



The 172nd Annual Gathering of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada



Ester 4:14

*April 23-25, 2026
First Christian Church in Concord*

Contents

Regional Staff 1

Offerings 1

AG 172 Schedule of Events 2

Keynote Speaker 4

Rev. Grace Kozak 4

FCC Concord Campus Map 5

CCNC-N Ministries 6

 Disciple Men 6

 Education Committee 6

 Housing and Shelter Ministry 6

 Justice Commission 7

 NAPAD 7

 New Church Movement 8

 Outdoor Ministries 8

 Reconciliation Committee 8

 Search and Call 8

 Training & Care 9

 Regional Youth Council 9

 Women’s Ministries 9

172nd CCNC-N Annual Gathering - Workshops 10

 Thu Apr 23 06:00PM 10

 Fri Apr 24 09:45AM 12

 Sat Apr 25 01:00PM 13

 Sat Apr 25 02:45PM 14

Workshop Presenters 15

Exhibitors 19

CCNC-N Family of Churches 21

CCNC-N Ministers 23

 Classifications 25

Worshipful Work/Business Session 26

Agenda	26
Reports from the Ministries of the Northern California-Nevada Region	27
Regional Minister Report to the Annual Gathering.....	27
Annual Gathering Planning Committee.....	28
Associate Regional Minister's Report for the 172nd Annual Gathering.....	29
Community of the Great Commission	30
Education Committee.....	31
Men’s Ministries	34
Ministry Council Report	35
Outdoor Ministries Report	37
Reconciliation Ministries	39
Training and Care (T&C) Committee Report for April 2026 CCNC-N Annual Gathering.	40
Women’s Ministry Report	42
Youth Ministry.....	44
2025 Financial Report.....	45
Financial Document Links.....	47
2025 Balance Sheet.....	47
2025 Budget Actual	47
2026 Budget.....	47
Acknowledgements.....	48
Host.....	48
Volunteers	48
Regional Staff	48
Keynote Speaker	48
Tech Team	48
Band	48
Caterer.....	48

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=CG9JUFEMJC8Q4



AG 172 Schedule of Events

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Thursday, April 23

1:00 PM-4:00 PM	Clergy Gathering beginning with lunch. Move to SANCTUARY after lunch 1:30-2:00 PM Introductions and Ice Breaker 2:00-3:00 PM Christian Church Homes 3:00-4:00 PM Blue Theology 4:00-5:00 PM Conversation	
5:00 PM	Dinner	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM-7:30 PM	Workshops 1, 2, and 3 No Bad Parts The 4 x 4 on the Church Year Folk-Styled Music, Songwriting for Worship and Communal Prayer	Plambeck Room Worship and Wonder Sanctuary

Friday, April 24

9:00 AM-9:30 AM	Morning gathering: LaTaunya Bynum	
9:45 AM-11:15 AM	Workshops 4 and 5 Woman to Woman: Kenya and California Rainbow Church: The Beauty and Value of Open and Affirming Ministries	Plambeck Room Sanctuary
12:00 noon	Lunch	
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Conversation on Immigration Grace Kozak, Associate Director for Immigrant and Refugee Response	Sanctuary
5:30 PM	Dinner	Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM-8:30 PM	Opening Worship Rev. Dr. Davena Jones, NCNCUCC Conference Minister, preaching	
9:00 PM	Youth Lock-in (Charlotte Thompson, facilitator)	Old Nursery

Saturday, April 25

8:00 AM-8:45 AM	Youth Breakfast (Charlotte Thompson)	Fellowship Hall
9:00 AM-11:30 AM	Worshipful work/Business session	Sanctuary
12:00 noon	Lunch	Fellowship Hall
1:00 PM-2:30 PM	Workshops 6, 7, 8, and 9	
	How God Can Become Real for You	Youth Building
	An Introduction to Affordable Housing on Church land	Room 103
	What's Going On in the Local Church	Sanctuary
	Planned Giving	Plambeck Room
2:45 PM-4:00 PM	Workshops 10, 11, 12, 13	
	What Do You Want to Do for your Community	Room 103
	Wheel of Awareness	Plambeck Room
	A strong, smart, and secure path to Retirement	Youth Room
	The Asian Paintbrush	Discovery Room
4:15 PM-5:30 PM	Closing worship	Sanctuary
	Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor, FCC Chico, preaching	

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Grace Kozak

Annual Gathering Keynoter



Grace is a community organizer and ordained minister with a passion for working with the local church to build the power their communities need to reduce suffering and move toward wholeness for all of creation. Her work with Week of Compassion helps Disciples congregations engage and expand immigrant and refugee ministries to extend God’s boundless hospitality to all. She holds a Master of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary, a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor of Social Work from Ball State University.

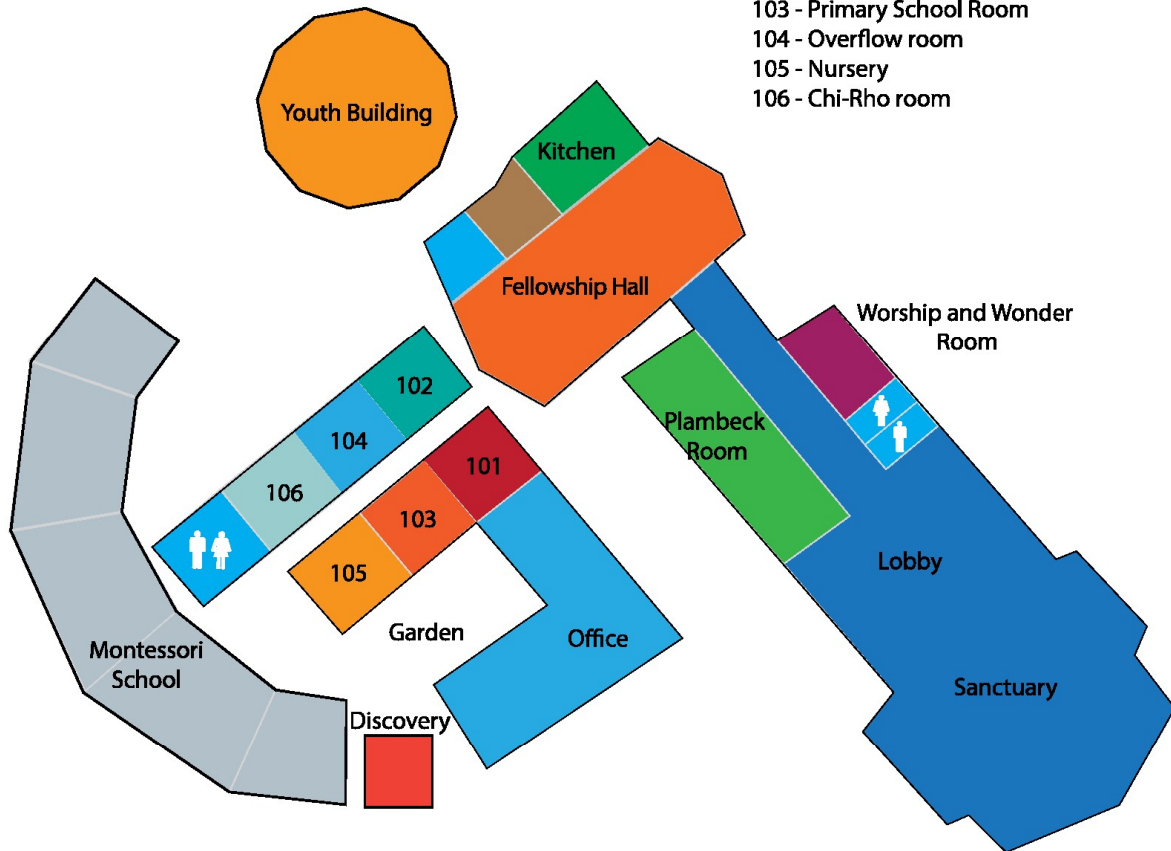
Previously, Grace served as the State Organizer for Indiana with Bread for the World, Interim and Student Pastor at Central Christian Church in Indianapolis, Community Development Manager for the American Cancer Society, and Field Organizer for Clean Water Action.

