



## Christmas Special Offering for Regional Ministry



December 16 & 23, congregations across the US and Canada will gather the Christmas Offering, designated for support of their region.

Here in Kansas, the Christmas Special Day Offering supports the breadth of ministries that make up the Christian Church in Kansas, including:

- ◆ Prayers and presence for your congregation in searching for a new pastor and in other times of crisis
- ◆ Support during transition and change
- ◆ Youth and young adult ministries including the variety of summer camps and year-round retreats

- ◆ Disciples women's and men's ministries
- ◆ Clergy support, training, and certification; Clergy and church leadership workshops and training

*See State of the Region Article on page 2 for details about regional programs and ministries that benefit from the Christmas Special Day Offering.*

**Your generosity makes a difference to many!**

**Save time and a Stamp! Give online at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org).**

**2018 Year end gifts are due by December 20.**

## Will you be our Friend?

One of our goals as your communications office is to foster and build friendships throughout the region. You can help!

1. Sign-up for the Kansas Messenger and or update your contact information at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org).
2. Go to our website and check out the Life Giving & Life Changing Stories page. Share a story about how God has moved in your life.
3. Like us on Facebook @ChristianChurchInKansas. Pick a day or two and share with others.

While Facebook features "Thursday Throwback Days" we have established our very own lineup for the Christian Church in Kansas:

- ◆ **SUNDAY** - Sermon Sunday
- ◆ **MONDAY** - Motivational Monday
- ◆ **TUESDAY** - Testimony Tuesday
- ◆ **WEDNESDAY** - Wednesday Word
- ◆ **THURSDAY** - Thankful Thursday
- ◆ **FRIDAY** - Friendship Friday
- ◆ **SATURDAY** - Selfie Saturday

Like, share, and comment on these or any of our posts to keep CCK at the top of your newsfeed. Let's have fun getting to know our fellow Kansas Disciples.



Follow us on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter!](#)

### Coming Events:

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December 16 & 23

It's About the Campers Training . . . Pg. 4  
January 18-19

Tawakoni Gala & Auction . . . . . Pg. 4  
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March 1-3

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Tuesdays in March

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**Appendix:**  
It's Here!! 2019 Camp Schedule

# State of the Region

By Steve Martin, Regional Minister &  
Ken Marston, Regional Minister

It is good to be in Kansas! We are constantly amazed at the level of commitment and vision in our church leaders, and their generosity in sharing with the wider church. The Kansas Region is known for being a strong Regional Church: strong camp and youth program, excellent leadership development, ministries with women and men and the list goes on!

Kelly Gindlesberger, pastor at Shelton Memorial Christian Church in Ulysses and current Regional Moderator, explains our 2019 General Fund deficit this way:

***“If we wish to continue benefiting from a strong Regional Church, we, collectively, have to fund the Region on a more sustainable basis. Again, there are two ways to deal with budget shortfalls; increase income and/or cut spending. The spending side of the equation is under scrutiny as part of the Region Revisioning process...”***

The Kansas Region has three basic sources of income:

1. DMF Offering dollars, often called outreach, from congregations, of which 52% are shared with the ministries of the church beyond Kansas
2. The Annual Fund, where churches and individuals give to the Operating Fund
3. The Christmas Offering, one of the six special offerings each year. 100% of the Christmas offering given by Kansas churches supports the work of our Kansas Region.

As important and relevant as this is, we don't want anyone to think that the regional ministries of the church are all about money. Just the opposite is true! Consider these regional ministries:

## Search and Call:

Each year Kansas congregations search for ministerial leadership. In 2018 so far, 24 of these took place, and a few are still

underway. Each search involves many calls and resumes to review, and references to contact. Calling a new pastor is a significant effort!

## Commission on Ministry:

Our Commission on Ministry supervises and credentials over 150 clergy across Kansas. Most are serving congregations; some are chaplains or in other ministries, and some are retired.

The region has given out more than \$6,000 in scholarships to seminary students, have been caring for 10 commissioned ministers and 6 ordination candidates.

Every month seven different clergy cluster meetings occur to build collegiality, provide encouragement and support for congregational ministers to sustain long term ministries.

## Crisis Management & Congregational Transformation

Congregational crisis management is significant. The Regional Ministers are ready to help, seeking to find reconciliation among church members when there is an issue.

With the help of a \$25,000 grant from the Kansas Leadership Center and a \$20,000 grant from the Kansas Bible Chair, the region has supported leadership training for clergy and laity in attending 41 different training sessions in adaptive leadership skills. We have received a second grant for 2019.

Finally, districts through out the region had their own leadership training events bringing speakers from the General Church in Indianapolis to discuss how they can transform their congregations.

## Mission & Acts of Service

Mission is essential. Within the region we encourage and help with mission trips to various places, including Nicaragua, Denver, South Texas and more.

## Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth

Faith formation and spiritual growth programs touch many lives: summer camp, retreats for men, women and specialized groups such as Bethany groups for clergy, workshops, seminars, and clergy support groups.

Two times a year, 15 clergy meet for self-run clergy spiritual retreats at the Heartland Center for spirituality and once a year the Annual Spiritual retreat is an opportunity for clergy and church leaders to strengthen their relationship with God and learn about the spiritual journey that nurtures Christian faith.

In 2018, Kansas Disciples Men began emphasizing mission. The cabinet spent some time helping the Sawyer Christian Church repair their building after a fire. The men's "Cooking for Missions" events raised over \$2,000 with half going to ministries addressing the problem of childhood hunger in Kansas. The other half was sent to the General Conference of Disciples Men for supporting nutrition programs for children around the country.

