

# The 169<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada

*WHO DO WE SAY WE ARE?*



*Matthew 5:13-16  
Hebrews 10:39*

*April 28-30, 2023  
First Christian Church in Concord*

Revision 1 – April 26, 2023



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## Regional Staff



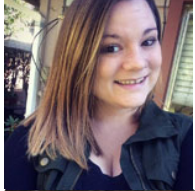
Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum  
Regional Minister



Rev. Kyung-Min Daniel Lee  
Associate Regional Minister



Rev. Dr. Monica Cross  
Minister of Women's Ministries



Haley Monachello  
Director of Youth Ministries



Diana Silva  
Financial Associate



Jim Thomas  
Ministry Associate

## Offerings

Offerings collected during the Annual Gathering will be going to the following ministries:

**Blue Theology Mission Station** is a place where current science in marine biology meets a theology of creation justice. We host groups to engage in experiential learning, service projects, and contemplative practice with God's marine creation. At Blue Theology, we pray for the health of our oceans while exploring tidepools. We believe that ocean conservation is a spiritual practice. We become Blue Theologians, or faithful advocates for a healthy ocean, through our experiences. These experiences may include scientific data collection, kayaking alongside otters, participating in sand dune restoration, or collecting trash on the beach. As hymnist, Dan Damon writes, "the ocean is a call to worship." This program is our profound investment into the future health of the ocean as well as our human-ecological relationships. No matter how far away you live from the water, we are all connected to the ocean ("all rivers flow to the sea").

<https://www.bluetheology.com/>

**Serra Center** Since 1975, Serra Center has been committed to providing compassionate care for individuals with developmental disabilities. We serve over 80 men and women in our community-based Residential Care Homes, Independent, and Supported Living Services. The individuals served live in more than 65 traditional and accessible homes and apartments in residential neighborhoods throughout Alameda County.

Looking toward the future, Serra Center continues to strive for greater levels of independence and choice for people with developmental disabilities. <https://www.serracenter.org/>

**Reconciliation Ministry** Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was born out of the civil unrest that ensued following the martyrdom of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968. His murder brought to the fore, in the life of our church, the dis-ease of our living in two separate societies – one which benefits one group of people and one which systemically marginalizes the poor and powerless. Beginning with Resolution 29 of the International Convention of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in 1968, our Church has persistently pursued ways to address the sin of racism through resolutions and direct action in our congregations, Regions, General Ministries, and Recognized Ministry partnerships. The Pro-Reconciliation /Anti-Racism initiative has made steady progress. In 2007, Regions were urged to assume primary leadership in enabling congregational involvement in the work of racial reconciliation.

In our endeavors to work for racial and social justice and ensure welcome for all, we promote relationship-building. In this vein, we invite you to join the movement toward wholeness and embark on the journey of breaking down the walls that separate us by strengthening the bonds that make us one. <https://reconciliationministry.org/>

## AG 169 Schedule of Events

April 27

### **Clergy Gathering**

12:00 Lunch for Registered Clergy participants

1:00-4:30 Clergy Gathering

5:00-6:30 Dinner for Registered Clergy participants

April 28

### **Pre-Gathering**

Breakfast on your own

10:00 Registration Opens

12:00 Lunch for Registered Pre-Gathering Church Narrative Project

1:00-4:30 Church Narrative Project

Annual Gathering Begins!

5:00-6:45 Dinner for all registered Annual Gathering participants

7:00-8:30 Opening Worship with Communion

April 29

Breakfast on your own

8:30 Registration Opens

9:30-12:00 Worshipful Work/Business Session

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:15-2:15 Workshops – Session 1

2:30-3:30 Workshops – Session 2

4:30-5:45 Closing Worship with Communion

Opening Worship  
**169th Annual Gathering of the  
Christian Church in Northern California-Nevada  
Friday, April 28, 2023**

**Greetings for FCC Concord**

**Rev. Dr. Leslie Carole Taylor**

**Zoom Etiquette**

**Meg Sumowiec**

**\*Gathering Song**

**"Everyday"**

**The Way**

**Call to Worship**

**Steve Gray**

One: If the human body, a body of blood and muscle, is to live, it needs salt.

**Many: If the body of Christ, the body of peace and justice, is to live, it needs us!**

If the earthly creation, bustling and blooming, is to flourish, it needs the sun's light.

**If the new creation we are in Christ is to flourish, it needs the Spirit's light!**

Jesus says we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

**Our faith, our love, our hope —essential as salt and light.**

But if salt isn't salty?

**It isn't what it's meant to be.**

And if a light doesn't shine?

**It isn't what it's meant to be.**

Jesus says we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

Briny and bright, we are God's faithful people.

**We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ:**

**a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community,**

**a justice-making people, giving glory to God!**



## Opening Prayer

Steve Gray

God of mystery and of judgment, who has made us to be salt and light in a tasteless, shadowed world, guide us in this time of worship.

Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment so that others may see your good works through us, give you the glory, and be moved to serve you. Amen.

## Greetings from The Region and Partners

- Rev. Dr. LaTaunya M. Bynum, Regional Minister
- Rev. [Clarence Johnson](#), Regional Moderator
- Rev. [Davena Jones](#), Bridge Conference Minister, Northern California-Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ

Song:

**"Heart of Worship"**

**The Way**

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer** Rev. Dr. Leslie Taylor

## Who Do We Say We Are?:

- Blue Theology Video
- Urban Sanctuary Testimony

Song:

**"Open The Eyes of My Heart, Lord"**

**The Way**

Scriptures:

**Matthew 5:13-16**

**Inverleith Fruci**

**Hebrews 10:39**

**Matthew 5:13-16** New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

**13** "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

**14** "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. **15** People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**Hebrews 10:39** But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost but among those who have faith and so preserve our souls.

**Sermon:** "Learning to Live Again" **Rev. Dr. [Sharon Watkins](#)**

**Song:** "Forever Reign" **The Way**

**Sharing Our Gifts** [Steve Gray](#)

We are the Christian Church in Northern California and Nevada. We are church together, each of us an important part, sharing in the responsibility to reach out to those in need, to keep our shared ministries healthy and strong, and to support the work of the Regional Office.

As we consider what to give this evening, as we gather for our Regional Assembly, we reflect on what our congregations, our Region, has meant to us over the years, to our families, generations gone before us and generations growing up in our midst. You each are the blessing, who brings life, love and possibility to this Region.

Our gifts this evening reflect our love and commitment.

May our giving be generous.

(The Offering tonight will be shared with Blue Theology, Reconciliation Ministry, and Serra Center) Checks made payable to CCNCN

**Song: "Empty Me Out"**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, you have blessed us with so many good things.

May these gifts from us be used to open doors of welcome for all people, so they, too, may experience the joy of abundance and unity.

**Communion:** **Steve Gray**

**Song:** "I Am The Light of the World"

**Blessing and Benediction:** **Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins**

**Closing Song:** **All I Know**

## Closing Worship

**169th Annual Gathering of the Christian Church in Northern California-  
Nevada**

**Saturday, April 29, 2023**

**Greetings from FCC Concord**

**Rev. Dr. Leslie Taylor**

**Zoom Etiquette**

**Meg Sumowiec**

**Who Do You Say That We Are?**

**Woodside Village Video**

**Gathering Song**

**"Build My Life"**

**The Way**

**Call to Worship:**

**Kerry Little**

One: We gather, looking back to see the paths taken,

**Many: Looking forward to see our path.**

We honor those who have gone before us,

**Learning from their successes and failures.**

We celebrate who we are today,

**And welcome the possibilities and opportunities before us.**

We gather to worship God,

**the God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Kerry Little**

Open our eyes, ever-present God, to see you here and now, in this place and in one another.

Open our ears, Word of Life, to hear you speaking in the words we hear and say and sing  
and in the silence.

Open our hearts, transforming Spirit, to change and renewal in each of us, in our lives together and our witness to the world.

Already, God of extravagant generosity, You have opened your hands and poured out your life for us; open our minds to your greatness and our lives to your service.

**Who Do We Say That We Are?** First Christian Church, Selma Testimony

**SONG**

**"You Are My Strength"**

**The Way**

**Pastoral Prayer/Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer** Rev. Dr. Leslie Taylor

**Scriptures:**

**Allison Buck**

**Hebrews 10:39** But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost but among those who have faith and so preserve our souls.