Grace lives in Indianapolis with her husband Chris and daughter Maggie and enjoys watching Minnesota Wild Hockey and Purdue Basketball, growing dahlias, and walking around her neighborhood in Garfield Park.

First Christian Church Concord Property Layout

LEGEND

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



You should be here

CCNC-N Ministries

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.

172nd CCNC-N Annual Gathering - Workshops

Thu Apr 23 06:00PM

No Bad Parts

Plambeck Room

Godfree McIntyre

This workshop introduces Internal Family Systems concepts for compassion-based self/communal care, support, and healing work. It offers a framework for radical welcome, empathetic deep listening, and accessing inner harmony with the Divine.

The 4 x 4 on the Church Year (the 4 problems and glories of the Church Calendar)

Worship & Wonder

Walter Hudson

Focus: the Church Year structure is a time tested part of our heritage and can be a platform for fellowship, teaching Scripture and values & virtues training in our churches. This class explores four reasons to embrace it and four reasons people refuse it.

Advantages of the CY:

- Distinctive seasons make us distinctive! we are not driven by the world's calendar, we have our own!
- Bigger than us: teaching through the CY seasons helps us follow worldwide Christians who are with us in remembering and deepening our faith practice and legacy
- Teaching the Big Story: the CY and the Lectionary builds out the Big Faith Story
- We can use the vast heritage of art, poetry and music (ancient, modern, and contemporary) in worship and study groups to explore sacred themes with imagination

Disadvantages of dissing the CY:

1. When we ignore the CY, it gives us the illusion of freedom—the attitude is “I can preach on anything I want to!” but it actually short changes the people's growth and coherence by letting us pastor types preach whatever pleases us this week
2. It leaves the pastor burdened with “coming up with something fresh” every Sunday, leading to sermon subscription series and recycling old messages.
3. Each congregation rows the boat by itself, losing connection to The Ecumenical Church
4. Its hard to fit up our story with the Big Story when we aren't challenged to hear it.

Summary: in the storytelling and storylistening of the CY offers us fellowship, teaching and preaching Strategic Connections that only the church community can provide.

Folk-styled Music & Songwriting for Worship and Communal Prayer

Sanctuary

Hilary Marckx

This workshop looks at alternatives to traditional hymnody and communal praise. It will be facilitated by Rev Hilary Marckx, pastor and music leader of the Geyserville Christian Church. He will explore with participants, folk/blues-styled praise songs.

Hilary is a songwriter and matches Sunday themes with appropriate melodies and lyrics, composing fresh material, when needed, that is tailored to meet seasonal and topical needs.

Consideration will be given to music in general, and songs in particular. Time will be given to the topics such as songs that are spirit-lifting and healing, community-forming, ritualization, pedagogy, and songs that colonize. Hilary will offer ways of matching songs with message, giving the church a means of direct access to, and ownership of, the gospel message...

Participants will leave this workshop with a better understanding of possibilities for building a wider range of song choices and potential for corporate singing, praise and prayer, as well as an introduction to the creation of original material to meet the ongoing need for diverse prayer forms and theologies.

Time will be made for participant sharing and discussion, and examples will be offered based upon Hilary's experience as a songwriter and worship leader.

Fri Apr 24 09:45AM

Woman to Woman: Kenya and California

Plambeck Room

LaDonna Harris, Christiane Swartz, and Leslie Taylor

We want to share what we learned about the church and the people in Kenya, East Africa, particularly the women. Come see our pictures and hear our impressions of the people, the culture, the beauty, the challenges, the resilience, and the power of God at work.

Rainbow Church: The Beauty and Value of Open and Affirming Ministries

Sanctuary

Sara Steenhouse & Shannon Gomez Rev. Laura Jean Torgerson

Are you O&A Curious? This might be the workshop for you!

This workshop will explore various aspects of Open and Affirming Ministries including learning about our general church ministry partner, AllianceQ+, regional history around O&A, and a panel conversation. This workshop is intentionally designed to be a place of listening, learning, and leaning into our curiosities. We will celebrate the benefits that becoming Open and Affirming brings to congregations and discuss some challenges it presents. Whether your church is exploring the possibility of becoming an Open and Affirming congregation or you need a refresher on what it means to live into the values that make up an Open and Affirming Church - we welcome you!

Sat Apr 25 01:00PM

How God Can Become Real for You

Youth Building

Carol E. Richardson, PhD, MDiv, MPH

This workshop is based on a combination of Biblical texts centered on Christ's legacy of peace and his commandment to "love one another as I have loved you," and of online research by Dr. Richardson for her dissertation in which she found that the majority of people are able to feel excitement in the air, tension in the air, anger, love, and anxiety coming from someone else. Together, we will engage in some meditative practices which enable us to cultivate God's love within us and among us, so that together, we experience the reality of God's presence as Love.

An Introduction to Affordable Housing on Church land

Room 103

G. Penny Nixon

Our congregations hold significant property assets at a time when our region faces an unprecedented affordable housing crisis. Many churches are wrestling with difficult questions about underutilized buildings, declining membership, and costly maintenance while their surrounding communities desperately need housing solutions. This confluence presents both a challenge and an extraordinary opportunity for faithful stewardship. The creation of even a handful of affordable housing units through Conference properties would represent tangible, lasting impact-providing homes for families, reducing displacement, and demonstrating the Church's commitment to justice and compassion in concrete terms. Come hear an overview of what is going on in the region and how churches are becoming involved, and learn about the process of building affordable housing.

What's Going on in the Church?

Sanctuary

Rev. Jesse Kearns

Five Disciples congregations in the Region will share how they are responding to God's call through ministries that do not follow traditional patterns. Representatives will describe their efforts and engage participants in questions and conversation.

