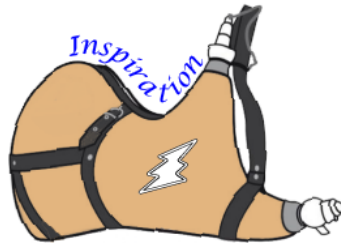




The 170th Annual Gathering of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada

New Wineskins



Joshua 9:12-14

Matthew 9:16-17



CCNC-N
170th

Annual Gathering

Joshua 9:12-14

Matthew 9:16-17

April 19-20, 2024

First Christian Church in Concord



Founded in 1961, CCH has been a leader in developing and managing quality affordable housing for more than 60 years. CCH prides itself on collaborating with national, regional and local government agencies, investors and donors to advocate on behalf of affordable housing solutions that benefit our residents and the communities we serve.

VISION

To transform communities by fostering human dignity, mutual respect, personal independence, and supportive environments.

MISSION

CCH builds and manages quality affordable housing in caring communities.

BELIEFS

*More than a home for our residents.
More than a job for our employees.*



OUR WORK

We are more than a home.

Sustainability

Maintaining our own organizational health and viability and maintaining sustainable communities for our residents.

Integrity

Striving for reliability and honesty in all that we do and say.

Independence

Empowering people to age in place with dignity and thrive.

Advocacy

We advocate for public policies that meet the needs of our current and future residents and communities.

Development

We are committed to addressing the need for more quality, affordable housing by acquiring, rehabilitating, and building sustainable housing.

By the Numbers

We're transforming communities by fostering supportive environments.

63+

Years of Experience

48

Managed Properties

3,300

Homes

3,700

Residents

"At the heart of our organization is housing equality with a caring staff empowering individuals to age in place with dignity and grace."

Gail Gilman, CCH President and CEO



1855 Olympic Boulevard, Suite 300, Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Phone: (510) 632.6712 Fax: (510) 632.6755 TTY:TDD #711
E-mail: info@cchnc.org Website: www.cchnc.org
HOURS: Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

FOLLOW US



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Greetings

On behalf of our staff – Jim Thomas, Diana Silva, Kyung-Min Daniel Lee, Haley Monachello, Monica Cross and the volunteers from our host congregation, First Christian Church of Concord, along with volunteer from First Christian Church of Vallejo, and Lafayette Christian Church, welcome to the 170th Annual Gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada.

“New Wineskins: Inspiration, Imagination, Innovation” is our theme. We are looking forward to a time of worship, workshops, conversation, and dining together. We will do the worshipful work of a business session when we will be greeted by some of our guests, here ministry reports, and when we tend to the administrative work of the region.

Our scripture texts for the Gathering are Joshua 9.12-14 and Matthew 9.16-18.

As we gather for this 170th time, enjoy the time together as we gather to represent our part of the church of Jesus Christ.

I am glad and honored to be here with you.

In Christ,

LaTaunya M. Bynum

LaTaunya M. Bynum
Regional Minister

Regional Staff



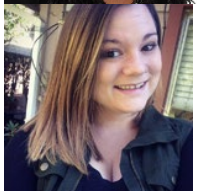
Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum
Regional Minister



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

This year's Annual Gathering offering will go to support the Disciples Home Missions, the Regional Fund, and the Recovery Cafe at Urban Sanctuary Church

AG 169 Schedule of Events

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

April 18 **Clergy Gathering**

12:00 Lunch for Registered Clergy participants

1:00-5:30 Clergy Gathering

April 19 **Pre-Gathering**

Breakfast on your own

12:00-4:00 The Phygital Church with Dr. Angelique Jordan Byrd (Includes Lunch)

1:00 Registration Opens

Annual Gathering

5:00-6:30 Dinner for all registered Annual Gathering participants

7:00-8:30 Opening Worship with Communion

April 20

Breakfast on your own

8:30 Registration Opens

9:30-11:45 Business Session

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:30 Workshops – Session 1

2:45-4:15 Workshops – Session 2

4:45-5:30 Closing Worship with Communion

Keynote Speakers

Rev. Dr. Kelly Colwell

Co-Senior Minister of First Congregational Church, Berkeley



Rev. Dr. Kelly Colwell earned a Ph.D. in practical theology from Graduate Theological Union, with a dissertation on the church during the pandemic. At First Congregational Church, she supports several of the ministry teams, oversees online activities and communications, and invites the church into deeper work on mental health, disability, race, gender, sexuality, and other axes of difference, in addition to preaching and pastoral care. Kelly's primary spiritual gifts are fearlessness, hospitality, and joy.



Dr. Angelique Jordan Byrd

Director of Communications for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

She has a wealth of marketing experience spanning 29 years and is adept at planning and executing omnichannel campaigns with strong analytical, strategy, project management, and leadership skills. She reflects, “working for a major advertising agency, telecommunication company, and a leading utility corporation was rewarding, but nothing compares to using my gifts in ministry.”

She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Advertising from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and a Master of Science Degree in Marketing Communications from Roosevelt University.

Angelique previously served as the Regional Director of the Communications Ministry in The Christian Church (DOC) in Illinois and Wisconsin (and Michigan). She is a Disciple from Illinois. She authored the book, “The Phygital Church: Using Social Ministry to Make Disciples,” to assist congregations with being intentional about ministry in the digital space. Realizing social media is a new approach for many clergy, The Phygital Church is a resource book to help clergy understand the various aspects of social media, the platforms available, social media metrics, content, and more. Jordan-Byrd encourages clergy to utilize the digital space to assist with accomplishing church goals. In doing so, The Phygital Church provides a road map for helping churches create social media strategies for Social Ministry. She urges clergy to be intentional about utilizing social media and have a strategy to make Disciples.

First Christian Church Concord Property Layout

LEGEND

- 101 - Middle School Room
- 102 - AA Room
- 103 - Primary School Room
- 104 - Overflow room
- 105 - Nursery
- 106 - Chi-Rho room.