**Matthew 5:13-16** New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

**13** "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

**14** "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. **15** People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**Sermon: "Provoke One Another to Love and Good Deeds"** Rev. Dr. Richard Lowery

**Song:**

**Blessed Be Your Name**

**The Way**

**Sharing our Gifts:**

**Kerry Little**

The Eternal One has given us all that is good, right, and true. What a joy to share these gifts with one another in the life of this Region and far beyond our own reach. In this offering, we return to God a token of our wealth in gratitude for all we have received. Our gifts will be received at this time.

The Offering today will be shared with Blue Theology, Reconciliation Ministry, and Serra Center. Checks made payable to CCNCN

**Song:**                                    **Lead Me, Guide Me**                                    **The Way**

**Prayer of Dedication:**

Eternal One, source of the Living Water that brings abundance to our lives, we joyfully offer these gifts. May our financial gifts and our very lives be a blessing to this Region, our community, and your world.

**Communion:**

**Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, Rev. Kyung-Min Lee, Rev. Dr. Monica Cross**

**Song:**                                    **Living Water**                                    **The Way**

**Blessing and Benediction:**                                    **Rev. Dr. Richard Lowery**

**Closing Song:**                                    **All I Know**

## Ministries of the Northern California-Nevada Region

### Disciple Men

We are the men of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada. We come together in fellowship, ministering to the unique needs of men in the church, enabling us to fulfill our potential as servants of God, strengthening the total ministry of the church.

### MISSION STATEMENT

To challenge and empower men to grow spiritually through study, mission/service, mentoring and sharing the love of Christ.

### Housing and Shelter Ministry

Establishes funds to provide transitional financial support to those seeking new housing or struggling to keep their homes. This assistance is meant to be a part of a wider ministry to help members regain or maintain housing stability.

Identifies vulnerable members in each part of our region to provide assistance as needed.

Gathers and disseminates information about the availability of affordable housing in each area.

Provides access to Financial help through many national and state programs.

Promotes Home sharing in many of our communities establishing successful partnerships among members of our faith community and to gather information about local organizations that have been set up to facilitate home sharing.

Partners with Christian Church Homes.

Prepares workshops and other means of communication among pastors and congregations on matters relating to housing security.

Urges congregations to join in advocacy for affordable housing, at the state and local levels directly or through existing advocacy programs, such as the Poor People's Campaign and the California Housing Consortium.

### Justice Commission

The mission of the Regional Justice Commission is to engage the questions and concerns of justice (biblical, social, racial, economical, etc.) on the hearts and minds of the CCNC-N Region in an authentic conversational practice that will:

- Give voice to diversity
- Allow for a process to inquire and seek information
- Create opportunities for education
- Provide a process for advocacy and healing

## NAPAD

The North American Pacific/Asian Disciples of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, affirm the cultures and heritages of Pacific/Asian peoples within the historic and living Christian faith.

As part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we join with other Disciples in the total mission of the church, to recognize and promote the gifts and presence of North American Pacific/Asian Disciples in the life and work of the Church.

### **PURPOSE**

To participate in God's mission through the various expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

To contribute to the wholeness and unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

To advocate for Pacific/Asian Disciples within and outside the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

To share the gifts and traditions of Pacific/Asian Disciples with the wider church.

### **List of Churches**

Bethel Christian Church (Korean Language), Alameda  
Via Dolorosa Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, Modesto  
Sinapi Seed Fellowship, Palo Alto  
FSCCC, Reno  
New Life CC, Sacramento  
FSCCC A/O, Oakland  
FSCCC, Sacramento  
Revival Christian Church (Korean-English Language), Sacramento  
New Spring Christian Church (Korean Language), Santa Clara  
Walking Faith (Korean-American) Christian Church, Sunnyvale

## New Church Movement

The New Church Ministries helps the founding of new churches in the region. The process is extensive as it is exhaustive.

## Outdoor Ministries

### **OUR MISSION**

To strengthen and enrich congregational ministry by providing quality camp and retreat experiences. We believe in children, youth, and families.

We also believe that our natural world offers a unique setting for whole life learning and spiritual growth.

Through our many experiences, we know that God touches the lives of people in a special way when we gather together in nature to explore who we are as God's people and how we might participate in the world as faithful stewards and servants.

Our lives are transformed when we sing, play, eat, study, walk, laugh and worship together. CCNCN Outdoor Ministries strives to provide a variety of opportunities for young people to experience the Christian community in fresh ways.

### Outdoor Ministries Committee

#### **Leadership**

Leanne Stump  
Chairperson

Cindy Ryness  
Legal Advice

Haley Monachello  
Director of Youth Ministries

Nancy Bingaman  
Secretary

#### **Counselors/Nurses/Staff**

Tina Heck  
Larry Love  
Nancy Love  
Carl Cordes  
Cindy Ryness  
Cathy Gabor  
Kathleen Schales  
Alicia Stolp  
Evan Stanfill  
LaTaunya Bynum

## Reconciliation Committee

The Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada recognizes that God calls us to embrace the diversity of the world around us! Likewise, we recognize that in the course of our church's history, we have fallen short of that call, and that the sin of racism and other forms of oppression keep us from being in full relationship with our God. For that reason, we diligently work towards becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, pro-reconciling church!



## Search and Call

The Disciples have a web-based Search and Call system that helps congregations with specific ministerial needs find clergy with compatible gifts and graces for ministry to meet those needs. Our Search and Call process benefits clergy and congregation alike by ensuring that candidates who are seeking ministry positions have the appropriate credentials to be in good standing with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Ministers fill out a standardized profile that helps congregations and clergy alike. In addition to helping congregations compare “apples to apples” rather than sorting through a variety of resumes, the system also helps ensure that ministers are evaluated only by their skills and abilities rather than the format of their resume.

To learn more about the Search and Call process, click the following link to the Disciples Home Mission's Search and Call page: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/clergy/christian-vocation-search-call/>

Disciples Home Mission has plenty of downloadable resources for both congregations and ministers including articles on retirement planning, salary negotiation, closing a pastoral ministry, and samples documents useful in drafting letters of call at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/> at the DHM Website

If you have any questions regarding the Search and Call system, please contact the Regional Office at 925=556-9900. It is our desire to help support the ministry of congregations and ministers alike.

## Training & Care

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada (CCNC-N) extends a warm welcome as you begin your graduate work in the Northern California area and coming under the auspices of the Training and Care Committee (T&C).

The CCNC-N “Commission on Ministry” discerns issues regarding ministerial ordination and standing. These functions are divided into two committees, Training and Care (T&C) and Recognition and Standing (R&S). T&C journeys with candidates toward ordination along either the Seminary Track (ST) or Apprentice Track (AT). Recognition and Standing (R&S) reviews transference of ordination to Disciples and issues of “standing,” (issues concerning maintenance of active ordination and commissioning).

We meet regularly with students attending seminary, most often matriculating through one of the Graduate Theological Union schools of Berkeley. The Pacific School of Religion (PSR) and San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) are the seminaries of the eight in the GTU where most of the students matriculate.

A student who is enrolled in a Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) degree must enter Training and Care to be ordained. Requirements of the committee include, but are not limited to, a spiritual autobiography, one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, a psychological evaluation, a sponsorship by at least one Disciples of Christ congregation, an ordination paper, a verified assimilation of "Competencies" and a recommendation for ordination from the committee.

## Regional Youth Council

The mission of the CCNC-N Regional Youth Council (RYC) is to foster personal and spiritual growth in both RYC members and the youth of the region. The RYC seeks to encourage developing leadership skills and to promote integrity through ethical decision making. The RYC will serve as role models and leaders to the Chi Rho (6-8 grade) and CYF (9-12 grade) youth of the region by creating and implementing programming for these age groups.

All RYC members will be held accountable to the RYC policies and covenant by each other, the CCNC-N Regional Minister and the Director of Youth Ministries. All RYC members, youth and adults are representatives of the CCNC-N region and are also asked to abide by all CCNC-N policies. (i.e. adult background checks, boundary trainings, staff training, event covenants)

## Women's Ministries

Disciples Women in the CCNC-N Region are an active group of women who serve Jesus Christ through mission, worship and study. Our current and future opportunities are outlined here. You can also check out what Disciples Women are doing across the world.

