



# The 171<sup>st</sup> Annual Gathering of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada



*John 15.4-5*

*Hebrews 10.24-25*

*April 25-26, 2025*

*First Christian Church in Chico*



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



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HOURS: Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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## Greetings

On behalf of our staff – Jim Thomas, Diana Silva, Kyung-Min Daniel Lee, Charlotte Thompson, Monica Cross and the volunteers from our host congregation, First Christian Church of Chico, along with many volunteers, welcome to the 171st Annual Gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada.

“Connect Four: Covenant, Community, Commitment, Communion” is our theme based on the scriptures, John 15.4-5 Hebrews 10.24-25. 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.

As we gather for this 171st 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, Education, and Housing



Charlotte Thompson  
Director of Youth Ministries



Diana Silva  
Financial Associate



Jim Thomas  
Ministry Associate

## Offerings

Offerings can be made here: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=5VB3T5DHK7GAQ](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=5VB3T5DHK7GAQ)



## AG 171 Schedule of Events

### SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

#### Wednesday, April 23 - Clergy Gathering

- 12 noon Discussions & Conversations (Fireside Room)  
Purple Church  
Coverage & Safety  
What's on your mind?
- 6:00 pm Closing Prayer

#### Thursday, April 24 - Next Generation Leadership Gathering

- 10:00 am Keynote – Rev. Dr. Claudia Highbaugh and panel conversation
- 11:30 am Break
- 11:45 am Panel Continues
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm First group of workshops
- 3:30 pm Break
- 4:00 pm Second group of workshops
- 6:00 pm Closing prayers  
Dinner

#### Friday, April 25 - Next Generation Leadership Gathering

- 10:00 am Keynote
- 10:45 am Third Group of Workshops
- 12:45 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm Closing Worship

#### Friday, April 25 - Annual Gathering

- 5:00 pm Check-in and gathering
- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Opening Worship – preacher LaMarco Cable

#### Saturday, April 26 - Annual Gathering

- 9:30 am Worshipful Work
- 11:30 am Break and lunch
- 1:00 pm First Workshop Session
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 pm Second Workshop Session
- 4:15 pm Break
- 4:45 pm Closing Worship



## Keynote Speakers

### Rev. Dr. LaMarco Antonio Cable

#### *Annual Gathering Keynoter*



#### **Rev. Dr. LaMarco A. Cable**

Co-Executive Global Ministries

President & CEO, Disciples Overseas Ministries

The Reverend Doctor LaMarco Antonio Cable is a distinguished leader and visionary in the global Christian community. As the President and CEO of Disciples Overseas Ministries (DOM) and Co-Executive of Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ, Dr. Cable's dedication to serving and empowering others is a beacon of inspiration. A native of Memphis, TN, Dr. Cable is a pastor, preacher, advocate, and community organizer whose proven track record of transformative leadership is a testament to his vision and commitment.

Before assuming his current roles, Dr. Cable dedicated himself to the church through various capacities within Global Ministries, including as the Area Executive for Africa, Advocacy Associate, and Interim Mission Personnel Executive. His unwavering commitment to social justice and advocacy, a cornerstone of his work, was further exemplified during his tenure as Deputy Director for Organizing at Bread for the World Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Cable's pastoral experience includes serving as a senior pastor at Hasson Street Christian Church in Rogersville, TN, and Broadway Christian Church in Winchester, KY. He has held pastoral positions in congregations across different cities, including Memphis, TN, Lexington, KY, Washington, DC, and Madisonville, KY, enriching communities with compassionate leadership.

Dr. Cable's contributions to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are extensive, and his intellectual prowess is evident in his educational journey. He has served on various boards and committees, including the Administrative Committee, the Standing Committee of Renewal and Structural Reform, and the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His academic achievements include a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Sociology from Transylvania University, a Master of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Cable's commitment to continuous learning and growth is evident through his involvement as a Lexington Theological Seminary's Alumni Council member and trustee of the National City Christian Church Foundation. Beyond his professional endeavors, he generously volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Indiana, embodying his belief in the importance of community service and mentorship.

## Claudia Highbaugh

### *Keynoter Speaker for Next Generation Leadership*



The Reverend Dr. Claudia Ann Highbaugh, ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is a native of Chicago, Illinois. Born and raised in inner-city Chicago, Claudia enjoyed the early educational foundation of St. Edmund's Parochial School (Episcopal) and the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, High School. She holds the Bachelor of Arts in English from Hiram College, and the Doctor of Ministry from the School of Theology at Claremont.

The Reverend Highbaugh served for twelve years as the Chaplain at the Harvard Divinity School with responsibilities for the program of ministry and worship studies in the Master of Divinity Program. Formerly she was the Associate University Chaplain at Yale University, with the additional tasks of Lecturer at the Yale Divinity School and Associate Pastor at the Black Church at Yale (a congregation worshipping in the African American tradition serving the student community). She is retired from a long career in Higher Education in 2018 following 12 years at Connecticut College.

Throughout her forty-five year career in higher education and ministry, the Reverend Highbaugh has maintained a strong involvement as an activist in church and community organizations that focus on the welfare of children and young adults. Her writing, and active interests in events, programs and activities focus on issues of justice, inclusion and hospitality. In 2007, Claudia Highbaugh was awarded the Alumni Achievement Award, which “honors individuals who have notable accomplishments in their professional field, have been of service to others, and, in doing so, have brought recognition and honor to Hiram College. “

With Stephen Butler Murray and David Bartlett, the Reverend Highbaugh has published *Crossing By Faith: Sermons on the Journey from Youth to Adulthood* (Chalice Press, 2003). Her publications include articles in the *Harvard Divinity Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, the fall of 2007 and 2008 editions, and the contemporary *Biblical Commentaries, Feasting on the Word*, and *Feasting on the Gospels*, published by the Presbyterian, Westminster John Knox Press.

Over the years, the Reverend Highbaugh has worked on a variety of boards whose work has a focus on child development and education, including:

- Board of Trustees Waterford Country School, Waterford, Ct.
- Board of Trustees Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa.
- Board of Directors Kente Cultural Center, New London, Ct.
- Affiliated Minister Memorial Church in Harvard Yard
- Board of Ministry Harvard University, Cambridge, Ma.

Currently, she serves on the Board of Trustees at her alma mater, Hiram College and the Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago

# FCC Chico Campus Map

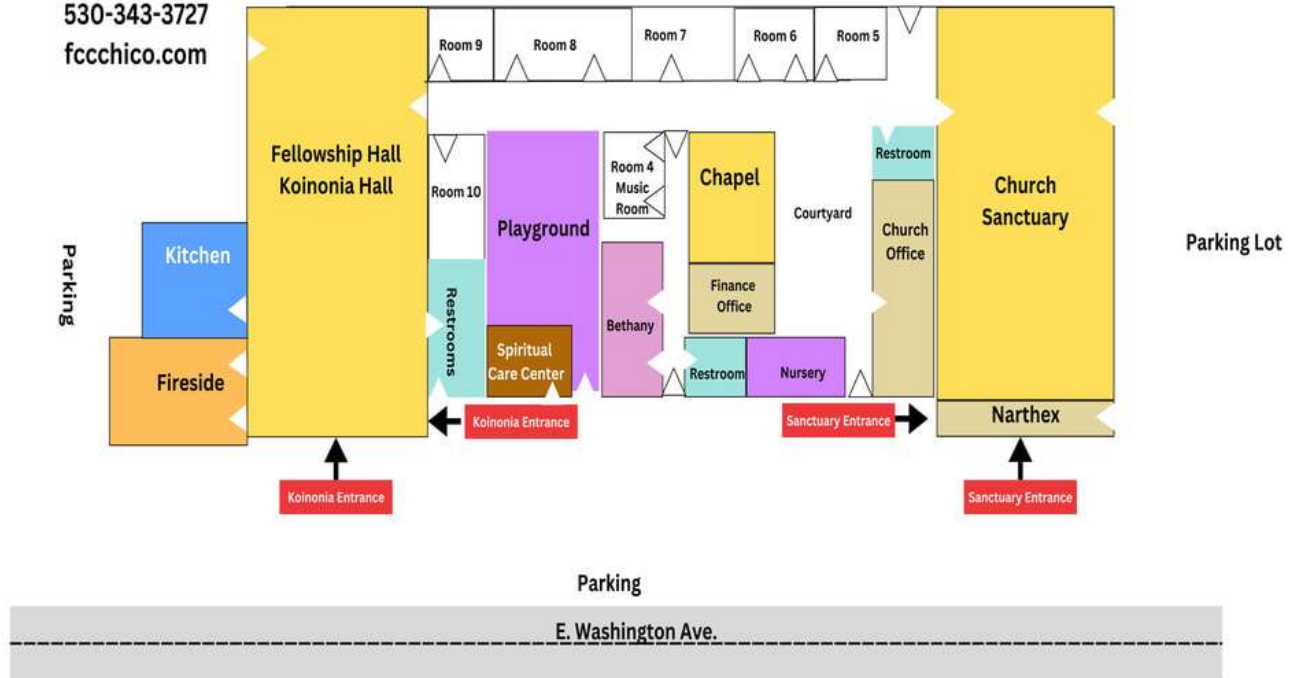
## First Christian Church Chico

295 E. Washington Ave.

Chico CA 95926

530-343-3727

fccchico.com



## 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.

### Education Committee

The Education Committee is dedicated to elevating education in the CCNC-N region by providing diverse and equitable learning opportunities for lay and clergy. Key responsibilities include the implementation and effective adoption of a Learning Management System (LMS), which involves addressing potential challenges and ensuring a smooth rollout. The committee is also tasked with developing and setting up courses that cater to the educational needs of both lay and clergy, with a focus on providing access to resources like Continuing Education Units (CEUs). This includes designing curricula to strengthen faith, offering blended learning experiences, and creating skill-based courses. Furthermore, the committee explores partnerships with seminaries to facilitate theological education or, if necessary, will develop CCNC-N-specific certifications.

### 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.

## 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.



# 171st CCNC-N Annual Gathering - Workshops

## Session 1

### **Emmanuel Gospel Bracelets Workshop**

Room: Bethany

Facilitator: Rev. Gloria Kwon

If you are looking to organize a team-building activity or holiday gathering, why not make this bracelet with a mission in mind - Spreading the Gospel? Ten participants will have fun crafting beads with three Korean women disciples (Rev. Gloria Kwon, Ms. Han Jeong Choi, and Ms. Nancy Chon), who are instructor-led parties, making the bracelet shown in the picture. The workshop provides each person with a kit of enough material to make 10 bracelets to guide them through the crafting. Participants can take the unfinished project home. The craft kits are donated by the New Spring (Korean) Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Santa Clara. Seats are limited to 10 people.

### **Growing the Churches Presence in the Community**

Room: Fireside

Facilitator: Rosario Ibarra

This workshop will discuss the importance of developing strategies to connect with the community by reevaluating congregations' identity, mission, values, assets, and budgets. Come and listen to congregations' stories that have learned to live out their call to serve the neighborhood either by themselves or by connecting with community partners.

### **Blue Theology Mission Station**

Room: Room 6

Facilitator: Elaine Schoepf

Come and join our Program Director and experience what it means to be a Blue Theologian. The Blue Theology Mission Station is an outreach of The Christian Church of Pacific Grove. At Blue Theology current science in marine biology meets a spirituality of creation justice. Each summer we host groups who engage in experiential learning, eco-service projects, and contemplative practice while building a relationship with God's marine creation. We pray for the health of our ocean as we explore tide-pool life, or learn to monitor the biology in rocky inter tidal and sandy beach ecosystems. We practice ocean conservation as a spiritual practice. Blue Theologians (faith-charged advocate for a healthy ocean) engage in scientific data collection, or kayak alongside otters and sea lions, taking part in local sand dune restoration, and collecting trash on the beach. In the evening we build community around the table, as we process our experiences and explore our spiritual relationship with our Creator.

### **AI for Ministry**

Room: Sanctuary

Facilitator: Jim Thomas

This workshop will explore the exciting world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it can revolutionize the way you serve your congregation and community. We'll delve into practical AI tools that can streamline administration, enhance outreach, and deepen connections.

This workshop will provide an overview of AI tools and their potential applications. It is not intended to replace human judgment or the importance of personal relationships within the church.



## Session 2

### **Called As Partners In Christ**

Room: Chapel

Facilitator: Jesse Kearns

Historically speaking, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been a leader in ecumenical ministries. In 1989 we became full ecumenical partners with the United Church of Christ, but our local congregations have forged other non-official ecumenical partnerships to address ministry needs in their communities. Many churches have had to scale back their ministry efforts in order to focus on institutional survival. Come to this workshop and hear stories from congregations who have pooled their resources together to establish partnerships with other communities of faith.

### **Immigration workshop**

Room: Fireside

Facilitator: Peggy Bristol Wright

We are inviting dialogue from everyone on the topic of immigration and elicit your feedback regardless of your position on this issue. What issues, if any, are you seeing in your community and/or your congregation? Is there anything that should be shared so that other congregation's benefit? We want to get ideas of what would be good to discuss in this workshop. What, if any, problems are you seeing in your community?

### **The Paths Toward Retirement**

Room: Room 6

Facilitator: Jonathan Beckham-Brink

Finding the right path for retirement regardless of your age or place in career can be a daunting process. What path do you take? What options do you have? Can you retire? At Pension Fund, we are working hard to help create paths toward retirement that fit where you are in your career. Whether you are just getting started or you just don't think retirement is for you (and everywhere in between), I invite you to join our conversation. We will be looking at the programs and products that Pension Fund offers to help you find your path and creating space for open dialogue to help you take the next steps toward a *strong, smart, and secure* retirement. **\*This workshop is focused on New Church Planters, but all are welcome.\***

### **Revelation Remix: What if the End is Just the Beginning?**

Room: Sanctuary

Facilitator: Dr. Sharon Jacob

The Book of Revelation is often misinterpreted as a cryptic prophecy of the world's end, but at its core, it is a powerful critique of empire, oppression, and systemic injustice. This workshop will explore how Revelation's imagery, symbolism, and rhetoric confront imperial power, particularly in the context of Rome, while also offering a vision of resistance and hope for marginalized communities. We will examine how Revelation speaks to contemporary struggles against empire and consider its implications for justice, liberation, and communal resilience today. Participants will engage in discussion, critical reflection, and strategies for reading Revelation as a text of radical resistance.

## Workshop Presenters

Jim Thomas



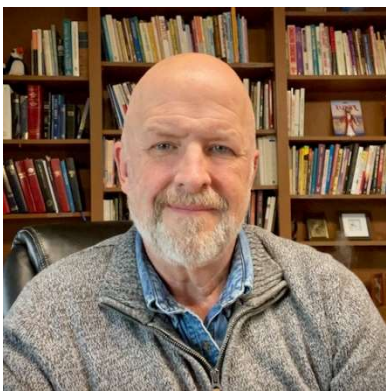
Jim has been involved in technology since the mid-1970s when he bought his first computer as a hobbyist. He became a software engineer in the 80s and developed database driven programs. In the 90s, he transitioned from programming desktop apps to developing web apps and working with internet start-ups in creating their online presence. He is the Technology Director at Niles Discovery Church. His current projects include hybrid services production and developing a learning management system.

Rev. Elaine Schoepf



Elaine Schoepf was raised in a Disciples church in Southern California. She attended Chapman University and Pacific School of Religion, where she received her M.Div. She has served Disciples and UCC congregations in California, Hawaii and Missouri she is thrilled to be back in CCNCN. She especially loves dogs, history, spiritual practice and glass art.

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.

