

171ST Regional Assembly

The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina

APRIL 27, 2019
BARTON COLLEGE - WILSON, NC



Regional Updates

Special Edition



Pastoral Reflections

It is my joy to greet you in the Resurrection joy of Jesus Christ! Please accept my gratitude for your prayers and support of the 171st Regional Assembly held at Barton College on April 27th. This special edition of the newsletter will share some of the content of the day, but can in no way share it all. Photos are available via our facebook pages:

Christian Church in North Carolina
<https://www.facebook.com/CCinNC/>
North Carolina Disciples Women
<https://www.facebook.com/NCDWM>

Pastoral Reflections Regional Minister Melvin

(Some of the items in this message are elaborated upon in the Business Session.
 See minutes on p.13. This message can also be viewed on the CCNC facebook page)

When you assume to role of Regional Minister, there is an urgency to fix everything now. There is a demand from among the people to be everything to everyone! But the real role of a Regional Minister is to serve as a pastoral presence among the movement called Disciples and make recommendations for and with others to promote the will of God for the covenant fellowship of churches. So, right to the heart of the matter let's answer one question. What is God's will for these churches, who came together in covenant more than 171 years ago to form a fellowship? I submit to you that it is for us to return to the basics of spiritual development and covenant relationship.

For ten months that I have traveled this region, and in that time, I have found one adage runs true, "people really don't care how much you know until know how much you care." So we began our work in June 2018 with three priorities:

First, we need to rebuild a trust-based relationship between the region and local congregations through continued transparency and sustainable communication. As a fellowship of diverse churches, the region depends upon its staff to provide programming information and resources. The Regional staff has been more intentional in resetting our priorities by providing regular administrative and financial updates through your newsletters and increased learning opportunities for adapting to current trends in ministry. Through frequent staff meetings, self-care and morale building, we are growing stronger. Our Personnel Committee has been re-engaged, creating new energy among the employees of the region, as we feel supported and cared for.

I have been most impressed recently by the work of our youth. Luke and Casey led a "We Are Resilient Youth Gathering" at New Generation CC in Smithfield with 77 in attendance. This moment was created for a personal moment with our ethnic churches to strengthen relationships. RCYW (Regional Youth Working for Christ) became brave risktakers by allowing Rev. Jason Williams, Co-Chair of Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciling Commission to come and unpack racism and prejudice definitions with them. Knowing that you must be careful how you share any information with youth, it was invigorating that they did not walk away from the table disillusioned, but open to the work ahead, and committed as youth leaders to do more towards the inclusion of diversity.

Second, we will work together to build the base of gifts, talents and skills. In addition to Camp Caroline needing volunteers, our committees and commissions need volunteers as well. The expertise of a financial mind, the gifted teacher who has a pulse on the emerging topics of our times, the eye for detail of an event planner, a local church member whose love for kids has made a difference, the marketing genius of a tech-

nological expert with a background in migration and demographics are just a few of the gifts we need to flourish. The list goes on, and our region is replete with such gifts and talents. One main disparity towards building this relationship has been not knowing where our gifts and talents are located within the region. It seems apparent to me that the gifts and skills of local church members can also edify the region. But as I work with congregational leaders, I have experienced these gifts for ministry and began to build a new network of team members, offering them opportunities to serve in strategic ways. This is one of our most powerful objectives toward meeting the goal of embracing the unique gift of each congregation.

You will begin to notice that our commissions and committees have new members, not a recycling of the same people over and over. We ask that you reach out to Horace Williams, our Nominations Chairperson to share the gifts and skills of your church to help fill or commissions/committees with new ideas for our strong future. To accommodate this new focus, our Regional Board has been challenged to become a 'working board' and not just a board in name only.

Third, we will engage in Regional transformation. We began our work as your Regional leader with 30-days of prayer to seek God's face about what we will be transformed into. We called this a prayer-driven and spirit-led process where the form and function of the regional staff, our districts, and the Design of the Christian Church in NC will undergo a process, helping us to evolve into our best self. With a realistic view of the life cycle of ministry, we will celebrate successful regional efforts, release practices that have become obsolete, strengthen what needs to remain, and implement the necessary change for impactful ministry throughout the region. Some of the necessary changes could include implementing Regional Elders, a close look at district structure, devising new strategies for camp and conference, and realigning the timeframe of our Regional Assembly.

I am inviting each of you to join me after this Assembly, June 1-30, 2019 for 30-days of prayer for each congregation of our Regional church. During my visits to local congregations, a few times I was grieved to hear, *we don't study the Bible here*. So allow me to invite you Back to the Basics of Scripture. Scripture is our foundation and without it, we have moved from our core. This is where our transformation begins.

Some Additional Details:

- ◆ The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina holds an agreement with Fox Rothschild Attorneys At Law, Greensboro, NC, as our legal representation in all matters. This firm was highly recommended to us by The Honorable Judge Sid Eagles of Hillyer Memorial CC. To date, the firm has provided the Design Committee with a red line version of the document to assist them in their work.
- ◆ This region consists of more than 150 congregations, and a beautiful property called Camp Caroline. **The Region and Camp Caroline are one.** They are not two separate entities and when you support your region, you are supporting Camp Caroline. 75% of the checks I sign each month cover the costs to run Camp Caroline. While some funds are designated funds to help with special projects, much of it comes from the operational budget. Your Regional staff understands why we are here, to serve local congregations and to care for the Camp Caroline.
- ◆ The Region of NC and Barton College: For more than a year, I have been in conversations with Dr Searcy, our president here at Barton and we have focused on returning to a strong relationship between church and institution. Our next phase is to see how to put the results of our conversation into place.
 1. **Student Internships** to assist in our Regional office with reception, clerical duties, and technology as needed and appropriate. When I attended Atlantic Christian College, whether a student was from a Disciples congregation or not, they were familiar with the Disciples of Christ. We want to bring that back one student at a time.
 2. With **training** being a main request during the district listening sessions, we are discussing the possibility of CEUs being made available to us through Barton for classes and workshops offered to clergy and laity during our regional events.
 3. Adjusting our Regional Assembly date to accommodate the Barton Board of Trustees meeting,

so that Dr. Searcy can attend the Assembly. Your Regional Minister has agreed to come and sit with the Barton Trustees to see just how we might build a stronger relationship.