Our women's council has a board of women who come together several times a year. We pray, laugh and plan together for the future of the women in the CCNC-N Region. We cooperatively work with the women of the NCNC UCC Region as well. Please email us with any questions, ideas and prayers requests.

## **Administrative Team**

Council Facilitator  
LaDonna Harris

Recorder  
Anna Felciano

Financial Coordinator  
Theresa Schmoll

Director of Communications  
Chris Gabe

## Ministry Reports

### General Board Report

#### Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada

In 2022, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California-Nevada celebrates that we continued to offer ministries of presence, planning, and participation including hosting our first in person/hybrid Annual Gathering since 2019.

In addition to the ministries described below, we continue to visit congregations, lead retreats and gather with congregations for worship and other opportunities for developing the leadership and relationships vital for a strong regional ministry.

We are blessed that we are able to have in person gatherings; it is wonderful seeing people face to face.

#### Women's Ministries Education and Housing – Monica Cross, staff

Women's Spring Renewal and Fall Retreat - The theme for the 2022 Women's Spring Renewal was I've Got a Testimony. The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Katrina Marsh. Discussion: What is the power of testimony? Sharing your testimony helps you heal and bring us closer together. Compassionate witnessing of our personal series helps us recover and help others do the same. This type of faith cultivates courage, resilience, and a conviction to share what God has done in your life with others. The offering went to the Angel Fund and the Regional Housing Program. The theme for the 2022 Women's Fall Retreat was Reignite Your Light: Dare to Dream. The keynote speaker was General Minister and President Terri Horde Owens. Her keynote focused on the importance of the covenant in the life of the Church. Her discussion on the covenant was salient as the women attended workshops on Fundraising, General Ministry, Mission, and Social Justice.

2022 saw the launch of two new regional ministries. These ministries are the Housing and Shelter Ministry and the Regional Education Ministry. The Housing and Shelter Ministry provides resources to Disciples who are at risk of losing their housing or unable to pay utilities. Since its launch the Housing and Shelter Ministry has provided resources for a person in need of resources for housing. The Regional Education Ministry provides support that helps congregations in their call to enable persons to be biblically informed, to grow in their faith, to live responsibly in the world as faithful disciples of Christ, and to equip people to be effective leaders.

New Church Ministries Training and Care Men's Ministries Kyung-Min Daniel Lee, staff  
Associate Regional Minister's Report January 25, 2023, As the challenges of COVID fade gradually, I see a revival of in-person interaction in my ministries. Seeing many cars on freeways and their traffics relieves me somehow when I see them positively, for it tells us we are returning to normal interaction. I believe physical interaction supersedes any other means of relationship building. With that change in the interaction context, there had been physical activities of four ministries. And the level of interaction has gone up for positive signs. First, Training and Care for seminarians in their ordination process went back to the in-person meeting last September.

The outcome of each meeting produced some real feelings and concerns, and people in the space felt connected to receive and give personal care and love. Men's Ministry also returned to the in-person gathering for the retreat in July. Not only were they excited to be there in person to greet, but the anticipation of spending time together brought some degree of energy into the space, which intensified the interaction and relationship. Although the gathering was less than thirty, I believe the group felt vibes of closeness. The planned New Church gathering in December didn't go through due to the sickness of a couple of key players. However, the planning part via Zoom yielded positive energy for high anticipation and expectation. For the Regional NAPAD ministry, there was little interaction last year due to a lack of group leadership, hoping to bring it back in the year 2023. The year 2022 brought some of the energy of interaction back to the ministries. I will continue investing in that energy this year to support and connect with each other and build relationships as one body for the region's life.

Youth Ministry Haley Monachello, staff

Youth Ministry continues with plans for a summer camp in June and July. We will also host an adult camp and a camp for children and their adult family members. The Northern California-Nevada, Arizona, and Pacific Southwest Regions also joined together in the “Rekindle” Youth Conference – 1 Event 3 Locations 3 Regions. The event took place February 18.

While we have much to celebrate, we are challenged by congregations struggling to regain ground lost during the worst of the COVID pandemic. They have been slow to recover and some of them will not survive under their current circumstances.

As we think about what we hope to accomplish in the coming year, we pray to grow our education ministries, support congregations as they make difficult decisions, and continue to celebrate that we are in this church together and that we are united in this region with each other and with other regions and the whole people of God.

The General Board should know that there is excitement about ministry and church in our region.

Continue to pray that we will find all that we need to meet this moment in ministry. It is changing, and yet the call to faithfulness remains strong and vital.

Regional Moderator: The Rev. Clarence Johnson. Email [cljohnson51@hotmail.com](mailto:cljohnson51@hotmail.com)

Phone – 510-612-3501

### [Associate Regional Minister Report](#)

I thank and praise the God of all blessings for grace and mercy for me to embrace my days.

Since the last hybrid Annual Gathering at First Christian Church of Sacramento in April 2022, my activities have been increased to in-person for interactive meetings and gatherings. Also, the past year has been all sorts, from leadership transitions to fellowship to discipline and the development of communication. This year, I hope to focus on continuing the communication development and the Disciple identity.

The following describes some of the four ministries under my purview.

### New Church Movement (NCM)

The ministry of the New Church Movement seeks to carry the Pentecost experience by receiving and welcoming communities of Christians hoping to grow their communities into a church. New Church Ministry will nurture, assist, guide, and support their endeavor towards this goal. It is the hope that they will form a church that will express their unique charisma and belief that first brought them together. This is a new proposed Vision Statement drafted by Rev. Ken Babauta. Ken is pastoring at Barrett Ave Christian Church in Richmond and has served the New Church Committee for some time as treasurer. He transitioned from his predecessors a couple of months ago, from Rev. Dr. Leon Bacchause to Ms. Marianne Knot.

Can you guess how many churches are in formation or new churches in the CCNC-N region? We used to have twelve (12) but now ten (10). The Table in Berkeley and Heartbeat Organic in Citrus Height didn't make it in the past two years and disbanded. The chair's report shows the list of the new churches. Please take a look. With Ken's leadership, the Vision and Proclamation statements will be updated, and the ministry's outlook will be different from the past. With the collaboration with the Regional NAPAD, the new churches with a dual standing will reemphasize and revamp their relationship with the Disciples and its identity. As such, Recognition and Standing Committee is considering implementing and requiring a Disciples History and Polity class every two or three years for standing.

Like Men's Ministry, NCM has an Exhibit Table at this Gathering. The Table should show all the ten new churches showing in the Ken's report. These new churches also represent the Full Church Committee, who meets quarterly. Much of the ministry's work is done by the Executive Committee (EC), e.g., planning events and programs, scheduling meetings, creating agendas, etc. The display of the Exhibit Table was another work of the EC, and I want to thank Minister Carolyn Anderson, one of the EC members. The rest of the EC members are Rev. Tala Faaleava (Secretary) and Sandy Samalei.

At this time, NCM is in conversation with two (2) planters, and I hope to report and introduce them to the region at the next Gathering.

### Men's Ministry (formally Disciples Men)

The Regional Men's Ministry is mindful of the purpose of the General Conference of Disciples Men, "ministering to the unique needs of men in the church, enabling them to fulfill their potential as servants of God, and strengthening the total ministry of the church."

As you may know, Carl Cordes leads the committee with zeal and commitment. His Annual Gathering report is concise and tells what they do. Please take a look. The information begins with the Executive Committee members and the programs' dates, including the upcoming retreats in July and October. It seems like these retreats will likely be ongoing events in the future. For such preparation, the committee met twice or thrice a month for the past months and sought ideas and inspiration. Carl has been busy seeking keynoters and venues and getting the program's content and outlines. He is doing a heck of a great job. Carl and I will continue discussing visiting our local churches to promote men's participation. I hope to see it workable in the future.

Regional North American Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD)

The Regional NAPAD is a community for fellowship and participation in the total mission of the Church, trying to recognize and promote the gifts and presence of Pacific Islanders and Asian disciples in the life and work of the Church.

Like the last year, this community was dormant and had little interaction and participation except for the 2023 Lunar New Year Luncheon Celebration held on the day before, Saturday, January 21, with a few of the selected regional NAPA-disciples. The picture of that luncheon was posted on the Regional NAPAD Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1410608392577637>.

