins after 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 19, 2020 Some men may wish to come a day early for fishing, hiking, table games, and fellowship (Added cost - $35.00, no meals included).

Rooms at Rolling Hills Retreat Center are motel-type rooms. Bedding and towels are provided. All men will be assigned a roommate. Roommate preferences will be considered. Men are also reminded to bring their Challenge Goal offerings to the Retreat.

“Men in Motion”

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 19, one day early _____ I will arrive March 20
(If arriving on March 19, add $35 to registration payment)
_____ I will be coming Saturday only (cost is $60, or $40 before March 6)

Roommate Preference: ____________________________________________

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 David Lynch, Men’s President, or John Mobley. All financial assistance grants will be kept confidential.

Please enclose payment of $100 with Registration Form (or $90, if received prior to March 6). This payment covers the cost of registration, three meals, and lodging at Rolling Hills. Persons coming for Saturday only should pay $60 (or $40, if received prior to March 6), which covers breakfast and lunch on Saturday.
Payment in full must be received no later than March 13.
By registering for this event, you agree to the terms of the Region’s Refund Policy.

Mail To:

Christian Church in AL-NW FL, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080  Phone (205-425-5245)  Fax (205-425-5246)
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. Must be repeated after 10 years.

Resource Leaders:

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020
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 <alnwfl@aol.com> by March 120.

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

Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, Alabama 35080
"What Does the Lord Require of You?"

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

Regional Assembly
April 24 – 26, 2020

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Meridian, Mississippi
January 1, 2020

ATTENTION LEADERS:

INFORMATION AND PROMOTION OF 2020 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Please note that this mailing is going to each congregation and to others who have requested a mailed copy of the Leader’s Packet. This information is also available on-line through Regional email communication and on the Region’s web-site.

PLEASE NOTE!

1. This is a Business Assembly. All ministers with standing may vote. Note the enclosed materials for you to register your other voting members. Please send us this list so that we can have their voting status processed before they arrive. Also, we can send them the Business Documents if we receive the list in time.

2. Please provide opportunity for those who can’t attend the Assembly to support it financially. The Assembly needs to pay for itself and this means that some additional support is needed beyond the registrations. This helps keep the registration cost low.

3. The Business Documents will be prepared after the Regional Committee on Recommendations meets on January 18. The Business Documents will be sent electronically and will be on the Region’s web-site.

4. Special activities for youth and children are being planned for this assembly. Your help in promoting the assembly with your young people will be appreciated.

5. The theme of the Assembly will add a special focus for our time together:

“What Does the Lord Require of You?”
ELECT LAY VOTING REPRESENTATIVES FOR REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Each congregation in the Region is entitled to a minimum of four lay voting representatives (one of whom should be between the ages of 16 and 22) at the 2020 Regional Assembly on April 24 - 26, 2020, at First Christian Church, Meridian, Mississippi. All ministers with standing maintained through the Region are already voting representatives. The Regional Constitution provides for voting representatives in the following manner:

"Voting representatives from congregations.

(1) Each congregation shall elect four voting representatives (one of whom should be between the ages of 16 and 22). Congregations with a participating membership of more than 200 shall elect one additional representative for each 100 participating members, or major fraction thereof, in excess of 200. The number of representatives shall be based upon reports submitted by congregations as published in the current Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In the event a report was not received for that Year Book and Directory, the congregation may request voting privileges from the Regional Executive Committee. Each congregation shall notify the Regional Church office of the names and addresses of its voting representatives forty-five days before the opening of the Assembly. These voting representatives from congregations shall be in addition to persons having privilege to vote as ministers with standing.

(2) Ministers serving or living in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region who have ministerial standing and are listed in the current Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), or eligible for such listing, shall be voting representatives.

(3) Members of the Regional Board and Regional Committee on Recommendations, not otherwise having voting privileges, shall be voting representatives."

Congregations are entitled to the following number of lay voting members based on participating members as shown in the 2019 Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating Membership</th>
<th>Voting Representatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 or less</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>201 - 350</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>351 - 450</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>451 - 550</td>
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Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
CONGREGATIONAL VOTING REPRESENTATIVES

2020 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The names of voting representatives for the 2020 Regional Assembly, plus all clergy with standing, will be sent an electronic copy of the business items if names are received before March 9, 2020. The business items will also be available on the Region's web-site. (Do not list clergy who have standing, as they already have voting privileges.)