- ◆ Your Regional Minister has been inducted into the Trustee Board of the Historical Society. This will serve us well as our new Historical Task Force works on updating our Regional history.
- ◆ **The Disciplina Committee** (Rev. Dr. Jerry Burton, Chair)- a committee that has worked in relationship with Baron College and the Historical Society to preserve the history of our region and congregations has reengaged and is now serving as a Historical Task Force for NC. Years ago, Tim Browning was preparing an updated version of our history, to move us from the recordings of C. C. Ware to the present, but his untimely death brought things to a standstill. Rev. Dr. Jerry Burton, Rev. David Cox, Rev. J. O Williams, Rev. Dr. Ken Watson, Rev. Jim Bussell, and Rev. Doug Stokes agreed to have conversation about what we need to do to update our history. This Task Force will work over the next year or so to produce a *fuller* history of our Region; one that includes our rich diversity. And they will need the help of all of our congregations. Whoever the historians in your congregation may be, this Task Force needs their information. See the ad on p10. We cannot know where we are going, until we first understand where we have been, what brought us to and through each experience. Then we can make new and informed history.
- ◆ In January, I was approached by a group of caring Disciples who asked to meet with me to determine how they can support my role and to seek from me how they could be a resource where needed in the region as a whole. The group is called: The Disciples AllianceQ Open & Affirming Team in North Carolina. Team Members are:

Rev. Chris Furr, Covenant Christian Church in Cary

Rev. Melissa Guthrie Loy, First Christian Church in Greensboro

Rev. Lee Parker, Timothy Christian Church, Ayden

Rev. Lindy Keenan Wood, Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Durham

Rev. Anthony Westbrook, Winterville Christian Church in Winterville

They have come together because the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a welcoming church. Diversity is respected here. Theological beliefs, Biblical understandings, and ministry practices are not relegated to it must be done one way! The table of the Lord is the great equalizer. All are welcome to the table. And all means All! So, before your hair catches on fire, remember the testimony I shared with you in April 2017. When I came to serve this region, it was your love and support of me, a brown girl from a different culture, with a different world view and you supported and loved me. You were the ones who taught me to stop judging people. As your Regional Minister, I am still seeking God's wisdom about how to approach issues such as sexual orientation, but what I will not do is issue judgment upon another person based on my interpretation of Scripture.

And so, I am grateful that this group has formed to offer support to any person or congregation that wishes to acquire educational awareness around sexuality. This group's work will not be to change anyone's mind, press anyone into anything, but this group will be a resource of information and a safe place for those who need to talk about LGBTQ issues. If you wish to gain greater understanding, share your insights or just hear their heart about why they are serving in this capacity, you are welcome to see those who have been named.

Thank you for hearing my heart!

Bishop Valerie Melvin

Regional Minister

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC

*Celebrating
Our
Stewardship*

Congratulations to FCC, Wilson (Rev. Gary Walling), FCC, Williamston (Rev. Karen Kelly), Covenant CC, Cary (Rev. Chris Furr), and Hillyer Memorial CC, Raleigh (Rev. Troy Tatum) for being our lead stewards in DMF giving for 2018!



Submitting Disciples Mission Fund and All Other Giving

*Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the first fruits of all your crops. **Proverbs 3:9***

- All DMF, Blessing Box, Special Offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Christmas), Reconciliation, and Week of Compassion monies should be remitted to the Office of the General Minister & President in Indianapolis. You have the option to send it online or make checks payable to Disciples Mission Fund and mail along with a remittance form to: **OGMP-Treasury Services, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**
- Your gifts to the Christian Church in North Carolina, including Camp Caroline, should be mailed to the regional office with the CCNC Remittance Form with checks made payable to: **Christian Church in North Carolina (CCNC), PO Box 1568, Wilson, NC 27894.**
- Gifts to Barton College, Lexington Theological Seminary, Christmount, Church World Service (blanket & tools), district dues, etc., should be mailed directly to them. Their address is on the CCNC Remittance Form.

Both of the remittance forms can be found on our website:

ncdisciples.org > [About Us](#) > [DMF Remittance Form](#) > [CCNC Remittance Form](#)



A Note from your Treasurer:

I serve as your regional treasurer because I believe that the ministry of our NC Region strengthens and enhances the ministries of our congregations and of our General church. I thank God that so many of you support our Region by giving so generously of your time and talents as well as your money. We are blessed!

In this newsletter, you will find the Treasurer's reports presented at the Regional Assembly. On the face of these reports, the numbers do not look encouraging, as these reports show that we experienced an operating deficit in 2018 and continue to do so in 2019. ***But if we were to unpack those numbers, you could see what your Executive Committee and board can see: for the month of December, 2018, the operating fund received \$38K more in income than expenses. That is, we turned "in the right direction" as of the end of 2018, and we have good reason to believe this will continue.***

Additionally, while we have an operating deficit for the first quarter of 2019, this is expected. Camp Caroline has a large insurance bill which comes due in this quarter, when camp income is typically down. With warmer weather, and the summer camp season soon upon us, we have every reason to look forward to eliminating the operating deficit and meeting budget for 2019.

We can not "rest on our laurels". A Financial Advisory Committee has been established. This is a special group of persons with expertise in the area of business, finance, accounting, and fund raising. Your treasurer, Chairperson of Finance, and Regional Minister will meet quarterly with this committee to tap into their knowledge. We are also meeting with a professional funds developer to develop a comprehensive stewardship and financial plan for the next several years. We are learning about better ways to communicate with you, if you haven't already seen Rev. Melvin on "Facebook Live", take a look!

If you have questions or want more information, please feel free to contact me. You can reach me by email at ekathys@gmail.com or call 919-896-1831.

Yours In Christ,
Kathy Smith



CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN NC
BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2018

ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash or Equivalents	757,186		
Investments	87,832		
Receivables and Prepaid Expenses	15,000		
Sales Tax Refundable	25,458		
	<u> </u>		
CURRENT ASSETS		885,476	
FIXED ASSETS			
Land and Buildings	2,642,090		
Other Property & Equipment	380,107		
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(811,896)		
	<u> </u>		
FIXED ASSETS		2,210,301	
OTHER ASSETS			
Long Term Assets	45,000		
Permanent Fund Investments	122,927		
	<u> </u>		
OTHER ASSETS		167,927	
TOTAL ASSETS			<u> </u> <u> </u> 3,263,704
LIABILITIES AND FUNDS			
NONE			
LIABILITIES			
UNDESIGNATED, Available			
		(7,191)	
BOARD DESIGNATED			
		157,485	
INVESTMENT IN FIXED ASSETS			
		2,210,300	
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED			
Agency Accounts	2,301		
Camp Caroline Funds	498,669		
CWF Funds	23,845		
Reconciliation Funds	44,683		
Youth program/camp scholarships Funds	37,258		
Other Funds	191,463		
	<u> </u>		
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED		798,219	
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED			
		104,891	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS			<u> </u> <u> </u> 3,263,704

Submitted by Kathy Smith, ekathys@gmail.com or 919-896-1831

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN NORTH CAROLINA
 OPERATING FUND REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