Most notable was the presence of JoAnne Kagiwada, a spouse of the late David Kwgiwada, one of the founders of NAPAD. Her company personally encouraged and supported me and the ministry of NAPAD with her wisdom, boldness, and insights. This year the Regional NAPAD, along with the ministry of the New Church Movement, explores the Disciple identity for those with a dual standing. Most of the NAPA-disciples are non-Disciples backgrounds experienced as the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Disciple generations. This community will explore the Disciple's identity through a workshop and/or one-day training, hoping to benefit and help the region and the community with who and what we are as the Disciples.

The word Dual Standing should address, explore, and implement its covenantal relationship. The year ahead will be challenging but also should be exciting as well.

The Regional NAPAD used to have ten (10) churches but with a closure of the Samoan congregation in Antioch, now down to nine (9): one (1) Chinese congregation, three (3) Korean, and five (5) Samoans. The list of the churches and their website is as

follows: <https://www.ccncn.org/napad.php>

- (1) Bethel (Korean) Christian Church (CC) in Alameda (Rev. Moon Il Lee),
- (2) First Samoan Congregational Christian Church (FSCCC) of Alameda/Oakland (Minister Mako Samaile)
- (3) FSCCC of Reno (Rev. Ula Aiono),
- (4) FSCCC of Sacramento (Rev. Salesa Faalau),
- (5) New Life (Korean) CC in Santa Clara (Rev. Hai-Nam Seo and Rev. Gloria Seo, Co-Pastors),
- (6) Puna O Le Ola (Samoan) Congregational Christian Church in Stockton (Rev. Tala Faaleava)
- (7) Sinapi Seed (Chinese) Fellowship in Palo Alto (Rev. John Wu),
- (8) Via Dolorosa (Samoan) Congregational Christian Church in Modesto (Commissioned Minister Faauma "Misa" Pesaleli), and
- (9) Walking Faith (Korean-American) CC in Sunnyvale (Rev. Kyung-Min Daniel Lee).

Please note that May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.[1] I hope you can join their celebration by visiting <https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/> and learning some of their heritage

#### Training and Care

This ministry is joyous and challenging when walking along with the committee for candidates' responding to ordination calling: joyful to work with the committee for their insights and wisdom and challenged when training or discipline is part of the journey and when care is needed.

As my last Annual Gathering (AG) report mentioned, Rev. Fred Williams and Rev. Paul Gaffney became co-chairs after Rev. Susan Parsley's retirement. Due to his health issue early this year, Fred resigned from the committee; since then, Paul has led the committee with nine other members. Paul's AG covers what the committee does and the list of the committee members and candidates currently in the process, approval of ordination, and prospectives.

I look forward to this summer as the committee is preparing to revisit the Training and Care Manual for another revision.

I close this report with my gratitude for all your support.

Submitted respectively in Christ, Kyung-Min Daniel Lee

#### Ministry Council Report -

Purpose - To oversee the ministry mission of the Region by fostering, supporting, and working with mission clusters, standing committees, and individual congregations to carry out the mission of the church. This committee also consists of members of the Region's standing committees as well as representatives from the mission clusters. Officers are -

- ◦ Moderator, Rev. Jesse Kearns
- ◦ Vice Moderator, Carl Cordes
- ◦ Secretary: Rev. Leon Bacchues
- ◦ Member at Large: Rev. Jan Warren
- ◦ Member at Large: Hillary Marckx

Since the last Annual Gathering on April 30, 2022, the Ministry Council has met four times on Zoom (meetings are on the fifth Tuesday of months that have five Tuesdays.) We have several people whose terms end this year, but meeting attendance and participation has remained steady. Our challenge has been replacing committee members, particularly clergy, who have retired or moved on to other outside the Region.

Our main projects for the year has been establishing the CCNCN Housing and Shelter Ministry and the CCNCN Education Committee.



#### CCNCN Housing and Shelter Committee

The purpose of this project is to help members of CCNCN congregations maintain safe and secure housing and to advocate for more affordable housing across the region. J. Norman Bardsley brought this idea to the Ministry Committee's attention almost two years ago. The ministry is funded by seed money that has been set aside as well as direct donations to the project. Our goal is to assist five individuals per year who are experiencing homelessness. This past year, we provided financial support for one person who was in need of temporary shelter. We have reviewed two other cases. Our challenge has been coming up with an application process that is consistent and fair. The funds are available, but it is a struggle to find people who are qualified to do the necessary case management. The committee is on the lookout for ministry partners and programs that might help in this ministry. Christian Church Homes has been helpful in guiding us. The committee is reviewing Senate Bill 4 authored by Senator Scott Wiener - Affordable Housing on Faith Lands Act. This bill would allow faith institutions (such as churches, synagogues, and mosques) along with nonprofit colleges to build affordable housing on their property by-right, even if local zoning prevents this housing.

The committee is working with the Regional Minister to set the Region's future ministry goals and objectives. The Regional Minister has been conducting Mission Cluster Meetings where she asks eight questions for participants to answer concerning their ministry needs. Once the data has been gathered and discussed, we can continue the work of setting ministry goals and developing responses to the region's ministry needs.

#### CCNCN Education Committee

The education committee has been discussing educational opportunities for our region's congregations. Currently, we are working on a program that draws from our movement's rich history to ask, "Are we who we say we are?" The workshop, "Bound to God and One Another" came out of this committee's work, and if it goes well, we will continue to develop this idea into a program that can be presented at congregations or mission cluster meetings.

The Personnel Committee has reviewed the recommendations for the Regional Minister based on her last performance review. The committee determined that Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum has addressed and met these recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted

Jesse Kearns, Moderator

#### Men's Ministries

On behalf of the Executive Committee, comprised of the following; President; Carl Cordes  
Vice-President; Mike Carlson Regional Rep; Kyung-Min Daniel Lee



Secretary; Still Hoping to find someone. Any volunteer? Treasurer; Cliff Cole

Chaplain; Chad Thompson

At Large; Jordan Williams, Don Stump, and Godfree McIntyre Rep to General Conference  
Disciples Men; Kevin Lue

I write this report which covers the events of the Men's Ministries for the past year.

Our Annual Retreat, on July 15th and 16th, took place at First Christian Sacramento which graciously hosted, honoring us with their Fellowship Hall, great food and welcoming surroundings. Our keynoter, Rev. J. Dana Trent, streamed in from North Carolina, and talked to us about taking inventory on our lives. It was a great question and answer session attended by close to 20 men across the Region. Other sessions were lead by Mike Keffer and Don Stump, talk to us about Mentoring and our Legacies.

Our Multi-Regional Zoom Retreat, on November 12th, was lead by a well known storyteller and humorist, Rick Hall. Rick came to us from his home in Chicago. He told us stories about is life and we broke up into small groups and shared stories together. "Laughter Breaks Down Walls" was the theme, we had many laughs that day. But it also bought us together.

This coming year we have decided to switch our events; the Multi-Regional Event will be on July 15th on zoom and our Annual Retreat will be on October 28th and 29th at Camp Arroyo, outside of Livermore. We are working on the theme and keynoter for our July event, but we are excited to have Steven Borgard as our keynoter for the October event. Please keep watch for more details on these events.

Sitting here writing this report I cannot help but think about how our churches are missing men in there communities. Visiting other churches in our Region, I see this. What will it take to help men come back to our churches? Do we need to revise the way we do things? Do we offer events or retreats to bring in new faces? How is this done? We of the Executive Committee of the Men's Ministries think about these questions all the time and we have not come up with a good solutions. We will though continue to offer programs catered to Men across our region. I am always looking for new ideas and new people to help.

Again I would like to thank Kyung-Min Daniel Lee for all his help with the in's and out's of Men's Ministries. He has been a great help and look forward to working with him again this coming year.

Thanks to all who have volunteered in the past year. These events would not have happened without you.

Dates for coming events;

May 16-18, 2023; Work days at CGC. Check with Tina Heck for more details.

July 15, 2023, 1 to 4:30pm; Multi-Regional Retreat, on zoom.

October 27-29, 2023; CCNC-N Men's Ministries Retreat at Camp Arroyo. Live two night event. More information to follow.