Congregation: ____________________________________________________________

Person supplying information _____________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STREET ADDRESS</th>
<th>CITY, ZIP</th>
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<tbody>
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SEND TO:

(Deadline: March 9, 2020)

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA
861 HIGHWAY 52
HELENA, ALABAMA 35080
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

REGISTRATION SUNDAY

MARCH 1, 2020

Copies of all the necessary forms are enclosed in the Leader's Packet. You may want to make additional copies for your congregation and/or 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 1

- 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.

Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida,
861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
SUMMARY
2020 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
First Christian Church, Meridian, Mississippi
April 24-26, 2020

Theme
“What Does the Lord Require of You?”

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

3:00 p.m. Registration begins at First Christian Church, Meridian
7:30 p.m. Worship -- Communion -- Special introductions
           Message by Rev. Lori Tapia, National Hispanic Pastor
9:00 p.m. Reception/Fellowship (in fellowship hall)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration Open at First Christian Church
8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Child Care for infant-pre-Kindergarten at First Christian Church
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Children's Program (grades K-5) at First Christian Church
9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary - Message by Rev. Christal Williams, Regional Minister in
           Tennessee
10:00 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Youth Activities including Lunch (off-site)
10:30 a.m. Workshop led by Rev. Lori Tapia - First Christian Church sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Business Session and Speak-Out/Installation of Officers - FCC sanctuary
12:15 p.m. Break
12:30 p.m. Women’s Luncheon/Program (Rev. Lori Tapia, speaker)
           (at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church fellowship hall - 1116 23rd Avenue, Meridian)
12:30 p.m. Men’s Luncheon (Program by Disciples Men)
           (at First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall - 903 23rd Avenue, Meridian)
2:15 p.m. Break
2:30 p.m. Workshop led by Rev. Christal Williams - First Christian Church sanctuary
3:30 p.m. Break - Free Time
4:00 p.m. Silent Auction bidding ends
6:00 p.m. All Assembly Dinner (Northeast Conference Center, 111 U.S. 11, Meridian)
           - Recognitions and Presentations
           - Musical Ensemble from First Christian Church, Meridian
8:00 p.m. Break for the Evening

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

10:30 a.m. Closing Worship in Sanctuary - Message by Host Pastor, Rev. Mark Benson
2020 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY GUEST SPEAKERS

Rev. Lori Tapia serves as the executive in the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. In her role as National Hispanic Pastor, Rev. Tapia works with Regions, General Ministries, and the established Hispanic Conferences to facilitate ministries to and with primarily Hispanic congregations of the denomination. As National Hispanic Pastor, Rev. Tapia works closely with the General Minister and President and she also is a full member of the College of Regional Ministers. Rev. Tapia began her ministry with the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries in 2016. She previously served in the Arizona Region with her husband, Martin Tapia, who pastored a church there. Martin and Lori now live in Indianapolis and Martin serves a church in Indianapolis. They are parents to three children and grandparents to nine grandchildren.

Pastor Lori received her M.Div. from Claremont School of Theology and won the prestigious Church of the Good Shepherd Preaching Award and the Disciples Seminary Foundation Award. She has served as a church planter and has been very involved in community-building and advocacy. She has a passion for sharing Jesus and empowering others through authentic relationships. Her passion for justice has thrusted her into many settings in which she is a voice for the poor and marginalized.

Rev. Tapia will preach on Friday night, and she will also lead a workshop and speak at the Women's Luncheon on Saturday.

Rev. Dr. Christal Williams serves as the Regional Minister for Tennessee, a position she has held for the past three years. Prior to that she served as Associate Regional Minister for the Illinois/Wisconsin Region for 18 years. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Rev. Dr. Williams did her undergraduate work at Jarvis College in Hawkins, Texas, and she received her M.Div. at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. She receive her D. Min from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Pastor Christal is passionate about bridge-building and fostering relationships. On her Regional website she shares these words: "It is my dream to work alongside brothers and sisters of every age, color, culture and walk of life; persons who insist upon living out their devotion to Jesus Christ; allowing the Holy Spirit to guide, inspire and electrify their participation in the church on a local and regional level, and beyond our doorsteps to the ends of the earth."

Rev. Dr. Williams will preach on Saturday morning and lead a workshop on Saturday afternoon.