INCOME			
GENERAL AND PROGRAM FUNDS			
Church Receipts	222,431		
Program Receipts	<u>38,445</u>		
TOTAL INCOME			260,876
EXPENDITURES			
GENERAL FUND			
Salaries	131,307		
Benefits	39,096		
Travel & Professional Expenses	18,720		
Office Expenses	<u>41,954</u>		
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES		231,077	
PROGRAM FUND			
Board, Committees, Commissions	42,878		
Other Program Funds	<u>3,773</u>		
PROGRAM FUND EXPENDITURES		<u>46,651</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			<u>277,728</u>
NET OVER/UNDER			(16,852)
INCOME			
CAMP CAROLINE OPERATIONAL			
Camp Fees	92,427		
Usage Fees	81,713		
Miscellaneous	66,832		
Retreats	<u>982</u>		
CAMP CAROLINE OPERATIONAL		241,954	
CHRISTMOUNT OPERATIONAL			
Camp Fees	<u>14,222</u>		
CHRISTMOUNT OPERATIONAL		<u>14,222</u>	
TOTAL INCOME			256,176
EXPENDITURES			
CAMP CAROLINE OPERATIONAL			
Maintenance	85,131		
Supplies	53,912		
Utilities	61,320		
Salaries	76,884		
Benefits	<u>22,733</u>		
CAMP CAROLINE OPERATIONAL		299,980	
CAMP CAROLINE PROGRAM-SPECIAL MINISTRIES			
Counselor Expenses	1,662		
Camper Allowance	<u>977</u>		
CAMP CAROLINE PROGRAM-SPECIAL MINISTRIES		2,639	
CHRISTMOUNT OPERATIONAL			
Camp Program Rental	<u>13,863</u>		
CHRISTMOUNT OPERATIONAL		<u>13,863</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			<u>316,482</u>
NET OVER/UNDER			(60,306)
OPERATING DEFICIT BEFORE TRANSFERS			(77,158)
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS USED			18,982
Development FUNDS USED			13,000
NET OPERATING DEFICIT FOR 2018			<u>(45,176)</u>

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN NORTH CAROLINA
OPERATING FUND REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES
QUARTER ENDED MARCH 31, 2019

INCOME			
	GENERAL AND PROGRAM FUNDS		
	Church Receipts	56,381	
	Program Receipts	<u>5,211</u>	
TOTAL INCOME			61,592
EXPENDITURES			
	GENERAL FUND		
	Salaries	30,345	
	Benefits	11,746	
	Travel & Professional Expenses	5,278	
	Office Expenses	<u>15,472</u>	
	GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES		62,841
	PROGRAM FUND		
	Board, Committees, Commissions	326	
	Other Program Funds	<u>100</u>	
	PROGRAM FUND EXPENDITURES		<u>426</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			<u>63,267</u>
NET OVER/UNDER			(1,675)
INCOME			
	CAMP CAROLINE OPERATIONAL		
	Camp Fees	10,310	
	Usage Fees	11,044	
	Miscellaneous	15,661	
	Retreats	<u>0</u>	
	CAMP CAROLINE OPERATIONAL		37,015
	CHRISTMOUNT OPERATIONAL		
	Camp Fees	<u>395</u>	
	CHRISTMOUNT OPERATIONAL		<u>395</u>
TOTAL INCOME			37,410
EXPENDITURES			
	CAMP CAROLINE OPERATIONAL		
	Maintenance	27,829	
	Supplies	4,670	
	Utilities	14,675	
	Salaries	18,241	
	Benefits	<u>5,285</u>	
	CAMP CAROLINE OPERATIONAL		70,700
	CHRISTMOUNT OPERATIONAL		
	Camp Program Rental	<u>13</u>	
	CHRISTMOUNT OPERATIONAL		<u>13</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			<u>70,713</u>
NET OVER/UNDER			<u>(33,303)</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT BEFORE TRANSFERS			<u>(34,978)</u>

Noted Any Changes in the Last 92 Years?

Charles Crossfield Ware (1886-1974) was serving as our Executive Secretary (today's Regional Minister) when he published *North Carolina Disciples of Christ: A History of Their Rise and Progress, and of Their Contribution to Their General Brotherhood* in 1927. Thanks to the dedicated labors of this avid historian we have a record of the first 82 years of Disciples' history in North Carolina. Now, 92 years later, we've begun the task of updating our Region's history.

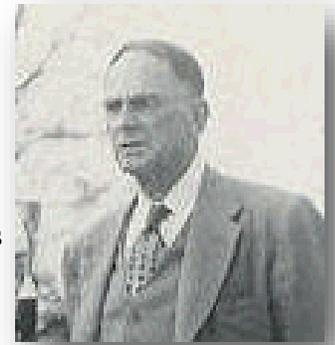
To begin the process, in March Regional Minister Bishop Valerie Melvin assembled a group of ministers, who share a long history of service to the Region and a passion for the Region's history, to form a Regional History Task Group. The working group (pictured below) is identifying sources and materials of value to the recording of our past. With Dr. Ware's past labors, that leaves only 92 years of catching up on the Region's history, but more than a century of the histories of the Assemblies.

How can you and your congregation help?

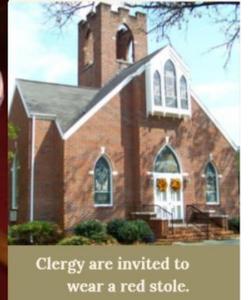
◇ Name a church historian or history committee to update your congregation's history since 1927.



- ◇ Help us identify fellow Disciples with a strong interest in/knowledge of the Region's history.
- ◇ Search attics and trunks for materials that can help us with the task.
- ◇ Urge your district leaders and Assembly leaders to prepare a narrative of their history.
- ◇ For information and/or to recommend Disciples to serve with the task group please contact:
- ◇ The Regional Office by telephone: 252-292-4047 or Jim Bussell by e-mail: jbussell402@yahoo.com



The North Carolina
Region of the Christian
Church
(Disciples of Christ)
and
Southwood Memorial
Christian Church
Invite you to attend the
Ordination Service of:
Andrew Shue
Sunday, May 19th at 3:00 PM
Southwood Memorial
Christian Church
1027 Highway 58S
Kinston, North Carolina
28504



Clergy are invited to wear a red stole.

Pastoral Changes and Celebrations

Middle Fork CC, Winston-Salem, Called Senior Minister

Rev. Anderson Hicks, III

Belhaven CC, Belhaven, Extended Pulpit Supply

Rev. Charlie Green

If you are interested in more information about opportunities for ministry, please contact the Regional Minister. We kindly ask that churches and clergy respect the boundaries and ethical guidelines regarding the Search process.

**The North Carolina Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
& First Christian Church of Greensboro
Invite you to attend the Ordination Service of**



Paul Justice Snyder

Saturday, May 18th at 2:00pm
First Christian Church
1900 West Market St.
Greensboro, North Carolina 27403



*Reception at the church following the service.
Clergy are invited to wear a red stole.*



The Annual Ministers Day Retreat is set for Thursday, May 9th, at Camp Caroline. We will gather beginning at 10:30 am, but you may arrive sooner to look over camp or have "rocking chair" conversation. Camp Caroline will serve lunch. The afternoon is "free retreat time".

Since Camp Caroline is providing lunch, we need a "head count". Please let me know by Monday, May 6, if you are planning to attend by emailing me (Jimmy Elks) to jimmyelks13@gmail.com or by texting or calling at 252-661-0411

This is for ALL ministers, not just those in the Albemarle district.