## Peggy Bristol Wright



Peggy Bristol has practiced immigration law in the Bay Area since June 2011, representing clients from Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Ethiopia, Yemen, Senegal, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Turkey, Mongolia, Fiji and Italy. Her father was a Trinidadian immigrant; from her Brooklyn mother and grandmother she learned her first Spanish. She and her staff have won over 65 asylum cases and over 150 Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases that require special custody petitions in superior courts in over ten Northern California counties from Shasta to Monterey. Her office has represented hundreds of clients in immigration courts over the years, and each “case closed” is grounds for celebration, especially as so many cases have languished in immigration courts in recent years due to changing political policies and the COVID-19 pandemic. Peggy has taught as an adjunct faculty member at Contra Costa College and Drivon School of Law at Humphreys University, has participated in immigration workshops and seminars in the San Francisco Bay Area, and has helped lead “Train the Trainer” workshops for “Know Your Rights” advocates through the National Lawyers Guild. She was inducted into the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame for her work with unaccompanied immigrant minors. Peggy has participated in presentations at the 2018 American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Northern California Conference as well as Touro University, and was the guest editor for the September 2019 edition of the Contra Costa Lawyer magazine. Most recently, Peggy facilitated a presentation on the 2021 crises in Haiti and Afghanistan at the Alameda County Bar Association. Peggy received her BA and MA degrees from Azusa Pacific University and her JD from John F. Kennedy University School of Law. She has been a member of Tapestry Ministries, Berkeley since 2008. She is married to saxophonist, composer and arranger Art Springs, and between the two of them they have six amazing children and three grandchildren who are all geniuses.

## Jonathan Beckham-Brink



Jonathan is an Area Director for Pension Fund of the Christian Church (PFCC), serving the following Regions: CRM, PSWR, Arizona, CC-NCN, OI Disciples, and Northern Lights. Jonathan joined PFCC in January of 2023, but comes from serving the Disciples of Christ as a member of PFCC. Having served in ministry for 20 years in various roles, he delights in the many expressions of ministry. Jonathan is married to his spouse, Sara, and just recently celebrated 11 years. Together they have a little one, Adelaide.

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.

Dr. 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."

## Exhibitors



### **Disciples Church Extension Fund**

For more than 125 years, we've served our members true to our values of integrity, security, and compassion. Pension Fund relies on a solid funding formula and experienced team of investment professionals to manage and grow your retirement income. We pride ourselves on being more than just a retirement provider. We are committed to being there for our members and their families — not just in retirement, but also during their greatest time of need like in the event of a death or disability. We measure our success by protecting and adding value for your retirement.



DISCIPLES SEMINARY FOUNDATION

### **Disciples Seminary Foundation**

In cooperation with ecumenical and educational partners, Disciples Seminary Foundation provides financial and educational support to Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ students in obtaining theological education in preparation for a variety of ministries



### **Men's Ministries**

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. We welcome all men regardless of sexual orientation or marital status.



### **New Church Ministry**

**We inspire, encourage and equip** leaders to create new expressions of faith, and we welcome, guide and integrate these new ministries into the Disciples of Christ.



### **Oakland Peace Center**

Oakland Peace Center is an interfaith mission. We will be sharing information about our nonprofit community center in Oakland.

The Oakland Peace Center (OPC) provides space, collaborative events, and capacity-building programs for a network of community-based, BIPOC-led organizations who amplify peace in the Bay Area through the arts, mental health and spiritual practices, youth development, and community organizing to reduce systemic injustices resulting from hate, violence, and capitalism.





## Outdoor Ministries

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.



## Pacific School of Religion

Founded in 1866, Pacific School of Religion is a leading progressive Christian seminary, graduate school, and center for leadership development and social impact. PSR transforms individuals and communities through a flexible, stackable curriculum and a collaborative, lifelong learning ecosystem powered by diversity.

PSR offers multiple options for individuals looking to build spiritually grounded leadership skills and learn from wisdom-based traditions. To learn more, visit [psr.edu](http://psr.edu).



## Pension Fund of the Christian Church

For more than 125 years, we've served our members true to our values of integrity, security, and compassion. Pension Fund relies on a solid funding formula and experienced team of investment professionals to manage and grow your retirement income. We pride ourselves on being more than just a retirement provider. We are committed to being there for our members and their families — not just in retirement, but also during their greatest time of need like in the event of a death or disability. We measure our success by protecting and adding value for your retirement.

Your retirement partner.



## 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.

## CCNC-N Family of Churches

Alameda	Bethel Christian Church *
Alameda	First Christian Church
Antioch	First Christian Church
Antioch	Samoan Congregational Christian Church of Amerika *
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	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

\* 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-i
Bishop Pociecha, Paula	R-a
Bono, Carol	C-n
Borgard, Steven	P
Bray, Eva	P
Brown, Margie	NP
Brunelle, Stephan	C-n
Bynum, LaTaunya	RG
Capitola-Duran, Jodi	NP
Carlson, Michael	R
Chapman, Janet	P
Clark, Warren	R-i
Cole, Alan	R-i
Cole, Myron	R-i
Cornish, Kim	C-n
Cotten, Carroll	R-a
Cramer, Kathy	R-a
Cross, Monica	A
Deibert, Kevin	P
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
Gomez, Shannon	NP
Goode, James	R-i

Green, Carrol	R-a
Green, Diana	R-a
Groves, Tami	P
Hallett, Robert	R-a
Hambleton, Jerry	R-a
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
Jezek, James	C-n
Jezek, 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	P
Loveless, Jeanne	DU
Luvsan, Otgunbayar	P
Mackey, Charles	R-a
Malone, Ronald	P
Marchessault, Robert	P
Marckx, Cheryl	UD
Marckx, Hilary	UD
Martin, Rene	C-n
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-i
Palmer, Norris	HE
Parsley, Susan	P
Pesaleli, Faauma	P
Richardson, Carol	SZ
Salles, Bill	A
Schepel, Charles	R-i
Schlagel, Beverly	R-i
Schoepf, Elaine	P
Sempari, Marianna	NP
Seo, Hai Nam	P
Shifflet, Stephen	R-a
Shively, Robert	D
Shores, Remi	
Smith, Victor	HE
Snyder, Faye	R-a
Spencer, Jeffrey	UD
Stalling, Teneesha	OP
Stanfill, Evan	C
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
Vee, Ulysses	
Wade, Leanne	P
Warren, Thomas	R-i
Weatherly, Gary	R-a
White, Mona	R-i
Williams, Frederick	P
Williams, Martha	P
Wilson, Diane	R-a
Wilson, Josh	R-a

Wilson, Keith	P
Winton-Henry, Stephen	R-i
Wiser, Marvin	DU
Wren, Steve	P
Wu, John	P
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

## Business Meeting

\*Agenda (DRAFT)

### **Worshipful Work/Business Session**

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

**171st Annual Gathering**

**Agenda**

**((DRAFT)))**

First Christian Church

Chico, California

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 9:00 AM

Call To Order

Motion: Approval of the 169th Annual Gathering Meeting Minutes

Greetings from Guests

Rhina Ramos from the Northern California-Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ;

Kalynn Blakley

Other guests

Resources

General Comments

DMF Giving Report

Financial Statements

2025 Budget

Regional finances and adoption of the budget

DSF/Training and Care

Committee Reports

Regional Staff Reports

Nominating Committee Report

Election of Officers

Prayer of Blessing

Adjournment and Blessing

## Reports

### Regional Minister Report

#### 171<sup>st</sup> Annual Gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada

April 26, 2025

### The Region

The ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada continues to work together to strengthen congregations, support ministers and ministries, develop leaders in all generations and continue to be an open and inclusive region. We continue to connect with each other in these four ways.

We are in **Covenant** together, in this church in which every congregation exercises the right and responsibility to order its own life, we are nevertheless bound to one another in the covenant of God's love and in our love and care for one another.

We are **Community** together. In most cases in Northern California-Nevada, there is just one Disciples congregation. That means that all your community knows of us is what they see you do. What is the witness your congregation makes in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, who is welcome to join and help lead your church? Do you have good relations with the other congregations in town? If there is a United Church of Christ congregation, how are you and they in ecumenical partnership with each other? Outreach in your community matters. And the way you work with other Disciples congregations near you for mission and ministry matters.

We are called to **Commitment**. One of our scriptures for our time together reminds us to "consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (**Hebrews 10.24-25**). We gather to be sent out to do the ministry to which we are called here and beyond the region.

Monica is part of the Disciples Women's Leadership Conference; Kyung-Min Daniel Lee is a North American Asian and Pacific Disciples (NAPAD) representative. We will connect our new Director of Youth and Outdoor Ministries staff with General Church resources. Leanne Stump is part of camp and conference group. I serve on several general church committees and meet with my College of Regional Minister Colleagues three times a year, Monica and I meet with regional staff from Arizona and the Pacific Southwest Region regularly, and the Regional Ministers from Northern California-Nevada, the Pacific Southwest Region, Oregon/Southern Idaho, Northern Lights, and Central Rocky Mountain meet by zoom monthly. That is part of how we stay connected and how we share what we learn with you so that we can strengthen the church together.