Rev. Dr. Mark Benson serves as the senior pastor with First Christian Church in Meridian, Mississippi, a position he has held since July, 2016. Rev. Benson is a native of Philadelphia, Mississippi, and a graduate of Neshoba Central High School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana, and a Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky. Mark has served pastorates in Virginia, Georgia, and most recently in Kinston, North Carolina, at Gordon Street Christian Church, a position he held for nearly 15 years.

Mark is married to LeAnne Benson, who teaches fourth grade at an elementary school in Meridian. Mark and LeAnne have two adult children, Andrew and Emily.

Rev. Dr. Benson will preach in the closing worship service on Sunday morning.
"What Does the Lord Require of You?"
2020 Regional Assembly
Hosted By: First Christian Church, Meridian, Mississippi
April 24-26, 2020

Assembly Schedule

**Friday, April 24**
- Registration begins at 3:00 p.m.
- Evening worship begins at 7:30 p.m.
- Reception following worship

**Saturday, April 25**
- Worship begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Children’s Activities - 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Workshop at 10:30 a.m.
- Biennial Business Session and Installation of Officers at 11:30 a.m.
- Women’s/Men’s Luncheons at 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Activities (including Lunch) - 10:30 am - 3:30 pm
- Workshop - 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Break - Free Time
- All Assembly Dinner at 6:00 p.m
- Recognitions/Presentations and Mini-Concert following

**Sunday, April 26**
- Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Hotel Information
Blocks of rooms have been reserved for the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the hotels listed below. **Note below the reservation deadlines for the various hotels.**
(Mention “Regional Assembly-Disciples of Christ” or “Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida” to get Group Rate.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel Information</th>
<th>Hampton Inn Meridian</th>
<th>La Quinta Hotel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn Express</td>
<td>(Reserve by March 11, 2020)</td>
<td>(Reserve by March 20, 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1399 Roebuck Drive</td>
<td>103 U.S. Hwy. 11 &amp; 80</td>
<td>1400 Roebuck Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meridian, MS 39301</td>
<td>Meridian, MS 39301</td>
<td>Meridian, MS 39301</td>
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<tr>
<td>601-581-4777 (phone)</td>
<td>601-483-3000 (phone)</td>
<td>601-693-2300</td>
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<tr>
<td>601-581-5090 (fax)</td>
<td>601-693-2466 (fax)</td>
<td>601-485-2534 (fax)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate: $89.00 + tax (dbl/kg)</td>
<td>Rate: $100.00 + tax (kg.)</td>
<td>Rate: $60 (dbl/kg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$99.00 (kg. suite)</td>
<td>$105.00 + tax (dbl)</td>
<td>*Includes breakfast</td>
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Assembly Registration and Meal Costs

- Adult Registration - $45.00 ($40.00, if postmarked on or before March 24)
- Youth Registration (grades 6 to 12) - $20.00
- Children Registration (grade K-5) - $10.00; Children’s Lunch on Saturday $5.00
- Women’s and Men’s Luncheons on Saturday - $10.00
- Youth bring money to buy lunch off-site on Saturday
- All Assembly Dinner - $18 per adult/youth; $10.00 per child (grades K-5)
- Suggested Non-Attending Support Registration - $40.00

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080
REGISTRATIONS AND MEAL RESERVATIONS

SECTION ONE:
REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Attach appropriate forms for non-adults:
Pre-registration postmarked on or before 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

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

- Adults $45.00
- Youth (grades 6-12) $20.00
- Children (grades K-5) $10.00
- Children (pre-K) NO FEE

Suggested Donation for Non-attending Support Registration - $40.00

Total Amount Enclosed for SECTION ONE Registration 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 17. You may register and pay online at www.alnwfdisciples.org. After this deadline, persons will have to register at First Christian Church, Meridian.

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)

By checking here I am indicating that I do NOT give permission for my picture to be taken or used in social media. (If the box is not checked, we will assume that we have your permission to take photographs at the event that may include you or other persons registered on this form.

ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________

(City) (State) (Zip)

PHONE ____________________________ EMAIL ____________________________

(Home) (Cell)

CONGREGATION NAME - INCLUDE CITY
2020 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
YOUTH REGISTRATION
(Chi Rho and CYF)
(Grades Six through Twelve)

Chi Rho and CYF will be planned as follows:

Saturday, April 25  10:30 a.m.  Gathering at First Christian Church
Activities (including Lunch) may be off site (transportation provided)
(Nisha Warbington will be leading the youth - 205-454-2054)

(Youth are to bring money for lunch.)