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

170th CCNC-N Annual Gathering - Workshops

Session A 1:00 – 2:30 PM

The Benefits of hosting Bereavement Groups for your church and community

Rev. Chaplain Mary A. Kearns

Discovery

New Wine in New Wineskins: Navigating Change and Decolonizing Church for a Relevant Tomorrow

D. Sharon Jacob

Sanctuary

Aging Gracefully

Rev Leon Bacchues Ph.D.

Room 106

Creating Additional Streams of Income for Ministry: An Introduction to Planned Giving

Monica Myers Greenberg

Room 103

Walking the Labyrinth

Carl Cordes

Youth Building

Session B 2:45 – 4:15 PM

The Church has Left the Building

Rosario Ibarra

Room 103

Now What?

Rev. August Laperche

Room 106

What's New?

Rev. Jesse Kearns

Sanctuary

Walking the Labyrinth

Carl Cordes

Youth Building

Exhibitors

Chapman University



CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

Church Relations

Chapman University is YOUR Disciples school in California. Come by and learn about academic programs, scholarships, the vibrant Disciples on Campus program.

Christian Church Foundation



Christian
Church
Foundation

Disciples Church Extension Fund



Disciples Seminary Foundation



Global Ministries



Men's Ministries

National Benevolent Association



National
Benevolent
Association

Outdoor Ministries



Pacific School of Religion



Pension Fund of the Christian Church



Pension Fund

of the Christian Church
strong smart secure

Your retirement partner.

Workshop Presenters

Rev. August Laperche



August (they/them) is the Director of Operations for First Church Berkeley and was recently ordained on March 10, 2024 at LaFayette Christian Church. While living in Texas, August began working with Q Christian Fellowship – an international and remote non-profit that supports LGBTQ+ Christians, their parents, and allies. August spent over 3 years serving at QCF, and most recently was in the role of Program and Development Director. As a self-described "minister, writer, breakfast enthusiast, and professional queer person" August brings their passion for educating congregations to be more affirming to Annual Gathering this year.

Carl Cordes



Carl has been extremely active and committed to youth education and support. He has 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.

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.

Rev. Dr. Leon Bacchues, Ph.D.



Rev. Dr. Leon Bacchues comes to us with an extensive background in Nursing, Mental Health, Human Service, Health Care Administration, Ministry, and Health Law. Currently serving as Pastor at Tapestry Ministries (Disciples of Christ) Berkeley. Prior appointments: Pulpit Ministry and Director of Health and Human Services at Cosmopolitan Baptist Church - Oakland; Executive Leadership Level and Director of HIV/AIDS Health Ministry at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco. Former Staff Nurse and Program Director in Residential Services at The Bancroft School in N.J. - a facility for persons living with disabilities - developing activity of daily living plans, monitoring care plans, provide psychosocial support, family engagement, community engagement and advocacy. As part of the Community Action Council and Program for Exceptional Students within the Oakland Unified School District - advisor to parents of students living with disabilities. Advocacy and psychosocial support to persons living with Alzheimer's disease. He has been a strong advocate and sponsor of several Legislative Bills covering Mental Health, Substance Abuse, HIV/AIDS Care Plan. Strong advocate, educator, and clinician in concerns of the LGBTQIA Community inspired him towards developing special care programs in Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pa, and Alameda County. Former Resident Therapist with the Peggy Bristol Springs Immigration Law Office. Former alum council, campus minister, and mentor at Pacific School of Religion where he is an alum. Former Chair of New Church Ministry and several committees in our Region and the General Church. Current Chair of the Pastors Relation Committee. Dr Bacchues is married to Rev. Bill Shive and they are proud parents to an amazing, gifted, aspiring Cosmetologist - Rodney Bacchues.

Rev. Chaplain Mary A. Kearns



Mary is an ordained DOC clergy at First Christian Church of Chico. She is a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. Mary holds additional certifications in Palliative Care and Pediatric Palliative Care Chaplaincy. In 2018, Mary graduated from The Center for Loss and Life Transition as a certified Death and Grief Specialist. She is a Hospice Chaplain with Enloe Hospice and hosts quarterly Bereavement Groups.

Monica Myers Greenberg



Monica Myers Greenberg is vice president of Christian Church Foundation’s Mountain West zone, which includes the area from Colorado to Northern California and north to Alaska. Christian Church Foundation serves the church’s mission and vision through planned giving, endowment funds, and other avenues through which donors can charitably distribute their gifts within the church and the world. Rev. Greenberg is a graduate of Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia, and Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. Originally from Ohio, she served congregations in the Northern Lights Region for 21 years before joining the Foundation staff in 2021. Monica resides in Seattle, Washington with her son and their dog. She enjoys partnering with people who love the church and have a passion for insuring, through their own generosity, that the church’s faith and witness will continue for many years to come. **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.

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.

D. Sharon Jacob



Sharon Jacob is a professor and speaker trained in critical thinking and social justice connected to matters of diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging. She has over 12+ years of teaching, speaking, and training experience during which she has successfully trained over 200+ leaders including church leaders, laity, activists, organizers, and people working in nonprofit sectors. Students and participants have called Sharon’s sessions to be “thought provoking, challenging, inspiring, and critical.” Her training enables her to highlight perspectives that have previously been ignored or not taken into consideration, thereby, allowing for a more holistic and inclusive point of view. Her classes and sessions have often been described as “mind blowing, engaging, empowering, inclusive, and inspiring.”