Planned Giving

Plambeck Room

Rev. Monica Myers-Greenberg

Sat Apr 25 02:45PM

Wheel of Awareness

Plambeck Room

Godfree McIntyre

This workshop will introduce the Wheel of Awareness practice created by Dr Dan Siegel. This evidence based practice supports mental/emotional/physical/spiritual/social well-being. There will be a presentation on the science in everyday terms followed by interactive presentation on the elements of the practice. Then we will actually do the practice, and then spend the remainder of our time with Q&A. This is a very accessible meditative practice for people of all levels of experience and offers important insights for meaningful connection with self, others, and God.

What Do You Want to Do for your Community

Room 103

Diane Maltester Carol Sumerton and Jan Warren (still checking)

In an increasingly disconnected world, faith communities have a unique opportunity to serve as anchors of support and connection. This workshop provides a comprehensive roadmap for faith groups to move beyond their walls and engage deeply with their local environment. Participants will explore how to identify specific local needs, build trust with diverse groups, and implement service projects that make a measurable difference.

A Strong, Smart, and Secure Path to Retirement

Youth Building

KJ Kim

Led by Rev. KJ Kim, NAPAD Area Director, this session introduces a newly forming role designed to better support the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples community through culturally responsive care, trusted relationships, and accessible guidance.

For many pastors and church leaders -- especially within immigrant, first-generation, and bi-vocational communities -- retirement can feel uncertain, distant, or even unattainable. This presentation offers a hopeful and practical reframing: retirement is possible, and it can be approached in ways that are strong, smart, and secure.

The Asian Paint Brush

Discovery

Shirley Kinoshita

Discover the elegance and discipline of Asian brush artistry. Shirley Kinoshita leads a meditative workshop on the power of ink and the philosophy behind the stroke. Perfect for anyone looking to add a new dimension to their creative practice or connect with a timeless cultural tradition.

Workshop Presenters

Carol E. Richardson, PhD, MDiv, MPH



Carol is a holistic philosopher, healer, mystic, spiritual life coach, meditation teacher, and award-winning author. Having earned her PhD in Philosophy and Religion with a concentration in philosophy, cosmology, and consciousness in May 2025, Carol continues to work with clients, and to teach meditation as well as new workshops she has developed from her dissertation on Universal Consciousness and the quantum vacuum as an interconnected reality. Having served churches for 15 years, Carol's focus continues to be on spiritual education, developing one's spiritual life, and writing books to help people with both of those processes in life - learning and growing closer to the

Divine. Born in the DR Congo, Rev. Dr. Carol constantly questions, looks for the big picture, and seeks the answers we need to unify ourselves in harmony and in love with the Divine and with one another.

Diane Maltester



Diane Maltester, a native of Contra Costa, is an accomplished professional musician with a strong commitment to community service. She actively collaborates with her church to organize a variety of community initiatives. In 2015, Diane joined the Board of the Contra Costa Interfaith Council (CCIC). She later joined the Interfaith Elected Council of Contra Costa County (ICCCC) and served two years on its board. Diane is also a dedicated member of the Winter Night Shelter Summit Council and works in partnership with organizations such as White Pony, Hope Solutions, and Monument Crisis Center to support community needs.

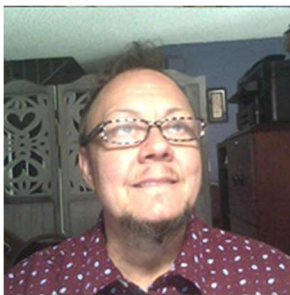
G. Penny Nixon



Penny Nixon is the Faith Director for the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County and the Faith Communities Housing Liaison for the County of San Mateo. Prior to working full time at the intersection of affordable housing and faith communities, she served as the Senior Minister of CCSM from 2007 – 2022 and was honored with the title of Minister Emerita upon her retirement from pastoral ministry. A community leader and political activist, she has received numerous awards and recognitions for her justice work in both San Francisco and San Mateo. In 2019 she was named Woman of the Year for Assembly District 22 and in 2025 received the housing justice award from

Housing California. She also is the founder and co-director of the Peninsula Solidarity Cohort, a group of 30 interfaith clergy engaged in addressing the most pressing social needs in San Mateo County.

Godfree McIntyre



Godfree McIntyre (xe, xem, xer) is a board certified clinical chaplain working in hospice and Disciples of Christ ordained minister living in Sacramento, CA. Godfree completed a bachelor's in Psychology/Coms Studies in 2016 and an MDiv in 2020. Xe completed a DMin with the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP) in Spiritual Care and Supervision in 2023 and is currently in the exams phase of his PhD program in Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy at Claremont School of Theology. Xe is also an antiracism trainer for the CCNCN Region and a CPSP CPE

Educator/Supervisor in Training, supervising a remote extended unit CPE program sponsored by the Episcopal Church of Western Oregon. Xe identifies as a queer, multifaith, neurodiverse, mystic and critical scholar with interdisciplinary research interests in practical theology, neuropsychology, social/organizational psychology, and queer/trans theory. Xe is passionate about holistic social justice and ministry that lead to interbeing and communal flourishing.

Hilary Marckx



Hilary Marckx (he/him/his) has been the pastor at Geyserville Christian Church since January 1994. He has been married to his wife, Rev. Cherie, since 1965. Cherie is the pastor of the Church of the Open Door, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ukiah. They have two children, three grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. Hilary's many life and work experiences have shaped his sense of humor and empathy towards others. He has worked on a dairy farm, hauled hay, driven a tractor, picked peaches, pears, and apricots, sold brooms and brushes door-to-door, worked for the State of California as a clerk, driven a delivery van, been a tree-trimmer and a professional

photographer. He is a songwriter, plays guitar and performs locally, including co-leading music ministry at our Sunday morning services. As a pastor he represents two denominations: He has standing in both the Northern California-Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada.

KJ Kim



KJ Kim serves as the NAPAD Area Director, a newly forming role created to better support pastors, congregations, and families within the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples community.

LaDonna Harris, Christiane Swartz, and Leslie Taylor



LaDonna, Christiane, and Leslie are all clergy serving in the Region and were selected by Disciples Women's Ministries and Global Ministries to participate in the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide trip to Kenya, East Africa, in September 2025.

Rev. Jesse Kearns



Jesse Kearns has served as the pastor of First Christian Church in Chico for the past sixteen years. Prior to that, he served as the Associate Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia. Jesse also served as our Region's Minister of Search and Call for four years.

Rev. Monica Myers-Greenberg



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

Sara Steenhouse & Shannon Gomez ~ Rev. Laura Jean Torgerson



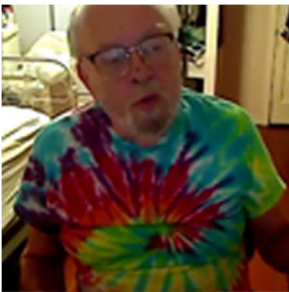
Sara: Sara Steenhouse is a Disciples of Christ pastor serving at First Christian Church of Vallejo, where she lives with her family. She has a deep desire for everyone to know God's love and feel a sense of belonging in the Body of Christ. Sara loves to knit, listen to audiobooks, and gaze in wonder at the ocean.