**Hookerton District
Union Meeting
First Christian Church Greenville
2810 East 14th Street
Greenville, NC 27858
Thursday, May 2, 2019**

Connect and Reconnect with fellow Disciples!

Dinner at 6:15 PM - \$7.00

**BBQ Chicken, Green Beans, Corn, Rolls, Tea
and Homemade Dessert**

Program and Meeting at 7:00 PM

**Please RSVP to our church office by April 30th at
(252)756-3138 or fccadmin@embarqmail.com**

Calendar of Events

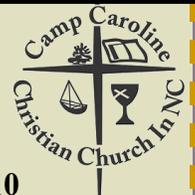
- May 1 9:30am Hookerton District Ministers Mtg.-Yoder’s Dutch Pantry, Grifton
- May 2 6:15pm Hookerton District Mtg. - FCC, Greenville
- May 3-4 PDC Women’s Conference - 3300 Wentworth St., Reidsville, NC
- May 9 10:30am -Minister’s Day Retreat - Camp Caroline
6:00pm Southeastern District DWM D. E.W. (Disciples Enriching Women) - South wood CC, Kinston
- May 18 8:00am National Benevolent Association Disaster Recovery Retreat for Clergy and Lay Leaders - Goldsboro-Raleigh Headquarters, Goldsboro
2:00pm Ordination of Paul Synder - FCC, Greensboro
- May 19 3:00pm Ordination of Andrew Shue - Southwood CC, Kinston
- May 27 Memorial Day-Regional Office Closed**
- May 31-June 2 NC Disciples Men/CMF Retreat - Camp Caroline Retreat
- June 4 10:00am Hookerton District Ministers Mtg. - Hooker Memorial, Greenville
- July 20-24 General Assembly, Des Moines, Iowa
- July 23 6:30pm Albemarle District/CMF - FCC, Washington
- July 25 Hookerton District Mtg. - FCC, Grifton

Luke Miles, our Regional Youth Director, would love to come meet with the youth and families of your church to talk about camp! We have so many great camping ministries, and he wants to share them with your congregations. Please consider inviting him to speak, give a sermon, or come to your youth groups! You can reach him at Luke@ncdisciples.org or 336.202.1354.

Summer camp registration is live! We have 8 amazing opportunities at Camp Caroline and Christmount for youth of all ages from K-12. You can sign up now.

Sponsored by the Christian Church in N.C.

Choose Camps by Grade Completed



Camp Caroline location address: 3398 Janiero Road, Arapahoe, NC 28510

Uno for Grades K-2 *(with one parent)	June 14-16	\$250.00
CYF Conference for Grades 9-12	June 16-21	\$390.00
Sailing, Arts & Spirituality for Grades 4-7	June 23-28	\$390.00
Created to Be Me for Grade 8	July 14-20	\$465.00
Delta Camp for Grades 6-7	July 21-26	\$390.00
Alpha Camp for Grades 1-2	July 28-August 2	\$390.00
Beta Camp for Grades 3-5	July 28-August 2	\$390.00

Christmount location address: 222 Fern Way Dr., Black Mountain, NC 28711

Jr. Camp for Grades 3-5	June 17-22	\$395.00
Jr. Hi. Camp for Grades 6-7	June 17-22	\$395.00
CYF Conference for Grades 9-12	June 24-29	\$395.00

If you have any questions, please call or email Luke Miles (336.202.1354, Luke@ncdisciples.org).

Security Grants Available to Protect Places of Worship

By: Rev. Dr. Laura Johnson

In 2018, I completed the FBI Citizens Academy in Raleigh and am now a member of the FBI Charlotte Citizens Academy Alumni Association. Through this connection, I recently learned about a security grant that churches can apply to receive. Here's the info that I have permission to share:

The DHS Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives has created a Security Grant for the protection of places of worship and community services.

This is the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Fiscal Year 2019 Nonprofit Security Grant Program release. FY 2019 NSGP will provide \$60 million to support security related investments and activities for faith based and nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack.

Three tips for nonprofit organizations interested in applying for FY 2019 NSGP:

1. Eligible faith based and nonprofit organizations must apply for FY 2019 NSGP through their State Administrative Agency (SAA). Contact your SAA to obtain information on the application deadline and any SAA specific requirements at: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/28689?id=6363>.
2. Review the FY 2019 NSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity and all related documents available at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/178521>
3. Review the Frequently Asked Questions for Nonprofit Organizations document also available at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/178521>

Then, if you need more information, please contact fema-gpd-pdsb@fema.dhs.gov.

In addition to the announcement above, I would like to remind pastors and congregations that the practice of religion is federally protected from use of force/threat of force by Title 18§245, 18§249(a)(1), and 18§249(a)(2). The First Amendment (free speech) does *not* protect individuals/organizations from communicating hateful threats or acting willfully to intimidate or interfere with individuals and groups because of race, color, religion, or national origin. Please report true threats to affecting your person or church or maliciously damaged church property to the local police of FBI as these targeted activities (to a religious place of public accommodation) are considered federal hate crimes.

Prayers for your church to be safe and thriving.





**MINUTES of the 171st Regional Assembly of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina
April 27, 2019
Barton College, Wilson, NC**

Seating of Delegates

Rev. Walling asked that three congregations be seated who had registered late. Motion seconded, and approved. These congregations are Ayden CC; Body of Christ CC, High Point CC; and Eureka CC, Mt. Olive.

Call to Order

The moderator called the meeting to order at 11:24 a.m. and thanked the Committee on Regional Assembly and Barton College as host.

The Parliamentarian was changed to Rev. Dr. Skipper McLawhorn in Rev. Dr. Cayton's absence. The Moderator asked that the Moderator-Elect will be the back up to the Moderator if needed during this business session.

Rev. Barber made a motion to thank Bishop Valerie Melvin for her work in the region. Approved.

Moderator's report: Items on her agenda for her tenure include: working on revisions to the Design of the CCNN; reviewing district alignment; reviewing churches listed in the Annual Yearbook as NC DoC churches. The Moderator mentioned that Bishop Melvin has been and is working on our search and call process.

Financial Report: By Rev. Kathy Smith, Treasurer

The Region has struggled with operating deficits since about 2005 and in response has made significant efforts toward cost-cutting. Overall, the Region is heading in the right direction but more income is still needed.

Reports submitted were: Balance Sheet December 31, 2018; Operating Fund Report of Income and Expenditures Year Ended December 31, 2018; and Operating Fund Report of Income and Expenditures-Quarter Ended March 31, 2019 (attached).

Smith urged members of the Region to contact her anytime with questions on the Region's finances. Net operating deficit for general operating expenditures for 2018 was \$16,852. The net operating deficit for Camp Caroline for 2018 was \$60,306.

The last half of 2018 showed an improvement in lowering the deficit, and we need to continue to support our Region.

The First Quarter report for 2019 shows a negative \$34,978. Some factors include:

The decision not to give a discount for early camp registration has caused people to not register/pay early.

Historically low the 1st quarter because income for camp is lower then.