3:30 p.m.  Youth will return to First Christian Church

Youth are encouraged to participate in all worship services of the Regional Assembly.

YOUTH REGISTRATION

Return the following registration form before April 10 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 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 insurance (secondary) on the youth.]

Signature of parent/guardian  Cell Phone  Date

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRATION and MEALS REGISTRATION FORM.
2020 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
OLDER CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES
(KINDEROARTEN THROUGH GRADE FIVE)

Children’s activities on Saturday during the Regional Assembly will be under the leadership of _______ (cell #). The children will gather in a designated area at 9:00 a.m. at First Christian Church for the children’s activities, including lunch. Parents may pick up their children at any time during the day (but not later than 3:30 p.m.) at First Christian Church. Children are welcome to attend Assembly worship services with their parents.

1. Lunch will be provided for children on Saturday. Note that there is a $5/child cost for this meal.
2. Parents will be expected to supervise their children during the All-Assembly Dinner on Saturday. Note that the cost for children (grades K-5) is $10/child for the All-Assembly Dinner.

Return this registration form before April 10 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 below if your child will be in children’s activities.

Saturday, April 25  _______ 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.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 _______

_________________________________ 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 (secondary) on the children.]

Signature of parent/guardian ___________________________________ Cell Phone _______ Date _______

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRATION and MEALS REGISTRATION FORM.
2020 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
NURSERY AND YOUNGER CHILD CARE
(INFANT THROUGH PRE-KINDERGARTEN)

Special arrangements have been made for child care during the 2020 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 3:30 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 3:30 p.m.
3. There is no registration cost for children (pre-kindergarten and younger), but forms are required.

Return this registration form before April 10 to:
Christian Church In Alabama-Northwest Florida
861 Highway 52
Helena, Alabama 35080

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NURSERY AND YOUNGER CHILD CARE REGISTRATION
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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 24  - 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. __________________________
Saturday, April 25 - 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. __________________________
Sunday, April 26  - 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 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 ________

_________________________________ 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 (secondary) on the children.]

_________________________________ Signature of parent/guardian

_________________________________ Cell Phone

_________________________________ Date

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRATION and MEALS REGISTRATION FORM.
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY APRIL 24 – 26, 2020
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH – 1301 23rd Avenue, Meridian, Mississippi 39301

Exit 153 South (Hwy. 145) to hotels
Exit 153 North (Hwy. 493/22nd Ave. N.)
to First Christian Church

1 – First Christian Church 1301 23rd Ave.
2 – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church 1116 23rd Ave.
3 – First Presbyterian Church 903 23rd Ave.
4 – Miss. Arts + Entertainment 2155 Front St.
5 – La Quinta Inn & Suites 1400 Roebuck Dr.
6 – Holiday Inn Express & Suites 1399 Roebuck Dr.
7 – Hampton Inn 103 Hwy. 11
8 – Northeast Conference Center 111 US-11
9 – Bonita Lakes Park 418 Lake Drive

NOTE: 23rd Avenue is one-way going north from Front Street to 14th Street; 22nd Avenue is one-way going south from 14th St. to Front Street.
SEE BACK for directions from hotels and Northeast Conference Center to First Christian Church and to meal sites.
DIRECTIONS TO FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

From Hampton Inn or Northeast Conference Center: Turn right from parking lot and proceed to first light, which is Hwy. 19 S./39 North. Turn right and proceed northwest, getting into the center left lane before the next light. Turn left onto 14th Street, staying in the far right lane. Bear right at the “Y” intersection at 14th Street and Nell Grissom/8th Avenue. Continue onto 14th Street. After you pass Rush Hospital (on your left), get into your left lane. One block after the 4-way stop at Anderson’s Hospital Parking, turn left at 23rd Avenue. First Christian Church will be on the right. Look for signs directing you to parking and registration.

From Holiday Inn Express or La Quinta Inn: Turn north onto Hwy 145/22nd Avenue and proceed under I-59/20 up 22nd Avenue through downtown all the way to 14th Street. (The street is one-way northbound from Front Street to 14th Street, which ends at a 4-way stop in front of Anderson’s Hospital Parking.) Turn left, go one block, and turn left again at 23rd Avenue. First Christian Church will be on the right. Look for signs directing you to parking and registration.