Shannon: Shannon Gomez is pastor at the Christian Church of Woodland. She has a heart for building radically inclusive community. You'll almost always find her with a cup of iced coffee in hand, talking about football when she's not talking about Jesus, and sharing photos of her cat and wife.

Shirley Kinoshita



Walter Hudson



Child of career AF officer who was called to ministry in the 1960s through alienation and assassinations, fear of nuclear war, Quakers and Gloria Steinem. educated formally at Union Theological NYCity, ordained by the Presbies, and served as chaplain at 2 metropolitan hospitals. tricked into coming to an "indian reservation" in northern CA and was run off by the white folks; worked in prison ministry, work camps and 28 years in high tech while raising 3 amazing kids and hauling a mortgage. 40+ years teaching youth, college and adults "christian education" but still have a lot more to say. oh, ya wanna hear more?

Exhibitors



Disciples Church Extension Fund

Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) is the financial ministry that helps congregations find new ways of repurposing and reinventing their space and place for mission and ministry. DCEF empowers and inspires congregations to create Holy Places where people connect with God, each other, and the community.



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.



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
Santa Clara	New Spring Christian Church
Santa Clara	Walking Faith (Korean-American) 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
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

CCNC-N Ministers

Aiono, Ula	P	Hambleton, Jerry	R-a
Alexander, Kacey	OP	Harris, LaDonna	OP
Amosa, Iopu	P	Heck, Tina	ER
Anderson, Carolyn	P	Hendershot, Susan	NP
Babauta, Kenneth	P	Hennessey, Heather	R-a
Bacchues, Leon	P	Hile, Gregory	OP
Bainbridge, Dana	P	Hinerman, Stephen	DU
Baird, Teri	P	Hudson, Walter	NP
Barber, Jr., Clifford	R-i	Hunter, Joy	R-a
Barton, Audrey	C	Hurst, Ronald	R-i
Baxter, Lora	P	Ishmael, Jeffrey	C-n
Beach, Richard	R-i	Jackson, Sophia	NP
Bever, Judy	R-i	James, Anne	OP
Bono, Carol	C-n	Jezeq, James	C-n
Borgard, Steven	P	Jezeq, Karan	C-n
Bray, Eva	P	Jha, Sandhya	ER
Brown, Margie	NP	Johnson, Clarence	P
Brunelle, Stephan	C-n	Johnson, Darrell	R-a
Bynum, LaTaunya	RG	Johnson-Wilson, Gloria	A
Capitola-Duran, Jodi	NP	Jones, Frederic	NP
Carlson, Michael	R-a	Jordan, John	R-a
Chapman, Janet	P	Kearns, Jesse	P
Clark, Warren	R-i	Kearns, Mary	NP
Cole, Alan	R-i	Kimbell-Auth, Shannon	P
Cole, Myron	R-i	Kindle, Steven	R-i
Cornish, Kim	C-n	Kolivas, Nicholas	OP
Cotten, Carroll	R-a	Kweon, Oh Seon	A
Cramer, Kathy	R-a	Larsen, Arne	R-i
Cross, Monica	A	Lee, Kyung-Min	RM
Deibert, Kevin	P	Loreman, Brenda	UD
Earl, Pamela	C-n	Love, Lawrence	P
Edwards, Erin	D	Loveless, Jeanne	DU
England, Gus	R-a	Luvsan, Otgunbayar	P
Erickson, Beth	R-i	Mackey, Charles	R-a
Fa'alau, Salesa	P	Malone, Ronald	P
Faletagaloa, Tavita	P	Marchessault, Robert	P
Firch, Ted	R-a	Marckx, Cheryl	UD
Firch, Vickie	R-a	Marckx, Hilary	UD
Flowers, Shayne	A	Martin, Rene	C-n
Fuqua, Norma	A	Mazur, Nathan	DU
Gaffney, Paul	C-n	Mc Collester, Janice	P
Gomez, Shannon	NP	Mc Kee-Jolda, Nancy	R-i
Goode, James	R-i	McIntyre, Godfree	I
Green, Carrol	R-a	Monhollen, Steven	R-i
Green, Diana	R-a	Newton, Christy	P
Groves, Tami	P	Northrip, Doug	C-n
Hallett, Robert	R-a	Ober, Richard	R-i

Palmer, Norris	HE
Parsley, Susan	P
Pesaleli, Faauma	P
Pociecha, Paula	R-i
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

Worshipful Work/Business Session

Agenda

April 25, 2026

Annual Gathering, FCC Concord

Welcome to Attendees: Rev. Clarence Johnson, Moderator

Greetings from Partners

Christian Church Foundation (Monica Myers-Greenberg)

Disciples Church Extension Fund (Rosario Ibarra)

Pension Fund (Kyeong Jung “KJ” Kim)

Disciples Seminary Foundation (Christy Newton)

Pacific School of Religion (Jacob Perez, including video)

Reports

Monica: Women’s Ministry and Education

Kyung-Min: Training & Care, New Church Ministries, NAPAD

Charlotte: Youth Ministry, including RYC

Leanne: Outdoor Ministries

Remi Shores: Task Force on Staffing Needs for the Region

Financial Report: Frank Scudero

State of the Region: Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum

Q and A about the work of the Region

Reports from the Ministries of the Northern California-Nevada Region

Regional Minister Report to the Annual Gathering

The Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada continues its ministry of strengthening congregations, ministers, ministries. As the following reports indicate we continue to serve the 60 congregations, members, and friends of the Region.

You have the reports of the staff and volunteers who make this region run with faith and intention.

Gatherings of women, men, and youth continue to offer opportunities to build relationships, form learning communities, and continue to find opportunities for faith developments.

Since we gathered in Chico last year, I have been a participant in several ordinations and installations and all but two of our congregations now have settled pastoral leadership.

I have lead elder's retreats, and I continue to enjoy worshiping in our congregations, worshiping, preaching, helping them find pastors, consulting and simply being with you all in your places of ministry.

The theme for Annual Gathering, "For Such a Time as This" comes from the most challenging time in the book of Esther. You may recall that Esther, who is part of the King's collection of women to whom he has access, has been made Queen after the previous queen was dismissed for failing to perform naked for the King and his drunken friends. There came a time when the Jewish population of the country were threatened with destruction because the Prime Minister Haman was angry that Esther's relative Mordecai would not honor him in a ways Haman believes he deserves to be honored.

Now is the time, and Esther is challenged to speak on behalf of her people in exile because when the calamity comes, and people are threatened and destroyed, she will not be spared. And it just might be that you are here for just this moment.

We are not a church under persecution, but we are a church that does not look the way it used to, and that can be a good thing. The church we remember no longer exists, but we are here, in this moment and our call is to continue to be the church of Jesus Christ and to face this moment with faith and active hope.

In this moment, our staff and the volunteers that chair and serve on our committees are maintaining our ministries and discerning ways to offer ministry in new and creative ways.

