



171st Christian Church (DOC) in Georgia

regional — — assembly

**TELLING OUR STORIES & CELEBRATING
HOPE IN OUR SHARED JOURNEY**

**APRIL 25-27, 2024
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, MACON**



GREETINGS & WELCOME

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) IN GEORGIA!



The Regional Assembly Planning Team for our 171st Regional Assembly welcomes you! We are glad for the opportunity to gather with friends from across the Region to continue our journey together. What better place to gather than the geographic middle of the state?

Our assembly theme this year is “Telling Our Stories and Celebrating Hope in Our Shared Journey.” This theme embraces our Church Narrative Project/Transforming Community Conferencing (TCC) and brings us into focus with being better followers of Christ, who are indeed, better together. Our Regional Assembly Planning Team is excited to have Dr. David Hooker and Rev. Yvonne Gilmore lead us in new ways to journey together as a vital Christian Community in the Region of Georgia.

Macon is not only home to Little Richard and the Allman Brothers Museum, but also home to the Christian Church (DOC) in Georgia! It is our Regional Assembly Planning Team’s hope that you feel the warmth of friendships old and new and enjoy the journey.

Grace and Peace,

The 171st Regional Assembly Planning Team

Rev. Valerie Alexander, Regional Board, First Christian Church, Marietta
John Anderson, Disciples Men Commission, Central Christian Church, Augusta
Rev. Ann Edmondson, First Christian Church of Atlanta, Tucker
Rev. Donna Gunter, Acting Moderator, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur
Rev. Lainie Jenkins, Disciples Women, Guyton Christian Church
Rev. Will Johnson, Regional Board Treasurer, First Christian Church, Macon
Rev. Sarah McClelland-Brown, Regional Board Secretary, First Christian Church, Macon
Jenny Miller, Regional Board, Sandy Springs Christian Church, Sandy Springs
Paula Robin, Regional Board Moderator-Elect, Chestnut Ridge Christian Church, Marietta
Rev. Joel Tucker, Regional Board, Guyton Christian Church

SCHEDULE

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY EVENTS APRIL 25-27, 2024



THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 **PRE-ASSEMBLY CLERGY EVENTS**

6 pm — Clergy Gathering at Yollah (894 College St., Macon, GA 31201)
Game night and snacks following dinner

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

9:15-10 am — Light Continental Breakfast in Parlor

10 am-4:15 pm — Opening of Assembly/Devotion & Transformative Community Conferencing (lunch is provided)

5-6 pm — Dinner at Allman Brothers Museum Event (2321 Vineville Ave., Macon, GA 31204)
Fresh Air BBQ meal ticket pre-purchase required

6:15-8:45 pm — Church Narrative Project Story Hour and Worship Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

8:30-9 am — Light Continental Breakfast

9-10:15 am — Transformative Community Conferencing Conclusion

10:30 am-12:45 pm — Business Session/Closing Worship

12:45-2 pm — Disciples Men Luncheon | Disciples Women Luncheon

**All events take place at First Christian Church, Macon, 2306 Vineville Ave. Macon, GA 31204, unless noted otherwise.*

SPEAKERS

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
APRIL 25-27, 2024



DAVID ANDERSON

hooker

Rev. Dr. David Anderson Hooker is the Founder and Principle Narrator for CounterStories Consulting, llc. CounterStories engages as a conversation and visioning partner with international, national, and local civil society organizations and religious groups to craft narratives of their preferred futures and align organizational structures and internal practices in furtherance of their constructed narratives. For almost 40 years, Dr. Hooker has utilized his training and expertise in Conflict Transformation by serving as mediator, community builder, scholar, and advocate. Dr. Hooker's primary focus is in the role of individual and collective narratives for the transformation of multi-party disputes and post conflict community reconciliation, especially those conflicts where race, class, religion, and other socially constructed variables significantly impact the disputed context. Read his full bio at www.gadisciples.org/regional-assembly-2024.



YVONNE TERESA

gilmore

Rev. Yvonne Teresa Gilmore serves as Vice President and Chief of Staff in the Office of the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada where she also directs the Church Narrative Project. Previous to this role Rev. Gilmore served as Interim Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation, and Associate General Minister. Ever committed to the cultivation of thought leadership and community formation, she is also a core trainer with Reconciliation Ministries and co-directs "Living Justice: An Anti-Racist Practicum," a justice learning and innovation lab at DDH University of Chicago. Read her full bio at www.gadisciples.org/regional-assembly-2024.

WELCOME FROM REV. JOAN

Bell-Haynes



Greetings God's beloved Christian Church in Georgia! Welcome to the 171st Regional Assembly!!! I am thrilled beyond measure to be your Interim Regional Minister for this gathering. As the first founding member of Ray of Hope Christian Church, I believe my first Assembly with you as a newly minted Disciples of Christ was at First Christian Church, Augusta, with Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale in the late 80's. It is truly a gift from God to return home in service to you as you search for God's best in your next Executive Regional Minister.

One hundred seventy-one years of being Christ's disciples in the great State of Georgia! The ministries that have been birthed and nurtured here are uncountable, but include starting new congregations, nurturing pastors & laity, children, youth and young adults in our congregations, summer ministries and camps, college campus ministries, growing in and with our communities throughout Georgia and beyond. We have a powerful legacy equipping leaders to serve the church wherever God calls us. I take time to honor and remember God's beloved Dave and Anne Alexander, Carol and Bill Lavery, and June Doster. Three other saints called by the Region -- Hal Doster, Al Widener, and my beloved Oscar Haynes -- led a successful Capital Campaign to purchase a building for Ray of Hope Christian Church. These and so many more are now ancestors among us still, lighting our way into becoming God's new church, following more intentionally the way of the Resurrected Christ for this new age.

I am also excited that this Assembly is pivotal in joining Rev. Terri Hord Owens, our General Minister and President, in The Church Narrative Project/Transformative Community Conferencing Initiative, led by Rev. Yvonne Gilmore (project manager) and Rev. Dr. David Anderson Hooker, Founder & Principal Narrator of CounterStories Consulting, llc, in partnership with our regions and general ministries. This project is a movement designed to cultivate and prepare us to create processes that can produce conversations and actions intended to guide us into a "preferred narrative of a shared future," states Dr. Hooker's guidance.

This is not a one and done project; our hope is to be equipped over time to understand the role narrative plays in our communities and culture, identify problematic narratives, and imagine new narratives of a preferred future. This is not Indianapolis sending out edicts to the whole church; this is about us, the whole church, creating a new narrative over time together.

Here are our expectations for our time together. Please pray for:

- Our Regional Assembly Team, Regional Board, Regional Staff, Congregations, and all the ministries we represent throughout the Assembly
- Our Church Narrative Project Team
- Safe and good travels

- The outpouring of God's spirit upon all of us and the spaces and places where we will worship, break bread, sing, listen to each other's stories, laugh, and touch each other's hearts
- The discovery of new tools for transforming our current communities and world into the "Kin-Dom" of God
- Us to hear what our Region has accomplished over the past two years as God's messengers and healers and begin to imagine more
- The election of new officers and other important worshipful work
- The stranger who just might show up in our midst, that we will be lavish in love and hospitality
- Us to seek God's presence among us every day and every night; in each other and the gifts we lavishly bring to this 171st Regional Assembly

See you in church, God's beloveds!

Ours is the journey,

Rev. Joan

WELCOME FROM REV. JOAN

REGIONAL BOARD

report



Greetings precious saints of God in the Christian Church (DOC) in Georgia. The Regional Board has been very busy since our last Regional Assembly in 2022. As you know, we entered a significant season of transition during this time frame, and your Regional Board most definitely rose to the occasion, providing enhanced leadership, direction, and communication with our clergy, congregations, and communities. We discovered talents, skills, and abilities we may not have been previously aware of. We experienced God's promise that God will supply all of our needs in accordance with God's riches in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:19)

MISSION

The Regional Board shall govern the continuing work and witness of the Regional Church. It shall supervise the business, program, and policies approved by the Regional Assembly, operating under policies and guidelines approved by the Regional Assembly. Rules of procedure for conducting Regional Assembly business shall be approved by the Regional Board.