We have the opportunity to be with thousands of our Disciples and guests when the General Assembly of the Christian Church meets in Memphis Tennessee, July 12-15. The theme of the Assembly is "Beyond" and it is based on Ephesians 3.20-21, "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever."

We gather around tables in this church. We gather for meals and meetings, conversations and planning and learning. At least once per week or more we gather around a table to share **Communion**. It is the table that unites us. As the Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ reminds us, "at the table of the Lord, we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ."

How those four ways are lived are as different as each of our congregations are. The important thing is that we practice covenant, community, commitment, and communion.

As the staff reports show, we are not an idle region. We are focused on building and growing relationships, strengthening our education ministries, advocating for housing for people in our region and supporting the continuing growth of women's and men's groups, and of course we will support gender inclusive groups as well.

In 2024 we participated in the General Church's Church Narrative Project. Last September there was a follow up meeting that shared "the Problematic" or the situation that is difficult for us, emphasizing that "people are not the problem, the problem is the problem. And we shared an emerging narrative of a preferred future. The graphics of the problematic and the emerging narrative of a preferred future are part of this report.

Among the problematic are the pandemic, atrophy of imagination, not being centered, the broad expanse of the region, how our old stories are a hindrance to us, the absence of being biblically grounded, different values, and tired people.

What does a narrative of a preferred future look like, who do we say we are?

It means to be welcoming, taking care of the earth, and living in the core values of compassion, mercy, and justice. It means that we belong to one another, and that God designed us to be together.

### **Search and Call**

Pulpits filled since our last Annual Gathering:

First Christian Church in Sacramento – Kevin Deibert

Lafayette Christian Church – Remi Shores

First Christian Church in Vallejo – Sara Steenhouse

First Christian Church in Alameda – Ron Malone

The Christian Church of Pacific Grove – Elaine Schoepf

Pulpits still open and with whom we look forward to celebrating completed calls.

First Christian Church Hanford

The Christian Church of Vacaville

The Christian Church of Woodland

### **Endings**

Since our last Annual Gathering Woodside Village Community Church voted to discontinue its affiliation with the Region, and Arden Christian Church ended its visible ministry and thanks be to God, they have shared their assets with the regional and general church.

### **Recognition and Standing**

The committee on recognition and standing continues to meet regularly for the purpose of receiving new ministers into the Region, as people seeking standing with and as ministers with standing who are new to the region.

When we gather for worship, when we engage in Bible and book studies, watch movies together and discuss them, when we practice acts of service and mission, when we join with neighbors who like us want to make our communities, the church and the world better, we have begun the work of connecting and being the church of Jesus Christ. We celebrate all the ways that God connects us.

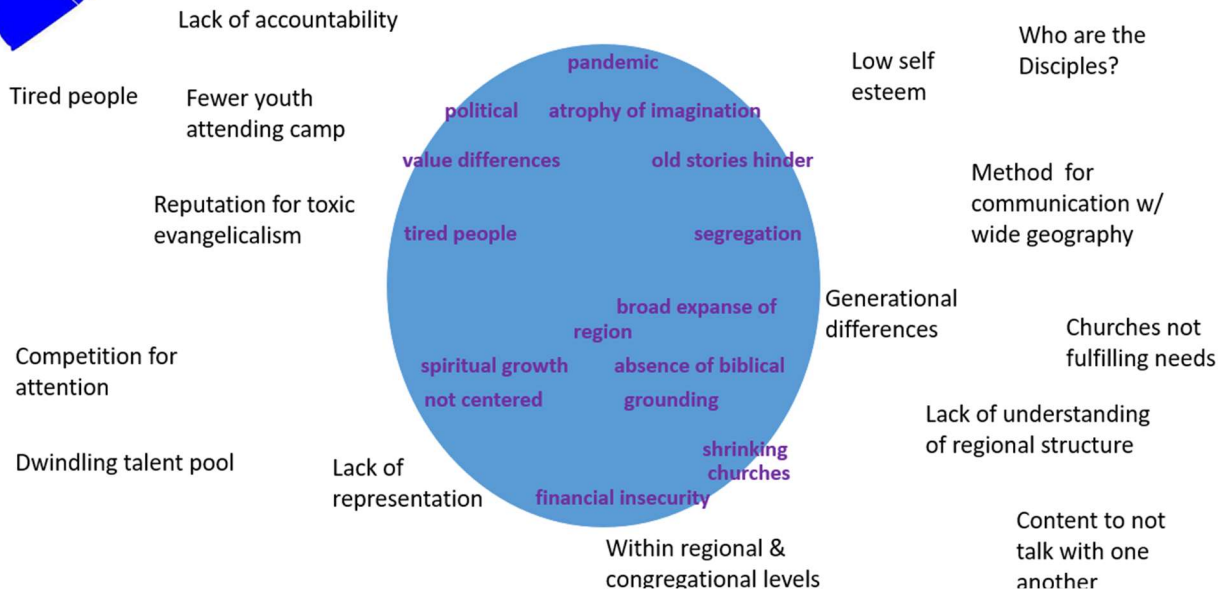
Thanks be to God for each of you that makes the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ in Northern California-Nevada) the special place that it is.



## The “problematic”

NCN TCC 03.02.24

**The people are not the problem  
The problem are the problem**



## Emerging narrative of a preferred future

NCN TCC 03.02.24



April 25-26, 2025

It's always my honor and pleasure to write this report for the Gathering, and I'm always grateful to God for allowing me to serve the church to this day.

As we all know, the ongoing work of God needs helpers and support. I want to start this writing by celebrating and acknowledging the ministries' chairs, co-chairs, and leadership teams and their commitment, dedication, time, and energy to God.

The New Church Movement (NCM) celebrates how much they care for and support the eight (8) new churches in the Region by providing resources, planning events, and caring for one another in worship, fellowship, growth, and unity. In addition to holding a quarterly gathering of all new churches for prayer, fellowship, and building community, the NCM's leadership team is currently working on a "Handbook" for its ministry. This document will outline the steps to coming under care, affiliating, and becoming a chartered church, as well as supporting information and resources available for new churches provided by the Region.

The Men's Ministry (MM) continues to engage with one another as they strive to grow together as faithful men. The Executive Team is at the mid-point of planning their 2025 October Retreat.

North America Pacific and Asian Disciples (NAPAD) has reignited with a new leadership team to celebrate, recognize, and promote the gifts and presence of API in regional life. Their team plans to celebrate the AAPI Heritage Month of May by sharing an article in the e-newsletter, the Regional Voice, about the individual's perspectives of heritage based on experience and knowledge.

The Training and Care (T&C) steadfastly remains with its dedicated ministry to journey with and support candidates in the ordination process. T&C is also working diligently on revising the Manual, including By-Laws.

As I shared this with our Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Byrum, I am surrounded by many supportive hands like NCM – Chair Rev. Tala Faaleava, Rev. Shannon Gomez (Kitchens), Rev. Ama Zenya, and Rev. Carolyn Anderson; MM – Chair Carl Cordes, Rev. Mike Carlson, Mr. Kevin Lue, Mr. Stan Slavin, Mr. Don Stump, Rev. Larry Love, and Rev. Chad Thompson; NAPAD – Chair Ms. Shirley Kinoshita, Ms. Inverleith Frucci, Mr. Kevin Lue, Ms. JoAnne Kagiwada, Minister Lacey Soto; and T&C – Co-chairs Rev. Paul Gaffney and Rev. Dr. Laura Jean Torgerson, Ellei McDougal, Rev. Clarence Johnsons, Rev. Steve Borgard (just retired from the committee), Rev. Jeffrey Ismael, Rev. Ken Baubata, Rev. Sophia Jackson, and Ex-Officio: Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum and Rev. Dr. Christy Newton.

For my conclusion, please keep me in your prayers for faithfulness and resilience in the work of God. Respectively submitted,

Rev Kyung-Min Daniel Lee



### Annual Gathering 2025 Planning Team

Coordinating our Annual Gathering requires a team, and I want to thank the teams from the churches in the Mount Lassen Ministry Cluster: Redding, Paradise, Corning, and Chico—our host church! A special thanks to Rev. Gail Hill, pastor of Chico First Baptist Church, for hosting our Youth Activities!