In this time, there are committees working to help create the best possible future for Northern California-Nevada Disciples.

There is a task force doing the work of revising the Region's by-laws so that we have a structure that makes sense.

There is a task force looking at the Region's future staffing needs.

Soon, a Regional Minister search committee will be formed that will work with a Regional Ministry search partner to in time, present a candidate to be the next Regional Minister here in Northern California-Nevada.

This is my final report as your Regional Minister. Know that I am more thankful than I can say to have served in this office alongside you and the staff that does so much to support our ministries.

You have blessed my life immeasurably, and I am grateful.

Planning for the Annual Gathering begins shortly after the previous Annual Gathering concludes! Our 171st Annual Gathering was held at First Christian Church in Chico. During that meeting, Rev. August LaPerche offered to serve as my co-coordinator. What a gift that was!

We listened to requests to return to Asilomar and tried to make that happen, but found the cost too prohibitive for those who responded to a survey. We began looking for churches in the Region that had all the things we need for a successful Annual Gathering: technology capabilities (for Zoom and WiFi), parking for at least 100 people, classrooms or space for up to 10 workshops, accessible bathrooms, and nearby hotel options. Does that sound like your church? If so, let us know!

Following Leslie's sabbatical, planning picked up steam! We decided to return to First Christian Church in Concord. We contracted with the Hampton Inn in Concord to house attendees of the Annual Gathering. With the Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, we contacted the preachers for our Annual Gathering, Rev. Dr. Davena Creer-Jones, Conference Minister of the Northern California-Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, and Rev. Jesse Kearns, our Vice-Moderator and Pastor of First Christian Church of Chico. We also contacted and coordinated travel for Rev. Grace Kozak, Associate Director of Immigrant and Refugee Response for Week of Compassion.

We worked with Rev. Dr. Monica Cross and Jim Thomas in the Regional Office to coordinate the workshops and address the workshop leaders' needs.

Planning and executing an Annual Gathering truly takes a village. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the members and friends of First Christian Church in Concord. Thank you to Andie Raymond, Bill Bush, Bob Lively, Bob Moore, Brook Buck, Caren Johnson, Cheryl Huff, Cho Nai Cheung, Darcey Darden Goldenberg, Diana Carlisle, Elaine Kilpatrick, Ellie McDougal, Greg Mitchell, Inverleith Fruci, Janet Hecker, Lisa Morgan, Lori Landberg, Lyla Buck, Matt Hecker, Meg Sumowiec, Michael Hecker, Patti Halter, Scott Sumner-Moore, Sue Sumner-Moore, and The Way.

If you would like to host the 173rd Annual Gathering, let us know!

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Leslie Carole Taylor and Rev. August LaPerche

Associate Regional Minister's Report for the 172nd Annual Gathering
April 24-25, 2026, FCC Concord

It's always my honor and pleasure to write this report for the Gathering, and I'm grateful to God for the opportunity to serve the church. I also want to express my gratitude to the team of leaders and committee members for their dedication, time, and energy devoted to God through their committed ministries.

The New Church Movement (NCN) was undergoing a leadership transition when the committee chair, Rev. Tala Faaleava of Puna o le Ola Samoan Church in Stockton, stepped down last fall. I facilitated the committee meetings until the early part of 2026, when Rev. Tami Grove of First Congregational Church of S.F. (UCC&DOC) took over leadership of the new church committee. Currently, the number of new churches in care remains unchanged at eight. This number has not changed since the last addition in 2023, which was Oakland Samoan Congregational Christian Church of America Samoa in Newark, led by Rev. Ulysses V'ee. The list of the new churches can be found here: https://www.ccn.cn.org/New_Church_Movement.php. The New Church Committee meets four times a year in a hybrid format. Their first meeting was held on March 21, and they discussed various topics, including a new church proposal, the steps for coming under care, the steps for becoming chartered or Full Standing, and the application for the new church grants. This year, the committee anticipates meeting with several churches to assist them in taking the next step towards becoming chartered. Additionally, they are gradually working on the draft of the Handbook.

North America Pacific and Asian Disciples (NAPAD) Planning Team, led by Ms. Shirley Kinoshita, is dedicated to celebrating, recognizing, and promoting the gifts and contributions of API in the regional life. In February, they held the Lunar New Year Celebration Luncheon at Concord FCC, which I enjoyed immensely - so much so that I forgot to take pictures for our webpage. This year's agenda includes promotions to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month in May, as well as the Kagiwada Sunday and the NAPAD Week in September. You can find the list of Planning Team members here: <https://www.ccn.cn.org/napad.php>.

The Training and Care (T&C) remains committed to supporting and journeying with the candidates throughout the ordination process. However, it has been observed that the committee has not welcomed any incoming candidates in the past few years. In contrast, several candidates have been approved for ordination and have successfully completed the process. Due to the decrease, the committee has decided to reduce its meetings from eight times a year to four, incorporating both in-person and online meetings. Please review the co-chairs' report for detailed accounts of the committee members, those who were ordained, and of current candidates.

The Men's Ministry (MM) continues to engage with one another as they strive to grow together in their faith. This ministry was also in the midst of a leadership transition when Carl Cordes stepped down from the president/chair position last November. However, during their most recent meeting in March, they appointed Rev. Ted Firch, the retired pastor at FCC Sacramento, as the new president. The Executive Committee is thrilled to have the vision and active faith that will guide their effort in the years to come. One of their key upcoming initiatives is the Fall Retreat in October. You can view the list of Executive Committee members on their webpage: https://www.ccn.cn.org/Disciples_Men_Fellowship.php.

In conclusion, please keep me in your prayers for my unwavering faith in God's servanthood.

Respectively submitted, Rev. Kyung-Min Daniel Lee

Community of the Great Commission

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.



2025 PROJECTS COMPLETED

Metal Roofs: Cook shed in Holland area & Bathhouse in Bobbitt area

Around camp: Tree and trail management. Got rid of old trailer.

Bobbitt Area: Refurbished 5 cabins that were adopted by Chico Christian Church, Regional Men's Group, Hughes family, Love family, and Stump family. There are two cabins still in need of adoption. Please contact Leanne Stump at leannestump925@gmail.com

Water Pump: The lack of water issue took up much of the time and resources. The leak is resolved for now, but this issue will need further attention in the coming years.

2025 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Many thanks to the Disciples Volunteer workers.

2026 WISH LIST

Clair 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

2026 Workdays are scheduled for May 28-30, 2026.

Education Committee

The CCNCN Education Committee continues to address the educational needs of the region by working on the development of meaningful, accessible, and theologically grounded learning opportunities for congregations and leaders alike. Through careful listening and collaboration, the committee seeks to identify gaps in educational resources and respond with programs that nurture spiritual growth, leadership development, and faithful engagement with contemporary issues. This includes strengthening partnerships with local churches, supporting lay and clergy education, and ensuring that offerings reflect the diversity and evolving needs of the region.