DIRECTIONS TO NORTHEAST CONFERENCE CENTER

From First Christian Church to Northeast Conference Center: Drive from parking area to 14th Street (going east on 12th or 13th Streets to 22nd Avenue, then going north 1-2 blocks OR going west on 12th or 13th Streets to 24th Avenue, then going north 1-2 blocks. Go east on 14th Street past hospitals and continue east at five-way intersection at light at Acme Plaza. Get into the right lane, and turn right at the next light onto Hwy 39/19 going south toward I-20. At the first light, turn left just past the Shell gas station, and follow Hwy. 11-80 past Hampton Inn and Hilton Garden Inn on the left. The next property is the Northeast Conference Center, also on the left.

From Holiday Inn Express or La Quinta Inn: Proceed onto I-20 East to the next exit (154B). At the end of the exit, which curves under I-20, turn right at the first light onto Hwy. 11-80. Drive past Hampton Inn and Hilton Garden Inn on the left. The next property is the Northeast Conference Center, also on the left.

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S LUNCHEONS – SEE INSET ON LOWER RIGHT PORTION OF MAP.

From First Christian Church: Both churches are located just south of FCC along 23rd Avenue. Some may wish to walk; however you may take your car, with parking available nearby. The women’s luncheon is at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (1116 23rd Ave.), just one block south. The men’s luncheon is at First Presbyterian Church (903 23rd Ave.), three blocks south.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

4 The Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Museum: From FCC, drive south on 23rd Avenue to Front Street and turn left. The museum is on the southeast corner of 22nd Avenue and Front. Parking is available on the east side of the building or on the street. FCC will provide additional information at the Assembly.

9 Bonita Lakes Park and nearby attractions: Just off Exit 154 to the south (Exit 154A off eastbound I-20 diverts onto the South Frontage Road past shopping area and restaurants), lies the park with children’s play area, walking trail around the lake, or hiking/biking trails in the woods. Bonita Lakes Mall and Meridian Crossroads offer many opportunities for shopping and dining.
Repurpose Worship Space, Don’t Rebuild

Having to deal with poorly designed or ill-suited worship space can be demoralizing. However, constructing a new building can be costly. In 2010, new building costs ran approximately $100 per square foot, but since then inflation has brought the cost range closer to between $120 and $150 per square foot for the church building itself, not to mention the cost of developing the site, including parking lots, sidewalks, utilities, and landscaping.\(^1\) Often, worship space can be repurposed at substantially less cost than building a new structure. What options are available?

Decorate

Worship space can be temporarily altered without renovating through the use of visual installations such as colorful fabrics and banners or other symbolic objects. Purchase banners predesigned from any number of stores, or make them using templates from books.\(^2\) Ideally, these decorations can be used to illustrate the message of the week, the season of the church year, or double as a place where the congregation can foster faith formation and community.

For designs that are more easily changed out each week, banners or ribbons cascading from poles can be carried into, out of, or around the space in procession. For instance, a set of eight to twelve poles made of PVC and draped with fabric can be marched around a space, offering movement and energy during a hymn or another aspect of worship.

For long-term installation such as for liturgical seasons, churches can hang fabrics against the side walls and front. Using adjustable T-shaped poles draped with fabric or ribbons and placed in stands in a row behind the last row of seating creates a “false back” and provides an intimate atmosphere. Additionally, a drop-line system with eye-hooks and fishing line can be installed from one side of the sanctuary to the other and hung with fabric to fill the air space above people’s heads.\(^3\)

Decorations can also serve a purpose beyond just being visually appealing. Stations can be located around the room where people interact with the display. Some ideas include lighting a candle of hope, planting a seed, writing a prayer to insert in a prayer wall, or contemplating a babbling fountain.

Renovate

Renovating the sanctuary represents a next step in repurposing the worship space. While more permanent than decorating, it is still much less expensive than constructing a new building. At least two design options suggest themselves—contemporary or classic.