ACTIVITIES 2023

- At the Quarterly Board Meeting in February, the Board voted and approved the Secretary of the Board and additional at-large board members. The Board also voted to suspend the job search for a Youth and Family Minister and return to a contracted position for leadership of the Regional Youth Assembly. The Board rebooted Priority Work Groups to assist with priority tasks identified by the Board.
- Executive Committee vetted an invitation from the General Church to participate in the Church Narrative Project; the proposal was to join a movement in the Disciples of Christ to develop a new narrative for a shared future. We developed a letter to introduce clergy to the project and determine interest, had conversations with other regions that had already done the initial stages of the project, and had conversations with Rev Gilmore, Vice President and Chief of Staff for the Office of the General Minister and President.
- At a Called Board meeting in April, the Board voted and approved to receive the invitation to participate in the Church Narrative Project; later decided to postpone participation until the Regional Assembly in 2024.
- Executive Committee participated in a conflict resolution process regarding staff and volunteers' concerns. This process continues in 2024.
- At a Quarterly Board meeting, the board received Rev. Dr. Denise Bell's resignation from the Regional Minister position to accept a position at Lexington Theological Seminary.
- Moderator Rev. Sheila Hunter retired from FCC Watkinsville and moved to Minnesota. Rev. Donna Gunter, Vice Moderator became Acting Moderator.
- Executive Committee, along with staff and Past Moderator Sheila Hunter, developed a transitional plan and garnered all their skills, abilities, and training as they assumed all the administrative responsibilities of the Regional Minister while working with Rev. Pamela Holt with the College of Regional Ministers to get a temporary Regional Minister to assist with the Search and Call process for churches looking for new pastors and receiving clergy into the Region. Rev Bill Spangler-Dunning, Regional Minister for the Virginia Region, agreed to help.

- Executive Committee began meeting twice a month to ensure that all functions and tasks were met in a timely manner.
- At a Called Board meeting in August, the Executive Committee presented the transitional plan to the Board to solicit their assistance and update them on Interim Regional Minister search.
- Executive Committee developed a position description for an Interim Regional Minister search in consultation with Rev. Pamela Holt with the College of Regional Ministers; received candidates from the College of Regional Ministers and other interested parties; and then conducted interviews and selected a candidate.
- The Executive Committee worked collaboratively, playing off each other's giftedness and using their problem-solving skills to provide leadership to the staff and Chairs of the Commissions; including writing bi-monthly lead articles for the Good News, providing obituaries, and responding to church celebrations and concerns.

Various members of the Board and some Commission Chairpersons also stepped up to take on assignments as needed. Kudos to staff (Rev. Kyle Ermoian for taking on the various clergy offerings led by Rev. Bell and representing the Region when needed; Rev. Lainie Jenkins for representing the Region at a few churches special moments; Ms. Ja'Lisa Jarvis, Administrative Assistant, for maintaining a presence at the Regional Office and keeping the Executive Committee abreast of things coming to the office; and Mrs. Amanda Hale-Uphoff and Rev. Kathy McDowell for helping the Executive Committee fashion and fine-tune our communication to the Region). Rev. Will Johnson, Board Treasurer, also assisted in maintaining presence at the Regional Office and troubleshooting activities that could only be handled in Macon.

- Executive Committee along with Past Moderator Rev. Sheila Hunter interviewed, selected, and developed the contract with a trio of young adults who decided they wanted to be a unit as the contractors for the Youth Assembly.
- At the Quarterly Board meeting in September, the Board voted to receive candidate Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes. The Executive Committee developed the contract.
- At the Quarterly Board Meeting in November, the Board met our new Interim Regional Minister in person and voted to approve CCINGA operating budget for 2024 as submitted by Rev. Will Johnson, Treasurer.
- Various Board members volunteered to work on the Regional Assembly Planning Committee, chaired by Paula Robin, Moderator-Elect, and the Nominating Committee, chaired by Rev. Donna Gunter, Acting Moderator.
- Board voted to install a new pool at Camp Christian using up to \$60K McAfee Camp funds.
- Executive Committee began working with Rev. Joan Bell on her transition to the Georgia Region, providing reports, prioritizing current needs, and offering our individual support.

2024 ACTIVITIES

- In a Called Board Meeting in January, the Board voted to approve a revised financial projection for the new pool at Camp Christian that includes a 2-year finance plan with Pamlico Pools.
- Executive Committee voted to approve necessary renovations of Camp Operation Managers' home due to the floor caving in.

- Executive Committee began conversation with College of Regional Minister Search Partner, Rev. John Mobley, to discuss Regional Minister search.
- Executive Committee, Interim Regional Minister, Board members, the Regional Assembly Planning Committee, and the Regional Assembly Nominating Committee continued to work diligently on shoring up plans for the 171st CCINGA Regional Assembly.
- Quarterly Regional Board Meeting was held virtually in February.
- We are excited about our Regional Assembly where we are “Telling Our Stories and Celebrating Hope in our Shared Journey” and the opportunity to join the General Church and our sister regions in the work of transformation of the Church Narrative Project. This includes the Transformative Community Conferencing training presented by Rev. Dr. David Hooker and his staff that will assist us in creating a narrative of a shared future as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- We are excited about further experiencing the skills, abilities, knowledge, and wisdom of our Interim Regional Minister, Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, as she leads and supports us through this season of transition.
- We are excited about entering the search for a new Regional Minister and we look forward to finding new and enhanced creative ways to support the ministry of our clergy and congregations and the communal work of our region as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission to go out and make disciples of all people (Matt 28.28).

Respectfully submitted,
CCINGA Regional Board

Rev. Donna Gunter, Acting Moderator
 Mrs. Paula Robin, Moderator-Elect
 Rev. Will Johson, Treasurer
 Rev. Sarah McClelland-Brown, Secretary
 Mrs. Dolores Trimiew, Disciple Women
 Mr. John Anderson, Disciples Men
 Rev. Dr. Valerie Alexander
 Mr. Joseph Baker
 Mr. Dakoata Brown
 Mr. William Cox
 Rev. Jabari Butler
 Ms. Frances Grant
 Mrs. Pam Gunter
 Rev. Sheila Hunter
 Ms. Chante Lively
 Rev. James Shelton
 Rev. Joel Tucker
 Rev. Byron Wells
 Rev. Answai White
 Mrs. Vicki Wilkerson

GENERAL BOARD *report*



The General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada met in Chicago, IL from April 13-16, 2024. The composition of the General Board includes representatives from the General Units, elected Regional representatives, and congregational representatives elected at the General Assembly.

After we approved the agenda and previous General Board and Administrative Committee minutes, the Rev. Dr. Terri Hord-Owens shared with us her State of the Church address. As we face many of the same headwinds and challenges of shrinking memberships and budgets as other denominations, we are striving to confront them head-on with three major projects which are ongoing.

Implementing GA-2343, a resolution which was passed at the General Assembly in Louisville, is a major part of the Covenant Project as we transform how we equip ourselves for ministry in the future and form a more connected church. One of the major hopes of this effort is greater congregational involvement with our General Assemblies, which will meet digitally every year, with a hybrid meeting every third year. Every congregation will be asked to elect 3 delegates to the Assembly, and these delegates will help to align the work and focus of the General Church and Regions with the needs and ministries of our local congregations. As Rev. Dr. Hord-Owens said in her address, the work of the General Assembly is perpetually ongoing.

The Narrative Project now has 10 Regions who have hosted Storyhours and gone through Transformative Community Conferencing training, and who are continuing to be engaged in listening to who we are as Disciples. We are excited to be beginning that process here in Georgia!

The Proclamation Project seeks to empower those who proclaim the Word of God in its many manifestations across the life of our church. It includes not only Sunday morning sermons but is also about using the various tools and forms of communication we have available in today's world to proclaim the Good News. Cohorts are meeting and forming to continue the work of the Proclamation Project.

