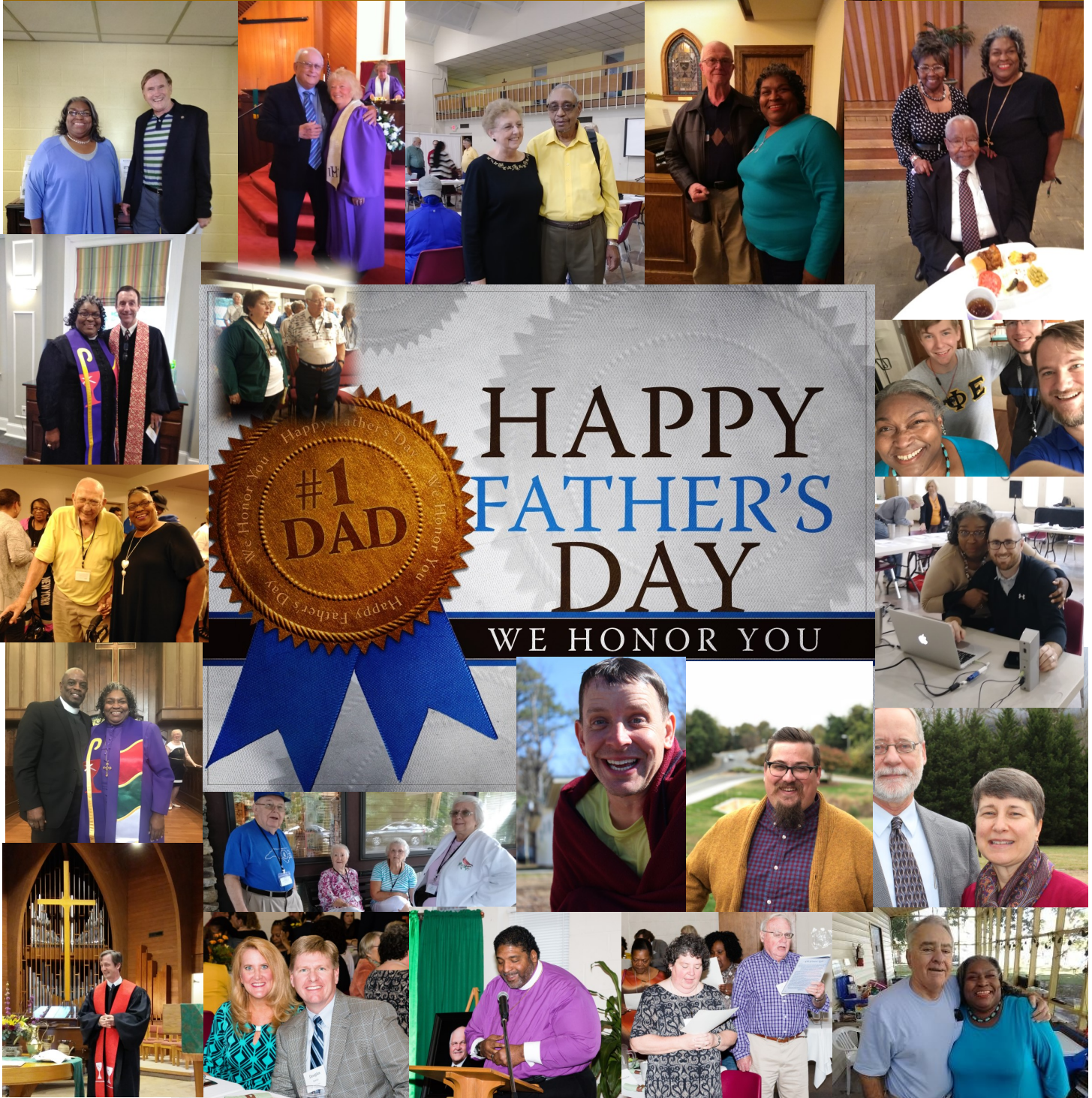


# The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina

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## *Regional Updates - June 2020*

## *A Greeting from our New Moderator*



Greetings, My Brothers and Sisters of this Great Region Of North Carolina,

I consider it a blessing and a privilege to serve as Moderator and look forward to serving and working with everyone in North Carolina.