Contemporary designs have certain qualities unique to them that arose out of the architectural choices church leaders made in the 1980s and 1990s who sought to make the worship band and digital technology more central to worship. The first thing a worshipper might notice on entering such a space is the worship band, not the preacher, front and center on the stage. A pulpit is nowhere to be found, so the...
preacher’s body is emphasized during sermon delivery, which is unassisted by anything but a small table for Bible and notes, and also perhaps IMAG (image magnification), which projects the preacher’s facial expression and body movement on the big screen. Indeed, electronic technology itself takes center stage as sound system, projector, and theatrical lighting offer the worshipper a multi-sensory experience of music, videos, and still photos. The baptismal font and altar table are noticeably absent, to be brought out temporarily when the occasion calls for it. At the rear or to the side of the sanctuary, the worshipper might notice a production booth with technicians in headphones making the technical aspects of the operation run smoothly. Any or all of these elements may be introduced when renovating the sanctuary, leaving other aspects of the sanctuary intact.

Contemporary Design Case Study: A Tall Steeple Church Goes Digital. In 2008, Christ Church in Troy, New York, faced a daunting challenge: how to modify a large, ornate sanctuary for the digital age. Built in 1871, the sanctuary seats 650 on the floor and 250 in the balcony. Using his Ph.D. dissertation as a basis, the Reverend James Fenimore recommended placing two large television screens in the front of the sanctuary and attached two more to the ceiling created by the balcony ceiling at rear of the sanctuary. A production booth was located out of sight in the balcony. Nothing about the sanctuary’s front—long wooden kneeling rail, center pulpit up high, and ornate woodwork behind it—was modified. Fenimore and church leaders wanted to introduce digital technology without diminishing the beauty of the ornately designed interior.

Classic designs are centered around word and sacrament rather than the performance of the worship band. Richard Giles, an Anglican priest who has written about worship design, notes that many older sanctuaries were designed when crowds were larger and worshippers were not expected to actively participate. However, too many pews and other furniture can make a space feel crowded and heighten a sense of isolation among worshippers. Decluttering can create more space for participation, conversation, and movement. Increasing the amount of floor area without furniture has a “restful effect which recalls us to tranquility of spirit in a frantic world.” More importantly, less furniture allows the space to be designed around the community of worshippers first and foremost. In some cases, this might require reducing the number of pews and widening the space between them, arranging them in a herringbone or rectangular shape before the pulpit or altar, or replacing them with stackable chairs.

Classic Design Case Study: A Tiny Church Removes the Pews. At the Church of the Epiphany in Newport, New Hampshire, parishioners removed the pews and stored them in a nearby barn. Next the wall-to-wall carpeting came out, the hemlock floors were refinised, and thirty lightweight, stackable chairs were bought and arranged in two semi-circles around the pulpit and a simple altar table. The inspiration came from the parish priest, the Reverend Jay MacLeod, who before coming to Newport served for twenty years in the United Kingdom, where he got to know Richard Giles. “The feel of worshipping in a circle makes it easy to worship here,” a parishioner said. “It feels joyful and inclusive. People feel welcome to contribute,” especially those who are not used to being in a church.

What Are Your Options?
Redesigning a worship space need not be expensive. Banners, fabrics, and other objects can be used to decorate the sanctuary and alter its character. Furnishings can be moved or removed. Digital technology, sound equipment, and screens can be installed. All of these can be done without the expense of new construction. For some churches, the best option may be to erect a new building or buy an existing structure and adapt it as worship space, but why not try repurposing first?

GET TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY THROUGH MAPPING

When Pastor Alexis was hired to do community outreach in a racially diverse, economically struggling neighborhood, church members told him, “This is a high crime neighborhood.” Yet he was skeptical. What if news reports placed undue importance on crimes and how much did church members’ personal experience with the community or crime generally color their perceptions? Checking city government maps of crime rates, he discovered crime to be no worse than in the surrounding areas.¹

Mapping Clarifies the Picture

Mapping can clarify the picture of a church’s neighborhood by filling out incomplete information or overturning misconceptions. It provides information visually on a geographic background and can be high tech or low. High-tech mapping combines the use of the global positioning system (GPS) with digital mapping software, which has replaced physical maps for many uses. Low-tech maps can be drawn with pencil and paper based on information provided by good, old-fashioned conversation.