Usage fees have increased.

Camp Caroline insurance payment.

The Executive Committee has made some changes to assist in financial oversight, including a monthly review of financial reports, and the establishment of a financial advisory committee to meet with Treasurer and provide recommendations. This committee will be volunteers from the local churches who have financial expertise backgrounds.

Rev. Barber asked for the floor and challenged the Assembly to cut the deficit by 15 people giving \$2,000 today. Rev. Barber provided a \$2000 check to the Region.

Staff Reports:

Camp Caroline: By Casey Perry

Perry praised God for all the volunteer help received at Camp and for the people's love of their camp. So far this year the camp has been occupied 98% of the time with church events, community events, school retreats, etc. They have logged 950 volunteer hours since Jan 1, and are 95% recovered from hurricane damage.

Perry challenged the churches to use the camp for their retreats and meetings. His vision is to add 15-20 more churches in Region using the camp, and for 40 weekends each year with the cottages booked by DoC families.

We can help by adding a line item in our church budgets or adopting a part of the camp to help with maintenance costs.

Regional Youth: By Luke Miles

Miles works with youth around the Region, training them in leadership skills for the church and community. Miles would love to be invited to your church and envisions greater diversity at camps. There has been a steady increase of campers each year. 2018 was their best year in about 15 years for summer programs.

Miles encouraged the churches to send their youth, children, grandchildren to camp, and to sponsor a child.

Agape scholarships gave out \$18,000 in scholarships for campers last year. The Region has shifted to online giving, which makes it easy for everyone to register and give.

Board Reports:

Endowment Committee, By Rev. Rex Horne

The Legacy Fund is a program established as a means of sustainable support for the region. This is a permanent fund and monies will be invested at Christian Church Foundation, but administered by the Region.

This program gives contributors the potential to make an impact on the Region long after our life ends.

Bishop Melvin, in honor of her mother, Ada K. Melvin, announced that she will give \$1000 toward the endowment fund.

Special Guest: Dr. Douglas Searcy, President Barton College, welcomed the assembly. Grateful for partnership and friendship of the region.

Regional Elders, by Rev. Beth Burton-Williams (shared by Moderator Alligood)

This is a program of volunteers who will provide contact and care to assigned ministers on behalf of the Region. It is a resource for ministers in the Region, but will also develop relationships with congregations as well. The goal is pastoral care for our ministers and to assist the Regional Minister.

Nominations Committee, by Horace Williams

Rev. Kathy Smith was nominated to continue as Treasurer. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Williams called upon the Chair of Commission on Ministry for nominations to the Commission.

Rev. Dr. Johnson presented the following names as nominations for the Commission on Ministry:

Mrs. Deborah Miller

Rev. Bill Moore

Mr. Lorenzo Quilloin

Rev. Bayloee Smith

Rev. Shyrl Uzzell

Rev. Brad McDowell

The Motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Johnson noted that there are still 2 vacancies for lay members, and there is a need for a volunteer from the Albemarle District.

Commission on Ministry - By Rev. Dr. Laura Johnson

Johnson thanked the churches who has hosted the committee this past year, and thanked the covenant partnership mentors, who are mentoring new candidates.

The CoM taught Boundaries Level 1 and 2 last May and Boundaries 1 this month.

There have been 8 ordinations, one commissioning, one standing recognition, and one installation service the past year.

Emergency Resolution 119 (attached) was brought before the Assembly, recommended that CCNC churches use the General Church Search and Call System and require background checks for their ministers.

The Motion by COM to adopt Resolution 119 was seconded, and adopted by voice vote with one dissent.

Announcements:

Cedar Point CC is present and has been a member of our Region since 2011 but never formally welcomed by the Assembly. A warm welcome was extended.

Pastor Nglol Rahlan and members of Dao Blung Hlao (Jrai Montgnard Christian Church) were also recognized and welcomed. They are nesting in FCC Charlotte.

The meeting was adjourned by motion from the floor and second. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The business session adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Karen Kelly



Staff Report to the Assembly
Casey Perry, Camp Manager

My name is Casey Perry and I am your camp manager. Let me First say PLEASE come by Camp Caroline Table today and meet and greet some of the staff and get informed and Get enthused. We have much more drone footage, pictures from hurricane recovery and slideshows of so many diverse ways people are utilizing Camp Caroline. I must say that you will see several snippets of images and videos and I wish I could have shared images of ALL the people that it takes to help run Camp, but in honor and listening to my elders, I would be bereft in that it is nearly impossible to thank everyone involved in this forum, so Please hear me say THANK YOU to ALL of the church and its nurture of Camp Caroline. You have heard from Bishop Melvin this morning that it is true that The Region and Camp Caroline are one and when you give to the region you give to Camp. Thank you all!!!!!!!!!!!!

Now some of you I imagine and hope came to RA today in hopes to learn more about Camp Caroline because you may not know that much about your camp, or maybe is hoping to re-engage. Well, let me update you on some current status of Camp Caroline:

Without our camp staff and our core volunteer group, we would not be able to report to you the good news!

- Of the 117 days of 2019 so far, Camp Caroline has been used 115 of them! That is 98% of the year!!
- Pickleball six-seven days a week
- Scrapbooking retreats
- Two DOC youth retreats
- School retreats and School Basketball Games
- Two mission teams with 5 more already on the calendar from early May-September and more and more interest every week as Camp Caroline is readied for being a hospitality site.
- Super Turn out for Camp Spring work day
- Community Forum on the drug and alcohol epidemic
- DWM Women's Day Apart Retreat (Biggest one yet) Most attendance
- We have logged over 2000 staff hours and 900 volunteer hours
- We are 95% storm recovered ourselves and are pursuing FEMA reimbursements for parts we are able.
- We are hiring summer staff and we are looking for young adults and young-at-heart folks of whom can come and work at what I can promise is one of the most exciting, diverse, and rewarding experiences you can have by working at summer camp.