In addition, the committee is exploring innovative ways to expand its reach through the thoughtful use of technology and hybrid learning models. By incorporating virtual workshops, digital resources, and interactive platforms, the CCNCN Education Committee aims to make education more widely available and inclusive. These efforts are rooted in a commitment to equip individuals and congregations with the tools they need to grow in faith, deepen their understanding, and actively participate in the life and mission of the church.

Learning Management System (LMS)

- Building out courses and faculty
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Long Term Sustainability

The main emphasis has been placed on the LMS, as it plays a pivotal role in enabling the committee to achieve its educational objectives. The learning management system (LMS) provides a centralized and user-friendly platform for accessing educational resources across the region. It allows participants to engage in courses, workshops, and training opportunities at their own pace while staying connected to a shared learning community. By offering organized content, interactive tools, and flexible access, the LMS supports ongoing spiritual growth, leadership development, and deeper engagement in the life of the church.

Building out courses and faculty

As the committee progresses, the necessity for additional courses and faculty becomes increasingly vital to fulfilling its mission. Building out courses and faculty is a key priority for strengthening the region's educational offerings. This work involves developing thoughtful, theologically grounded courses that respond to the real needs of congregations, while also identifying and equipping a diverse and gifted pool of instructors. By inviting experienced clergy, lay leaders, and subject-matter experts to share their knowledge, the Education Committee ensures that learning opportunities are both relevant and enriching. This ongoing process fosters a dynamic learning environment where participants can grow in faith, leadership, and understanding through high-quality teaching and meaningful engagement.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Forming partnerships and working together with others is crucial for the Education Committee to reach its objectives and support both the committee's and the region's interests.

Funding Long Term Sustainability

The committee continues to work on concerns of long-term funding. The future implementation of the programs and goals will require funding from various resources including the Christian Church Disciples of Christ Church.

The regions expresses sincere gratitude to the members of the CCNCN Education Committee for their faithful dedication, wisdom, and tireless service. Your commitment to nurturing learning and spiritual growth across the region makes a lasting impact on both individuals and congregations. Through your thoughtful planning, collaboration, and vision, you continue to create meaningful opportunities for education and formation. Your work strengthens the church and equips leaders for such a time as this, and for that, we are deeply thankful.

- Dr. Sharon Jacob
- Rev. LaDonna Harris
- Rev. Jesse Kearns
- Jim Thomas
- Janice Williams

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Monica Cross
CCNCN Women's Ministries, Education and Housing

Men's Ministries

The Men's Ministries in so many words is in transition. With my retiring, the Executive Committee is seeking new personnel.

We did have one event last year. On May 30 and 31 we "Adopted a Cabin" at CGC. It was a great time for fellowship as well as hard work. Even though we only had five of us, we completed our work and had fun doing it. We completed the painting of Cabin 34, preparing it for Summer Camps. Thanks to the Outdoor Committee for setting those up.

As for our October Retreat, due to lack of registrations, we needed to cancel the event.

This coming year, like I said, is in transition, but plans are in process to continue the Men's Ministries. The newly formed Executive Committee is meeting, discussing ideas, and praying for good results.

For me, it was time for me to step down for many reasons. I will continue to be involved in Regional work as much as possible. It was my honor to work with the many men of this region. We had many great times together, bringing each other love, working together, praying together, learning about each other. These times maybe on hold right now, but they will be back.



Our Roster as of the end of 2025

Mike Carlson Vice President

Kyung-Min Daniel Lee Regional Rep.

Larry Love Secretary

Chad Thompson Chaplain

Don Stump At Large

Stan Slavin At Large

Kevin Lue GC Rep.

Carl Cordes President Retired



Ministry Council Report

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

Since the last Annual Gathering on April 26, 2024, the Ministry Council has met online three times. Our primary work this year has been revising the region's bylaws so that our governing structure better reflects the smaller number of congregations we serve and the shrinking pool of volunteers available for regional leadership. In recent years—now going on nearly five—we have often been unable to reach a quorum to conduct business under the current bylaws.

To address this, an ad hoc committee was formed last year to review and revise the bylaws. The committee began by carefully examining the existing document to correct grammar and formatting issues. Once those were addressed, we moved into a more substantive stage of review.

The bylaws are a legally binding document that governs how we operate as a corporation. They must be able to stand up in court if necessary. Before proceeding further, we needed to clarify a foundational question: Are we incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the state's nonprofit statute? The answer is yes.

What we are still determining is whether we are classified as a membership corporation or a non-membership corporation. I believe we are a membership corporation, since our congregations send delegates to Annual Gathering to vote on matters of business. We have asked our attorney, Rodney Gould, to review our existing bylaws alongside our Articles of Incorporation. We are awaiting his conclusion.

If we are indeed a membership corporation, our bylaws must clearly define membership and distinguish the Board's role (governance and oversight) from management's role (day-to-day operations). They must also reflect current nonprofit governance standards. At present, our bylaws lack several of the safeguards commonly found in modern nonprofit organizations.

The Board serves as steward of the Region's mission and financial health. This is a timely opportunity to engage in a structured revision process that will strengthen our governance and help us adapt responsibly amid declining volunteer capacity and financial resources.

If we approach this as a three-phase process, it would look something like this:

Phase 1 — Legal Alignment

- Confirm membership status
- Compare bylaws to Articles of Incorporation
- Identify applicable state law requirements

Phase 2 — Governance Clarification

- Clearly define membership
- Define Board authority
- Clarify reporting relationships
- Simplify overlapping councils

Phase 3 — Risk Protection & Modernization

- Leadership protection provisions
- Electronic participation
- Conflict of interest safeguards
- Director removal procedures
- Emergency authority provisions

Respectfully Submitted

Jesse Kearns, Moderator

Outdoor Ministries Report

April, 2026

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, Kathleen Schales, Monica Cross, Nancy Love, Paige Cook, Chris Gabe, Andie Raymond, Leslie Taylor, Chad Thompson, Jesse Kearns, Stan Slavin, Tina Heck (UCCR Representative & CGC Facilities Committee Chair) Toni Bynum (Regional Minister) and Leanne Stump, (Director).

We are in full planning mode for 2026 summer camps. For the third 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. Michael Hecker is 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 “Back to the Garden”. We look forward to growing faith journeys and relationships this summer as we experience a new look at the creation stories.

May 9 Director and Staff Training 9:00 – 12:00 on zoom

May 28-30 CGC Work Days – Painting, Trail and General Cleaning - Please RSVP to leannestump925@gmail.com with names, time of arrival and departure. \$5 per meal. Bring your own bedding and towel.

May 20 Adult Camp Online Registration Forms are Due

May 27 Youth Online Registration Forms are Due

June 4-7 Young Adult/Adult Camp – Larry Love and Tina Heck, Directors, Dr Sharon Jacob, Keynoter

June 21-26 Junior Camp – Cathy Gabor and Jannelle Silva, Co-Directors (entering 4th, 5th, and 6th grades)

June 21-27 Chi Rho Camp – Chad Thompson, Director (entering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades)

June 21-27 CYF Camp – Jesse Kearns, Director (entering 10th, 11th, 12th grades and 2026 graduates)

June 27-29 JOY Camp (Joining Older and Younger) – Kathleen Schales, Director (entering 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades with an accompanying adult)

Our new Site Director, Joel Gardner, was highly praised by the Feb Camp leaders. He found and repaired one major water leak and will continue to work on the water issues.