ALEX is utilized by enough congregations now, so the system is beginning to be a valuable tool for us to understand who we are. We can explore information in ways that were not possible in the past and gain a better understanding of who we are as a fellowship of congregations and who we serve alongside. Currently, 64% of our congregations have an average worship attendance of 50 or less people each week with 1% of congregations worshipping with more than 351 people.

One of the main parts of our work at the meeting was the reviewing and receiving of reports from the various General Ministries and Regions of the church. There is a cycle of change happening in leadership not only in Georgia, but in multiple General

Ministries and Regions as well. At the same time, there is innovative and creative ministry taking place on our behalf that is being empowered, equipped and led by the Holy Spirit as we answer the call from God in this time.

We concluded our meeting with a sermon by our youngest general board member, the Rev. Jessica Braxton. She inspired us with a message of change and hope, recognizing and naming the work we are all doing in the name of God in our various contexts.

*Submitted by Rev. Byron Wells
Regional Representative to the General Board*

TREASURY TEAM

report



Dear Friends,

Thank you for another year of your support to the Christian Church in Georgia. It is your generosity and investment that keeps our regional work moving forward and serving our churches. We finished 2023 with \$1.195M in endowments and restricted assets for the various ministries of the region. Your hard work has enabled us to create endowments (small and large) for each of our various ministries around the region. The chart below shows year-end income expense for our Region and Camp Christian. In each column is the actual total, a slash, then how much the figure was above or below budgeted expectation. There are draws on endowments and programming budgets that go into the final outcome, so please don't think the math is off between income/expense of JUST the operating budget alone.

	INCOME	EXPENSE	FINAL
CC IN GEORGIA	\$181,028 / (24,772)	\$211,900 / (37,800)	\$4,972 SURPLUS
CAMP CHRISTIAN	\$59,564 / (29,936)	\$106,243 / 18,743	(\$46,181) DEFICIT

I will note that the Women's Ministry finished the year with a \$9,660 surplus. A fuller summary report is available if requested. To answer a couple of questions: first, the extra expenses at camp were mostly due to a very substantial increase in liability insurance; second, the drop in income was due to declining numbers at summer camp and very little usage by Georgia Disciple entities; lastly, as Camp Christian is part of the Region, what financial reserves the region has must cover the deficit for Camp Christian.

For this year's budget, we have approved income and expenses in line with the trends based on recent years. The income will include a \$68,250 draw on our restricted endowments for particular ministries for the following:

- Income: \$257,850
- Expense: \$255,500
- Net Income: \$2,350

Women's Ministry submitted a balanced budget of \$20,715 in income and expense. Camp has submitted the following:

- Income: \$81,500 (with a \$5,000 draw on the Lavery Fund endowment)
- Expense: \$82,440
- Net Deficit: (\$940)

There will need to be some extensive fundraising in the near future. Camp Christian is now over 60 years old, and the maintenance needs are becoming greater. Just this year between a new pool (required to pass inspection) and renovations to damaged structures, we will be incurring over \$200,000 in maintenance, repair, and replacement expenses. That will leave every single maintenance fund tapped out, and fundraising will be absolutely necessary to keep the facility open and functioning.

The good news in all this is that the financial well-being of our region is presently secure. We continue to pray that our churches and the amazing people of this region continue to give to support the Region's ability to engage in ministry, mission, and work for the whole of the churches in our region. There is so much we can do, and a wealth of untapped potential for doing good for God's Kingdom. I pray we can all share in that vision.

Lastly, I want to thank the team whom I've worked with over the past 4 years: Rev. Daniel Brower, Jenny Miller, Archie Jenkins, Rev. Sheila Hunter, Caroline Grant, and Jim Armstrong. I also want to thank the Region. It has been my privilege and honor to serve as Treasurer from 2011-2018 and 2020-2024. I appreciate your confidence, investment, and hard work.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Submitted by Rev. Will Johnson

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY *report*



The Commission on Ministry shepherds and nurtures candidates for both Ordained and Commissioned Ministries in the Region of Georgia. Members of the Commission currently include Debi Acree, James Gazaway, Jerry Gladson, Bob Harris, Janice Hume, Jarrod Longbons, Stanley Saunders (chair), Aaron Smith, and Darryl Trimiew.

The Commission on Ministry seeks to work in covenant with congregations and candidates to ensure that our candidates for ministry are ready for effective, faithful ministry in a rapidly changing world. The interviews we conduct with our candidates over the course of their preparations for ministry are undoubtedly the highlight of our work. It is a genuine joy to watch our candidates grow, mature, and be affirmed for the diverse ministries to which they are called.

We are happy that the following candidates are currently under care with the Commission on Ministry.

FOR COMMISSIONED MINISTRY:

- Vicki Wilkerson, Guyton Christian Church
- Jordan Williams, The Table at Warner Robbins Christian Church

FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:

- Sarah Brasington, Peachtree Christian Church
- Christopher James "Chris" Carter, First Christian Church Warner Robins
- Nathan Gilmour, Bogart Christian Church
- Monica Ledford, Cherry Log Christian Church
- Carmen Samantha Reid, Ray of Hope Christian Church
- Doris Smith, Ray of Hope Christian Church

We currently have eight other candidates who are preparing for or in process to come under care.

During 2023, three candidates completed their work with us and entered ordained ministry in the Region. We congratulate and celebrate with:

- Teresa Bensch, now serving at Lawrenceville First Christian Church
- Daniel Brower, now serving First Christian Church of Decatur and Chaplain, Army National Guard
- Ann Edmondson, First Christian Church of Atlanta

The following ministers transferred standing to the Georgia Region during 2023 and 2024 thus far:

- Bryan Carswell, Chaplain, Atlanta, GA
- Jacob Christian, Chaplain, Gainesville, GA
- Douglas Miller, Damascus Road Christian Church, Griffin, GA
- Jim Norris, Retired Commissioned Minister (Boone Grove, IN), Allenhurst, GA
- Heather Webb, Union Christian Church, Watkinsville
- Seokil "Peter" Yoon, Lawrenceville First Christian Church

Since our last Regional Assembly in November 2022, we have grieved the loss of deeply beloved colleagues and partners in ministry:

- Rev. Dr. David Alexander, former Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Georgia
- Rev. Magda Bennett, High Shoals Christian Church
- Rev. Dr. James Brewer-Calvert, First Christian Church of Decatur
- The Rev. Dr. Harold "Hal" Doster, Brookhaven Christian Church; First Christian Church, Marietta; Cherry Log Christian Church, to name but a few
- Rev. Michael Fitzpatrick, First Christian Church of Eastman
- Rev. Alan Mace, First Christian Church of Athens
- Rev. Dr. Larry C. Steinmetz, Sandy Springs Christian Church
- Rev. Keith Weekley, First Christian Church of Augusta

On behalf of the Region, supported by the Simms-Marshes of Glynn Seminarian Fund and the Simpson-Braswell Fund (Peachtree Corners Christian Church), during the last year the Commission on Ministry has granted scholarships to the following candidates and pastors in the region pursuing higher education:

- Christopher James Carter, Phillips Theological Seminary
- Rev. Leah Jackson, Mercer University
- Rev. George Pinkard, Regent University
- Doris Smith, Columbia Theological Seminary
- Vicki Wilkerson, Phillips Theological Seminary

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Stanley P. Saunders

HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

report



NOVEMBER 2022 – FEBRUARY 2024

A total of four Healthy Boundaries for Clergy workshops were offered through the collaboration of the Christian Church (DOC) in Georgia and the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. All workshops were provided via Zoom.