Local churches hosting the Annual Gathering offer various resources: space for 150 individuals, five rooms for workshops, an area for exhibitors, childcare services, space for the Youth Ministry lock-in, parking facilities, technology for live streaming and workshop presentations, and a fellowship hall with a kitchen or another area for meals. Please let me know if your congregation would like to host next year!

A HUGE Thank you to this year's Annual Gathering Planning Committee!

Barbara Poetker

Blaine and Edy Roberts

Max Erwin

Amber McGuire

Peggy Davidson

Carolyn Driscoll

Kathy Moran

Brad Downham

Janet Chapman

Kevin Zeitler

Georgia Nelson

Briony Gniechwitz

Jesse and Mary Kearns

Staff: LaTaunya Bynum, Monica Cross, Charlotte Thompson, Jim Thomas, and Diana Silva

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Taylor, Annual Gathering Coordinator

Many thanks to the extraordinary time Don & Leanne Stump and Nancy & Larry Love have contributed to CGC in labor & materials. Also, to Frank Scudero for managing the funds and projects needed at CGC. Team Members: Tina Heck, Don Stump, Leanne Stump, Frank Scudero, Mike Hecker

## **2024 PROJECTS COMPLETED**

### **Around camp**

Tree and brush management  
Cleaned out storage barn

### **Claar House**

Deep Cleaning  
Added a window A/C unit in the main meeting room  
New railings and newels installed on deck.  
New Wall Sconces were installed in the hallway.  
All furniture upholstery cleaned.  
All carpet cleaned.  
New front porch & door entry rebuilt.  
Repair panic bar on double door exit door to  
Put a coat of green paint on a small portion of Claar hall on the South end of building.

### **Bobbitt Area**

The Adopt-a-Cabin program began. Cabins are being deep-cleaned, painted, and repaired. Five cabins have been adopted by families and/or churches. Nancy Love made new curtains for all the cabins. A new tile floor was installed in the Bobbitt Hall kitchen. Nancy & Larry Love donated tile. Mastic to finish repairing the floors  
Shower surround walls replaced in 4 cabins

### **Holland Area**

Shower House - new shower pan.  
Shower House - set of new valves

### **Pool**

New filters  
Fence repaired

## **2024 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Many thanks to the Disciples Volunteer workers.  
Cabin 32 back stairs repaired, and new back door installed.  
Claar railings installed by workday volunteers.  
The Bobbitt area and the Holland area were deep cleaned before camp.  
New front porch & door entry rebuilt at Claar House.  
cleaned out storage barn.

## **FUTURE PROJECTS**

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Gender-neutral accessible bathroom in Holland Summer Camping Area. Plans & permits are currently in the works.

### **MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

New metal roofs shower house and cook shack in the summer area . Completed in March 2025.

Install additional panels for the pool solar system

Install new back doors for two of the Bobbitt cabins. Completed.

Test new product for resurfacing the pool deck.

Develop plan to resurface the entire pool deck.

Pave road through camp.

Replace sewer system.

### **2025 WISH LIST**

#### **Claar House**

5 or more wall light fixtures (matching) for bedrooms for reading lights

#### **Dining Hall**

Sound muffling for Dining Hall

#### **Bobbitt Area**

Portable Fans

#### **Pool**

Pool deck refurbishing

New properly sized auto chlorinator

Outdoor Tables, chairs, loungers, and umbrellas

#### **Around camp**

New 30x40 workshop for maintenance and winter work

Newer tractor

Outdoor benches and seating throughout the camp

Generator to power the camp during a power outage

2025 Workdays are scheduled for May 29-31, 2021. Join us! Contact Tina Heck at [tinasueheck@uccr.org](mailto:tinasueheck@uccr.org) to sign up.

## 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.]

## Education Committee Report

1. The Education Committee is celebrating the teamwork and conversations that have led to the acquisition of a Learning Management System (LMS) that will elevate education in the CCNC-N Region to a new level.
2. The biggest challenge for the Education Committee is the reception and implementation of the LMS in the region. It also involves developing and setting up courses to ensure equitable access for both lay and clergy who need educational resources such as Continuing Education Units.
  - a. **Reception and Implementation of the LMS**
    - Ensuring smooth adoption of the Learning Management System (LMS) in the region.
    - Addressing any resistance or technical challenges in its rollout.
  - b. **Course Development and Setup**
    - Designing and structuring courses that cater to both lay and clergy.
    - Ensuring courses provide equitable access to educational resources, including Continuing Education Units (CEUs).
  - c. **LMS Selection and Platform Launch**
    - After extensive research, the committee has chosen an LMS.
    - Jim Thomas has set up **Moodle** as the official platform for launching courses.
    - The LMS is ready and we are currently in the process of building our courses on Moodle. We will do a soft launch of the courses and the LMS during Annual Gathering. During this time we will also hold a small workshop where we can help participants get familiar with the content and the LMS.
3. The committee's call is to provide diverse educational opportunities for lay and clergy in the CCNC-N. To develop curricula that strengthen the faith of Disciples in the CCNC-N.

### **Two-Phase Plan:**

- a. **Annual Gathering Course Platforming (Phase One)**
  - Offer a blended learning experience, beginning with an in-person workshop at the Annual Gathering.
  - Follow up with three remote synchronous sessions via monthly Zoom meetings for deeper content engagement.
- b. **CEU Course Development (Phase Two)**
  - Create skill-based courses (e.g., AI, Cultural Competencies, Grant Writing, Sacred Texts, Preaching).
  - Develop a structured CEU program to serve both clergy and laypeople.
  - Explore partnerships with seminaries for workshop credit toward theological degrees or establish independent CCNC-N certifications.

4. The CCNC-N Education Committee is committed to ensuring that all members of the Disciples of Christ in the Northern California Nevada Region have access to diverse educational opportunities.

#### **Commitment to Accessible Education**

- a. The Education Committee is dedicated to providing diverse and equitable educational opportunities for both lay and clergy in CCNC-N.
- b. We are focused on strengthening faith and equipping Disciples with practical skills.

#### **Future Vision and Collaboration**

- i. To explore partnerships with seminaries to allow course credit application toward theological education.
- ii. If a seminary collaboration is not feasible, we will develop **CCNC-N-specific certifications** to provide meaningful credentials for participants.

By implementing this vision, we hope to expand access to lifelong learning and professional development within the CCNC-N community.

5. We pray that the CCNC-N Education Committee will focus on seeking God's guidance, wisdom, and strength in developing, implementing, and reception of the Learning Management System while also praying for specific needs and opportunities in education in the CCNC-N.

## Financial Report

Another year of challenges and miracles for the Christian Church of N.California-Nevada.

Each year in the Fall, as we begin preparing the following year's budget, we ask ourselves how we can produce a balanced budget with a 3% Cola for our staff, provide them with adequate operating expenses to carry out the mission of the Region and continue to plan for the future while operating a 400 acre Summer camp in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas. And yet somehow we manage it.

Over the last 5 years since our State, Country and the World ran into Covid 19 we have been challenged over and over again along with the difficulties of drought and wildfire. Yet together as a Region, we Disciples of Christ have persevered.

Included in your packet are last year's final 2024 financial statements showing a balanced budget for 2024 and a proposed balanced budget for 2025.

CCNCN still has a structural deficit caused by insufficient revenue to cover our minimal staff and operating expenses. We have only five staff members, several of them part-time to serve all the functions of our Regional Ministry. Our total staff cost last year was nearly 75% of our total budget.

We have cut costs as much as possible and have worked hard to develop and increase the endowments of the Region created from major gifts received from several individuals in recent years, the sale of the Livermore Church and in this last year from Arden Christian Church.

Ministry endowments are managed primarily by our General Church through the Christian Church Foundation. However, despite the return on investment of endowments it takes time to realize gains from earnings. In years past our Ongoing Ministries endowment yielded about \$5500/year. Due to unusually favorable 2024 market conditions, and the increased investment from the Wayne Bennett estate gift directed to Ongoing Ministries, we were able to draw a probably one-time \$65,000 from Ongoing Ministries earnings.