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) to lovingly care for or financially support our CGC structures. We have two more cabins available for adoption.

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 50% of the cost of camp for campers and staff members. Adult and young adult staff members 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 and Carl Cordes Camp Scholarship Funds, 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 Ministries

There were listening conversations in the Spring 2025 with a church in our Region struggling with racism issues

Two members of the Anti-Racism team followed up in person for 2 all-day meetings: one with leadership, and another including additional church members.

A draft budget has been created and will be discussed with the full team. Afterward, it will be sent to the CCNC-N Executive Board for approval. Then Reconciliation Ministries will be able to access interest from the designated fund from a gift following the closing of Arden Christian Church. This fund will allow more resources to work with the congregations on Anti-Racism.

Our team has welcomed 5 new members. Contacts have been made with 2 train-the-trainers from the Disciples Pacific Southwest Region who have agreed to provide a training event. The trainers are recognized trainers from the General Church Reconciliation Ministries, and we have worked with them before. We are currently looking for a date for this summer.

In October 2025, the Anti-Racism team took advantage of Rev. Dr. April Johnson, now retired from the General Church as Executive Director of Reconciliation Ministries, to join in worship and a lunch-and-learn at First Christian Church, Concord. In addition, April also spent time with us discussing how to help congregations become Anti-Racist.

On Saturday, February 28, 2026, we held a Non-Violent, Anti-Racism event at Niles Discovery Church in Fremont.

On behalf of our Pro-Reconciling Anti-Racism team,

- Jan Warren, Chair
- Rev. Dr. Leslie Taylor
- Rev. Lacey Soto
- Rev. Paul Gaffney
- Rev. M A Sempari
- Rev. Godfrey McIntyre

New members of the team are:

- Kevin Lue
- Estaban Marques
- Rachel Bechtol
- Jim Thomas
- Dr. Sharon Jacob

Training and Care (T&C) Committee Report for April 2026 CCNC-N Annual Gathering

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) (on temporary leave)
- Ms. Ellie McDougal (laywoman, FCC Concord)
- Rev. Dr. Laura Jean Torgerson, (Co-Chair, Associate Professor of New Testament, Berkeley School of Theology)
- Rev. Dr. Mary Donovan Turner (retired professor, Pacific School of Religion)
- Rev. Clarence L. Johnson (Pastor, Mills Grove Christian Church)

ex-officio Members:

- Rev. Kyung-Min Daniel Lee, CCNC-N Associate Regional Minister for Training and Care 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:

- Lacey Soto - M.Div., Graduated from Claremont School of Theology (FCC Sacramento)
- Candidates Currently Under Care:
- Audrey Barton - M.Div., Graduated from SFTS
- Bobby Marchessault – M.Div., PSR
- Shannon Marekx – M.Div., PSR
- Evan Stanfill – M.Div., Graduated from SFTS
- Jeremiah Jenkins – M.Div., SFTS

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

Respectfully,

Paul Gaffney and Laura Jean Torgerson, Co-chairs

Training and Care Committee

Women's Ministry Report

Fall Retreat and Spring Renewal

Fall Retreat theme - "Which Way is Up: Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled," based on Psalm 37 23-24 John 16:13. Keynote speaker - Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee of Iliff School of Theology. The Fall Retreat was a call, amid these complex and challenging times, to focus on the profound love that God has for us through Jesus Christ. It offers a grace that comforts us as we reflect on who we are and what we seek in life, all while enjoying the support of Disciples women. The Fall Retreat emphasized that, even during these days of theological malpractice and denial of empathy, the Holy Spirit continues to guide us—reflecting, resting, revitalizing, reuniting with friends, making new connections, nurturing a cherished sisterhood, and deepening our relationships with God.

Spring Renewal theme – Finding Peace in the Midst of Chaos. Keynote speaker – Rev. Elaine Schoepf. The theme served as a reminder that Disciples Women are called to trust the Holy Spirit as they do their work, and as they experience the sacred rest each has been called to in these times. The Spring Renewal was a time to reconnect, to take a break. It was about self-care and overall wellness. The great accomplishment was creating a sacred space for attendees to relax and reenergize amid chaos. It emphasizes a comprehensive reset and rejuvenation of mind, body, and spirit.

Ministry highlight

Pain in the Pews Workshop

On January 25, 2025, Woman of Spirit and Action (WOSA) hosted an event on a difficult but prevalent subject that the Church must acknowledge. PAIN IN THE PEWS was developed as a symposium on Intimate Partner Violence to inform clergy and lay leaders in the church on the steps that need to be taken to support and combat domestic violence. Domestic Violence or IPV is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another partner.

As the women of the Church, of God's church, we can no longer stand by and allow misogyny, patriarchy, cultural stigma, and fear of retaliation to continue to prohibit women, and even men, from speaking out against their abusers. Of all the social problems confronted by the church, domestic violence is surely one of the most misunderstood and mismanaged by church leaders. Clergy misunderstandings and mismanagement of domestic violence reveal that victims often feel that clergy are of little to no help. There are approximately 10 million people in the United States who experience domestic violence every year.

PAIN IN THE PEWS sought to not only highlight the stories of 3 dynamic and courageous women who "got out," it also sought to provide education to clergy on why it is important to condemn domestic violence from the pulpit and to develop ministries that can support abuse victims and their perpetrators so that the cycle of violence can be broken.

A hope for 2026

The ongoing mission of Women's Ministries is the development of effective and resilient leadership. Historically, women have served in various capacities as spiritual leaders, advocates for justice, and foundational members of faith communities. Women's Ministry endeavors to promote women's participation in leadership, enhance their theological knowledge, and elevate their influence within both the church and broader society.

Women's Ministry is committed to remaining adaptive to the evolving needs of contemporary women. As women balance diverse responsibilities and navigate complex societal challenges while seeking meaningful

spiritual engagement, the Ministry strives to provide relevant resources, mentorship, educational opportunities, and support. These efforts are designed to address practical concerns and foster spiritual endurance and hope.

The Challenge for 2026

The Women's Ministry aims to establish an Intergenerational Ministry that encourages participation from women across all age groups in retreats and workshops. An intergenerational women's ministry recognizes the value of bringing together teenagers, young adults, midlife women, and elders to pursue shared objectives. Developing such a ministry requires more than implementing programs; it involves fostering meaningful relationships that embody the comprehensive nature of the Body of Christ.