Georgia DOC clergy are required to complete Healthy Boundaries training every five years to retain standing; Southeast UCC clergy are required to complete a training every four years. Each workshop consisted of two 3.25-hour sessions, for a total workshop length of 6.5 hours. These workshops (with attendance details for completed workshops) were:

- Healthy Boundaries 101 – November 4-5, 2022 (total 11 NACCC – requested by National Association of Congregational Christian Churches – NACCC)
- Healthy Boundaries 301– April 28-29, 2023 (total 12 – 11 DOC, 1 UCC)
- Healthy Boundaries 201 – August 18-19, 2023 (total 14 – 11 DOC, 3 UCC)
- Healthy Boundaries 101 – November 3-4, 2024 (total 13 – 4 DOC, 9 UCC)

Beginning in 2024, the Christian Church in Georgia will be offering Healthy Boundaries workshops independently, as the Southeast Conference United Church of Christ is planning to adopt another curriculum. With continuing preference for virtual instruction (75% of 2023 evaluations prefer virtual), plans are underway for virtual instruction in 2024. Planned dates and workshops for the Christian Church in Georgia are:

- August 23-24, 2024 – Healthy Boundaries 101: Fundamentals
- November 1-2, 2024 – Healthy Boundaries 301: Money, Sex, & Power

Special thanks to the instructors on the team, all of whom have been trained and certified by the FaithTrust Institute: Rev. Erica Gerald, Rev. David Kenley (DOC), and Rev. Kathy McDowell (DOC).

Submitted by Rev. Kathy McDowell

COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 2022 – FEBRUARY 2024

report



The Communication Commission of the Christian Church in Georgia has shepherded many changes related to communications, beginning in spring 2021, and continuing through early 2024. Since many of these have taken place over several years, a timeline of communication efforts since the April 2021 relaunch of the Communication Commission is provided below.

Regional Communications Timeline

- April 2021 – launch of biweekly regional newsletter from regional office, with project leadership by Ja’Lisa Jarvis and Kathy McDowell
- June 2021 – www.gadisciples.org redesigned and launched by outside contractor
- November 2021 – Communication Commission recommends hiring regional communications staff person, which is included in 2022 budget
- Spring 2022 – Communications Commission begins a series of meetings and email discussions regarding a new logo
- September 2022 – Amanda Hale hired as Regional Media Communications Coordinator, immediately beginning event and marketing support of the Regional Assembly
- October 2022 – biweekly regional newsletter leadership transferred to Amanda Hale
- Fall 2022–Current – Ongoing marketing support of regional events and ministries provided by Amanda Hale, including but not limited to Regional Assembly, Regional Youth Assembly, Disciples Women’s Fall Retreat and other events, Camp Christian, Special Offerings, Elders Retreat, and others.
- Fall 2022 – “Policy and Process for Regional Newsletter” and “Policy and Process for Regional Obituaries” introduced by Kathy McDowell, reviewed, and implemented over the next 12 months to improve consistency in specific communications
- Winter-Spring 2023 – logo project transferred to Amanda Hale
- Spring 2023 – “Submit Event Request” (www.gadisciples.org/submit-event-request) and “Submit News” (www.gadisciples.org/submit-news) forms added to www.gadisciples.org to improve process for requesting marketing, registration, and other administrative support of events
- March 2023 – Georgia Disciples Facebook Group closed, enabling better monitoring of content and allowing Georgia Disciples Facebook Page to become the official FB marketing presence for the CCinGA.
- May 23, 2023 – new logo and rebranding presented and approved by the Regional Board; DOC chalice variations in new logo approved by DOC Office of Communications in June
- August 1, 2023 – GA Disciples rebranding launched, including a new banner for FB Page, a new banner, look, and name (The Good News) for the regional newsletter, and a new Instagram page

- October 1, 2023 – rebranding completed of all regional communications (website, Constant Contact) to ensure consistent look across all regional communications
- January 2024 – Biweekly newsletter schedule shifts to monthly, per recommendation by IRM Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes
- March 2024 – Regional branding guidelines distributed to improve consistency across all Regional communications (included as part of this report)

Upgrade Thursdays

A series of virtual events named “Upgrade Thursdays” were held beginning in April 2021 as a way of gathering Georgia Disciples in one-hour, creative, Assembly-style experiences. Fourteen sessions were held in 2021 from April through October. In 2022, the program was hosted for 12 sessions on the fourth Thursdays of January, February, and March, and August, September, and October, with a total of 145 in attendance. In 2023, Upgrade Thursdays was hosted for 12 sessions on the fourth Thursdays of January, February, and March, and August, September, and October, with a total of 161 in attendance. Project leadership by Kathy McDowell in 2021 and 2022, with Kyle Ermoian also providing leadership in 2023.

Communication Commission

The Commission includes Rev. Kathy McDowell (chair), Rev. Jabari Butler, Rev. Matt Marshall, Taylure Plain Shaw, and Paul Wendl.

Connect with Georgia Disciples

Connect with Georgia Disciples on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gadisciples and follow us on Instagram @gadisciples at www.instagram.com/gadisciples/. Sign up for The Good News at www.gadisciples.org by scrolling down the page to “Sign up for Newsletter.”

Goals for 2024

- Work with Communication Commission and Regional leaders and staff to solidify use of regional branding and encourage consistency across all regional communications including social media
- Continue to provide editorial support of The Good News
- Work with regional leadership and IRM Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes to identify other communications goals

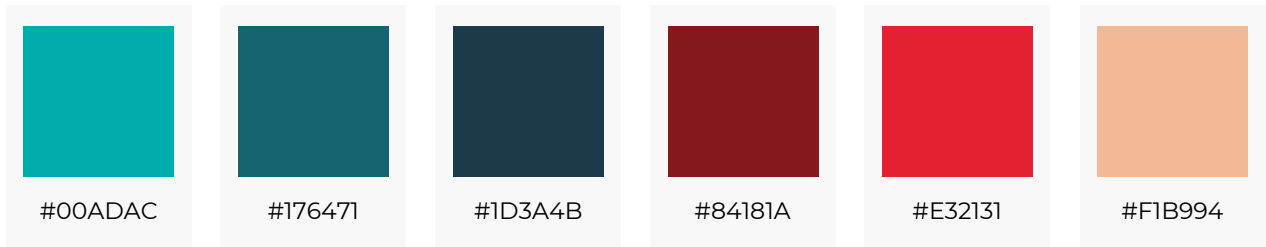
Submitted by Rev. Kathy McDowell

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) IN GEORGIA BRAND GUIDE

MAIN LOGO



COLORS



FONTS

ANTONIO BOLD

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
1234567890!@£\$%^&

Poppins

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
1234567890!@£\$%^&

BRAND AESTHETIC



RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

report



2023 RECAP

The Reconciliation Commission of Georgia sponsored a Pop-Up Gathering hosted by Ray of Hope Christian Church on February 19 and attended by more than 25 clergy and lay persons from the Region of Georgia. The gathering featured Frances French Hagan, Regional Organizer of Bread for the World, who presented “Advancing Our Understanding About Hunger, Racism, and the Wealth Divide.” Participants then engaged in activities and discussion using the Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation tool.

2024 PRAR TRAINING DATES

This year, the Reconciliation Commission of Georgia will offer two opportunities for Pro-Reconciliation Anti-Racism training. For those in need of a renewal of PRAR training (having completed one or more units of training previously), two in-person opportunities will be offered in 2024 to fulfill the requirement:

- Completion of both days and all 3 in-person sessions of the Church Narrative Project/Transformative Community Conferencing offered on April 26-27 in conjunction with Regional Assembly
- Completion of one full day of in-person PRAR training led by trainers from the VA Region on Saturday, September 14 (location TBD, most likely a site in Atlanta, GA).

For those who have yet to fulfill an initial requirement of PRAR training, one opportunity will be offered to fulfill the requirement:

- Completion of one full day of in-person PRAR training led by trainers from the VA Region on Saturday, September 14 (location TBD, most likely a site in Atlanta, GA).

Submitted by Rev. Beth Wendt

REGIONAL ELDERS

report



Currently, The Georgia Regional Elders Commission on Ministry has seven faithful, dedicated, committed, and active stewards who serve the congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia as a connective liaison between each church and the Regional office / Regional Minister. Over the past two to three years the ministry has decreased in numbers due to either heavenly transition or personal reasons. It has been an ongoing process to recruit additional elders so that each individual elder will be more effective in communicating on a consistent basis with assigned churches and not engage in excessive overload due to the high volume of assigned churches to each elder.