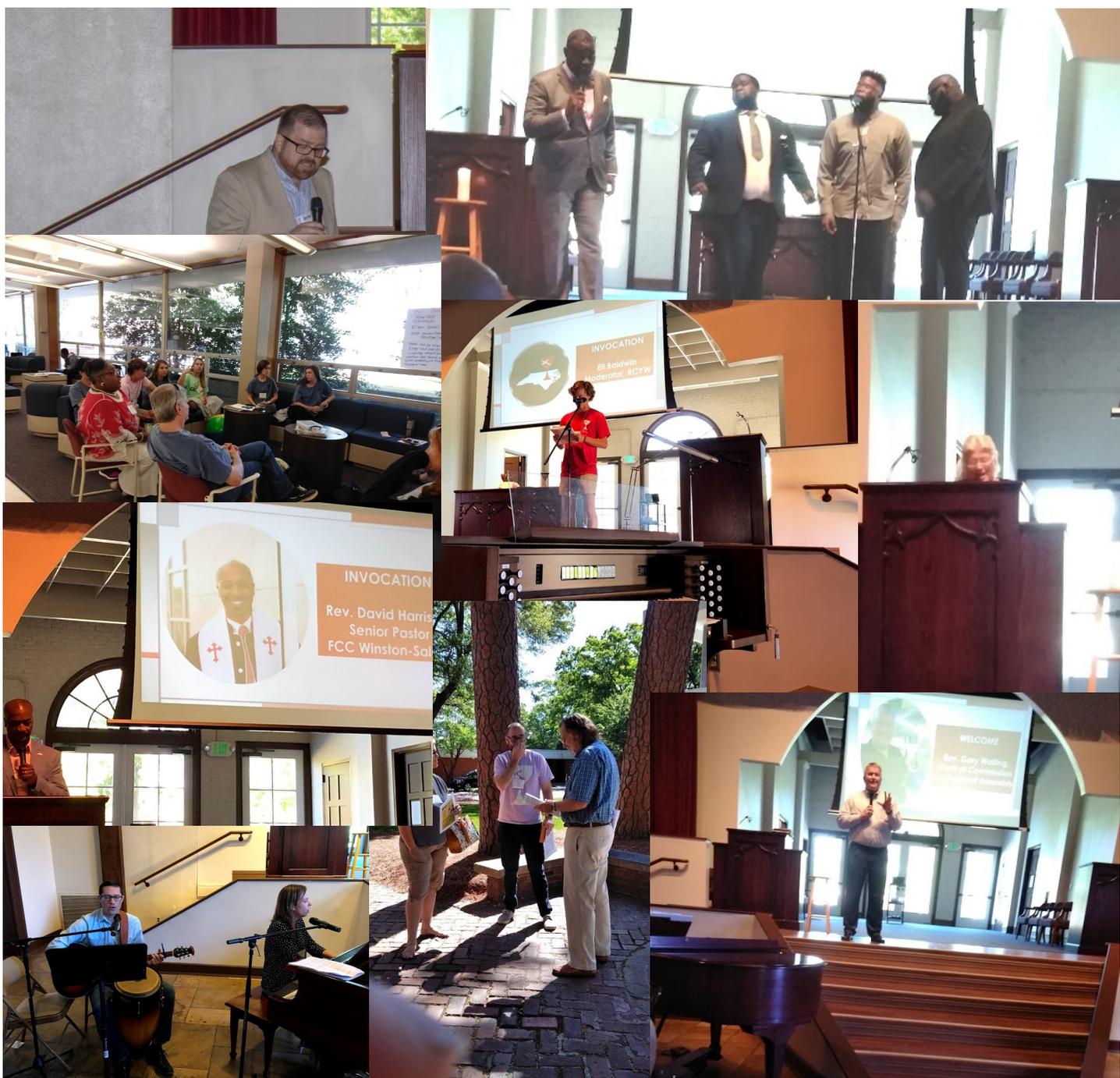
As you have heard, Camp Caroline operational budget is still not being covered. Even with and through all the of the regular givers AND new organizations...we still have a deficit....So what's the plan and how can you be involved:

We pray for 15-20 MORE of our churches getting engaged and utilizing the amazing resources we have!

- Pray and find a time on your church calendar to come and retreat,
- Plan to come during the week if you can, send your ministers and their families mid-week
- Bring your special ministries to camp for planning retreats and stay over.
- Call us and book our new cottages. (We have a 40 weekend/weeks of the year for each of the cottages to be utilized)
- We have our first churches of whom are now voting in that a percentage of their giving go directly to camping ministries.

- Please visit the website and consider donating.
- We have churches of whom have stayed engaged with their adoptions and are faithfully supporting their adoptions, THANKS BE TO GOD for them
- and yet we have 15 other facilities that your church could decide to adopt and thereby help offset the maintenance and upkeep spending that occurs.
- Volunteer 1 or 2 days a week during summer camp if you cannot do a whole week.
- Invite me and Luke to your church
- And the list goes on based on how you all dream and vision.

Come and dream and vision in YOUR camp's sacred grounds and its nurture. It is our honor to be here today with you all and we look forward to meeting with all of our churches today.







The Commission on Ministry

is vitally involved in the journey toward the Vocation of Ministry. This group has the responsibility to help and assist in partnership with the sponsoring congregation, those in our North Carolina churches discerning and preparing for ministry in response to God's call.

With approval of the 2019 Regional Assembly, the Commis-

sion on Ministry welcomes the following new members:

- Rev. Bailey Smith, member of FCC Greensboro and Project Manager/Grant Writer United Way of Greater Greensboro
- Rev. Gladwyn Shyrl Hinnant Uzzell, Assistant Pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church and RN, Goldsboro
- Rev. Bill Moore, Pastor of FCC Black Mountain
- Rev. Brad McDowell, Pastor of FCC Wilmington
- Mr. Lorenzo Quilloin, Lay Leader of FCC Fayetteville
- Mrs. Deborah Miller, Lay Leader of Covenant CC Cary

They join these continuing team members:

- Mrs. Ann Kwasnick-Hacker, Lay Member of Reelsboro CC and Disciples Insurance Board NC representative
- Rev. David Mallory, Interim at FCC Fayetteville, COM Vice-Chair
- Rev. Dr. Louis Threatt, Prison Chaplain in Winston-Salem and Supply Minister at Cedar Point Disciple Church in Newton Grove
- Dr. Teri Hires, Lay Member of Hillyer Memorial in Raleigh
- Rev. Dr. Laura Johnson, COM Chair

The Commission on Ministry meets on the first or second Tuesday in January, March, May, July, September, and November at locations around the region. Thanks to the following host churches since last the last Regional Assembly: Wilson's Mills CC on 5/1/18, and FCC Wilson on 7/10/18, Chapel Hill CC on 9/11/18, St James Wilson 11/6/18, St Paul's CC on 1/8/2019, and FCC Smithfield on 3/12/19.

We also offer a special word of appreciation to Rev. Mary Ann Koffenberger for co-teaching Boundaries 101 on April 26, 2019 and to FCC Wilson for hosting this class.



This Assembly was Special for Me!

This was a special assembly for me: from the lady who greeted me as we were getting out of our cars, to the last person I talked to as I was leaving Howard Chapel, this was a friendly assembly.

NC Disciples are a diverse group: we come in all sizes, shapes and colors. We have different worship traditions, and expectations. This assembly provided something for everyone.

I especially enjoyed the bag lunch. I saw an acquaintance sitting alone, and joined her. We were having an intense conversation when a man from another part of the state called me by name. His late mother and I had been in CWF together. A friend of his came by and he told the friend "...she was my Mom's friend; and I usually see her when I come to meetings like this...."

There was an element of surprise, too. I especially enjoyed the presentations by Kenze

Shared By: Peggy Collins, Grifton CC

My Experience at Regional Assembly!

What a wonderful day was Saturday's Regional Assembly. Elaine and I simply enjoyed it so much. It was overall planned very well, and the setting allowed the extra people to be well served also. The setting didn't require too much walking or pushing wheelchairs. Barton was a great host !!