Although I know many of you, as soon as possible I plan to attend District and Regional events as we get to know and learn more about each other. Until physical contact is allowed, we will probably meet virtually.

I was encouraged when I saw you worshiping on Sunday mornings during this pandemic using the various platforms. I am reminded of one of my favorite passages from the Bible; "Yea, though I walk through the valleys of the shadows of death, I will fear no evil": Psalm 23:4. We are obedient without fear.

As your Moderator, effective July 1, 2020, I am excited about this journey and the work ahead of us. I want the unity to continue in our Region as we carry out plans and develop new ones. Everyone is essential, and your voice is important to me. We must continue to promote our Region and the programs that are available to all of us.

I would like to thank my home church, Mount Pleasant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Greensboro, North Carolina, where Ronald K. Glover is my pastor for supporting me with their counsel and resources.

Many of you have met my wife Joann. She has offered great encouragement as I have served in the roles of vice-moderator and moderator-elect. I am grateful for her love and continued support.

As we begin this journey together, I encourage each of you to continue the great work in your local churches and share with us as we continue to grow and become that unified church that God has called us to be. Looking forward to the days ahead.....

Sincerely,  
*Horace Williams*  
Moderator

**MINUTES of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Regional Assembly of the  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina  
June 6, 2020  
Via Video Conference**

The business session began at 10:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer by Bishop Valerie Melvin

Purpose of Gathering Virtually: Rev. Karen Kelly, Regional Board Secretary

As a result of the state and national restrictions on mass gatherings due to the coronavirus, the Regional Board had a special called meeting via video conference on April 8, 2020 and approved the cancelation of the planned weekend Regional Assembly in April.

Because some business of the Region must be conducted, the Regional Board approved this virtual gathering for a shortened business session of the Regional Assembly.

Moderator's Opening Remarks and Call to Order

The moderator opened with a brief welcome and thanksgiving to executive committee, and Rev. Dr. Laura Johnson as chair of COM.

District court Judge Darrell Cayton was recognized as parliamentarian.

The moderator gave a brief progress report of her tenure in office including the establishment of the Regional Elders program, establishment of the Design review committee, continued financial progress, and review of churches listed in the Year-Book.

Delegates were reminded that there are no other items of business except as presented, and that discussion and question opportunities had already been provided for during a scheduled question and answer session with the executive committee.

Presentation of Business Items

The Moderator read the two Resolutions on the Business Session Agenda, the recommendation for election of Commission on Ministry nominees, and the election of Regional Officers.

A vote from the delegates was taken by poll and a voice roll call of 6 members who had phoned in was taken. With 81% voting the tally was recorded by the Secretary:

Business Item 1: Passed. 71 yes; 5 no; 2 abstentions

Business Item 2: Passed. 78 yes; 5 no.

Business Item 3: Passed. 78 yes

Business Item 4: Passed 78 yes

Announcements

The Region is working on a plan to re-open Camp Caroline for small groups and families by the end of the month. It is our hope to have a physical meeting in the fall of the year to conduct additional Regional Assembly business.

Installation of officers:

Bishop Melvin installed the following officers to their respective terms:

Horace Williams: Moderator, 2020-2022

Skipper McLawhorn: Moderator Elect, 2020-2022

Kathy Smith: Treasurer, 2020

Karen Kelly: Secretary

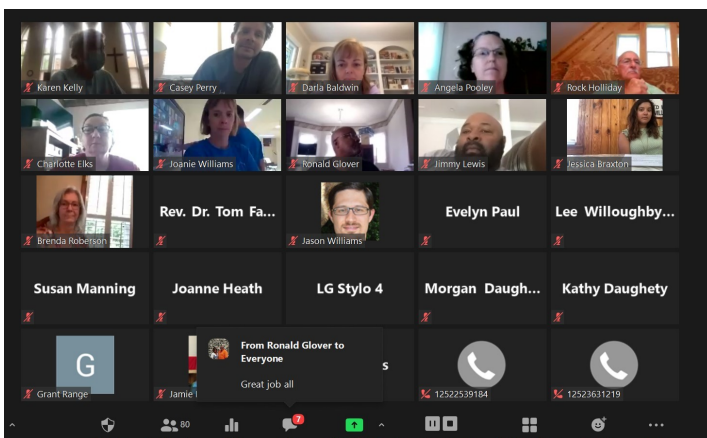
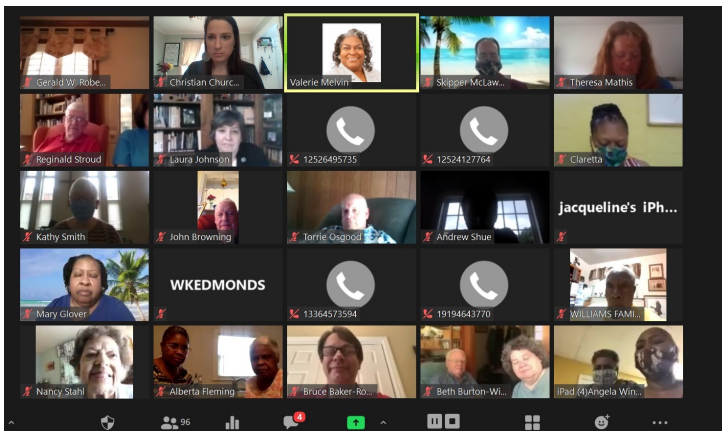
Adjournment

Motion by Skipper McLawhorn (2<sup>nd</sup> by Horace Williams) to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Prayer of Gratitude and Sending Forth: Bishop Melvin

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Karen Kelly  
Recording Secretary

Thank you Christian Church in NC for being there when it counts!



## The Treasurer's Report

*Rev. Kathy Smith*

If you are like me, in a good news/bad news situation, you like to get the bad news first. So here it is: as of May 31, the Operating Fund of the region had incurred a loss of \$52, 511. However, I want to be quick to add that this was not unexpected, and was largely a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Executive Committee closed Camp Caroline on March 14, and re-opened it on a limited basis only a few days ago, on June 15. At all times, we have fully complied with the Governor's orders, and we will continue to do so as the camp gradually re-opens. While Casey Perry, our camp manager, worked hard to hold spending to a minimum for the three months the camp was closed, there were routine maintenance costs such as utilities, which had to be held at a level that would prevent mold in the cabins and other buildings, along with repairs necessary to fix leaking roofs, etc. Salaries for year-round staff had to be paid as well, though none of the seasonal staff have been called to work as of this writing. In short, we were faced with little to no revenue and ongoing expenditures at the camp.

The Executive Committee also recognized that there would be a "domino effect" impacting DMF giving, which is the largest source of income for the General portion of the Operating Fund. That is, due to the large number of people laid off or furloughed from their jobs, many individuals were forced to decrease their giving to their congregation, which in turn impacted the ability of congregations to keep up their DMF giving. And in fact, DMF giving from January – May of 2020 was \$14K less than in 2019.

Efforts to hold expenses down kept the deficit from being much larger. All staff travel has been eliminated, with the only exception to allow our Regional Minister to make emergency pastoral care calls. Staff were asked to contact either the Regional Minister or the Treasurer prior to incurring any expenses outside of a revised "bare bones" budget which the Executive Committee constructed in March. In early May, staff were prepared for possible furloughs or cuts in hours as of June 1. Our staff took all of this in stride and kept on making sure that the ministry of the region would not suffer.

Time for the good news! We had applied as early as possible for a Paycheck Protection Program government loan. The loan came through, just in time to avoid any reductions in year-round staff. We will soon be able to apply for forgiveness of the loan, and we fully expect the entire loan of \$56K to be forgiven. That will then offset the current deficit with a bit of room to spare.

We were also blessed with the receipt of just over \$20K from FEMA, related to costs at Camp Caroline after Hurricane Florence in the fall of 2018. That FEMA grant was received and reported in Camp Caroline's operating income in March of this year.