Our church camp, CGC, continues to run deficits, though we are hopeful that this summer it will break even and begin to repay the deficit loans approved by the CCNCN Executive Committee and borrowed from funds that would have gone to the Ongoing Ministries Endowment.

We have completed a number of CGC projects since last year including new steel roofs on the Bobbit Area Bath House, The Holland Summer Cabin Area Bathroom and Cook Shack. Also new tile on the floor of the Bobbit Kitchen along with a Bobbit Cabin repairs. As the CGC loan repayments go back into the Ongoing Ministries endowment we should begin to see higher yields and better endowment revenue, especially as economic conditions improve over the next few years.

In the meantime, careful stewardship of the balance of our remaining gifts, DMF contributions by our churches and breakeven or surpluses 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.

Blessings,

Frank Scudero

Regional Steward

Link to full financial packet:

[https://ccncn.org/ministries/Regional/events/2025/171st\\_Annual\\_Gathering/CCNCN\\_Financials\\_171\\_AG\\_2025.pdf](https://ccncn.org/ministries/Regional/events/2025/171st_Annual_Gathering/CCNCN_Financials_171_AG_2025.pdf)

## Men's Ministries Annual Report

### 2024

As I think about the last year in the Men's Ministries these words come to mind; friendship, laughter, great discussions and spiritual growth.

Our first retreat was in Bakersfield at Mills Creek Christian Church on June 1 & 2. Our keynoted came to us from Missouri, Rev. Dr. Paul Koch. The theme was "Return to the Wild-Honor Where You Are". Paul lead us through ways to honor the areas you walk. Check out "Meditation with a Tree", check out this website and you will see what I mean...<https://treecreate.org/2021/05/06/tree-grounding-meditation/>.



We continued our year with our fall retreat on October 25-27 at Camp Arroyo, Livermore. Rev. Dr. Doug Wirt was our keynoter. The theme was "Hope is Real Life". Doug through his experience talked to us about the hope that we need in our daily lives.



As with all our retreats, our attendance is low. Because of this, we have drained our budget. We are looking for ways to increase our attendance and bring in more men of all ages.

This coming year we are planning two events. On May 30 and 31 we have "Adopted a Cabin" at CGC. This should be a great time for fellowship as well as hard work. Our second event will be our fall retreat. It will be two weeks earlier than last year, October 10 thru 12, and it will be at Camp Arroyo. The committee is meeting to discuss the theme.

#### Our Roster

Mike Carlson	Vice President
Kyung-Min Daniel Lee	Regional Rep.
Looking	Treasurer
Larry Love	Secretary
Chad Thompson	Chaplain
Don Stump	At Large
Stan Slavin	At Large
Kevin Lue	GC Rep.

Please stop by the booth at the Annual Gathering in Chico. It will be great to see you. We also want to thank our dear friend Rev. Cliff Cole for his many years of service for the Men of this region, he has retired and is now living in Fresno. We wish him many years of happiness.

Carl Cordes President





## Ministry Counsel



Purpose - To oversee the ministry and 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 the Ministry Council has met three times on Zoom, typically on the last Tuesday of months that have five Tuesdays. We celebrate the wonder of Zoom has proven to be useful, and our meetings are much better attended than if they were live. We have four people on the committee who are not official members but have provided valuable input and ideas. At the meetings, our Regional Minister gives a report on the activities and observations she has made in her capacity, then we hear from the ministry chairs that are present as well as representatives of our various mission clusters. It is always our mission to generate ideas to expand and support the mission of the Regional expression of the church.

In addition to our work in defining the mission and ministry of the Region, we also continue to serve people who are struggling with finding and maintaining shelter through our Region's housing committee, and we continue to provide educational opportunities for clergy and lay people alike. Both of these committees have separate reports in this packet.

Our biggest struggle is finding volunteer leaders to fill the various leadership positions as called for in the bylaws of our current regional structure. Many of our congregations have struggled to find leaders to govern their own ministries which have transferred over to the regional expression of the church. I believe we have a potential solution for this problem which I will address in the my Moderator and Nominating Committee Report.

Continue to pray for our ministry so that the ideas that we generate may come to fruition. Our current council brings much wisdom to the table and our hope is to lend this wisdom to the congregations of our region in tangible ways.

Respectfully Submitted

Jesse Kearns, Moderator

## NAPAD



After a hiatus from 2020 due to a global pandemic, our regional NAPAD, aka North American Pacific Asian Disciples planning team, has resumed its mission in 2025 to join with other Disciples in the total mission of the church to recognize and promote the gifts and presence of NAPAD in the life and work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Early in 2025, Rev. Kyung-Min Daniel Lee, Associate Regional Minister of NAPAD, contacted me and asked to reactivate this ministry. Several regional church members were contacted to meet at a first meeting on 2/25/2025. They came to team up with the following names: me, Shirley Lin Kinoshita as team leader, Mr. Kevin Lue, Ms. Inverleith Fruci, Ms. JoAnne Kagiwada (emeritus), Rev. Ulysses Ve'e, Rev. John Wu, Minister Lacey Soto, and Pianist Jordan Williams. Our first task focused on May 2025 Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Heritage Month, with articles written and published by team members in the e-newsletter, Regional Voice. At that meeting, we also agreed to hold regular bimonthly meetings on the last Tuesdays of each month, 10-11 am PST. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 24, from 10 am to 11 am via Zoom. Other events will focus on our unique identity as Disciples from the Asian Pacific Islanders. We have compiled a 2025 calendar of activities to plan and welcome all who are interested in being part of this ministry to contact me @ silks442@gmail.com or 408 255-3048 or Rev. Lee @ daniel@ccncn.org or 408 679-7769.

Sincerely in Christ,

Shirley Lin Kinoshita, NAPAD CCNCN Planning Team Leader/Chair

## New Church Movement

Greetings in Jesus' name.

The New Church Executive Committee is under the able guidance of the Assistant Regional Minister Rev. Daniel Lee Kyung-min.

Members include Co-chairs Rev. Carolyn Anderson & Rev. Tautalaaso Faaleava (Tala).

Pastors Ama Zenya as secretary, Pastor Shannon Gomez, and Sandy Samaile.

Rev. Kenneth Babauta who served as chairman had resigned his post.

The new churches within our fellowship of new churches are:

First Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Reno under the leadership of Rev. Ula Aiono.

Tapestry Ministry with Rev. Dr. Leon Bacchues.

First Samoan Christian Church in Alameda/Oakland with Rev. Mako Matafeo Samaile and wife Sandy Samaile.

Puna o le Ola Congregational Christian Church in Stockton with Rev. Tautalaaso Faaleava.

Gathering Desire led by Rev. Carolyn Anderson.

Missio Dei Community led by Pastor Bobby Marchessault.

First Congregational Church of San Francisco under the leadership of Rev. Tami Groves.

Oakland Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa in Newark with Rev. Ulysess Vee at the helm.

In the beginning of the year 2025 we received notification from the Woodside Village Church that it would no longer associate with the DOC. We regret the departure of our beloved comrades in ministry and wish them well in their future endeavors.

#### MAIN CHALLENGE AND RESOLUTIONS.

Main challenge we face is the lack of church representations in our full church meetings.

We decided as a committee to start visiting one church within our New Church fellowship each month. The main goal of the visits is to be seen, and to make contact with fellow ministers and members of each church. We believe it will be easier to attend if we make contact with them. We started last month (4/30/2025) with the Puna o le Ola church in Stockton.

(Puna o le Ola Church, says, thank you for the visit and the generous offering).

Resolution two is to have a New Church picnic day. We invite each member church in a venue to be decided to come and bring families and friends for a day of great food, games and fellowship. The tentative date is August 19th.

The committee wishes to engage in conversations with some members and the pastors on areas we can help them with their respective churches.

#### CURRENT PROJECT.

The project we are currently brainstorming is forging our path forward. The committee is joining the pieces to define our Values and Mission to better reach out with clarity as we continue to sow the seeds of the gospel within this arm of the DOC.

We look forward to sharing a lot of good news and sweet results from the work being done in 2025.

We wish our conference all the best as we celebrate the Victorious resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Submitted this 26th day of April, 2025 with gratitude and gratefulness,

Rev. Tautalaaso Faaleava

New Church Executive Committee Co-Chair.