Thought the two lecture speakers from afar were well spoken and provided valuable insights. Taught my Sunday School the next day from the insights of "Jesus was a Jew, but maybe not an old testament Jew :>)). Also watched "Call the Midwife" for first time on Sunday night which was eye-opening. I thought all the remarks were well planned and presented, especially those of Phil Jones (much needed). As usual yours and Rex's remarks were quite moving. Both Perry's and Luke's comments were well understood and presented. Good comments and selections for the Commission on Ministry.

Thoughts on the concept of "Regional Elders" was both good and necessary.

Shared By: Rev. Bob Kennel



DoC churches respond to the need!

- Clean up buckets: 216
- School kits: 856
- Hygiene kits: 117



How Can I Help?

1

DONATE TO WEEK OF COMPASSION

Your money goes a long way to help.

2

WORK TEAMS

Contact Josh Baird at Disciples Volunteering. (985) 778-6915

3

PREPARE MORE KITS

Unfortunately, there will always be more disasters. Contact Rev. Mallory. Davidmallory@gmail.com

Thank to Our Partners



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Church World Service Provided:

18,966 clean up buckets

13,150 hygiene kits

8,544 school kits

7,925 blankets



Week of Compassion

Has issued over \$86,000 in grants to date.

NC Disaster Response Task Force

Rev. Annell George-McLawnhorn

Disaster Response Coordinator for CCNC

disasterresponsecnc@gmail.com

252-717-4938

Rev. David Mallory

davidmallory@gmail.com

919-345-4305

Rev. Karen Kelly

kkelly021@gmail.com

252-217-3603

John Barnes

jkarnes53@gmail.com

919-344-3714

Pastor Addie Rawls

merawls92@gmail.com

919-333-3003

Chris Furr, Sr.

dewey.furr@gmail.com

910-409-8863

Administrative Support

Regional Minister Melvin valerie@ncdisciples.org

Lisa Tedder

lisa@ncdisciples.org

NC Disaster Response Updates!



***Gathering Name: Care for the Journey Day
Retreat and Workshop***

Date: Saturday, May 18, 2019

***Time: 9:30am Light Breakfast; 10:00am-
4:00pm Program***

***Location: Goldsboro-Raleigh Assembly
Headquarters***

Following Hurricane Florence, Week of Compassion and the North Carolina Region worked to assess the needs of Disciples clergy and congregations across the region. It was clear that this region needed more than just physical and financial assistance, but also support in understanding the mental, spiritual and emotional impacts of the storm and its aftermath and in developing strategies for wellness amid the long journey ahead.

To meet this need, the North Carolina region, in partnership with Week of Compassion and National Benevolent Association, have carved out a special day retreat for clergy and lay leaders involved in disaster recovery to be spiritually fed, and equipped with the tools necessary to support their congregations and families (and quite possibly themselves) to cope, recover and heal. Amid the response and the business, it can be hard to imagine pulling away for some self-care, yet we think that doing so can make all the difference for your ministry and your own spiritual wellness in the long run.

On October 27, 2017 Week of Compassion and NBA offered a similar one-day retreat with affected clergy in Houston after Hurricane Harvey. Providing a place for intentional connection with one another, this retreat gave clergy space to talk through early reactions to their experiences with Harvey; process the emotional, psychological, and spiritual toll the storm had taken; and share resources to journey the road to recovery ahead. Here are testimonials from clergy who attended then:

“It is important for me to share just how awesome the event was and how outstanding these folks are,” said Rev. Bruce Frogge, Senior Minister of Cypress Creek Christian Church. “Thanks for thinking of us and providing us this gift!”

Participants affirmed that this partnership of ministries provided a much-needed opportunity for rest and renewal. “It was lovely to have proclamations of support from the general church be backed up by tangible action,” says Rev. Elizabeth Grasham, Pastor of Heights Christian Church.

Aaron Nelson of Cypress Creek Christian Church agrees: “The retreat was like a ray of sunshine through the clouds. It meant so much to know that friends from across the country cared about us and made time to care for the caregivers.”

Please register via the link below. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rev. Angela Whitenhill at awhitenhill@nbacares.org or 314.993.9000 ext 4585.

Link to Register:

<https://www.nbacares.org/care-for-the-journey-day-retreat-and-workshop>





North Carolina Disciples Men
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina



Disciples Men,

The time is upon us to begin our preparations!
We are looking forward to a wonderful retreat at
Camp Caroline.

Rev. Brad McDowell, the senior pastor from First Christian Wilmington, will be our keynote speaker. We are so very excited to have him!

We have made some modifications to our retreat this year. Families are invited while the men retreat! We are reserving space in the cottages just so you can bring your family.

We are finalizing the itinerary currently. Registration will be on Friday, afternoon May 31 with a keynote Friday evening and Saturday morning. There will be a variety of activities to choose on Saturday afternoon. Enjoy the camp and the beauty of God's creation! For those wishing to stay another night, arrangements have been made to make this a reality.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Grace and peace,

Andrew Shue
President, North Carolina Disciples Men





NC DISCIPLES MEN/CMF

Camp Caroline Retreat

May 31– June 2, 2019

3398 Janiero Road, Arapahoe, NC 28510

Registration begins at 4pm. Retreat begins at 6pm with Supper.

Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Brad McDowell

Pastor - First Christian Church, Wilmington



Deadline May 24 (must be IN the regional office, not postmarked)

Retreat Fee - \$60 -includes Friday Cabin lodging & Friday Supper, Saturday Breakfast & Lunch
(Saturday night lodging is optional for an additional \$22. Saturday supper will be on your own.)

Retreat Fee - \$100 -includes Friday Cottage lodging, Friday Supper, Saturday Breakfast & Lunch

Contact Rev. Andrew Shue for Cottage room availability: [252-717-1148](tel:252-717-1148) or pastorshuesmcc@gmail.com
(Saturday night lodging is optional for an additional \$40. Saturday supper will be on your own.)

You are encouraged to bring your spouse and children to the retreat. **The additional food cost is \$30 for spouse and \$15 per child.**

NAME: _____

SPOUSE/CHILDREN: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) - ____ - _____ EMAIL: _____

CHURCH: _____

Retreat Fee (see above for amount): _____

Optional Saturday Lodging Fee: _____

Spouse Food Cost (\$30): _____

Child Food Cost (\$15 per child): _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable & return form to:

Christian Church in N.C., PO Box 1568, Wilson, NC 27894

NC DWM DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES &
CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS



A NEW TWIST ON OUR HISTORY

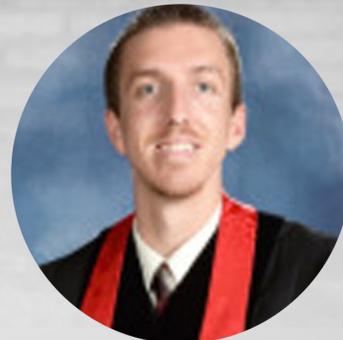
A C O M B I N E D R E T R E A T

AUGUST 9-11, 2019

CHRISTMOUNT RETREAT CENTER
222 Fernway • Black Mountain, NC



REVEREND
TERESA HORD OWENS
General Minister & President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in the US and Canada



REVEREND
ANDREW SHUE
President
NC Christian Men's Fellowship

Innovative Sessions • The Basket Party • Sharing Keynote Experiences
Engaging Prayer-Driven and Spirit-Led Worship

C H I L D C A R E A V A I L A B L E



N.C. Disciples Women & Disciples Men Ministries
Christmount Retreat Registration
 August 9-11, 2019



Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City/Zip _____
 Email _____ First time attendee _____
 Church _____ District _____

REGISTRATION

___ **Registration fee** if received by **August 1**: \$25.00 for one or \$40 per couple
 ___ **Commuter Fee**: \$16.00 **Registration Total** _____
 ___ **Childcare** may be available – please check if you will need childcare. (Cost TBD)

LODGING

All housing is non-smoking and pet-free. Reservation form must be received for each roommate.