Peace and blessings;

Carl Cordes (cccrafting@comcast.net)

### Mission Trip

On Sunday, April 2nd, six members of CCNC-N churches gathered at the Community of the Great Commission for the 16th annual Holy Week Mission Trip. Beginning just six months after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and other areas of the Gulf Coast, members of our churches have traveled to a variety of locations to assist with recovery efforts following various natural disasters—four years in the New Orleans area, and then in Mississippi, Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado, Iowa, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, and also trips within California—Lake County (twice), Paradise, and this year the Community of the Great Commission.

A total of nine people traveled to CGC to work at least one day to prepare our camp for the upcoming season after the camp was nearly lost to the Mosquito Fire last summer. Those attending and working were Tina Borgman, Sharon Armus, Becky Gordon, Pat Hughes, Tristan Tang, Larry Love, Virginia Farley, Judy Bever, and Kevin Lue.

Working with CGC camp manager, Bobby Thoennes, the group first searched the camp for a water leak that left the camp, including our mission trip crew, without running water. While one leak was found, there was still a leak somewhere, but the crew was able to make it through three days of work (through Wednesday) by melting snow and using snow run-off from the roof of Claar House for our water needs.

One of our cars also got stuck in the snow and required several hours of snow shoveling and ingenuity over four days to get it free.

In spite of the challenges (we also got snowed on), the mission trip team was able to:

- Do deep cleaning of Claar House and Bobbitt Hall
- Clean the tile and grouting in the Bobbitt area shower house
- Brushed layers of pine needles off the roof of the Bobbitt shower house
- Cleared away damaged water heating panels around the swimming pool
- Cleared and piled up fallen branches and other natural debris around the pool area and Bobbitt Hall
- Cleared snow and debris off the Bobbitt deck and the walk-ways and porches of all of the cabins in the Bobbitt area
- Sanded and painted two doors at the pool house

Members of the group returned to their homes after the workday on Wednesday.

Special thanks to Lou Ann Hughes who helped organize the trip...even though she was unable to attend due to illness, and to Sharon Armus and Becky Gordon who planned the meals and purchased the food for the whole group.

Until next year when the 17th annual CCNC-N Mission Trip (hopefully including many more of you) will do more holy work during Holy Week, we ask God to bless you with peace and grace.

### New Church Movement Ministry Report

John 10: 16 says, “And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd.”

New Church Movement Ministry has an urgent and important mission to fulfill in this Region. It is a collective effort based on everyone’s efforts and prayers to answer Jesus’s call to seek and collect other “sheep” so there will be one flock and one Shepherd. This is a joyous endeavor to approach inspired groups possessing their unique charisma to be a part of our Region and denomination. We are reaching out to help, assist and guide these uncut gems of God to grow in the faith that brought them together.

There are 10 new churches under care in our Region presently:

First Congregational Church of San Francisco – Rev. Tami Groves  
First Samoan Congregational CC of Reno, Reno, Nv. Rev. Ula Aiono  
Bethel Christian Church (Korean) – Alameda, Ca. Rev. Moon Il Lee  
Walking Faith (Korean American) CC – Sunnyvale, Ca Rev Kyun-Min Daniel Lee  
Tapestry Ministries Oakland, Ca Rev Dr. Leon Bacchue  
First Samoan Congregational CC of Alameda/Oakland – Lay Preacher Mako & Sandy Samai  
Gathering Desire – San Anselmo, Ca Rev Carolyn Anderson  
Missio Dei Community – Santo Cruz, Ca Pastor Bobby Marchessault  
Puna O Le Ola Samoan Congregational CC of Stockton – Rev Tautalaaso Foaleava  
Woodside Village Church – Woodside, Ca Rev. Ama Zenya  
New Church Movement Ministry holds committee meetings quarterly on the second Saturday of the month.

New Church Movement Executive Committee consist of:

Kenneth Babauta – Chair  
Kyung-Min Daniel Lee – Associate Regional Minister for New Church Movement  
Carolyn Anderson – Treasurer  
Tautalaaso Faaleave – Secretary  
New Church Movement provides annual grant to support ministry on a rotational basis; enroll new ministers into the Pension Plan/Fund; provide Liability Insurance; and financially support to ministers attending Leadership Academy.

### Outdoor Ministries Report

Report not submitted

## Training and Care (T&C) Committee

It's an honor to be the Chairperson of the Training and Care Committee of our Regional Church, and to introduce our members. Our primary task is the formation, education, care and nurture of candidates — both seminary and apprentice track — who are responding to God's call in their lives and moving towards their hoped-for goal of ordination. We are privileged to companion candidates on their journeys, as well as evaluate their readiness for ministry based on our denomination's Order of Ministry guidelines and the requirements that have been set forth for this process.

We gather with each other and our Candidates on the first Wednesday of each month. This year we've decided to resume meeting in person, as meeting with each other and our Candidates on Zoom presented unique challenges to our process. We celebrate the opportunity to gather together and are grateful to Lafayette Christian Church for the use of their sanctuary for our monthly meetings.

### Our current T&C committee:

Rev. Ken Babauta (Pastor, Barrett Ave Christian Church )

Rev. Steve Borgard (Interim Pastor, FCC of Sacramento )

Rev. Paul Gaffney (Chair, ACPE Certified Educator, San Francisco Theological Seminary)

Rev. Jeffrey Ismael (Chaplain, John Muir Hospital)

Rev. Sophia Jackson (Lead clergy for WOSA (Women of Spirit Action) on the Disciples Women's Council and Moderator of the Executive Board for the Bay Association in the Northern Cal-NeV Conference of the UCC)

Ms. Ellie McDougal (laywoman, Concord First Christian)

Rev. Dr. Christy Newton, (Pastor, FCC of Vallejo)

Rev. Dr. Laura Jean Torgerson, (GTU Professor and member at Mills Grove)

Rev. Dr. Clarence Johnson (Pastor, Mills Grove Christian Church)

Rev. Maria Tafoya (Retired pastor)

### ex officio Members:

Rev. Kyung-Min Daniel Lee, CCNC-N Associate Regional Minister and staff liaison

Rev. Dr. Lataunya M. Bynum, CCNC-N Regional Minister

Candidates Ordained in the last year: Grace Hyeryung Kim (December 2022, Lafayette Christian Church)

Upcoming Ordinations: Renae Earl, M.Div (May 20, 2023, First Christian Church of Concord)

Carolyn Anderson, M.Div (June 3, 2023, Mills Grove Christian Church)

### Candidates Currently Under Care:

Candidates Currently Under Care, Seminary Track:

Jodi Capitola-Duran - Graduated 2018 from Luther Rice

LaDonna Harris - M.Div., Graduated from Berkeley School of Theology (BST), formerly known as ABSW – currently working on her D.Min.

Jeremiah Jenkins – M.Div., RGST

Shannon Kitchens, M.Div., Graduated from Pacific School of Religion

August Laperche – MTS, Graduated from Phillips Theological Seminary

Bobby Marchessault – M.Div., PSR

Shannon Markx – M.Div., PSR

Lacy Soto - M.Div., Graduated from Claremont School of Theology

Christiane Swartz – M.Div., PSR

Tipisone Tuiolomoti – M.Div., Graduated from PSR - working on Ph.D. at GTU

Safue Ulufaleilupe – M.Div., Graduated from PSR – working on D.Min. at PSR

2023 Prospective Students:

Najon Siana – M.Div., PSR

Gabrielle Poli – M.Div., PSR

Our Training and Care Committee would like to say thank you for the opportunity to serve the church as we walk with and are challenged by such exceptional and faithful candidates for ordination in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.