Last but definitely not least, we are very grateful to those individuals and congregations who have been able to help support the region with donations despite the current economy. We received just over \$11K in response to the "Remaining Generous" campaign, and there were additional individual gifts to the region of more than \$13K. DMF giving, though down, was stronger than expected, totaling not quite \$45K. And there have been donations totaling almost \$25K designated for the camp's operations as well!

For me, the biggest disappointment was having to not only close the camp, but to cancel the regular summer camp season for our children and youth. The high point came when our PPP loan was approved, so that we could keep our year-round staff working. We know there are months to go before we can relax and say "we made it" through the pandemic in good shape financially. But for the month of May, income exceeded expenses by \$6K, and that is cause for celebration!

Please continue to give generously as you are able. Please pray for your region's leaders and staff as we navigate these uncharted waters. And may we all thank God for the many ways we have been blessed.

Christian Church in NC Operating Fund Income and Expense	May 2020	Jan - May 2020	Jan - May 2019
Operating Income:			
General & Program	\$ 20,458	\$ 90,554	\$ 109,710
Camp Caroline	13,265	59,581	110,971
Total Income	\$ 33,723	\$ 150,135	\$ 220,681
Operating Expenditures:			
General & Program	\$ 16,163	\$ 99,564	\$ 100,634
Camp Caroline	11,516	103,082	116,705
Total Expenditures	\$ 27,679	\$ 202,646	\$ 217,338
Total Operating Fund	\$ 6,044	\$ (52,511)	\$ 3,343

**DISCIPLES MISSION FUND**

No matter the challenges we face – from combatting racism to supporting congregations during a pandemic, from starting a church to sustaining a community – Disciples know that by sharing the work, we accomplish what, by God’s design, we cannot do alone. **Disciples Mission Fund (DMF)** brings the whole Church together, connecting us to the life-giving and life-saving work we have been called to do. It also simplifies giving for congregations and individuals, providing a way to support the entire Church at once. DMF-funded regional and general ministries offer Disciples opportunities to serve as missionaries, attend college or seminary, advocate for the least of these, and so much more.

In moments like these, the temptation arises to let giving to the Lord’s work fall to the bottom of our priority list. It is understandable when there are so many things requiring financial solutions. We take inventory of what can wait and what must be addressed now. At one point, I heard myself say, “The church will have to wait, but then I felt a tug at my heart. You know the feeling, when what you say and what your heart is feeling don’t match. My heart was formulating another message, born out of my relationship with God and neighbor, not anxiety and panic.

So I asked, how will I be able to give? I was met with the non-anxious presence of the Holy Spirit and calmly reassured, “all will be well.” Beloveds, how our God operates, and why things turn out the way they do, are far above my pay grade. However, I have walked as a Christian long enough to realize that a primary component of Christianity is trusting the one who has my heart! Each time I believe God, and accept another invitation to support ministry, even when it doesn’t quite make sense, I am amazed at how things turn out. I invite you to join me and trust God with the tender places in your heart, the chaos of these days, the promise for your future, and giving to Disciples Mission Fund.

[disciplesmissionfund.org](http://disciplesmissionfund.org)

With Resilient Hope,  
+Valerie Melvin, Regional Minister

## The Commission on Ministry

The COM now has its own email address with the region. Hooray! Everyone corresponding with the COM, please send documents, inquiries, and transcript submissions to: [com@ncdisciples.org](mailto:com@ncdisciples.org) (which will be read by the COM Chair), as well as [valerie@ncdisciples.org](mailto:valerie@ncdisciples.org) .