Christian Churches of Northern California-Nevada

Alameda	Bethel Christian Church *
Alameda	First Christian Church
Antioch	First Christian Church
Antioch	Samoan Congregational Christian Church of Amerika *
Berkeley	BRIM Ministry
Berkeley	Tapestry Ministries *
Campbell	Revival Christian Church *
Chico	First Christian Church
Citrus Heights	Heartbeat Organic Church *
Colusa	First Christian Church
Concord	First Christian Church
Corning	First Christian Church
Eureka	United Congregational Christian Church
Foresthill	Church of the New Creation
Fremont	Niles Discovery Church
Fresno	United Christian Church
Geyserville	Geyserville Christian Church
Hanford	First Christian Church
Lafayette	Lafayette Christian Church
Lakeport	United Christian Parish
Lodi	United Congregational Christian Church
Loomis	Sierra Christian Church
Modesto	Via Dolorosa Congregational Christian Church
Oakdale	Oakdale Christian Church
Oakland	First Christian Church
Oakland	First Samoan Congregational Christian Church of Alameda/Oakland *
Oakland	Mills Grove Christian Church
Pacific Grove	Christian Church of Pacific Grove
Palo Alto	First Christian Church
Palo Alto	Sinapi Seed Fellowship
Paradise	First Christian Church
Porterville	First Christian Church
Redding	First Christian Church
Reno	First Samoan Congregational Christian Church
Richmond	Barrett Avenue Christian Church
Sacramento	Arden Christian Church
Sacramento	Cottage Way Christian Church
Sacramento	First Christian Church
Sacramento	First Samoan Congregational Christian Church
Sacramento	Fruitridge Christian Church
San Anselmo	gathering-desire *
San Carlos	Chalice Christian Church
San Francisco	First Congregational Church
San Francisco	Forest Hill Christian Church
San Jose	CHAM Deliverance Ministry
San Jose	FCC San Jose

San Jose	United Disciples Fellowship
Santa Clara	New Spring Christian Church
Santa Cruz	Greater Purpose Community Church
Selma	First Christian Church
Sparks	First Christian Church
Stockton	Mayfair Christian Church
Stockton	Puna O Le Ola Congregational Christian Church *
Sunnyvale	Raynor Park Christian Church
Sunnyvale	Walking Faith (Korean-American) Christian Church *
Turlock	First Christian Church
Ukiah	First Christian Church
Vacaville	Christian Church of Vacaville
Vallejo	First Christian Church
Watsonville	First Christian Church
Watsonville	Missio Dei Community *
Woodland	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Woodland
Woodside	Woodside Village Church *

* Church in formation

CCNC-N Ministers

Aiono, Ula	P
Alexander, Kacey	OP
Amosa, Iopu	P
Anderson, Carolyn	P
Babauta, Kenneth	P
Bacchues, Leon	P
Bainbridge, Dana	P
Barber, Jr., Clifford	R-i
Baxter, Lora	P
Beach, Richard	R-i
Bever, Judy	R-a
Bishop Pocietcha, 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
Earl, Pamela	SC
Edwards, Erin	D
England, Gus	R-a
Erickson, Beth	OP
Fa'alau, Salesa	P
Faletagaloa, Tavita	P
Firch, Ted	R-a
Firch, Vickie	R-a
Flowers, Shayne	A
Fuqua, Norma	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
Harris, LaDonna	OP
Heck, Tina	ER
Hendershot, Susan	NP
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
Jezeck, James	C-n
Jezeck, Karan	C-n
Jha, Sandhya	ER
Johnson, Clarence	P
Johnson, Darrell	R-a
Johnson-Wilson, Gloria	A
Jones, Frederic	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	R-a
Loveless, Jeanne	DU
Luvsan, Otgunbayar	P
Mackey, Charles	R-a
Marchessault, Robert	P
Marckx, Cheryl	UD
Marckx, Hilary	UD
Marquez-Lucar, Yolanda	RM
Martin, Ellis	R-a
Mazur, Nathan	DU

Mc Collester, Janice	P
Mc Kee-Jolda, Nancy	R-i
McIntyre, Godfree	I
Monhollen, Steven	R-i
Newton, Christy	P
Northrip, Doug	C-n
Ober, Richard	R-a
Packard, Karyn	R-a
Palmer, Norris	HE
Parsley, Susan	P
Pesaleli, Faauma	P
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	P
Warren, Thomas	P
Weatherly, Gary	R-a
White, Mona	MM
Williams, Frederick	P
Williams, Martha	P
Wilson, Diane	R-a
Wilson, Josh	R-a
Wilson, Keith	P
Winton-Henry, Stephen	C-n

Wiser, Marvin	DU
Wren, Steve	P
Wu, John	P
Zenya, Ama	OP

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

Reports

Regional Minister Report

April 20, 2024

As is true for most regions in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we have been challenged on how to get our congregations more engaged as many church members choose, for a variety of legitimate reasons, to remain at home worshippers. We are grateful for all the possibilities hybrid worship affords us.

We continue to be challenged by pandemic informed concern about returning to activities at the level we knew in 2019 and 2020. Engaging people in the region's ministry remains a challenge in part due to the geographical size of the Region – it is an eight hour plus drive from our southernmost congregation to our northern most congregation. We hope to continue strengthening our regional ministries so that they can lead to stronger congregations and strong leaders.

While these days have been challenging, they are not without reward. Ministry continues in our region, and we have a story to tell, and a narrative to develop. Participating in the next phase of the Church Narrative Project will help us do so.

As many of you know, we met March 1-2 at Lafayette Christian Church and we were led by a team including David Anderson Hooker of the Transforming Community Conference and our General Minister and President, Terri Hord Owens.

We heard five stories of “aha” moments that led to some revelation or insight that helped us see ourselves and the world differently.

Those stories form our narrative, they help us to provide a pathway to the future we want to build together, with God's help. There is power in our story.

Two additional things. The watchword of the Narrative Project is that

“The people are not the problem; the problem is the problem.”

We are not sure about that one. We can name a problematic person or two in our lives, including in the church. We did name some of the problematic things and situations we face:

- Generational differences. Along with the knowledge that a generation or two are missing from church.
- Communication with congregations that are widely dispersed.
- Vastness of the region (refer to map in app/program book).
- People know there is a region, but do not know what it does and there is a lack of understanding of regional structure.
- The story of what we used to be.
- Competition for attention.
- We function in a secularized culture whose most visible counter to a non-church going culture is a toxic evangelicalism and white Christian Nationalism
- Financial insecurity
- Church not fulfilling needs.
- Limited talent pool
- Shrinking attendance.