Respectfully,

Paul Gaffney, Chairperson

Training and Care Committee

#### Women's Ministries Council Report

- LaDonna Harris, Facilitator
- Rev. Dr. Monica Cross, Minister
- Renae Earl, Retreat and Renewal
- Rev. Sophia Jackson, Women of Spirit, and Action
- Theresa Schmoll, Financial Coordinator
- Anna Felciano, Secretary
- Rev. Shayne Flowers, Member-at-Large
- Emma Denise Milligan, Member-at-Large
- Chris Gabe, Communications
- Jodi Capitola-Duran, MSW, MDiv, ACSW
- Rev. Carol Bono, Chaplain

Women's 2023 Spring Renewal and 2022 Fall Retreat – Spring Renewal happened at FCC Concord. It was the first in-person Women's Ministries event in three years. The theme for the 2023 Women's Spring Renewal was "Revival." The keynote speakers were Rev. Dr. Mary Donovan Turner, sermon title, "They Got Up at Once" and Rev. Erin Edwards, sermon title, "Now What." Workshops – Listeners to Preachers, Spirituality in End-of-Life Planning, Creativity from the Inside Out, LGBTQ 101, Practical Ways to Fight Human Trafficking, Revive Your Creativity. The offering went to the Retreat Fund and Angela Grant Fund. The theme for the 2022 Women's Fall Retreat was Reignite Your Light: Dare to Dream. The keynote speaker was General Minister and President Terri Horde Owens. The keynote focused on the importance

of the covenant in the life of the Church. Her discussion on the covenant was salient as the women attended workshops on Fundraising, General Ministry, Mission, and Social Justice. The offering went to the Angel Grant Fund and Goodness Village, a community of formerly unhoused people in Livermore, CA. For more information, please click on the following website link - <https://gvlivermore.org/>.

Churches visits in May 2022 and April 2023 and the Poor People's Campaign – Visits were made to First Christian Church of Redding, United Congregational Church, Eureka, Geyserville Christian Church, United Christian Church in Fresno, First Christian Church Selma, Pacific Grove Christian Church, Christian Church of Vacaville, Barrett Avenue Christian Church in Richmond, and First Christian Church of Vallejo and Niles Discovery Church, Union City. Women's Ministries Representatives also attended the Poor People's Campaign Low Wage Worker's Assembly and Moral March held in Washington, DC, June 18, 2022. Church Visits in 2023 were First Christian Church of Woodland, Woodside Village Christian Church, First Christian Church Selma, Cottage Way Christian Church, FCC San Jose, Urban Sanctuary.

LaDonna Harris, Facilitator

Rev. Dr. Monica Cross, Staff

Youth Ministries Report for Annual Gathering

Report not submitted

## 169th CCNC-N Annual Gathering - Workshops

Session A 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Spirituality of Animals

By Janet Warner Chapman

Room 101

How our Disciples Congregations Use their Resources and Facilities to Serve the Communities

By Rosario Ibarra

Room 103

Bound to God and One Another

By Jesse Kearns

Discovery Room

Hybrid Service Tips & Tricks

By Jim Thomas

Sanctuary

Walking the Labyrinth for Grounding, Renewing, and Transforming Ourselves

By Christy Newton, Carl Cordes, Beth Grose

Youth Building

Session B 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Being a Micah Church in an Unjust, Unkind, and Pride-filled World

By Larry Love, LaDonna Harris

Room 101

Embodied Justice

By Jim Mitulski, Angela Urata

Room 103

Praying as Jesus Taught

By Ama Zenya

Discovery Room

Language for Connection - and Introduction to Basic Principles of Non-Violent Communication

By Godfree McIntyre

Sanctuary

Exploring the Depths of Ocean Stewardship

By Kimberly Brown, Gabrielle Poli

Worship & Wonder Room



**Pastor Ama Zenya**

Pastor Ama Zenya serves at Woodside Village Church in Woodside, CA. She learned this prayer framework from Apostle Emmanuel of the Ivory Coast and looks forward to joining in prayer together.



**Angela Urata**

Angela works part time as Development Director at the Oakland Peace Center since 2020 and part time as an Administrative Director at Interplay since 2021. She is a graduate of Occidental College.



**Beth Grose**

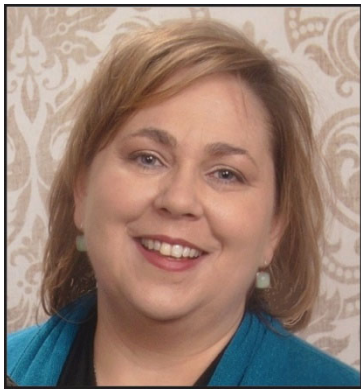
Beth is a member of Lafayette Christian Church and is co-facilitating the Labyrinth workshop at the 169th Annual Gathering.





**Carl Cordes**

Regionally and locally Carl has been extremely active and committed to youth education and support. He has, on a number of occasions, participated in and directed Feb Camp, served as a camp counselor for summer programs, taught Sunday School, organized youth events and is always looking for creative ways to involve young people in the faith community. Carl has served as Moderator for First Christian Church Vallejo. He is forward-looking, encouraging, insightful and a model of someone who lives a life grounded in the Christian faith. Carl has served previously on the Regional Youth Council. Carl is a University of Minnesota graduate and is retired as Drafting Room Manager at Ce Toland & Son.



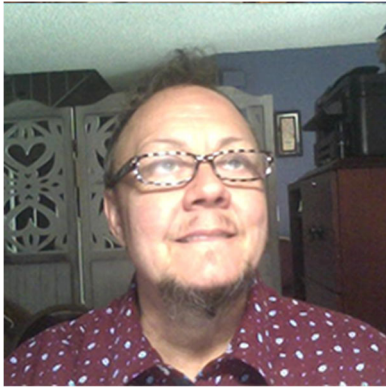
**Rev. Christy Newton**

Rev. Dr. Christy Newton is the pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Vallejo. She also teaches social ethics, spirituality, and practical theology for Lexington Theological Seminary. This past summer she went on a sabbatical made possible by a Lily Foundation Renewal Grant, which enabled her to travel to Chartres Cathedral in France to walk its labyrinth laid down in the year 1200 and to receive formal labyrinth facilitator training with Lauren Artress. She considers the labyrinth an ancient, timeless, and revolutionary spiritual tool capable of transforming individuals and the world.



**Gabrielle Poli**

Gabrielle Poli is a Marine Theologian. She will explain the profession in the workshop. She is an employee of Creation Justice Ministries and a member of the Christian Church of Pacific Grove.



**Rev. Godfree McIntyre**

Rev. Godfree McIntyre gave his life to Jesus in 1981. He has had rich and rewarding experience working in many different areas of ministry and worshipping in a wide variety of church environments. He is currently the transitional interim pastor at Arden Christian Church in Sacramento. Godfree has 5 children and 1 grandchild. He likes to garden, ride his motorcycle, and write poetry. Godfree has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Communication Studies from Sac State, and a Master's of Divinity from Claremont School of

Theology. He has completed 6 units of Clinical Pastoral Education and continues to work as a Hospice Chaplain. Godfree has also completed his studies for a Doctorate of Ministry with the College of Pastoral Supervision and Counseling (CPSP) and is a Supervisor in Training with CPSP. Godfree is a progressive leader with a rich cultural/religious background including Pentecostal, Quaker, Buddhist, and Hindu flavors. As one of just a few transgender persons ordained with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), he is proud to be working with his region toward expansive gender and sexuality inclusiveness. Godfree is also a member of the Christian Church of Northern California Nevada Education Ministries and Justice Commission, and is an anti-racism trainer. He has a passion for holistic social justice, as well as ecumenical and interfaith collaboration.



**Rev. Janet Warner Chapman**

Grad of Brite Divinity School & ordained May '88; Served congregations in Ft. Worth, TX; Kansas City, MO; Selma, CA; and current pastor of First Christian Church, Redding since 2014



**Rev. Jesse Kearns**

Bio - Rev. Jesse Kearns is an ordained Disciples minister currently serving as the pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Chico, California. He came to faith in his late teens and was introduced to the Stone-Campbell heritage churches while attending college at Northwest Christian College in the central Willamette valley of Oregon where he was raised. He received his M.Div from Emmanuel School of Religion in Johnson City, Tennessee and completed some additional post-graduate work at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington,

Kentucky. He served as Associate Regional Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia and as Minister of Search and Call for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California-Nevada. He is passionate about interfaith ministry and has served as President of the Chico Area Interfaith Council and is host of Faith and Common Ground, a radio show/podcast that celebrates the intersection of faith and public life. He is married to Rev. Mary Kearns, an ordained Disciples minister who serves as a hospice chaplain in Chico.