Following the online Regional Business Session on June 6, the approved new members of the 2020 Commission on Ministry are:

- ⇒ Rev. Mark Anthony “Tony” Sutton, Senior Pastor of St. James Church of Christ (DOC)
- ⇒ Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Watson, (Retired: Associate Minister, Associate Regional Minister, and Seminary Professor), Member of Wake Forest CC (DOC)
- ⇒ Deacon John E. Barnes, Lay Leader of Greenleaf CC, Goldsboro, CEO of Rebuilding Broken Places CDC
- ⇒ Courtney Cartwright, Youth Director of Hooker Memorial CC, Greenville

Continuing COM Members are:

- ⇒ Chair Rev. David Mallory
- ⇒ Dr. Teri Hires, Secretary
- ⇒ Mrs. Deborah Miller
- ⇒ Rev. Bill Moore
- ⇒ Mr. Lorenzo Quilloin
- ⇒ Rev. Baylee Smith
- ⇒ Rev. Gladwyn Shyrl Hinnant Uzzell
- ⇒ Rev. Brad McDowell

We give special thanks to those who have recently completed their terms of service:

- ⇒ Rev. Dr. Laura Mae Johnson
- ⇒ Mrs. Ann Kwasnick-Hacker
- ⇒ Rev. Dr. Louis Threatt

Due to COVID-19 the COM did not meet in May with candidates, but did meet online in June for a new member orientation. Candidate and commissioned minister meetings for the remainder of the year might fill quickly due to the compressed schedules and possible virtual sessions. Please email [com@ncdisciples.org](mailto:com@ncdisciples.org) if you think it is time for you to have your next meeting. Commissioned ministers, please remember to send the required annual report even if you are not requested to meet in person annually.

Due to the pandemic, the COM is waiving standing concerns for those who will be past due for Boundaries or Racial Equity training in 2020. Please schedule to attend the next in-person course offered when it is safe for you to meet with other people. If you need personal assurance of your expiration dates, email [com@ncdisciples.org](mailto:com@ncdisciples.org) .

The COM continues to be in prayer for all candidates, students, commissioned ministers, recently ordained, and all clergy of the region during these days and all days.



**THE CAMP'S BELL IS RINGING AGAIN!!!!...CALLING US TO GATHER AGAIN IN SMALL GROUPS TO BE NURTURED. CALLING US TO FIND RENEWAL, AND TO LISTEN IN CREATION TO GOD'S DIRECTION AND EMPOWERMENT IN OUR LIVES!!!!**



**PRAISE GOD FOR CAMP CAROLINE!**  
**Our Soft-Opening STARTED JUNE 15 and we are excited to share that we had our first family group check in on June 15!**

We are open with limited use for family and small groups to come and enjoy our camp. While we are limiting some of our indoor use facilities and the gym is not yet open WE ARE MAXIMIZING our outdoor facilities: pool, waterfront, worship centers, outdoor game areas, fishing areas, boats of all types, rocking chairs, fresh air, healing views of Dawson Creek and Neuse River. If you are like so many, and worried about being in vacation and retreat spaces with lots of other people, be assured CAMP CAROLINE is welcoming small groups and has worked very diligently to ensure your safety. We do all that, so that you can rest and recharge and re-invigorate in this sacred space. Please go to [campcaroline.org](http://campcaroline.org) to read our plans for your safety along with the lodging rates. We invite you and yours to come, rest, and re-charge in Christ.

*Casey Perry, Camp Manager*  
[casey@ncdisciples.org](mailto:casey@ncdisciples.org)



## VIRTUAL CAMP!

Starting on June 22, Camp Caroline in partnership with the Christian Church in North Carolina will be offering Camp Caroline Connects, a virtual camping experience that you can do at home over the summer!



Here's how it works:

- 1) On five Mondays (June 22, June 29, July 6, July 13, and July 20), we will release a variety of new activities for all age groups on our website (<https://ncdisciples.org/virtual-camp/>).
- 2) Each week, the materials will be broken down by age group (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12). Then, you spend the rest of the week learning about God, working on the activities, and sharing your love of camp with all of your camp friends.
- 3) Some of the materials will be live (like Facebook Live or a Zoom Call). Some of the materials will be pre-recorded. And others will be instructions on activities to complete. And don't worry! Even if you can't join us live, we will record it all and post it for you later to enjoy! The best part...it's all completely free and NO REGISTRATION is required. Just check back every week for a new week of camp!
- 4) We also encourage you to check out our Camp Caroline Facebook page for live songs, silly games, and updates from your favorite place! You can check out our Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/CampCarolineNC>.