Current Roster: Mary Grant, Robert Grant, Rev. Jabari Butler, Rev. Dr. Gloria McCall, Kathryn Johnson, Dolores Trimiew, Rev. George Pinkard (chair)

We meet monthly to share information about churches contacted plus any and all relevant concerns confronting our local-regional-national church, communities, state, nation, and world. We compile reports shared and pray together for all solicited concerns.

The chairperson (as able to do so) has also served as a representative to the regional minister to events that the regional minister needs assistance with or is unable to attend.

The most recent activity performed by the Eldership was a retreat held in October 2023 at Camp Christian that was open to the whole Georgia region. This event was both virtual and in person. Participants shared that the event was a remarkable success.

Submitted by Rev. George Pinkard, Elder Chair

YADA report



The 2023 YADA retreat was held at Camp Christian from July 21-23, where 23 young adults from around the Region fellowshiped and learned together around the theme of "Hakuna Matata - It Means No Worries." With keynotes led by Joey Baker, the group grew in faith and grew in community as we rekindled old friendships and made new ones.

In the time since, the YADA Directors, Dakota Brown and Tyler Brown, appointed Jackie Byrd as the YADA secretary. The 2024 YADA retreat will be held on July 26-28 at Camp Christian.

Submitted by Dakota Brown

OUTDOOR MINISTRY & ADVISORY TEAM (OMAT)

report



OMAT Members, Camp Directors, counselors, and volunteers have been in communication concerning summer camp and needs at camp through zoom meetings, email, and phone calls throughout the last 17 months and will continue going forward.

At the Regional Assembly in November of 2022, we launched the “60 For 60” Campaign to raise funds to celebrate 60 years of camp 2023. Churches and individuals have donated to this fund. As of now the fund has \$19,850. There is still discussion about where to use these funds since there are many needs at camp. We appreciate all who donated to the campaign.

FUTURE CAMP DATES ON REGIONAL WEBSITE

Parents of campers, directors, counselors, and others were given the opportunity to respond and give input into future dates. Prior to the survey, many had let us know they would like to have the camps be in place on the calendar from year to year so that summer plans could be made. Going forward, directors and counselors report late evening on the Sunday of their camp, and campers report the following morning at 10:30 am, and all depart on the last day of the session beginning at 10:30 am. Summer Camp dates for 2024 and 2025 can be found on the regional website calendar at www.gadisciples.org/events; every effort will be made to post camp dates at least two years in advance.

2023 RECAP: WORK DAYS IN MARCH AND JUNE | SUMMER CAMP SUPPORT

- The first was held in March and an exhaust fan on one cabin roof was repaired; benches in the fire circle, lakeside and some miscellaneous ones were painted; some benches were repaired; Bocce Ball pit put in place; and other miscellaneous cleaning was done. Members of Sandy Springs Christian Church sponsored this work day.
- Union Christian Church sent members to work on the fire circle benches.
- During the spring some churches sent members to install and work on screen doors for the cabins.
- In June 2023, prior to the beginning of Summer Camp sessions, the cabins, villas, and cabin area bathhouse were cleaned. Several churches sent members to complete various jobs.
- Beginning in the spring of 2023, churches and individuals participated in both sending items to camp from the Wish List and purchasing items from the Amazon Wish list that were delivered to camp. Many in our region responded, as well as former campers, friends, and counselors.
- Summer 2023 camp sessions began the 2nd Sunday of June and ended the last Saturday In June. Those camps were Chi Rho, Junior, Chrysalis, Genesis and CYF Conference. Oasis Day camp was held in July. Our theme for the summer was ‘Fruitfull Faith: A Spirit-Filled Life’. Directors, Counselors, CIT’s, Keynoters, and campers represented 17 of our congregations and sent more than 200 to sessions of camp. We also had visitors from the regional board spend at least one day at camp last summer. We had a blessed summer.

- There was a walkthrough of cabins in November of 2023 to make a list of needed repairs, thanks to Larry Gunter.

2024

- The Outdoor Ministry Advisory Team (OMAT) meetings continued, and they decided to invite the Executive Committee and Board Members to join them at camp for a “Walk Through Camp,” on March 21, 2024.

2024 WORKDAYS

- Sandy Springs sponsored a work day in March 2024; repairs were made to cabins, new clotheslines were installed, and some general cleaning took place. They plan to return to do more work in April and maybe May.
- During the first week in June, volunteers will return to clean cabins, director’s bungalow, villas, and the bathhouse. Join us. Final date will be published.

WALK THROUGH CAMP

- On March 21, OMAT, some executive team members, and board members joined together for a walk-through camp to see the needs of camp. It is a beautiful setting full of God’s beauty. It was a wonderful day to enjoy meeting and greeting each other and to put our eyes on all the projects needing to be completed.
- OMAT meetings continue and fundraising is taking place in churches to prepare for our summer sessions, including donating special water bottles for each camper, director, counselor, and CIT.
- A wish list is available that lists needed items and the Amazon Wish list is also in place.

2024 SUMMER CAMP

- “LINKED BY LOVE” is our theme for 2024 DOC Summer Camp Sessions. The Sessions are fast approaching and we invite you to send your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends to summer camp. We have sessions for Kindergarten (accompanied by an adult); 1st and 2nd graders who stay in Woodland; 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are in the rustic cabins; 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are in rustic cabins; and our 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders are also in the rustic cabins.
- Volunteer to be a counselor at one of our camps and encourage those who will complete 10th, 11th, or 12th grade to serve as a CIT for the younger age camps. Churches have received information about the camps (dates and fees) and volunteering opportunities.
- All registration for campers and applications for counselors/CIT’s can be found on the regional website. You will be contacted after you have submitted registrations and applications.
- Please contact Marilyn Parks (770-533-0574) and Pam Van Dusen at campoffice@gadisciples.org.

We hope to see all your Kindergarten through 12th graders at camp this summer along with counselors and CIT’s from your church. Camp Christian is “The Place To Be in the Heart of Georgia.” Blessings to all of you. We are thankful for your support.

*Submitted by Marilyn Parks and Pam Van Dusen
Co-Directors of Regional Camp Ministry and Programming*

OMAT REPORT

NEW CHURCH & CHURCH DEVELOPMENT *report*



MINISTRY PURPOSE:

To offer an overall strategy while leading a New Church & Church Development (NC&CD) team to identify, engage, equip, and encourage individuals and churches to begin new faith communities. In addition, provide leadership to existing churches in need of revitalization through healthy discipleship development, technology updates, stewardship recommendations, and innovative outreach opportunities.

COMPLETED PROJECTS IN 2023/2024:

- Produced New Church & Church Development Brochure (with Amanda Hale)
- Developed Annual Budget for New Church & Church Development, Shiloh Mission & Ministry Center (SMMC) and AMPLIFY CC (with Orlando Scott & Sheila Hunter)
- Produced & appeared in New Church video for Regional Assembly (with Jaime Thomas)
- Created NC&CD "Seed, Sprout, & Sustain Grant Application" (with Amanda Hale)
- Produced & appeared in Pentecost Offering video (with JT Clements)

PERSONALLY PROMOTED PENTECOST OFFERING ON SITE AT:

- Sandy Springs CC, Chestnut Ridge CC, Brookhaven CC, Ray of Hope CC

PREACHED AT:

- FCC Atlanta Tucker, FCC Decatur, FCC Lawrenceville, FCC Winder, FCC Griffin /Damascus Road CC, Liberty CC Newnan, Story Forest CC Lawrenceville, The Table in Warner Robins, Cherry Log CC, FCC Marietta, Johns Creek CC, FCC Macon, FCC Valdosta, Iglesia Cristiana Getsemani, Watkinsville FCC

LED CHURCH GROWTH/HEALTH WORKSHOPS AT:

FCC Marietta, Johns Creek CC, FCC Macon, FCC Valdosta, Iglesia Cristiana Getsemani, FCC Watkinsville (World Café)