The second was a question asked of us: whose lives don't flourish in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? Are their ministries we that would help us grow as a church serving all of God's creation, that we need to name aloud so we can begin to help them happen? Let's find ways to talk about them.

So, while we face challenges, we also have several opportunities. We are here and we continue to show up. Big ministries happen in so many of our small membership congregations, and those ministries contribute to the health and wellbeing of the communities in which our congregations sit.

There are things we want to accomplish; among them are such as continuing to strengthen our connections with the General Church and with the Arizona and Pacific Southwest regions – we have held youth, men's, and women's events together over the last few years and we anticipate doing more together in the future. We want to strengthen our relationships with Disciples chaplains serving in a variety of ministries in Northern California-Nevada. We have several open pulpits and search committees have been limited by the low number of people in search and call; we want to encourage search and call committee chairs. And we want to continue to develop strong regional leaders. Strong leaders make for strong congregations and strong congregations lead to strong regions.

We are here, and we are encouraged to be prayerful, generous, present, and to participate in the life of the region. There are committees on which people can serve, and I want to urge you to learn which of your gifts will match the needs of the Region.

We do ministry alongside our ministry partners among the congregations here, and with general church partners, some of whom are here.

We continue to be the church we say we are a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world; we continue to be a church that as our United Christian Church offer a blessing as a word of encouragement.

“Be a blessing: Pray often. Be kind. Give thanks. Do good. Have courage. Lead with love. Practice peace. Be the light. Work for justice. Encourage others. Be joyful.

Then we can:

- Protect the environment.
- Care for the poor.
- Forgive often.
- Reject racism.
- Fight for the powerless.
- Share earthly and spiritual resources.
- Embrace diversity.
- Love God.
- Enjoy this life.

And as always, I am available to visit your congregation to preach, to consult, to lead retreats, and simply to be present with you.

Associate Regional Minister's Report

April 9, 2024

Now that pictures of COVID are stacked away, all four ministries under my purview, i.e., Training and Care – Commission on Ministry, Regional NAPAD, Men's Ministry, and New Church Movement, have been interacting in person most of the time with a rationale that "How wonderful to feel the presence of our God through the presence of people."

Interacting in person, my colleagues and I felt a sense of some residue of the three-year impact, and that impact has harmed our souls in an unnamed way. Acknowledging hidden harms and subtle damages was God's grace for souls and needed of God's continuing care and love.

One of the Region's Commissions of the Ministry is the Training and Care Committee (the other, Recognition and Standing Committee), which journeys with those on the Seminary Track and those approved for the Apprentice Track. The committee noticed the impact of the Pandemic and its consequences earlier than my other ministries, so they resumed in-person meetings at the beginning of 2022. I am still determining whether there is any causation between the Pandemic and the Calling when the committee receiveds fewer incoming candidates.

The number of the candidates on my list is 12. Four (4) are inactive. Because of its small number, we skipped a couple of meetings in the past 9-month cycle, from September to May, the same as the school calendar year. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month for two or three candidates in a 5 to 6-hour time frame. The committee's co-chairs: Rev. Paul Gaffney, who is Program Manager of Education, Community Relations, and Spiritual Care Services; ACPE Certified Educator at Shaw Chaplaincy Institute of the University of Redlands in San Anselmo; and Rev. Dr. Laura Jean Torgerson, who is Assistant Professor of New Testament at Berkeley School of Theology in Berkeley, operates finer than anticipated when both carry full-time jobs and volunteer responsibilities. With the recommendation of Co-Chair Torgerson, the committee recently added a former seminary professor as a member. To me, Rev. Dr. Mary Donovan Turner has been a big plus for the committee and candidates. The co-chairs' report will talk about the committee's work, such as the names of committee members, approval for those under care and for ordination, etc.

Men's Ministry had four events in the last two years, two (2) in-person and two (2) Zoom retreats since the late part of 2022: In-person Summer Summit in July 2022, Zoom Tri-Regional Retreat in November 2022, Zoom Tri-Regional Retreat in July 2023, and In-person retreat at Camp Arroyo in October 2023. With President/Chair Carl Cordes's strong leadership and eight passionate eight executive committee members, the regional Men's Ministry (formerly called Disciple Men) is strong and growing. With inexhaustible support from the resource committee and the regional minister, the ministry's endowment is doubled to \$20,000. Its ongoing program will be sustained with the extra income. Aside from its finances, the Ministry receives much attention for its development and growth. I believe the chair's report will talk about two upcoming events this year: one in June for the Tri-Regional Retreat, which will be held at Mill Creek Christian Church in Bakersfield, and the other, our regional men's retreat in October at Camp Arroyo in Livermore. You might want to check out some pictures of past events at https://www.cncn.org/Disciples_Men_Fellowship.php.

Continuing financial support from the Region through the regional resource committee and the regional minister makes the New Church Movement ongoing and robust. The Ministry provides new church grants, pay for basic pension plan dues, provide liability coverage for the space they are in, etc. The leadership of Chair Rev. Ken Babauta and the three (3) executive committee members have resurfaced the Ministry for new churches in formation. There will be some shifts in implementing policies/guidelines for the new church's growth and development. The executive committee will try to present a draft of the New Church Handbook, where you will find much information related to the new church ministry. From eleven (11) new churches under care/formation, two churches, Bethel Christian Church in Alameda and Walking Faith (Korean-American) Christian Church in Sunnyvale, were approved for full standing at the November 2023 Full Committee meeting. At the same meeting, the committee recommended coming under the care of a Samoan church in Newark called Oakland Samoan Congregational Christian Church of America Samoa. Currently, the Region has ten (10) new churches in formation.