Basic Mapping

Draw a basic map of the neighborhood before deciding how and where to reach out. Start by defining your community’s physical boundaries, including major streets, highways, railroad tracks, hills, and rivers. Next, look for anchor institutions—such as schools, hospitals, prisons, and military or recreational facilities—that are sources of power and decision making in the community and provide stability in moments of crisis. Finally, include gathering places, such as churches, parks, schools, service clubs, restaurants, taverns, and street corners.

The community’s people constitute a significant part of this analysis. To help you in this process, identify and gather a group to tell stories about the community. Include visual observations of the community by taking a quick drive or walk through the neighborhood, deliberately looking for the “invisible” people who are marginalized and powerless. Finally, consider intangible forces, such as laws, cultural values, employment patterns, and job security.²

Conversational Mapping

Low-tech mapping can be informal and conversational. Paul Lichterman observed how a group of church volunteers used an informal mapping process to get to know the low-income neighborhood they served. The Park Cluster commuted monthly from their tree-lined suburban neighborhoods to the Park neighborhood, a multi-ethnic, low-income community. As they became more curious about neighborhood institutions, they began an informal process that the researcher labelled “social mapping.” Interviewees shared their stories: Ned talked about all the different thrift shops and Mary knew all about the local schools and could tell the group which ones had congregations and synagogues nearby that might be approached in the future to sponsor tutoring programs. Through their conversations, they carried around in their heads a shared mental map of the neighborhood, its resources, and its problems.³
Digital Mapping

The recent emergence of wiki-platforms such as OpenStreetMap (OSM; OpenStreetMap.org) offers a place where interested persons can contribute to a single map, from assets such as grocery stores, banks, and thrift shops to hazards such as unsheveled sidewalks, reported crime incidents, and potholes. For church leaders willing to engage the newer forms of technology, wiki-platforms offer churches a powerful community planning tool.¹

Computer maps such as Google Maps are called geographic information systems² and wiki-platforms such as OSM represent an open source version of Google Maps and are free for anyone to use or modify. Users can create overlays to the basemap provided by OSM, plugging in information they find useful for themselves. OSM applies the concept of crowdsourcing to mapmaking, operating in a manner comparable to Wikipedia, an encyclopedia whose contributors write and edit articles, subject to the review of other contributors who are part of the community. Church leaders could use online maps in at least two ways: for crisis response and for the mapping of communities too poorly resourced to have their own self-designed maps.

- **Crisis Response.** Mapping proved invaluable to aid workers in crisis response after the 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti. Given Haiti's poverty, humanitarian aid workers found themselves hampered by only knowing where the major roads were. Here "citizen geographers" from around the world proved invaluable, developing a base map for humanitarian aid workers in the field.

- **Community Assistance.** Churches could work with low-income neighborhoods to develop collaborative maps to benefit residents. For example, commercial map makers have shown little interest in mapping the Kibera community of Nairobi, Kenya, a massive and impoverished section of the city, despite the fact that it is home to hundreds of thousands of people. Users of OSM created Map Kibera, which now serves as a comprehensive guide to data that matters for residents, such as water points, toilets, clinics, schools, pharmacies, places of worship, and non-governmental organization offices.³

**Collaborative Mapping**

If collaborative mapping could work for Kibera, it could make a difference for the resource-starved communities that many US churches serve. Such communities often lack features that middle- and upper-middle-class neighborhoods take for granted, including high-quality schools; jobs that pay a living wage; banks that offer reasonably priced, non-predatory loans; and supermarkets with adequate selections of fresh foods.

In order to improve the situation, churches could collaborate with local resident groups to create a map with features such as food banks, thrift shops, transportation points, and grocery stores offering fresh produce. Such data could not only help service providers but also public policy advocates seeking to bring change.

**Sponsor a Mapping Party**

Church leaders hoping to raise awareness of collaborative work might consider sponsoring a mapping party. Use the event to train volunteers in developing digital maps. Volunteers could learn how to download aerial photos and alter them using web browser–based editing software. Volunteers who prefer to explore the neighborhood themselves could go out for a walk, a bike ride, or drive around the community using GPS units to mark their location and notepads to write down the information, coming back later to record the data on a computer.

Collaborative mapping requires teamwork but not high-end technology. However, those with a technical bent can use wiki-platforms such as OSM to create a specialized, self-generated community map. Whether high-tech or not, mapping provides a way for community members to develop a sense of place through visually representing different aspects of the community in relation to its geography. When undertaken with others, mapping provides one more basis for building community.

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