Guest Houses (per person; linens provided) ___ **Check if difficulty walking**

- ___ Single \$220.00
- ___ Double \$110.00
- ___ Triple \$ 74.00
- ___ Quad \$ 55.00

- ___ **Watson Cottage** (linens provided, 1 queen, 2 bunk beds): \$65 each
- ___ **Davis Hall** Double bed room (no linens): \$40 each
- ___ **Davis Hall** Twin beds (no linens): \$30 each
- ___ **Cabin** (bunk beds, no linens, min. 3 persons): \$40 each
- ___ **Group Lodge** (bunk beds, no linens, min. 4 per room, max. 8): \$48 each
- ___ **Add linens**: \$7.00

Roommate(s) _____

___ **RV Park**: \$60.00 Lodging Total _____

MEALS

Meal reservations must be made by **August 1**. Coordinate meals with your group.

- Friday: ___ Supper \$13.00 paid in advance, non-refundable
- Saturday: ___ Breakfast \$ 9.00
- ___ Lunch \$11.00
- ___ Dinner \$13.00
- Sunday: ___ Breakfast \$ 9.00

Special dietary needs: _____

___ I am not eating meals at Christmount. Meal Total _____

Mail registration form and deposit (check payable to Christmount) to: Total _____
 Christmount Deposit (50% of Total) _____
 222 Fern Way Balance Due _____
 Black Mountain, NC 28711



Race: From Brokenness & Fragmentation to Wholeness —Racial Equity Training for Clergy—

Resolution 116, passed at the 2016 Regional Assembly held in Greenville, NC, requires all commissioned and ordained ministers who desire to maintain their standing to complete this training.

August 16-17, 2019 - Goldsboro, NC

**Location: Goldsboro-Raleigh Assembly Headquarters
211 W. Hooks River Road, Goldsboro, NC**

Registration Deadline: August 9, 2019

Training begins promptly at 10:00 am Friday, August 16th ending at 6:00 pm. It resumes at 8:30 am Saturday, August 17th concluding approximately 4:30 pm. Participants are responsible for their own lodging and must be present during the entire training session. To request a scholarship, please call the Regional Office.

Cost: \$120 per person

Cost includes 2-day faith-based anti-racism/pro-reconciliation training plus lunch and refreshments each day.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Congregation: _____

Race: _____ Gender: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Mail this form and check made payable to:
Christian Church in North Carolina
PO Box 1568
Wilson, NC 27894

Registration form is also available online at:
ncdisciples.org

Race: From Brokenness and Fragmentation to Wholeness - This 16-hour anti-racism/pro-reconciliation training is an interactive experience that explores the myths, the mystery, and the making of race in the United States. Based upon core concepts from national anti-racism training models, this training is specifically designed with biblical and theological foundations for people of faith. Practical tools for pastors and lay leaders are offered through cultural analysis, bible study and reflection. Emphasis is given towards the way churches can integrate anti-racism/pro-reconciliation concepts in missions and ministry.

2019 General Assembly July 20-24 in Des Moines

Worship, learning, fellowship and business all make up the biennial gathering of the WHOLE Church from across the United States and Canada. Come early for one of the [pre-events](#) offered by Green Chalice, Phillips Theological Seminary, Disciples Alliance Q and Disciples Church Extension Fund. (And stay after worship Wednesday morning for a [rally](#) at the state capitol.)

Join in the celebration that [begins at 1:30 pm](#) (CDT) on Saturday, July 20, in the Iowa Events Center's arena. Meet Disciples from across all expressions of the Church and ecumenical and international visitors. Worship with thousands of Disciples and hear inspiring [Bible studies](#) and [preaching](#). Learn in [workshops](#), in the [MissionFest](#) displays, from [exhibitors](#), during special [meal events](#) and [aftersessions](#). Find out what the [general ministries](#) have been doing the past biennium and what plans are for the future. And throughout the experience enjoy the fellowship of those who share the name "Disciple" while experiencing the amazing hospitality of the Upper Midwest region. [Register now](#)

JULY 20-24, 2019

New: Youth! Join the Virtual Choir

You're invited for the first ever Disciples virtual choir! [This remote collaboration](#) works by recording your singing and sending it in to us. We'll stitch together all of the singers into one giant sonic collage debuting at General Assembly! Can't travel to Des Moines? No worries! Our Church will see and experience your powerful voice & the young people throughout the Disciples of Christ. This is your chance! Show the world what God's doing through your generation.

New: Escape Room Adventure Game

Break out of the workshop mold with this wild and wacky adventure game. You and your team (bring a team of up to 10 or join a team at the door) will be "locked" in a church-themed room, with 45 minutes to find clues, solve puzzles and discover keys and combinations to "escape" before your time expires. Just to keep it interesting, you'll compete for a place on our Leader Board as other teams take on the challenge. Designed for all ages. Reserve your adventure at the Disciples Church Extension Fund booth, just inside the doors in the Exhibit Hall. Reservations available for adventures during After Sessions (Saturday through Tuesday 9 - 10 p.m.), and anytime workshops are in session. (Sunday-Tuesday, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.) No experience necessary — with church or with escape rooms!

New: Hunger Simulation

Des Moines Area Religious Council's Hunger Simulation is an immersive interactive experience for you to learn what it's like to live with food insecurity. In the Hunger Simulation, you take on the identity of a real person experiencing food insecurity. You have 15 minutes to determine your food budget and get the recommended USDA MyPlate servings of fruits, vegetables, protein, grains, and dairy. You can do this by shopping at the grocery store, visiting the food pantry, and applying for SNAP benefits at the DHS office. Once the 15 minutes are up, you will reflect on your experience and share with the rest of the group. Tuesday, 1:30 pm Hall A [Revise your existing registration](#) to include this experience

MissionFest applications open until June 30

Mission is happening all over the Church from congregations to regions to general ministries. We're out to celebrate the many creative and varied ways Disciples are having an impact with and for God's children. Please let us know about your project(s) and you might be invited to share your work at the General Assembly in Des Moines! [More information](#)