Seven (7) people representing the Regional NAPAD gathered on the Lunar New Year, February 10, and celebrated the new day over luncheon in Dublin. A group picture was taken at the end of the gathering, and it's shown at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1410608392577637>. You may know some or all of them. One missed person was Inverleith Frucci, who led the group and Ministry more than anyone else. I am excited about the upcoming NAPAD Convocation in Salt Lake City this July and look forward to sharing and promoting the event heartily.

Respectively submitted,
Rev. Kyung-Min Daniel Lee

Annual Gathering Coordinator

The 170th Annual Gathering is being held at First Christian Church in Concord and has been a joint effort by members of First Christian Church in Concord, First Christian Church of Vallejo, Christian Church of Vacaville, Live on Purpose Community Church, and Lafayette Christian Church. Of course, the Regional Staff has been invaluable—Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, Rev. Dr. Monica Cross, Rev. Kyung-Min Lee, Haley Monachello, Diana Silva, and Jim Thomas!

Our keynoter this year is the Rev. Dr. Kelly Colwell, who serves as the co-senior minister of First Congregational Church in Berkeley. Our guests from the General Church include Rev. Dr. Chris Dorsey, President of Disciples Home Missions; Rev. Rosario Ibarra, Disciples Church Extension; Rev. Jonathan Beckham-Brink, Pension Fund; Rev. Monica Myers Greenberg, Christian Church Foundation; and Rev. Angelique Jordan Byrd, Director of Communications, Office of General Minister and President.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make this event a success! In addition to the Regional staff, the members of the Planning Team are Carl Cordes (First Christian Church, Vallejo), Jan Warren and Leanne Stump (Lafayette Christian Church), Min. Jill Teer (Christian Church of Vacaville), Chelsea Edwards (Live on Purpose Community Church), Andie Raymond, Inverleith Fruci, Janet Hecker, and Bill Bush (First Christian Church Concord).

Joyfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Leslie Carole Taylor, Annual Gathering Coordinator

CGC Facilities Team Report



Many thanks to Frank Scudero for working diligently regarding funding issues & project coordination. ~ Tina Heck, CGC Facilities Team Chair

2023 Projects Completed

Claar House

- Repaired swamp cooler.
- Holland Camping Area
- Plumbing repairs in shower house.

Bobbitt Cabins

- Replaced all water heaters in cabins, shower house, and cabin 36.
- Replaced flooring in Cabins 32 & 32.

Around Camp

- Multiple tree-burn piles.
- New walls in showers in pool house.

Current Funds

See the CCNCN Resources Committee Report for account balances.

Planned 2024 Expenditures:

- New metal roofs for Summer Cabin Area Shower House & Cook shed.
- New metal roof for Bobbitt Area shower house.
- Shower repairs to Holland Area shower house.
- New sports equipment.Clean out Storage Barn.
- Misc repairs to Claar house doors & entrance. (Work days in April 2024)

WISH LIST

Around Camp	Pool Area	Claar House
Picnic tables and benches Generator Tractor	Quality outdoor furniture Umbrellas and stands	5 Resin park picnic tables 5 Matching wall lights for bedrooms Fireplace insert

2024 Workdays are scheduled for May 16-18.

Please join us! Please help CGC's revenue by bringing your family reunion, staff, scrap bookers, youth, spiritual practice groups for a retreat!

CCNCN Families & Clergy Camping - You may reserve individual cabins during most of 2024 for individual stays. Contact Leanne Stump to reserve your spot.

CHURCH OFF THE CENTER

When CHURCH OFF THE CENTER was first formed a few years ago the “off the center” name referred to churches that are somewhat isolated geographically where the next nearest interaction with fellow “churchy” folks might be two to six hours drive away, and a recognition that many such communities end up doing things “our own way” rather than the more traditional way of larger, more centrally located churches.

Back then there was a mind-set that smaller churches are “failing” churches, and there was little incentive to consider alternative ways of doing and being church. After a certain point you simply gave up and closed the doors.

This group was formed (pre-COVID) by Hilary Marckx, Geyserville Christian Church, and Cherie Marckx, Church of the Open Door/FCC Ukiah, as a forum for any small communities (like our own) who weren’t ready to give up and quit, but for whom the “way we’ve always done it” just didn’t fit anymore. It became a place to share our struggles and triumphs, to celebrate and share ideas that did work and maybe learn to let go of the ones that didn’t.

COVID changed many things in the past few years. We all had to find different ways to “be” church during the shut-down years,. One thing in particular that has changed is that a community may be “off the center” while remaining physically located deep within a populated area.

Off the Center communities are choosing not to quit and instead developing new ways to do church with fewer people (and let’s be honest, less money) but still serve the Body of Christ – still be the Body of Christ – feeding the hungry and clothing the naked and visiting the imprisoned, both materially and spiritually. It is extraordinarily exciting to hear their creative stories.

We invite you to join us, to share your “off the center” story with the rest of us. Together we can show each other that there are many vital, creative, healing ways to serve God in the world today. Some of the wildest ideas have blossomed into moving and life-changing ministries. If you are building an “off the center” ministry, tell the rest of us about it. You might spark some new creative thinking in another community that is struggling right now.

[You can check us out on our Facebook group page at Church off the Center.]

Financial Report (2023)

Yet another difficult, but manageable and hopeful, financial year for CCNCN. It feels like a very long time since I have been able to say more than that.

We ended the year with another large loss, (\$82,012.83) in part because of the continued, but reduced, loss of bookings at CGC.

The good news is we still have our summer camp. The Community of the Great Commission (CGC) remains intact having survived nearly 3 years of Covid when no camps and no revenue was possible, a severe drought when our well went dry and water had to be trucked in, and fire which destroyed most of the adjacent town of Michigan Bluff but stopped on the downhill side of Chicken Hawk Road without major damage to the camp.

CGC is on its way to recovery next summer, having several months of camps with summer end bookings looking good.