**Rev. Jim Mitulski**

Rev. Jim Mitulski is the pastor of the Congregational Church UCC of Belmont CA. He has been a pastor for 40 years in the Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), the United Church of Christ, the Disciples of Christ, and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries in Massachusetts, Texas, Minnesota, Colorado, Texas and California. He is a former staff member at Pacific School of Religion (PSR) and a founder and pastor of New Spirit Community Church at PSR. He is the vice president of the Board of Directors at the Oakland Peace Center



**Jim Thomas**

Jim Thomas, our Ministry Associate, serves as the regional office manager and director of communications. He has a master's degree in Instructional Science and Technology from California State University Monterey Bay, and a bachelor's degree in business management from St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA. He joined the team in March of 2014, bringing with him a wealth of skills in business administration, graphic arts, and computer technologies. He has been involved in technology since the mid-1970s when he bought his first computer as a hobbyist. He became a software engineer in the 80s and developed database driven programs. In the 90s, he transitioned from programming desktop apps to developing web apps and working with internet start-ups in creating their online presence. After the dot-com crash at the turn of the century, he focused his efforts on automation and social media. Prior to the pandemic, he worked in the areas of online collaboration, content streaming, videography, and video production, which have become valuable assets in this changing world we find ourselves in today. He considers himself a lifelong learner and enjoys exploring cutting edge technologies.



**Kimberly Brown**

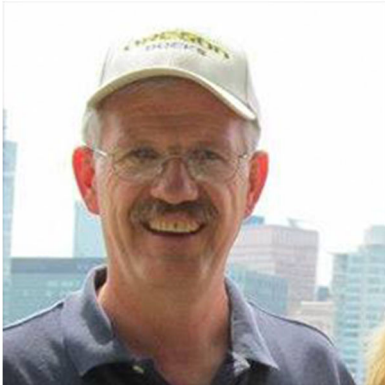
Kimberly is an Elder and also a member of the Blue Theology Task Force at the Christian Church of Pacific Grove. She assists youth groups who visit the Blue Theology Mission Station for learning and serving opportunities in ocean stewardship.





**Rev. LaDonna Harris**

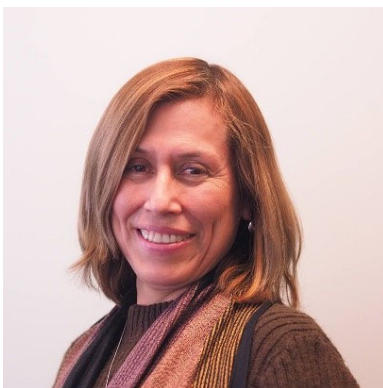
Minister LaDonna Harris retired from law enforcement in 2016, with nearly 35 years of service. Today, as a womanist theologian, LaDonna worships and serves at Mills Grove Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oakland, CA., where she is an ordained Elder. She is the Facilitator for the Women's Ministries Council in the Northern California - Nevada Region of the Disciples of Christ.



**Rev. Larry Love**

Pastor Larry Love has been serving churches in the CCNC-N region for forty-two years and has spent thirty-three of those years as the pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Woodland. Born and raised in Idaho and then Oregon, Larry attended Northwest Christian College (now Bushnell University) and Fuller Theological Seminary. Larry served the Red Bluff/Corning/Redding Parish of the Christian Church beginning in 1981. He began his ministry in Woodland in 1989. Larry is married to Nancy Love, and has two young adult children, Micah and Alexa. Larry loves church camp and

has served on multiple committees of the CCNC-N region, the General Board of the Christian Church, and the General Nominating Committee, loves God...and loves the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



**Rosario Ibarra**

Rev. Rosario Ibarra serves as a Building and Capital Services Advisor for Disciples Church Extension Fund, assisting congregations on ministry and building planning as well as on loans and capital fundraising services. Before becoming a minister, she used to work in the banking industry in promotion, finances, and loans. She also served as a Pastoral Assistant for Building Community in Diversity and Loan Officer with the United Church of Christ. She is a bilingual-trained coach who loves serving and

## Christian Churches of Northern California-Nevada

Location	Church	Phone	Email
Alameda	Bethel Christian Church	510-523-7278	moonlee2518@gmail.com
Alameda	First Christian Church	510-263-8257	gloria884@aol.com
Antioch	First Christian Church	925-757-0860	fcc-antioch@hotmail.com
Antioch	Samoan Congregational Christian Church of Amerika	916-923-8453	pfualaau@yahoo.com
Berkeley	BRIM Ministry	510-717-0998	carolbono@zoho.com
Berkeley	Tapestry Ministries	510-820-1381	leonbacchues@yahoo.com
Campbell	Revival Christian Church	916-769-1022	silasna@ymail.com
Chico	First Christian Church	530-343-3727	chicodisciples@gmail.com
Citrus Heights	Heartbeat Organic Church		g.e.mcintyre2015@gmail.com
Colusa	First Christian Church	530-458-4270	Pastorskrouse@gmail.com
Concord	First Christian Church	925-685-7503	andie@concordfcc.net
Corning	First Christian Church	530-824-9539	karenskutkurl@yahoo.com
Eureka	United Congregational Christian Church	707-445-5488	uccc@revcindi.com
Foresthill	Church of the New Creation	(530) 367- 2800	jlwilson@ftcnet.net
Fremont	Niles Discovery Church	510-797-0895	admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org
Fresno	United Christian Church	559-227-2050	disciplesfresno@sbcglobal.net
Geyserville	Geyserville Christian Church	707-857-3473	hilary@hilaryfmarckx.com
Hanford	First Christian Church	559-584-3082	l.church@att.net
Lafayette	Lafayette Christian Church	925-283-8304	office@lafayettechristianchurch.org
Lakeport	United Christian Parish	707-263-4788	ucpoffice@att.net
Lodi	United Congregational Christian Church	209-368-1955	lodiunitedchurch@att.net
Loomis	Sierra Christian Church	916-624-8733	cmpsteller@yahoo.com
Modesto	Via Dolorosa Congregational Christian Church	209-541-3755	tfaletagaloa@ymail.com
Oakdale	Oakdale Christian Church	209-847-3029	oakdalechristian1@att.net
Oakland	First Christian Church	510-451-8822	dorianleewatson@gmail.com
Oakland	First Samoan Congregational Christian Church of Al...	510-703-6284	loveamosa@gmail.com
Oakland	Mills Grove Christian Church	510-534-4722	MillsGrove3@hotmail.com
Pacific Grove	Christian Church of Pacific Grove	831-372-0363	Ellis1946@gmail.com
Palo Alto	First Christian Church	650-327-4188	info@pafcc.org
Palo Alto	Sinapi Seed Fellowship	408-887-4606	pastorjohn@sinapiseed.org
Paradise	First Christian Church	530-877-9923	jmccollester@gmail.com
Porterville	First Christian Church	559-784-1975	firstchristian_c@yahoo.com
Redding	First Christian Church	530-242-1589	reddingfcc@gmail.com
Reno	First Samoan Congregational Christian Church		uaiono@yahoo.com

Richmond	Barrett Avenue Christian Church	510-233-8431	kennethbabauta@comcast.net
Sacramento	Arden Christian Church	916-483-2733	dmast71@hotmail.com
Sacramento	Cottage Way Christian Church	916-927-9274	cwccpastor@gmail.com
Sacramento	First Christian Church	916-452-7661	1stccinfo@gmail.com
Sacramento	First Samoan Congregational Christian Church	916-922-2220	salefatu@yahoo.com
Sacramento	Fruitridge Christian Church	916-456-4700	Eva.L.Bray@gmail.com
San Carlos	Chalice Christian Church	650-369-3942	anncw65@gmail.com
San Francisco	First Congregational Church	415-441-8901	tamigroves@sanfranciscoucc.org
San Francisco	Forest Hill Christian Church	415-566-1414	fhcc@mac.com
San Jose	CHAM Deliverance Ministry	408-236-2004	perrysandy@aol.com
San Jose	FCC San Jose	408-294-2944	dana@urbansanctuarysj.org
San Jose	United Disciples Fellowship	408-871-2313	skwessels24@gmail.com
Santa Clara	New Spring Christian Church	408-747-9386	Ooon28@gmail.com
Santa Cruz	Greater Purpose Community Church	831-400-9139	Gpccsantacruz@gmail.com
Santa Cruz	Missio Dei Community	831-406-1334	bobby@missiodeisantacruz.org
Selma	First Christian Church	559-896-2691	fccselma@sbcglobal.net
Sparks	First Christian Church	775-358-0507	rev_wren@sbcglobal.net
Stockton	Mayfair Christian Church	209-477-9624	norris.palmer@sbcglobal.net
Stockton	Puna O Le Ola Congregational Christian Church	209-477-0259	revalsaina@gmail.com
Sunnyvale	Raynor Park Christian Church	408-736-8821	chrisney62@gmail.com
Sunnyvale	Walking Faith (Korean-American) Christian Church	408-679-7769	walkingfaithkacc@yahoo.com
Turlock	First Christian Church	209-634-6635	turlockfcc@att.net
Ukiah	First Christian Church	707-462-5830	cmareckx@comcast.net
Vacaville	Christian Church of Vacaville	707-448-8778	info@christianchurchofvacaville.org
Vallejo	First Christian Church	707-643-7973	info@vallejochristian.org
Walnut Creek	gathering-desire		musicallife4u@yahoo.com
Watsonville	First Christian Church	831-724-4517	fccdocwatsonville@outlook.com
Woodland	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Woodland	530-662-9356	pastorlarrywcc@sbcglobal.net
Woodside	Woodside Village Church	650-851-1587	<a href="mailto:office@wvchurch.org">office@wvchurch.org</a>