PARTICIPATED IN THE ORDINATIONS/INSTALLATIONS OR FAREWELL SERVICES OF:

Daniel Brower, Ann Edmondson, Anita Renahan-White, Orlando Scott, George Bennett, Teresa Bensch, Jordan Williams, Richard Williams, Monica Ledford, James Brewer-Calvert, Hal Doster

PARTICIPATED IN THESE ONGOING CCINGA MINISTRIES:

- Hosted nearly 30 “Clergy Connection” Zoom Calls
- Wrote nearly 30 “New Wine” articles
- Hosted 15 “New Wine Church Development” Zoom calls (with Paula Robin & Joel Tucker)
- Hosted over 12 “New & Interim Ministers” Zoom calls
- Hosted 10 “Upgrade Thursdays” presenting in 2 of them (with Kathy McDowell)
- Participated in over 30 SMMC Organizing Task Group Zoom meetings
- Presented MissionInsite market research for several congregations

ATTENDED THESE CCINGA AND OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:

- Bread for the World’s Racial Wealth Gap Simulation @ Ray of Hope CC
- The Fred Craddock Lectures at Peachtree Christian Church
- Church and Culture’s Annual Video Conference “The Hybrid Church”
- The Church Digital’s “The Challenges of Innovating in Church Culture”
- Brady Schear’s “The Five Social Media Tools to use in 2024”
- The Effective Church Group’s “Growing Church Network”
- Bill Tenny-Brittian’s “101 Things You Can Do To Help Your Church Grow”
- DOC New Church Ministry’s “Disciples NeXT”
- DOC New Church Ministry’s “New Church Hacks”
- DOC New Church Ministry’s “The Past, Present, and Future of New Church”
- The Georgia Region’s Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racism Training
- DOC Reconciliation Ministry’s “Monday Meditations on Martin Luther King Jr.”
- New Hope Christian Church’s Family Neighborhood Festival
- Johns Creek CC’s 25th Anniversary Celebration & “1948” film screening
- DOC National Benevolent Association’s webinar “A Reflection on Black History Month”
- Serving as a “Storyteller” in “The Church Narrative Project” @ Regional Assembly

My hope is to continue to represent CCINGA’s New Church & Church Development and the Pentecost Offering throughout the region. I plan to work with others within the region to resource and encourage our existing church pastors to grow healthy congregations. I look forward to mentoring our new church initiators while soliciting the help of our churches to identify women and men in our congregations who may be our next candidates for organizing at least 5 new communities of faith. Lord willin’ we can accomplish these objectives together.

*Submitted by Pastor Kyle Ermoian
Director of New Church & Church Development*

DISCIPLES WOMEN



OUR MISSION

To create opportunities for Disciples Women throughout the Region of Georgia to serve and connect to God, one another, our church communities, and our world.

OUR VISION

To inspire, lead, & support caring relationships that encourage spiritual growth and leadership among Disciples Women in Georgia while honoring both our diversity and our commonalities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCIPLES WOMEN ACTIVITIES

Disciples Women enjoyed a Fall Retreat at Epworth by the Sea, September 23-25, 2022. Reverend Nancy Oliver led us through a creative exploration of focus Scriptures encouraging us to "Fish or Cut Bait!" Rev. Oliver encouraged approximately 70 women to mobilize, unify, inspire, involve, and act in supporting one another as we fish! Reverend Ann Edmondson added to our collective creative thinking with music that underscored all those attributes as well.

During the 170th Regional Assembly November 11-12, 2022, Disciples Women hosted a very well attended luncheon with Keynoter, Rev. Sylvia Stroy, beautifully proclaiming our theme, "Called as Women to Serve with Joy and Purpose." A special presentation honoring Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert and her 19 years of service to Georgia's Disciples Women followed our keynote message. Disciples Women from across the Region had an opportunity to share their experiences with Betty with the luncheon attendees, which included Betty's family members.

April showers might bring May flowers but for Disciples Women, April 2023 brought a Spring Conference to St. Andrew Christian Church in Macon, and May 2023 brought a Spring Conference to New Hope Christian Church in Lawrenceville. The theme of both conferences was "Celebrating Women: Honoring HERstory Then and Now." Rev. Nancy Oliver graced both groups with the message and Rev. Ann Haines livened up the luncheons with her signature musical touch.

On August 10, 2023, Disciples Women kicked off a new season of Upgrade Thursdays with the topic, "Disciples Women: Questions for the Future." In gathering ideas from women across the Region, this discussion led to the Fall Retreat Forum Break-out helping the Commission determine and implement activities in the future.

Previous event surveys indicated that Epworth by the Sea should once again serve as our Fall 2023 Retreat location. Disciples Women had a wonderfully successful, spiritually fulfilling, and laughter-filled fellowship of about 70 women, September 22-24, 2023, at "Dancing in the Rain!" Rev. Heather Webb brought thoughtful and thought-provoking messages and Rev. Ann Edmondson provided and led music that got the entire group doing everything from singing, to willingly and gleefully playing kazoo and other percussion instruments. Both of these gifted women greatly enriched our lives and our time together. Along with a break-out group for those who wished to use their artistic talents, there was also a break-out group further explor-

ing the theme's scripture, and a focus group to share ideas for the future of Disciples Women in the Region of Georgia. "Dancing in the Rain" was taken to a whole new level when DW President Dolores Trimiew led an evening of line dancing! Dolores' prep work made it possible for everyone to "line" dance; whether it was on their feet or from chairs. Line dancing will definitely be making a repeat showing in 2024.

Planning is complete for the 171st Regional Assembly Women's Luncheon and the Commission is looking forward to getting to know our Interim Regional Minister and Keynote Speaker, Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes. Rev. Joan will emphasize the Assembly's Church Narrative Project theme through a narrative of her own.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

President Dolores Trimiew and Interim Director of Women's Ministries, Rev. Lainie Jenkins, attended an International Disciples Women Leadership Council meeting via Zoom in January 2023 to learn more about IDWLC's upcoming activities and responsibilities to Regional Women's groups. Rev. Lainie attended the IDWLC and DW Ministries conference in Indianapolis in January 2024. Disciples Women leaders broke into Regional Fellowship groups to begin plans for upcoming Regional Retreats. Rev. Lainie has taken an active role in planning for the SERF (Southeast Regional Fellowship) retreat at Christmount in March, 2026.

Also, encouraged by meeting with other DW Leaders across the U.S. and Canada, and a recent update to IDWLC's Rules and Procedures, the GA DW Commission has completed a review and update of the Commission's Rules and Procedures (last revised in 2010) and will soon have those ready for approval by Georgia's Disciples Women, and subsequent presentation to the Regional Board.

A few additional questions added to our post-retreat and post-conference surveys have enabled the Commission to identify women interested in joining the work of the Commission. Thankfully, the Commission has doubled in size, from four to eight women, increasing our ability to better serve Disciples Women throughout the state. We are grateful to have these faithful women on our Commission: President Dolores Trimiew, Secretary Pam Gunter, Treasurer and Stewardship Chair Sharon Cline, and our Area Coordinators Rev. Ann Edmondson, Carol Backman, Rita Youngblood, Sherrill Gammon, and Rev. Wendy Wyche.

Rev. Lainie and President Dolores have been supporting Georgia Disciples Women in various ways, such as Peachtree Christian Church's Jane Darby Day Luncheon, the Installation of Rev. Valerie Alexander (FCC, Marietta), service projects with FCC Atlanta, Tucker, and an upcoming luncheon at New Hope CC, to name a few. Disciples Women now receive a quarterly newsletter, "Staying Connected," with additional editions for news that "just can't wait!" Staying connected to women throughout Georgia and beyond also keeps our CWF and DW circles aware of our sisters in need of prayer, fellowship opportunities, and events.

Georgia's Disciples Women are looking forward with excitement and renewed energy for all the opportunities before us!