## Nomination Committee

As I indicated in my Ministry Committee Report, we have struggled to find volunteer leaders to fill the various leadership positions as called for in the bylaws of our current regional structure. We have found people who are serving multiple leadership role and feel that they are “wearing too many hats.” Although people are eager to be involved in the ministry of the Region, they are reluctant to serve in roles that involve long-term commitments. I believe there is a potential solution to this problem.

I believe that our current structure is unsustainable with the amount of people we have in our regional volunteer pool. I believe that people are more apt to commit to short-term projects than long-term commitments. In any organization that is ministry-focused, there are only three broad classifications for ministry – “In Here, Out There, and Nuts and Bolts.” At first Christian Church in Chico, we have developed a system that we often refer to as “ministry circles” where there is a coordinator for each area and a smaller, more efficient board of directors. Our Director of Congregational Life Ministries (In Here) oversees every program that happens within the four walls of the church including fellowship, education, worship, and leadership development. Our Director of Outreach Ministries (Out There) covers ministry efforts outside the four walls of our church including mission projects, both global and local, ecumenical and interfaith partnerships, and community outreach. Our Director of Administrative Ministries (Nuts and Bolts) deals with governance, finances, budgets, property, stewardship and personnel.

I believe a similar system could work on a regional level, but it would require a re-working of our existing framework that is laid out in our bylaws. I think this is appropriate because many of our existing challenges have cropped up after our last bylaw revision. This is going to take some imagination and initiative, especially since the Region’s ministries are different than a local congregation.

Perhaps the region’s “In Here” ministries could include be training and education related ministries as well as outdoor ministry, standing and recognition, continuing education, boundaries and anti-racism.

"Out there" will be more challenging because the Region’s outreach efforts are different than a congregation's. For sure the housing committee would fit into this, but I think that since the men's ministry and women's ministry often do outreach, we could include those in this ministry circle. We might even be able to fit outdoor ministry here so as not to overwhelm the “in here” coordinator.

"Nuts and Bolts" of course would be business-related. This would include stewardship and finance, property, personnel, investments, and all business-related things that keep the Region operating as an organization.

I’d like to seek approval from our Executive Committee to begin the process of finding out how we can make this idea work in our Region. I already have a few folks, both clergy and lay people, who would be valuable assets to making this happen. In my Ministry Committee Report, I indicated that there is a wealth of wisdom among those who attend these meetings, and they too would be (and have already been) an important part in this process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Kearns, Nominating Committee Chair



The Oakland Peace Center (OPC) now owns 111 Fairmount Ave. This new relationship with the building allows the OPC to reimagine the space and its purpose in alignment with the OPC's mission and our community partnerships. We are also thrilled to welcome Kalynn Blakely as our new Executive Director. We have complete confidence in their leadership and vision and look forward to collaborating with them to achieve our goals. We wish them all the best in their new role!

This new phase in the life of the OPC demonstrates our commitment to the community. We are actively rebuilding our funding relationships, developing strategies to diversify our income, and, most importantly, clarifying our mission in direct response to the diverse needs of our community. In these challenging times, pursuing and implementing programs that address the needs of the Oakland Peace Center, its partners, allies, and those in solidarity are crucial for maintaining a fair and equitable society, addressing inequalities, and promoting justice.

In this new phase in the OPC's life, staffing is crucial. Strong program staffing is vital to tackle community challenges and promote peace effectively. I believe that by working together, we can develop and implement staffing programs that address the OPC's current needs and continue to ensure strategies that seek peace, which you will read in the OPC Annual Report.

The annual report provides a comprehensive overview of the Oakland Peace Centers, including key financial statements, management analysis, and insights into the activities and future outlook.

The Oakland Peace Center plays a crucial role in navigating uncertain and chaotic times. It serves as a beacon of hope, courage, and justice amidst injustice. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors for their steadfast commitment to the Oakland Peace Center and its mission of promoting peace in our community. Your dedication truly makes a significant impact.

The Oakland Peace Center's full 2025 Annual Report can be read here:

[https://ccncn.org/ministries/Regional/events/2025/171st\\_Annual\\_Gathering/Oakland%20Peace%20Center%20Annual%20Report%2023-24.pdf](https://ccncn.org/ministries/Regional/events/2025/171st_Annual_Gathering/Oakland%20Peace%20Center%20Annual%20Report%2023-24.pdf)

April, 2025

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 Charlotte Thompson (CCNC-N Youth Director), Nancy Bingaman, Cathy Gabor, Carl Cordes, Kathleen Schales, Monica Cross, Nancy Love, Paige Cook, Chris Gabe, Andie Raymond, Haley Monachello, Leslie Taylor, Chad Thompson, Tina Heck (UCCR Representative & CGC Facilities Committee Chair) Toni Bynum (Regional Minister) and Leanne Stump, (Director).

We are in full planning mode for 2025 summer camps. For the second year, 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. Stan Slavin is returning as our overarching Dean for our camps this summer, who will coordinate and organize us. Much of our staffing is complete. Our theme and curriculum is “FruitFULL Faith-A Spirit Filled Life!”. We look forward to growing faith journeys and relationships this summer as we experience the fruits of the spirit.

- May 17**                      **Director and Staff Training** 9:30 – 12:30 on zoom
- May 29-31**    **CGC Work Days – Painting, Trail and General Cleaning** - Please RSVP to [tinasueheck@yahoo.com](mailto:tinasueheck@yahoo.com) with names, time of arrival and departure. \$5 per meal. Bring your own bedding and towel.
- May 22**                      **Adult Camp Online Registration Forms** are Due
- May 28**                      **Youth Online Registration Forms** are Due
- June 5-8**                    **Young Adult/Adult Camp** – Tina Heck, Director, Rev. Leslie Taylor, Keynoter
- June 22-26**    **Junior Camp** – Kathleen Schales and Hudson Navarro, Co-Directors (entering 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades)
- June 22-28**    **Chi Rho Camp** – Jesse Kearns, Director (entering 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades)
- June 22-28**    **CYF Camp** – Chad Thompson, Director (entering 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grades and 2025 graduates)
- June 28-30**                **JOY Camp (Joining Older and Younger)** – Director TBD (entering 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades with an accompanying adult)

We honor the work of Bobby Thoennes, our site director. His leadership and project completion is very valued. The plans for an addition to the bathroom in the Holland area are still brewing. A contractor from the Woodland Church will be working and planning with Bobby.

**Adopt A Cabin** - Five Bobbitt cabins have been adopted by the Regional Men’s Group, the Chico Church, the Hughes/DiLuccia families, Larry and Nancy Love, and Leanne and Don Stump. Kathleen Schales and the Selma Church have made financial donations for work on Holland Cabins. Please contact Leanne ([leannestump925@gmail.com](mailto:leannestump925@gmail.com)) to lovingly care for or financially support our CGC structures.

**Financial Information** – Each year, Regional scholarships are granted to our campers who find it difficult to pay the entire cost of camp. This year we are able to give scholarships up to 33% of the cost of camp for

campers and 50% for staff members. Adults and young adults often take off work without pay and many 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 **Arden Church Endowment**, **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



## Reconciliation Committee

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Reconciliation Ministry was born out of the civil unrest after Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968

- A resolution in 1969 called for the Church to work on legislation to change the plight of the poor
- In 1996 Approved a church-wide process to develop ways to help congregations address racism
- 2001 – Created 2020 Vision (priority to become a pro-reconciliation/Anti-racism Church; founded upon the need to make visible God’s beloved community
- How are we doing? Our regional church requires Pro-reconciliation/Anti-racism training for clergy once every 3 years for standing; encourages congregations and congregational Boards to participate in the trainings, or invites the regional training team to offer a training at their congregation
- General Church Reconciliation Ministries have been supporting the regions with resources, gatherings, and trainers to train new regional trainers
- General Church Reconciliation Ministries helped create the original training materials, creating program for churches to be designated PRAR

CCNC-N Region has 6 trainers (transformation team members) that offer two antiracism trainings a year, one in early October and one in the last week of February. Pre- COVID we trained in person only, however, during COVID we offered our first online trainings. Currently, during a two-year cycle, we offer three in-person trainings and one online. We offer half-day and full-day workshops. We are open for conversation with anyone who would like to know more about anti racism and or our anti racism trainings.