The camp losses for last year ended up totaling \$34,505 vs. the prior year's loss of \$55,673.92. helped by 1/2 of the San Mateo endowment which is dedicated to CGC.

The accumulation of losses by CGC over the last 3 years will be paid back over the coming years using part of the San Mateo endowment dedicated to CGC with the remainder of the CGC portion of the San Mateo endowment going for projects at CGC to reduce the large backlog of deferred maintenance and some new improvements.

CCNCN still has a structural deficit caused by insufficient revenue to cover our minimal expenses. We have cut costs as much as possible but the DMF giving by our churches, while holding steady this last year, is substantially less than over the last 5 years and we are not keeping up with the costs of operation which continue to rise each year even if only by the cost of inflation.

We have only five staff members, several part-time to cover all the functions of our Regional Ministry. Our total staff cost last year was budgeted at \$295,110 or nearly 77% of our total budget.

We have been fortunate to have received several large gifts over the last few years to cover our structural deficit. Much of the gifts has gone to increasing our Ongoing Ministries endowment which is managed primarily by our General Church through the Christian Church Foundation. However, despite the return on investments of endowments it takes time to realize gains from earnings. In years past our Ongoing Ministries endowment yielded about \$5500/year. Due to the increased investment from the Wayne Bennett estate gift directed to Ongoing Ministries, last year we received \$35,000 and anticipate a larger return next year.

As CGC repays the deficit funds (borrowed from funds that would have gone to Ongoing Ministries Endowment, as approved by the CCNCN Executive Committee), the repayments going back into the endowment should begin to yield higher revenue especially as economic conditions improve over the next few years.

In the meantime, careful stewardship of our remaining gifts, DMF contributions by our churches and breakeven or surplus efforts at CGC should get us through until then.

I remain hopeful that God's Grace and hard work on the part of our staff and financial assistance from all of you, will see us through the coming year.

Frank Scudero
Regional Steward

Justice Commission Report

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



JUSTICE COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Kyung-Min Daniel Lee, Victor Smith, Jordan Williams, Leon Bacchues, Don Stump, Kim Young, Monica Cross, Godfrey McIntyre, LaTaunya Bynum (staff)

Purpose Statement of the CCNC-N Justice Commission:

- give voice to diversity,
- allow for a process to inquire and seek information,
- create opportunities for education,
- provide a process for advocacy and healing.

The Justice Commission last met January 22, 2022

Next scheduled meeting: Pending

On the agenda:

The Justice Commission has not been active for some time, if you would like to join and be a part of a worthy ministry, please contact Victor Emanuel Smith vsmithmamdiv@yahoo.com or call 209 626 9412.

Be happy to have you aboard!

The Justice Corner wants writers to submit stories to REGIONAL VOICES Contact Jim Thomas jim@ccncn.org

Respectfully submitted: Victor Emanuel Smith MA MDIV, Convener of the Justice Commission

Men's Ministries Annual Report

2023



Starting on July 15th with our zoom Tri-Regional Zoom Retreat and ending with our live Regional Retreat at Camp Arroyo in October (shown on the pictures) the Men's Ministries came together to discuss, learn, laugh, renew friendships and meet new ones. This is the reason we come together. It has been a good year. We like to thank Bentley Stewart and Steven Borgard for there outstanding contributions to our retreats. What's next?



- Work Camps at CGC in April and May
- A live Tri-Regional Retreat at Mills Creek C.C. in Bakersfield on June 1 and 2.
- Our Regional Retreat again this year at Camp Arroyo on October 25 thru 27.

- Encourage our men in the region to get involved in any way there can.
- Began conversations with men who we miss.

See you soon!

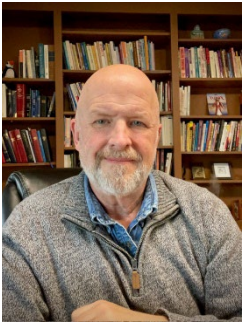
Carl Cordes President

Our Roster

Mike Carlson	President
Kyung-Min Daniel Lee	Regional Rep.
Cliff Cole	Treasurer
Chad Thompson	Chaplain
Don Stump	At Large
Scott Farmer	At Large
Stan Slavin	At Large
Kevin Lue	GC Rep.



Ministry Counsel



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.

Since the last Annual Gathering on April 29, 2023 the Ministry Council has met three times on Zoom, typically on the last Tuesday of months that have five Tuesdays.

We are continuing to work through the details of the CCNCN Housing and Shelter Ministry that was started in 2022. 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 of LaFayette Christian Church presented a workshop at the 2019 Annual Gathering highlighting the struggle that many of our church members are facing due to the lack of affordable housing in our state. By the end of that calendar year, the region had raised enough seed money raised by direct donations and existing seed money to launch the project. The Ministry Committee formed a housing sub-committee to develop what we hoped would be a fair and consistent application process. Since 2022 has helped two applicants find and maintain housing. The original goal was to assist five individuals per year who are experiencing homelessness. We continue to struggle with finding people and partner agencies to provide case management and follow-up

An education sub-committee continues to work on addressing the region's ministry objectives by developing educational events that meet the region's ministry needs. Some of the committee's ideas have been implemented through workshops and panels at Annual Gathering, but we are still hopeful that other educational opportunities can be brought to our region's congregation and mission clusters.

Another struggle that we are addressing is in finding people to fill the various leadership positions in the current regional structure. Many of our congregations have struggled to find leaders to govern their own ministries which has transferred over to the regional expression of the church. In addition to the struggle to find lay leaders from congregations to fill these positions, we are also seeing a number of our clergy retiring or moving on to other ministries outside our region. We have recently been talking about ways in which we can develop and train people to serve as regional leaders.