*Submitted by Rev. Lainie Jenkins
Interim Director, Georgia Disciples Women's Ministries*

DISCIPLES MEN

report



Disciples Men shall promote among congregations, programs of fellowship, mutual spiritual enrichment, and joint action involving all of the men of the Regional Church. It shall promote and coordinate within congregations such organizations as may be appropriate to a specific congregation to make the most efficient use of its manpower potential.

Disciples Men met virtually eight times since the last Assembly.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Disciples Men proposed to build a storage unit at Camp Christian – proposal not accepted by The Outdoor Ministry Advisory Team (OMAT).

Proposed to build a new dock at Camp Christian– project on hold due to other necessary large expenditures for renovations at camp.

FUTURE PLANS

The Disciples Men are in urgent need of men to join in leading and attending this ministry. They are looking for new creative ideas to enhance their ministry.

All men in the Region are welcome.

Submitted by John Anderson

WORSHIP & STORY HOUR

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2024



Gathering Gospel Bluegrass Music | *Gospel Bluegrass Singalong*
Guyton Christian Church - Russ Deen, Rev. Joel Tucker, and Vicki Wilkerson
First Christian Church of Atlanta - Rev. Tom Edmondson

Just a Closer Walk with Thee #557

I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

Precious Name #625

Take the name of Jesus with you
Child of sorrow and of woe
It will joy and comfort give you
Take it then, where'er you go

O the precious name of Jesus!
How it thrills our souls with joy,
when his loving arms receive us,
and his songs our tongues employ!
(Refrain)

Refrain:
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.

At the name of Jesus bowing,
falling prostrate at his feet,
King of kings in heaven we'll crown him,
when our journey is complete.
(Refrain)

Take the name of Jesus ever
As a shield from every snare
If temptations round you gather,
Breathe that holy name in prayer.
(Refrain)

Oh How I Love Jesus #99

There is a name I love to hear
I love to sing its worth
It sounds as music in my ear
The sweetest name on earth

Oh, how I love Jesus
Oh, how I love Jesus
Oh, how I love Jesus
Because He first loved me

Oh, how I love Jesus
Oh, how I love Jesus
Oh, how I love Jesus
Because He first loved me

It tells of One whose loving heart
Can feel my deepest woe
Who in each sorrow bears a part
That none can bear below

It tells me of a Savior's love
Who died to set me free
It tells me of His precious blood
The sinner's perfect plea

Oh, how I love Jesus
Oh, how I love Jesus
Oh, how I love Jesus
Because He first loved me

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus #190

Tell me the story of Jesus write on my heart every word
Tell me the story most precious sweetest that ever was heard
Tell how the angels in chorus sang as they welcomed his birth
Glory to Thy in the highest peace and the tidings to earth

Tell me the story of Jesus

Tell of the cross where they nailed him right in the anguish and pain
Tell of the grave where they laid him tell how he lived it again
(Tell me the story so tender clearer than ever I see
Still let me weep while you whisper love great and grand some for me)

Tell me the story of Jesus

Opening of the Assembly and Welcome | Rev. Donna Gunter

Invocation | Rev. Doug Ivey

Processional Hymn | I Love to Tell the Story #480

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love

I love to tell the story, more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams;
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me,
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat,
What seems each time I tell it more wonderfully sweet;
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Scripture Liturgy | *Rev. Sarah McClelland Brown, from Psalm 78*

We will tell our story

To the next generation, of the wonders God has done . . .

We will tell our story

Of the glorious deeds of the Lord . . .

We will tell our story

We will not hide them from our children

We will tell our story

Moment of Offering | *Rescue Mission of Central Georgia, Rev. Darrell Vandervort*

Welcome and Introduction of Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes | *Rev. Donna Gunter*

Introduction Church Narrative Project and Story Hour

Rev. Joan Bell Haynes and Rev. Dr. Yvonne Gilmore

Story Tellers

Sidney DeBrock

Rev. Kyle Ermoian

Rev. Donna Gunter

Rev. Lainie Jenkins

Rev. Hebert Mallqui

Hyejin Seong

Vicki Wilkerson

Pastoral Prayer | *Rev. Joel Tucker*

Communion/Dayenu | *Rev. Joan Bell Haynes, Natalie Jurado, & Josiah (Jo) Trusdale*

Dayenu is that portion of the Passover Seder where the Jewish people remember and retell the stories of what God has done for them over time. As people of the Judeo-Christian faith we embrace this tradition tonight as we too, recount how God has been active in our lives with the Dayenu phrase:

It would have been enough if God had just . . . But God also did . . .

Communion Refrain | One Bread, One Body # 393

One Bread One Body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless,
And we, though many through-out the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

Closing Hymn | Pass It On #477

It only takes a spark
To get a fire going
And soon all those around
Can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You spread His love to ev'ryone
You want to pass it on

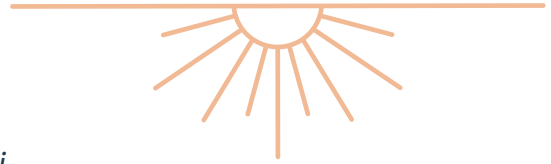
I wish for you my friend
This happiness that I've found
You can depend on Him
It matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want my world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on

What a wondrous time is spring
When all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing
The flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You want to sing it's fresh like spring
You want to pass it on

Benediction | *Rev. George Pinkard*

WORSHIP & WORK

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024



PRAISE AND WORSHIP GATHERING MUSIC

Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo) Getsemani

Arturo Elizalde, Jahaziel Hernandez, Jonathan Hernandez, Nahomi Hernandez, Heyner Lopez, Dulce Trejo, Emanuel Vixtha

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

"Agnus Dei"

Invocation/Welcome/Opening of Business Session | *Rev. Donna Gunter*

Scripture Liturgy | *Rev. Dr. Darryl Trimiew, from Luke 17:20-21*

Jesus was asked when the kingdom of God was coming. Let us remember his answer together.

The kingdom won't come with things that can be observed.

But when will the kingdom come, the Pharisees wanted to know.

We can't point to it and say, look, here it is . . .

But when will it come?

In fact, the kingdom of God is among you.

Regional Minister Update | *Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes*

Worship Through Service | *A Regional Slideshow – What We Do*

Worship Through Recognition | *Rev. Donna Gunter*

Past Regional Minister – Rev. Denise Bell

Past Moderator – Rev. Sheila Hunter

Outgoing Board and Commission Members

Ordinations/Commissions

New Georgia Disciples Clergy

Clergy Remembrances

Congregational Hymn | *Great is Thy Faithfulness #86*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Blessings all mine with 10, 000 beside!

(Refrain)

Worship Through Stewardship (Treasures) | *Rev. Will Johnson*

Worship Through Giving | *Rev. Sarah McClelland Brown*

Offering to support Camp Christian and Conference Center

Offertory Music | *Dr. Gloria Cha-Gardiner, violin, and Rev. Will Johnson, piano*

“Spirit Song”

Worship Through Sharing

Rev. Byron Wells – Report from General Board Meeting

Rev. Jose Martinez – Update from New Church Ministry and Disciples Church Extension Fund

Rev. Sarah Renfro – Update from Pension Fund

Rev. Tamara Chestnut – Update from National Benevolent Association

Worship Through Stewardship (Talents)

Presentation and Vote of New Regional Board Members | Rev. Donna Gunter

Report on the Regional Minister Search Committee | Paula Robin

Worship Through Dance | *Ray of Hope Golden Rays Dance Ministry*

Janet Alford, Henry Angel, Sharon Angel, Sylvia Cole, Elaine Gibson, Faith Graham,

Gwen Key, Cynthia Marshall, Jeanette Smalls, Theresa Stepp, Ron Turner

“Goodness of God”

"Worship Through Installation | *Regional Board Members*

Moderator – Paula Robin

Treasurer – Jenny Miller

Secretary – Rev. Sarah McClelland-Brown

Parliamentarian – Archie Jenkins

YAC – Molly Ballew

At-large Members – Thomas Grant, Rev. Hebert Mallqui, Linda Van der Merwe, Rev. Seokil Yoon

Worship Through Communion

Communion Music | *Rev. Seokil Yoon and Hyejin Seong*

"My Desire and Prayer"

Communion Meditation/Invitation | *Rev. Byron Wells*

Dolores Trimiew – Prayer for the Bread

Vicki Wilkerson – Prayer for the Cup

Sending Forth | *Paula Robin*

Adjourn the 171st Regional Assembly

Looking Toward Our Shared Future Story

Benediction | *Rev. Valerie Alexander*

We will tell our story

To the next generation, of the wonders God has done . . .