Our Regional Trainers are Rev M A Sempari, Rev Dr Leslie Taylor, Rev Godfrey McIntyre, Rev Paul Gaffney, Chaplain Lacey Golden Soto and Rev Shayne Flowers (currently on leave). All regional trainers have taken the “Train the Trainer Seminars” offered through the General Church.

We begin with defining a common definition and analysis of racism, and how race prejudice, plus the misuse of power by systems and institutions, leads to racism.

We look at examples of racism as seen in institutions, including the church. In order to dismantle racism, we first need to identify it and see how it manifests itself in our society.

For clergy who have been attending workshops for many years we go through a short refresher and then dive deeper into racism as seen through specific institutions and cultures and try to focus on what’s happening and currently happenings in our country.

We’d love to have others ask about joining our team or help to update our website, share resources, etc.

We incur additional costs for trainer planning meetings, travel costs and accommodations when required.

Jan Warren (she, her)

Chair – Reconciliation Ministries

[jtxwarren@gmail.com](mailto:jtxwarren@gmail.com)

925-818-6530

## 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. We continue to meet primarily in person, still 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.

This year, a Task Force was created to revise and develop the Training and Care Manual, including the creation of Vision, Mission, and Values statements for the Committee as well as further development of Committee processes and member terms.

### **Our current T&C committee:**

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

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. Christiane Swartz – 11/9/2024 Geyserville Christian Church

Rev. Shannon Kitchens Gomez – 1/4/2025 First Christian Church Vallejo

**Candidates Currently Under Care:**

Audrey Barton - M.Div., Graduated from SFTS

Jeremiah Jenkins – M.Div., SFTS

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

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

In 2024 Women's Ministry celebrated by having Spring Renewal, March 9, 2024, and Fall Retreat, September 20 - 22, 2024. The 2024 Women's Spring Renewal theme was Bringing in the Sheaves. The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Laurajeane Torgerson. Dr. Torgerson is The Reverend Doctor Laura Jean Torgerson (she/her/Ella), an Assistant Professor of the New Testament at the Berkeley School of Theology. Dr. Torgerson has served in congregations, hospitals, prisons, and as a missionary in Nicaragua (2010-2014). She sees her work in theological education as another form of Ministry. She delights in reading the Bible with people with a variety of perspectives and learning from the interpretations of others. Her research and teaching are centered on two questions: How do people arrive at their interpretations of the Bible? How can we read the Bible for liberation today? The title of her keynote was "At the Margins: Gleanings from Global Mission. The theme for the Fall Retreat was "New Hope: Where Do We Go from Here?" The keynote speaker was Dr. Sharon Jacob | Visiting Professor at Claremont School of Theology, Visiting Professor of New Testament & Postcolonial Studies. Dr. Jacob's research interests include gender and sexuality studies, feminism, race and whiteness, and postcolonial theories. She is currently working on a project on the rise of Religious Nationalism in global contexts. Her publications include a monograph entitled Reading Mary alongside Indian Surrogate Mothers: Violent Love, Oppressive Liberation, and Infancy Narratives.

The biggest challenge facing CCNCN Women's Ministries in 2024 is expanding participation in women's ministry events. To tackle this issue, Women's Ministries aims to increase the number of individuals and churches engaging with our events. We also seek to enhance our ability to utilize technology to broaden our reach. This includes staying informed about global developments that affect all women, including cisgender, nonbinary, and transgender individuals, whether these developments provide support or present challenges. While there is a strong need for women-centric spaces, it is equally important to create an inclusive environment for queer, nonbinary, and transgender individuals who prefer non-gendered settings.

Please pray for our steadfast endurance as we navigate the challenges facing women in these unprecedented times. Pray that we will continue to be bold, that we will be the leaders that people need, that we will always take a stand for what is right and seek justice that affirms, uplifts, and provides hope for all people.

### A Reflection on CCNCN Women's Ministries

I am blessed to have visited churches throughout the CCNCN region and experienced Women's Ministries in different settings. The Women in the CCNCN region are involved and engaged at all levels of ministry. The region is blessed to have women from all walks of life gifted to be a powerful influence in Church life. Through prayer, bible study, education, meditation, reflection, and building relationships, the Women of the region are actively living out their faith. This presents a strong spirit-filled Women's Ministry that is needed more than ever amidst the chaos and uncertainty of these times.

Women's Ministry is important because it provides a unique platform for addressing women's spiritual needs and concerns. In a time of chaos, Women's Ministry plays a vital role in addressing the unique spiritual needs and concerns of women. In an age filled with chaos and uncertainty, it fosters a nurturing environment where women can openly share their experiences, challenges, and insights from a faith-based perspective. This ministry creates a sacred space for spiritual renewal, rest, and reflection. More importantly, Women's Ministry acts as a powerful resistance against patriarchal structures in both the church and society, empowering women to take on leadership roles, challenge societal norms, and cultivate a strong sense of community and support.

***This is CCNCN Women's Ministries.***

The theological stance of Women's Ministry as open and affirming, anti-racist, and pro-reconciling engaged in the practice of hospitality, i.e., diversity, equity, and inclusion, necessarily positions Women's Ministry as part of the resistance at a time when Christian nationalism is on the rise. Standing for Women's Rights, Immigration, LGBTQIA2S+, Education, Environmental Justice, reforming the criminal justice system, and homelessness continue theologically progressive work of Disciples Women.

Disciple Women share the Good News of Jesus Christ like Pricilla. Priscilla represents God's counter-cultural insistence upon the dignity of women in church leadership and the power Jesus plans to accomplish through them to revolutionize what it means to belong to the people of God and what women can do to lead by example in faithfulness and hospitality. Prominent figures in the early church were known for their missionary work and teaching, particularly in Corinth, Ephesus, and Rome, where they collaborated closely with the Apostle Paul.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Monica Cross

CCNCN Women's Ministries

Youth Ministries Report for Annual Gathering

Charlotte Thompson

Director of Youth Ministries

April 10th, 2025

My name is Charlotte Thompson and I am your new Regional Youth Director. I am so excited to be working with our youth in this official capacity! Let me tell you a little about myself.

I grew up in the First Christian Church of Selma. I went to church camp nearly every summer as a kid, and have continued doing so as a counselor since we moved back to the region in 2008. When my kids were old enough, I started sending them, and now my husband goes too. It's our favorite week of the year!

I applied to be a Regional Youth Council adult waaaay back in 2010 or 11. I had no idea what it entailed but I knew I loved being with my camp kids. We had so much fun planning events, going to different churches for our meetings, and just hanging out. I've worked with RYC off and on since then but when Covid hit, it ruined everything. We were unable to have inperson meetings and events. Zoom just didn't cut it.

I'm hoping to visit many of our region's churches so I can meet more kids and get them excited about being part of the church. I want to meet more adults too so we can work together to be a multi-generational community who shows people the love of God. I want the youth to learn how to interact with those around them in such a way that those people know our kids really love Jesus. Please let me know if your church would like to have me come visit. I can even preach if you want!

Looking forward to meeting you all soon!

In Christ's Service,

Charlotte Thompson, Regional Youth Director

## Acknowledgements

### Host

First Christian Church in Chico

Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

Briony Gniechwitz, FCC Administrator

### Annual Planning Committee

Barbara Poetker

Blaine and Edy Roberts

Max Erwin

Amber McGuire

Peggy Davidson

Carolyn Driscoll

Kathy Moran

Brad Downham

Janet Chapman

Kevin Zeitler

Georgia Nelson

Briony Gniechwitz

Jesse and Mary Kearns

Staff: LaTaunya Bynum, Monica Cross, Charlotte Thompson, Jim Thomas, and Diana Silva

### Next Generation Leadership Facilitators

Rev. Remi Shores

Rev. Jeff Spencer

Charlotte Thompson

Rev. Chad Thompson

Rev. Jesse Kearns

### Keynote Speakers

Rev. Dr. LaMarco Antonio Cable

Rev. Dr. Claudia Highbaugh

### Guests

Rhina Ramos from the Northern California-Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ

Kalynn Blakley, Oakland Peace Center

### Tech Team

Jim Thomas

### Caterer

Roots Catering