## T-SHIRTS!!!!

Virtual Camp LIMITED EDITION t-shirts! All proceeds go directly to Camp Caroline. We will be selling the t-shirts over the next few weeks during our virtual camp (<https://ncdisciples.org/virtual-camp/>), and they will be shipped towards the end of June. Grab yours today to help out a place that is special to all of us! You can purchase your fundraising t-shirt

here: <https://www.customink.com/fundraising/camp-caroline-connects>.

Please copy and paste the paragraph above and share it in your church newsletters, emails, websites, and on Facebook, Instagram, and any other social media platform.



## AGE GROUP INFORMATION

**Monday, June 22** - All events go live on our website at 8am. Luke will go live on Camp Caroline's Facebook page at 8am that morning to walk everyone through our virtual camp.

**Tuesday, June 23 at 7pm** - CYF (high schoolers) Virtual Game Night! with Amanda Kerr, Mallory Magelli McKeown, and Barton Friends- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82314729024> (Meeting ID: 823 1472 9024)

**Wednesday, June 24** - Facebook Live update from Luke with a secret surprise for Casey :)

**Friday, June 26** - Facebook Live update at 9am with camp songs from our camp counselors, Luke, and Casey

4) If you choose to post on social media when doing virtual camp activities, please use the hashtag #CampCarolineConnects and tag Camp Caroline in your post. We'd love to see what you are up to! Enjoy camp!

Luke Miles, Regional Youth Director  
[luke@ncdisciples.org](mailto:luke@ncdisciples.org)

**Climate Ambassador Training**  
**Free Zoom Training**  
**June 27, 2020**  
**11:30 am - 4:00 pm ET**

The Climate Ambassador training equips people of faith with the knowledge, hands-on experience, and resources to speak and act confidently on climate change and solutions. Faith leaders will be empowered to inspire their colleagues, associations, laity, the public, and policymakers to be empowered in making a change on climate solutions that help care for creation, protect our neighbors and communities, and ensure a prosperous, just, and secure future for all.

As we all witness and experience climate impacts, our communities are looking for guidance on solutions from leaders for guidance. Our partner, Blessed Tomorrow, supports faith communions and faith leaders with training on the links between climate and faith, the spectrum of solutions, how to speak effectively on the topic of climate change, and opportunities to act and advocate. You are invited to join us for the powerful training. We need everyone to speak and teach on the climate crisis. This training provides education and resources so that you will feel empowered to make a difference. Please join this training led by Green Chalice Ministers

Revs. Carol Devine and Scott Hardin-Nieri.

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUvdqupjwpHN32OXU\\_2DQPy99MAqwWh7\\_k?emci=bd4db82-299c-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&emdi=1b1d76a8-2f9c-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ccid=583788](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUvdqupjwpHN32OXU_2DQPy99MAqwWh7_k?emci=bd4db82-299c-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&emdi=1b1d76a8-2f9c-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ccid=583788)



**ALBEMARLE DISTRICT SUMMER PROJECT**

Hello Albemarle district! I know this summer looks different with the pandemic, but I have a MISSION that we all can take part, even if we aren't leaving our house! We are aware our regional camps for youth were cancelled this summer, but Camp RAINBOW was cancelled this year as well. That's where you can all help. Director Rock Holliday has provided all 37 campers' names & addresses. It would be Fantastic, in the absence of being at camp this year, if they could still receive volumes of post cards/cards/letters to let them know we are still thinking of them and hope they can be back at Camp Caroline in 2021. let's all join in to spread God's love with some of the sweetest of God's children! Since Rainbow Camp was to be June 29-July 3, let's shoot to send mail to them so they will get it before July 4th.