We will tell our story

Of the glorious deeds of the Lord . . .

We will tell our story

We will not hide them from our children

We will tell our story

SPECIAL DAY OFFERINGS

Disciples Mission Fund Special Day Offerings provide an opportunity to highlight specific ministries as part of our faith celebrations. There are four Disciples Mission Fund Special Day Offerings received each year during Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas seasons. Congregations can receive these offerings during worship or budget for a special gift, and individuals can always designate their gift to DMF for any of these offerings.

PENTECOST OFFERING

MAY 12 & 19, 2024, June 1 & 8, 2025

The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples Church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining new congregation is part of the Disciples' vision. This offering supports the specialized ministry of new church development through both regional and general programs. Gifts for this offering are divided equally between the region in which they're given and the New Church Ministry.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

NOVEMBER 17 & 24, 2024, NOVEMBER 16 & 23, 2025

The Thanksgiving Offering supports Disciples colleges, universities, and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering helps support 15 colleges and universities, plus 7 seminaries and theological programs. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing church and community leaders.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

DECEMBER 15 & 22, 2024, DECEMBER 14 & 21, 2025

The Christmas Offering supports regional ministries in 31 regions across the United States and Canada. The Christmas Offering is a critical part of the support of the Christian Church in Georgia because 100 percent of giving from Georgia congregations remains in the Georgia region, supporting regional camps, conferences, retreats, and programs, and playing a critical role in calling and ordaining new ministers.

EASTER OFFERING

APRIL 13 & 20, 2025

The Easter Offering supports General Ministries of the Church. General ministries serve across the United States and Canada, and around the world. General Ministries also partner in ministry with a variety of far-reaching and unique organizations.



SPECIAL MISSION FUNDS

Other Special Day Offerings in the life of the church which support vital ministries include the Reconciliation Offering and Week of Compassion Offering.

RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 29 & OCTOBER 6, 2024

SEPTEMBER 28 & OCTOBER 5, 2025

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (World Communion Sunday) in support of ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist programs. These efforts take place through education, camp and conference, and relationship-building in many expressions of our Church.

WEEK OF COMPASSION

FEBRUARY 16 & 23, 2025

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world. Each year in February, congregations across the United States and Canada collect a Special Offering for Week of Compassion, fueling Week of Compassion's work and witness throughout the whole year.

THANK YOU TO OUR

worship artists

ACCOMPANISTS

First Christian Church of Macon – Rev. Will Johnson, piano and organ
First Christian Church Atlanta – Rev. Ann Edmondson, piano
Guyton Christian Church – Rev. Joel Tucker, saxophone
Dr. Gloria Cha-Gardiner, violin

BLUEGRASS MUSICIANS

Guyton Christian Church – Russ Deen, Rev. Joel Tucker, and Vicki Wilkerson
First Christian Church of Atlanta – Rev. Tom Edmondson

COMMUNION MUSIC

Story Forest Christian Church – Rev. Seokil Yoon and Hyejin Seong

PRAISE BAND

Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo) Getsemani – Arturo Elizalde,
Jahaziel Hernandez, Jonathan Hernandez, Nahomi Hernandez, Heyner Lopez
Dulce Trejo, Emanuel Vixtha

FRIDAY DEVOTION

Ray of Hope Christian Church – Minister Carmen Reid

WORSHIP THROUGH DANCE

Ray of Hope Christian Church Golden Rays Dance Ministry – Janet Alford,
Henry Angel, Sharon Angel, Sylvia Cole, Elaine Gibson, Faith Graham, Gwen Key,
Cynthia Marshall, Jeanette Smalls, Theresa Stepp, Ron Turner

THANK YOU TO OUR

Sponsors



Special thanks to the Disciples Church Extension Fund for their generous support of the 171st Georgia Regional Assembly.



Pension Fund

of the Christian Church

strong. smart. secure.

LOOKING AHEAD

2024 SUMMER CAMP

"Linked by Love" is the theme of this year's summer camp for children and teens at Camp Christian Conference. Campers will learn more about the many ways we experience God's love – directly, through our close friends and family, and in quiet moments. When those who love us share words of truth, these "love links" teach us about God's love, commitment, grace, and faith. To learn more, register for camp, make a gift to camp, or purchase items on the Amazon Wish List visit www.gadisciples.org/camp.

CHI RHO CAMP | JUNE 10-14, 2024

For youth who have completed Grades 6, 7, or 8 by the end of 2023/2024 academic year.

JUNIOR CAMP | JUNE 17-21, 2024

For youth who have completed Grades 3, 4, or 5 by the end of 2023/2024 academic year.

CHRYSALIS CAMP | JUNE 17-19, 2024

For youth who have completed Grades 1 or 2 by the end of 2023/2024 academic year.

GENESIS CAMP | JUNE 21-23, 2024

For youth who have completed Kindergarten by the end of 2023/2024 academic year, attending with a parent, grandparent, or other adult.

CYF CONFERENCE | JUNE 24-29, 2024

For youth who have completed Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 by the end of 2023/2024 academic year.

OASIS DAY CAMP | JULY 15-19, 2024

A day camp July 16, 17, and 18 for Wilkinson County 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders and giving Georgia Disciples youth the opportunity to serve as Counselors in Training (CITs). CIT youth must have completed grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 by the end of 2023/2024 academic year.

YADA RETREAT | JULY 26-28, 2024

Young Adults who are one year post high school through age 30 will gather at Camp Christian for a retreat. For more information contact gadisciplesyada@gmail.com.

DISCIPLES WOMEN FALL RETREAT | SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2024

Disciples Women are invited to gather at a beautiful seaside retreat setting for the Fall Retreat, "Crazy Love: Sharing Stories of Jesus." The event takes place at Epworth By the Sea and will include fellowship, worship, learning, and service. More information and registration coming soon; check www.gadisciples.org.

HEALTHY BOUNDARIES FOR CLERGY

August 23-24, 2024 – Healthy Boundaries 101: Fundamentals

November 1-2, 2024 – Healthy Boundaries 301: Money, Sex, & Power

Ordained and commissioned clergy in the Christian Church (DOC) in Georgia are required to complete a Healthy Boundaries workshop every five years. Learn more and register for either of these virtual workshops at www.gadisciples.org/healthy-boundaries-2024.

PRO-RECONCILIATION ANTI RACISM (PRAR) FOR CLERGY | SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

In-Person Training Led by Virginia Region PRAR Team

Ordained and commissioned clergy in the Christian Church (DOC) in Georgia are required to complete a PRAR workshop every five years. Learn more at www.gadisciples.org/pro-reconciliation-anti-racism.

REGIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY | JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Disciples Youth and their friends from across Georgia are invited to gather January 31-February 2, 2025 for the annual Regional Youth Assembly. The event takes place at Epworth By the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA. More information and registration to come, but mark your calendars now!

INTERREGIONAL DISCIPLES WOMEN EVENT | MARCH 13-15, 2026

Georgia Disciples Women are invited to gather with the Southeast Regional Fellowship (SERF) at Christmount Christian Assembly in Black Mountain, NC, for a retreat centered on the theme "You Are Enough." Mark your calendars and watch for more information at www.christmount.org.

172ND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN GEORGIA APRIL 24-25, 2026

Georgia Disciples will gather at Ray of Hope Christian Church for the next Regional Assembly. Mark your calendars now, and stay updated on all regional events at www.gadisciples.org/events.

MAP OF FCC MACON

Main Floor

Parking >>>>>>>>