## CCNC-N Ministers

Aiono, Ula	P
Alexander, Kacey	OP
Amosa, Iopu	P
Attenhofer, Hope	NP
Babauta, Kenneth	P
Bacchues, Jr., Leon	P
Bainbridge, Dana	P
Barber, Jr., Clifford	R-i
Baxter Warren, Lora	P
Beach, Richard	R-i
Bever, Judy	R-a
Bishop Pocięcha, Paula	R-a
Bono, Carol	C-n
Borgard, Steven	P
Brague, Gerry	A
Bray, Eva	P
Brown, Margie	NP
Brunelle, Stephan	C-n
Bynum, LaTaunya	RG
Carlson, Michael	R-a
Chapman, Janet	P
Clark, Warren	R-i
Cole, Alan	R-i
Cole, Myron	R-i
Cooley, William	R-i
Cornish, Kim	C-n
Cotten, Carroll	R-a
Cramer, Kathy	R-a
Cross, Monica	A
Dawson, John	DU
Edwards, Erin	D
England, Gus	R-a
Erickson, Beth	OP
Fa'alau, Salesa	P
Faletagaloa, Tavita	P
Firch, Ted	P
Firch, Vickie	OP
Flowers, Shayne	A
Fuqua, Gwynn	A
Gaffney, Paul	C-n

Goode, James	R-i
Green, Carrol	R-a
Green, Diana	R-a
Groves, Tami	P
Hallett, Robert	R-a
Hambleton, Jerry	R-a
Hamm, Michael	P
Heck, Tina	ER
Hennessey, Heather	R-a
Hile, Gregory	OP
Hinerman, Stephen	DU
Hudson, Walter	NP
Hunter, Joy	R-a
Hurst, Ronald	R-i
Ishmael, Jeffrey	C-n
Jackson, Sophia	NP
James, Anne	OP
Jezek, James	C-n
Jezek, Karan	C-n
Jha, Sandhya	ER
Johnson, Clarence	P
Johnson, Darrell	R-a
Johnson-Wilson, Gloria	A
Johnston, Mark	R-i
Jones, Fred	NP
Jordan, John	R-a
Kearns, Jesse	P
Kearns, Mary	NP
Kimbell-Auth, Shannon	P
Kindle, Steven	R-i
Kolivas, Nicholas	OP
Kweon, Oh Seon	A
Larsen, Arne	R-i
Lee, Kyung-Min	RM
Lee, Moon	P
Loreman, Brenda	UD
Love, Lawrence	P
Loveless, Jeanne	DU
Luvsan, Otgunbayar	P
Mackey, Charles	R-a
Marckx, Cheryl	UD
Marckx, Hilary	UD

Márquez-Lúcar, Yolanda	O
Martin, Ellis	R-a
Mazur, Nathan	DU
McCollester, Janice	P
McFarland, Kay	R-i
McIntyre, Godfree	I
McKee-Jolda, Nancy	R-i
Monhollen, Steven	R-i
Newton, Christy	P
Northrip, F.	C-n
Ober, Richard	R-a
Packard, Karyn	R-a
Palmer, Norris	HE
Parsley, Susan	P
Pesaleli, Faauma	
Richardson, Carol	SZ
Salles, Bill	A
Schepel, Charles	R-i
Schlagel, Beverly	R-i
Sempari, Marianna	NP
Seo, Hai Nam	P
Shifflet, Stephen	R-a
Shive, William	P
Shively, Robert	D
Smith, Victor	HE
Snyder, Faye	R-a
Spencer, Jeffrey	UD
Stalling, Teneesha	OP
Steenhouse, Sara	OP
Swartz, Christiane	A
Tafoya, Maria	R-i
Taylor, Leslie	UD
Teer, Jill	A
Thompson, William	A
Throne, Elizabeth	C-n
Torgerson, Laura	SZ
Turner, Denise	C-n
Turner, Mary	HE
Valentine, Katy	A
Wade, Leanne	DU
Warren, Thomas	P
Weatherly, Gary	R-a
Whang, Myung	A
White, Mona	MM

Williams, Fredrick	P
Williams, Martha	P
Wilson, Diane	R-a
Wilson, Keith	P
Wilson, Jr., Josh	R-a
Winton-Henry, Stephen	C-n
Wiser, Marvin Lance	DU
Wren, Steve	P
Wu, John	P
Yu, Geunhee	R-i
Zenya, Ama	P



## Classifications

A Associate Minister  
C-a Armed Services Chaplain  
C-f Chaplain – Federal  
C-n Chaplain – Institutional  
CE Christian Educator  
CM Campus Minister  
D Disciples Minister serving non-Disciples congregation  
DU Disciples Minister with UCC standing serving UCC congregation  
EM Minister employed by national ecumenical organization  
ER Minister employed by regional ecumenical organization  
G Minister employed by a general ministry  
GU Disciples General Ministry minister with UCC standing  
HE Minister in higher education  
I Interim minister  
M Missionary  
MC Minister of Counseling  
MM Minister of Music  
NP Non-parish Minister  
OP Other employment but preaching  
P Pastor of recognized congregation  
R-a Retired active  
R-I Retired inactive  
RG Senior Regional Minister  
RM Regional Minister (Other than RG)  
SA Student Associate Minister  
SC Student Chaplain  
SP Student Pastor  
SZ Ordained minister returning to school for a limited time or Ordained Student not presently employed in the ministry  
UC UCC General Minister with Disciples standing  
UD United Church of Christ minister with Disciples standing serving a Disciples congregation

## Acknowledgements

<p>Disciples of Christ          Rev. Dr. Richard Lowery          Rev. Dr. Sharon Watson          Rev. Ivonne Gilmore</p>	<p>Host          First Christian Church in Concord          Andie Raymond, FCC Administrator          Bill Bush, FCC House and Grounds Chairperson</p>
<p>Tech Team          Jim Thomas          Scott Sunderland          Chris Gabe          Brook Buck</p>	<p>Annual Planning Committee          Rev. Dr. LaTaunya M. Bynum          Rev. Dr. Leslie Taylor          Rev. Dr. Monica Cross          Jim Thomas</p>
<p>Workshop Presenters          Ama Zenya          Angela Urata          Beth Grose          Carl Cordes          Christy Newton          Gabrielle Poli          Godfree McIntyre          Janet Warner Chapman          Jesse Kearns          Jim Mitulski          Jim Thomas          Kimberly Brown          LaDonna Harris          Larry Love          Rosario Ibarra</p>	<p>Worship Services          Andie Raymond</p> <p>Opening Worship          Inverleith Fruci          Meg Sumowiec          Rev. Clarence Johnson, Regional Moderator          Rev. Davena Jones, Bridge Conference Minister,          Northern California-Nevada Conference, United          Church of Christ          Rev. Dr. LaTaunya M. Bynum, Regional Minister          Rev. Dr. Leslie Taylor          Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins          Steve Gray</p>
<p>Exhibitors          Barbara Hamm          Disciples Seminary Foundation          New Church          Oakland Peace Center          Pacific School of Religion</p>	<p>Closing Worship          Allison Buck          Kerry Little          Meg Sumowiec          Rev. Dr. Leslie Taylor          Rev. Dr. Richard Lowery          The Way</p>