Thanks, take care, and God Bless,  
Pastor Jimmy Elks  
Phone: 252-661-0411 and Email: jimmyelks13@gmail.com

## REGIONAL CALENDAR

<b>June 22-July 24</b>	Camp Caroline Connects See p8 for details <a href="https://ncdisciples.org/virtual-camp/">https://ncdisciples.org/virtual-camp/</a>
<b>June 22-July 31</b>	Regional Prayer Call at 7:00 am <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CCinNC">https://www.facebook.com/CCinNC</a> or Free Conference Call Number 712.451.0911 Access Code: 769702#
<b>June 23</b>	Pastor's Check-in Zoom at 7:00 pm Rev. Angela Whitenhill-Shields, NBA Topic: <i>Clergy Well-being</i>
<b>June 30</b>	Pastor's Check-in Zoom at 7:00 pm Rev. Doug Stokes, Historical Task Force
<b>July 1-August 1</b>	CCNC Reconciliation Funding Applications accepted
<b>June 29-July 19</b>	CCNC Racial Equity Orientation Registration open
<b>July 3</b>	<b>Regional Office Closed</b>
<b>July 4</b>	<b>Independence Day Observed</b>
<b>July 7</b>	Commission on Ministry at 9:00 am - FCC, Wilson Fellowship Hall and Parlor (Masks Required)
<b>July 9</b>	Regional Elders Check-In at 10:00 am (Virtual)
<b>July 25</b>	Congregational Racial Equity Orientation at 10:00 am
<b>July 31</b>	Congregational Racial Equity Orientation at 7:00 pm (both sessions virtual)
<b>August 14-16</b>	DMW/CMF Virtual Retreat Theme: Unity and Resilience: <i>Hallmarks of Faith</i> Free Event - Stay Tuned for Details

### CCNC Welcomes

**Rev. Mary Anne Glover, Interim Transitional Minister for St. James CC, Wilson**

Having served on all levels and in all expressions of the church, including nine years as Regional Minister of the Northeastern Region, Mary Anne, returns to her home state to serve St. James CC following the 44-year tenure of Rev. Dr. Charles Barnes, Sr. She takes up this mantle quoting her congregational pastoral mentor, the late Rev. Dr. Walter D. Bingham (former Moderator of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ), "Mary Anne, you pray; God will answer; speak the truth in love - with power and conviction, and God will bring the change, in God's time!" God's time is now for God is doing a new thing.



**Rev. Dr. Tom Millay, Senior Minister, FCC, Goldsboro**

From discerning his call to ministry in the rural town of Rutherfordton, to serving as a teacher, chaplain, and completing a Ph.D. in Theology and Ethics at Baylor, Tom returns to NC to welcome others to the compassionate, reconciling, ecumenical, diverse, and open community of faith he has found among the Disciples.



Due to the concern for the health and well-being of our constituents, the 2020 EXPERIENCE IT'S REAL! had to be postponed to 2022. The work of the National Convocation goes on. Our Executive Committee and Board of Trustees have been meeting and making plans to handle our business. We are in the process of planning a Virtual 26<sup>th</sup> Biennial Business Session on August 15, 2020.

**Event:**

2020 Virtual 26th Biennial Business Session

**Date:**

Saturday, August 15, 2020

**Time:**

12pm - 2pm - Eastern Time

**Where:**

Online - Zoom Meeting

We do have several pertinent items on the agenda. At the Virtual Biennial Business Session, we will want to:

- a. Install new Officers
- b. Install new At-Large Members
- c. Receive the Strategic Plan and Vision Statement
- d. Approve the Amendments to the Articles of Operation
- e. Receive the Advisory Committee report
- f. Receive the Nominating Committee report
- g. Receive the Time & Place Report

Once you register for the 2020 Virtual 26th Biennial Business Session, you will receive an email with more information, including the materials you need to review before the meeting. Registration is now open. For more information, contact Brenda Rossy at [brossy@disciples.org](mailto:brossy@disciples.org).



The Disciples News Service distributes a weekly e-mail news briefs of events and information about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In addition, regular communications from the General Minister and President are routinely sent to subscribers. This service is free to anyone with an e-mail address. To begin receiving your DNS e-mail newsletter, simply use this link to sign up.

<https://disciples.org/dns/subscribe-to-dns/>