Respectfully Submitted
Jesse Kearns, Moderator

New Church Movement

2023 was a year of change, review, spiritual growth, and celebration for the New Church Ministry. There was a shift of focus on how new church is viewed in terms of worship, as in the kinds of worship, and on the importance for outreach to local communities. Churches are more than numbers and money: churches tell us a lot about themselves in their worship. New Church Ministry looks for inclusiveness, joyful expression and interaction, scriptural based messaging and the applicability of worship to their outreach ministry; worship and ministry should be tied together. Also it is encouraged that there is a commitment to learn, study and practice being a Disciple. What does it mean to be a Disciple today and what are the signs that clearly identify one as a Disciple.

There were thirteen new churches in CCNCN, a few of them being under care for years. At the behest of Dr Bynum, New Church Ministry did a review of the regulations, evaluating their applicability and developing new criteria for qualified churches to attain full standing. During a New Church Gathering at Woodside, Dr Bynum encouraged the new churches to be open to new expressions of worship, not shy away from developing ways of communal prayer to deepen their prayer life and communal interactions. Also to seek to apply their worship to enhance their outreach. An example of this is Shannon Tiltin's hybrid church; this was a development made out of necessity in a circumstance of COVID. This is the result of Dr Bynum's insistence that New Church Ministry clear new churches to become full active participants in their communities and in their worship.

Two Churches were elevated to full standing status: Rev Kyung-Min's Walking in Faith and Rev Moon's church. Rev Ulysses church of Newark was brought under care status. Rev Ulysses' church will be participating at Annual Gathering 2024.

In 2023 New Church Ministry was made very much aware of the challenges many new churches especially the Samoan churches in balancing their obligations among three churches: first, to their primary denominational affiliation, second, to the Disciples and third, to their own local churches. These new churches fortunately have learned to manage this challenge and have become resilient and productive in all three churches.

At present 2024, there are nine new churches under care. The New Church Ministry is progressing forward in reaching out to new applicants. It looks like a good year for CCNCN.

Outdoor Ministries Report

April, 2024

The Outdoor Ministries Committee plans for the programming and staffing of our summer camps at the Community of the Great Commission and helps to promote attendance at CGC. The members include Haley Monachello (CCNC-N Youth Director), Nancy Bingaman, Cathy Gabor, Carl Cordes, Kathleen Schales, Monica Cross, Nancy Love, Paige Cook, Chris Gabe, Andie Raymond, Leslie Taylor, Tina Heck (UCCR Representative & CGC Facilities Committee Chair) Toni Bynum (Regional Minister) and Leanne Stump, (Director).

We are in full planning mode for 2024 summer camps. All of our camps will be together during one full week. This will make the best use of our staffing, our costs, and our ability to guide our older campers into leadership roles and opportunities with the younger campers at some times during the week. We have an overarching Dean for our camps this summer, Stan Slavin, who will coordinate and organize us. He is already working diligently in that role as we plan. Much of our staffing is complete. Our theme and curriculum is “Linked By Love”. Love links all of our churches in the Northern California-Nevada Region and love will be a link between our youth. We look forward to growing faith journeys and relationships this summer.

- May 11** **Director and Staff Training** 9:30 – 1:30 on zoom
- May 17-18** **CGC Work Days – Painting, Trail and General Cleaning** - Please RSVP to tinasueheck@yahoo.com with names, time of arrival and departure. \$5 per meal. Bring your own bedding.
- May 23** **Adult Online Registration Forms** are Due
- May 29** **Youth Online Registration Forms** are Due
- June 6-9** **Young Adult/Adult Camp** – Tina Heck, Director, Rev. Mary Jacobs, Keynoter
- June 22-27** **Junior Camp** – Kathleen Schales, Director (entering 4th, 5th, and 6th grades)
- June 22-29** **Chi Rho Camp** – Jesse Kearns, Director (entering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades)
- June 22-29** **CYF Camp** – Chad Thompson, Director (entering 10th, 11th, 12th grades and 2024 graduates)
- June 25-27** **JOY Camp (Joining Older and Younger)** – Leslie Taylor, Director (entering K, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades with an accompanying adult)

We honor the work of Bobby Thoennes our site director. His leadership and project completion is very valued.

Financial Information – Each year, scholarships are granted to our campers who find it difficult to pay the entire cost of camp. This year we have received a substantial estate gift that will allow us to give scholarships up to 50% of the cost of camp for campers and staff members. Adults take off work without pay and some young staff members, college students, etc. are not able to contribute toward the cost of camp. We are thankful for their energy and youthful vision that resonates with our campers. The continuity of moving through our camping program and coming back to contribute as adult leaders is a great joy.

Our continuing sources of scholarship money include the **San Lorenzo Church Camp Endowment Fund**, the **Ben Bohren Camp Scholarship Fund**, and the **Cal Underwood Endowment Fund**. We are so very grateful for this financial assistance and for the love and dedication that is in the hearts of these camp supporters. Gifts to these funds are greatly appreciated. Please give generously and consider an end of life gift to these camp scholarship funds.

On behalf of the Outdoor Ministries Committee, I submit this report with a grateful heart for the opportunity to be a part of this ministry.

Leanne Stump
Director of Outdoor Ministries

Training and Care (T&C) Committee

It's an honor to serve as co-chairs 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 accompany 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 are meeting primarily in person, but also holding meetings over Zoom twice a year. 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 Avenue Christian Church)

Rev. Steve Borgard (Interim Pastor, FCC Sacramento)

Rev. Shayne Flowers (on temporary leave)

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

Rev. Jeffrey Ishmael (Chaplain, John Muir Hospital)

Rev. Sophia Jackson (Lead clergy for WOSA (Women of Spirit Action) on the Disciples Women's Council)

Ms. Ellie McDougal (laywoman, FCC Concord)

Rev. Dr. Laura Jean Torgerson, (Co-Chair, Assistant Professor of New Testament, Berkeley School of Theology)

Rev. Dr. Mary Donovan Turner (retired professor, Pacific School of Religion)

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

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

Rev. Dr. Christy Newton, Executive Director, Disciples Seminary Foundation

Candidates Ordained in the last year:

Rev. Renae Earl (May 20, 2023, First Christian Church of Concord)

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

Rev. LaDonna Harris (September 30, 2023, Mills Grove Christian Church)

Rev. Jodi Capitola-Duran (January 27, 2024, Urban Sanctuary)

Rev. August Laperche (March 10, 2024, Lafayette Christian Church)

Candidates Currently Under Care:

Audrey Barton - M.Div., Graduated from SFTS

Jeremiah Jenkins – M.Div., SFTS

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

Bobby Marchessault – M.Div., PSR

Shannon Marckx – M.Div., PSR

Gabrielle Poli – M.Div., PSR

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

Evan Stanfill – M.Div., Graduated from SFTS

Christiane Swartz – M.Div., PSR

Tipisone Tuiolemotu – M.Div, Graduated from PSR

Safue Ulufaleilupe – M.Div, Graduated from 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 and Laura Jean Torgerson, Co-chairs
Training and Care Committee

Women's Ministry Report

Women's Ministry celebrates Spring Renewal, March 11, 2023, and Fall Retreat, September 8 – 20, 2023. The theme for the 2023 Women's Spring Renewal was Renewal. The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Mary Donovan Turner. Dr. Turner is a retired professor of preaching who taught at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley for nearly three decades. She is the author of *Saved From Silence: Finding Women's Voice in Preaching, Old Testament Words, and The God We Seek*. The title of her keynote was, "They Got Up At Once...." The Preacher for the afternoon worship service was Rev. Erin Edwards, lead pastor and founder of Live On Purpose Community Church (LOP) in Vacaville, CA. The title of her message was "Now What" based on Romans 15:13.

The theme for Fall Retreat was "We Are One." The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Irie Session, Co-Pastor of The Gathering, A Womanist Church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Dallas, Texas. The titles of her messages were "Weaving a Tapestry of Resistance: How the Women of Exodus Defied Pharaoh and Chose Sisterhood Over Systems", "Comrades in Faith: Navigating Life and Ministry with the Values of Solidarity, Friendship, Respect, Loyalty, " "Beyond Gender: Boundaries, and Discernment Elements That Truly Bind Us in Sisterhood" and "Reclaiming Our Story: Sisterhood as a Revolutionary Act Against Empire." Women's Ministries celebrates the ordination of Rev. LaDonna Harris, Rev. Renae Earl, and Rev. Jodi Capitola-Duran.

What are the biggest challenges of Women's Ministry? The biggest challenge is identifying and meeting the needs across a region that is widely diverse culturally, economically, and generationally and getting women involved and actively engaged in ministry.

Women's Ministry is addressing the challenges through Women's Ministry Area Liaisons. The purpose of the area liaisons is to create a more connected Women's Ministry that supports women of the region.

What is something Women's Ministries would like to accomplish? Increase the number of relevant Women's Ministry activities in the region beyond Spring Renewal and Fall Retreat. This includes helping to restart Christian Women's Fellowships (CWFs) where CWFs are inactive and the Leadership Apprentice Program.

Pray that we find ways to get the women throughout the region more excited about leadership in ministry.

Youth Ministries Report for Annual Gathering

Haley Monachello
Director of Youth Ministries

April 10th, 2024

Greetings from CCNC-N Youth!

It has already been a great start to the year for youth ministries! In February, we spent a weekend at the beautiful Community of the Great Commission, with a small, yet fun, group of 5 youth. Our keynote speaker was our regional minister Rev. Dr. LaTaunya M. Bynum, and we had a wonderful time laughing, learning new games, and exploring the campgrounds with a small group of 5 youth. The current members of the youth council are Bowen Tang, Will Thompson, Sean Gordon, Gavin Wann, Abijah Steenhouse, and Makayla Sierra. We are hoping to add a few new members this coming year. We continue to strive to find new ways to connect with each other and our congregations. We are excited to be in the midst of planning our first “triple camp” where all camps will be held during the same week and be able to share activities and games with different camps, while still leaving space for our own. We have incredible directors lined up for each camp, and staff in the works! I am incredibly thankful to work with a group of youth that know how to uplift each other and walk with each other in faith. This ministry is so vital to the church, and I am grateful to you all for supporting it. Many blessings!

Haley Monachello

Director of Youth Ministries

Acknowledgements

<p>Host First Christian Church in Concord Andie Raymond, FCC Administrator Bill Bush, FCC House and Grounds Inverleith Fruci, Volunteer Coordinator</p> <p>Annual Planning Committee Rev. Dr. LaTaunya M. Bynum Rev. Dr. Leslie Taylor Rev. Dr. Monica Cross Diana Silva Jim Thomas</p> <p>Keynote Speakers Rev. Dr. Kelly Colwell Dr. Angelique Jordan Byrd</p> <p>Tech Team Scott Sunderland Chris Gabe Brook Buck</p> <p>Music Live on Purpose band The Way</p> <p>Caterer Zandonella Catering</p>	<p>Essential Workers Abijah Steenhouse Allison Mezzera Audrey Barton Bowen Tang Brook Buck Carl Cordes Cheryl Huff Cho Nai Cheung Chris Dorsey Claudia Gray Diane Maltester Don Stump Elaine Kilpatrick FCC Concord deacons and regional youth Faye Orton Snyder Godfree McIntyre Haley Monachello Irene Moreno Jacob Perez Jan Warren Janet Gay Janet Hecker Jeanne Cordes Jill Teer Jon Mezzera Jonathan Beckham-Brink Kerry Little Leanne Stump Leslie Taylor Lisa Morgan Marie Williams Meg Sumowiec Norman Bardsley Renaë Earl Rev. Godfree McIntyre Rev. Kyung-Min Daniel Lee Scott Sumner-Moore Stephanie Reilly Sue Sumner-Moore Suzanne Awalt Veronica Dise-Hodge Will Thompson</p>
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