Upcoming Event

The Disciples Women's Tri-Regional Gathering is scheduled for May 15–17 at Christ the Passionist Retreat Center in Citrus Heights, CA. This event is organized collaboratively by the CCNCN, PSWR, and AZ regions. Rev. Dr. Erin Edwards will serve as the keynote speaker, addressing the theme "For Such A Time as This." Find the registration link included here - <https://ccncn.regfox.com/disciples-womens-tri-regional-gathering>

The region expresses gratitude to the members of the CCNCN Women's Council for their faithful dedication and tireless service. Their leadership, vision, and commitment are the foundation that keeps Women's Ministries active, resilient, and enduring. Through their care, creativity, and willingness to serve, they nurture spaces of connection, growth, and spiritual renewal. Thank you for the meaningful ways you continue to strengthen and sustain Women's Ministries.

Kimberly Brown

Rev. Shannon Gomez

Paige Beach-Hall

Rev. Sophia Jackson

Shannon Marckx

Emma Denise Milligan

Charlotte Thompson

Janice Williams

Rev. Diane Wilson

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Monica Cross

CCNCN Women's Ministries

Youth Ministry

2025 was a great year! I was so glad that in my first year as your Regional Youth Director, we were able to pull off all of our normal events with no interruptions to our regular schedule.

We started off with six teenage boys at Fab Camp. We had a weekend at Claar House at CGC where Chad Thompson taught us about ways to allow God to transform our lives. Annual Gathering in April was so good! We only had a few kids but we had a great time at Chico. I was so blessed to be installed as Regional Youth Director during worship.

Summer camp was amazing, as always! Steve Feitz taught us about Fruitful Faith. It was our second year of triple camp. It's taken some getting used to but it's so fun to have all the kids together! And the staff all get along famously so it's like a big family reunion! We also had our annual regional lock-in at FCC Sacramento. The kids ran the whole service except the sermon. They led singing and played with the band, did the children's moment, and served at the communion table.

Fall Fest was in November. We went to Pacific Grove to have a Blue Theology experience. It had been about seven years since we'd done it so it was new for most of the kids. We went to the Monterey Bay Aquarium to learn about the animals of the ocean, and then we picked up trash on the way back to the church. We made art out of the trash when we got back.

The biggest accomplishment of the Regional Youth was to restart the Regional Youth Council. Covid shut things down for a while since we weren't able to have meetings or events but I felt it was important to get kids back into a leadership role in the region. We've met a few times and I think we're on the right track to get back into the swing of things.

I have a great team supporting me in this role. My bestie, Paige Beach-Hall, is there with craft supplies and anything else I need (iced coffee, anyone?) any time I call. My husband, Chad, is always willing to counsel or keynote or drive. And I couldn't survive without Nurse Nancy! Honestly, I just kind of assume that she'll be at any event we put on (but of course, she couldn't make it to this one because of a family celebration of life). Leanne Stump is also there for any questions I might have about Outdoor Ministries.

I am so excited for the future of the Regional Youth Program! I can't wait to see what God does next!

2025 Financial Report

Another year of challenges, changes and miracles for the Christian Church of N. California-Nevada. Challenges and Miracles we have had aplenty this last year like so many before it, but this year Changes are on the way bringing Challenges of their own.

We face a search for a new Regional Minister, a search and analysis for adequate water at our camp, The Community of the Great Commission, and a look at how we can finally manage a budget to support our Regional Staff without a structural deficit.

We have made a great deal of progress and were it not for the deficits that have accumulated from CGC we would be in a good financial position Regionally.

The challenges at CGC have been many, Covid 19, wildfire and the impossible insurance situation, aging infrastructure, a significant water leak and inadequate signups for camp use from May to October the last few years.

We kept the camp viable through Covid and with the help of significant bequests during that time, we were even able to shorten the list of deferred maintenance items. Don and Leanne Stump have headed up our Adopt-A-Cabin program and the camp looks as good as some can ever remember. Our new camp manager, Joel Gardner of UCCR recently solved the major water leak, but wildfire and lack of fire insurance continues to be a worry for the coming year and it is uncertain whether or not our CGC well can produce adequate water for major camping use.

Challenges and changes and yet somehow, we Disciples of Christ have managed to persevere with Miracles and hard work.

Included in your packet are last year's final 2025 financial statements showing a balanced budget for 2025 (Indeed a \$127.50 surplus) and a proposed and balanced budget for 2026 adopted by your Regional Executive Committee, including a 3% COLA for Staff.

CCNCN still has a structural deficit caused by insufficient revenue to cover our minimal staff and operating expenses; though the structural deficit continues to shrink with the growth of our Regional endowments. We have only six staff members, most of them part-time, to serve all the functions of our Regional Ministry. Our total staff cost last year was once again a little over 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 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 only yielded about \$5500/year. Due to unusually favorable 2025 market conditions, and the substantial increases of bequest investments from the Wayne Bennett estate gift and others directed to Ongoing Ministries, we were able to draw substantially (\$76,000 this year) from our Ongoing Ministries Endowment earnings, \$10,000 more than last year.

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 otherwise have gone to the Ongoing Ministries Endowment.

We have completed a number of CGC projects since last year including new steel roofs on the Bobbitt Area Bath House, The Holland Summer Cabin Area Bathroom and Cook Shack. Also new tile on the floor of the Bobbitt Kitchen along with a Bobbitt Cabin repairs.

In the meantime, careful stewardship of the balance of our remaining gifts, steady 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

Financial Document Links

[2025 Balance Sheet](#)

https://ccncn.org/2025_Balance_Sheet

[2025 Budget Actual](#)

https://ccncn.org/2025_Budget_Actual

[2026 Budget](#)

https://ccncn.org/2026_Budget

If the links above don't work, click or copy and paste the link below into your browser:

https://ccncn.org/CCNC-N_App.php?v=v&commandment=page&ID=194

Acknowledgements

Host

First Christian Church in Concord
Rev. Leslie Taylor, Pastor
Andie Raymond, FCC Administrator

Volunteers

Aidan Tany, Andie Raymond , Audrey Hope, Bob Lively, Brook Buck, Caren Johnson, Charlotte Thompson , Cheryl Huff, Cho Nai Cheung, Delmy Metrock, Diana Carlisle, Diana Silva, Elaine Kilpatrick, Ellie McDougal, Inverleith Fruci, Jacob Perez, Janet Hecker, Janice Williams, Jim Thomas , Kathy Wells, Rev. Kyung-Min Daniel Lee, Lanie Brandt , Rev. Leslie Taylor, Lori Landberg , Lyla Buck, Mark Cornelius, Rev. Dr. Monica Cross, Renae Earl, Sandy Cornelius, Scott Sumner-Moore, Siena Buck, Sue Sumner-Moore, The Way, Rev. Dr. LaTaunya M. Bynum, Zack Murray,

Regional Staff

LaTaunya Bynum, Kyung-Min Daniel Lee, Monica Cross, Charlotte Thompson, Jim Thomas, and Diana Silva

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Grace Kozak

Special Guests

Remi Shores

Tech Team

Jim Thomas, Scott Sumner-Moore, Cho Nai Cheung, Brook Buck

Band

The Way

Caterer

Roots Catering