This year the traditional Men's retreat and Odyssey experiences were held back to back on the same weekend. The Odyssey retreat continues to cast the vision for men to take the journey of developing Christ-like character in themselves and the teenagers in their lives.

The Kansas Region is strong, and still there is room for growth. Currently, the Regional Board is working with a Vision Task Force to help shape the next generation of regional ministry. And in this post-religion age we all want to know how to be an effective part of the Body of Christ in this time.

Your entire regional staff join together, sharing ministry together, and looking for ways to better serve in the name of Christ. We cherish our partnership with each congregation. Share your ideas anytime!

# Thoughts from your Regional Minister

By Renee Bridwell, Regional Minister

Sabbatical is a gift of time – holy time for rest and renewal, as put forth in the Biblical descriptions of Sabbath. The richness of Sabbath is not only rest for people one day a week; it is extended to rest for the livestock and fallow years for the land.

For clergy, sabbatical is typically three months after 5 or 6 years of service: time for rest, renewal, and study; time to step back from the dailiness of ministry demands in order to gain the perspective of distance and to refresh one's enthusiasm for ministry.

For the congregation, sabbatical is an opportunity for current leaders to

enhance their hands-on leadership skills and for new leaders to be developed. All who are involved will develop clearer understanding of the congregation's ministry. Sabbatical is a renewal period that often leads to a longer, richer relationship between pastor and congregation, and longer ministries in turn tend to correlate with stronger, healthier congregations. Sabbatical policies typically include the provision that the pastor-congregation continues for at least one year, so that both parties enjoy the benefits of renewal together.

To learn more about a sabbatical policy for your congregation, contact any

member of regional staff.

One further note: this year, Regional Minister Ken Marston was on sabbatical May -- July and as I write this, I am half-way through my sabbatical. The unexpected part is that Regional Minister Steve Martin needed medical leave from mid-May through September. This year has been interesting! Early in the new year, all staff will meet with our Regional Board Moderator and Personnel Committee chairperson to share what we've learned. The Vision Team will be able to take it all into consideration as they dig deeper into the shape of regional ministry in this new day.

## News From the Pews



June Stoker was installed on October 14 as Pastor at FCC Marysville. She comes to us from the Houston area. She was joined by several members of her extended family.



At its 40th anniversary as a church, Faith Christian Church in Wichita welcomed pastor Andy Newbrey and his wife Michelle. Andy began his ministry in September. Regional Minister Ken Marston was present to offer the words of installation.



### This Could Be You!

Is your church doing something special? Share it with us! We like sharing news from churches just like yours. Send 2-3 print quality photos with a brief description including the names of the people in the picture. Email to [messenger@kansasdsciples.org](mailto:messenger@kansasdsciples.org) by the third Monday of every month and your church could be featured in an upcoming edition of the *Kansas Messenger*.



### MOVING? Take us with you!

Notify us of your new email and contact information to continue receiving the longest running regional newspaper among all Disciples. Call 785-266-2914 or email [messenger@kansasdsciples.org](mailto:messenger@kansasdsciples.org).



## All About the Campers Training Event

Curious about how you can get involved in the summer camp program? If you are a leader in our summer camp program or want to be one, this is for you!

**Friday, Jan. 18—Saturday, Jan. 19**

**Disciples Center at Tawakoni**

Event begins with 6:00 supper, and will dismiss shortly after lunch.

Bring bedding and personal items, and a snack to share!

The Camp Program Team is bringing together current and future camp adults and those who are curious about whether they might fit into the program, to share their wisdom and learn from others about best practices in various leadership roles:

- directors and chaplains
- counselors
- nurses
- counselors-in-training
- maintenance volunteers

There's something here for everyone who cares about summer church camp ministry, learn more about how the pieces fit together and how each person contributes to the whole. Don't assume—come and find out!



Randy Kuss is known as a pioneer in youth ministries and has served the church in various ways throughout his career.

Randy lives and serves in Indianapolis, and continues to give guidance to the Youth and Young Adult Ministries of Homeland Ministries.

**Register early and save big!** Register by Tuesday, January 1, and the registration fee is \$20. Beginning Wednesday, January 2, the registration fee is \$45. Register online or download a registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka Regional Office.



## Tawakoni Gala & Auction

The annual Tawakoni Gala and Auction is always a fun time of fellowship, and a great way to see what's new at the camp, while supporting the continued development efforts.

This year's Gala is set for Feb. 16 beginning with the 10:30 a.m. social time and silent auction, and 12:15 dinner.

Please invite your church leaders, teachers, youth leaders, anyone in your church who cares about youth and the camp program!

Do you like to build wooden items? Or, frame photography? Or, sew quilts?

Use your imagination! Drop off auction items at any of the regional offices.

This year's Gala funds will benefit the Pool Bathhouse and fence project and payoff construction of the new Caretaker's House. Proceeds beyond those two projects will be used for the rebuilding of Cabin 3, "Jones Lodge."

Download a registration form and/or donation forms at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org).

**We look forward to seeing everyone at the camp on Feb. 16!**



## Attention College Students!

### Do you love camp?



The Outdoor Ministries Committee is seeking applications for 2019 Summer Leadership Interns.

Qualified interns have completed their first year in college, love children and the camp, have a specific camp skill (i.e., Lifeguard) to share with the program, have demonstrated their reliability and ability to work collaboratively with others.

Interns assist with a variety of tasks and activities including maintaining the pool, lifeguarding, tending campfires, leading games, serving food, washing

dishes, facilitating challenge course activities, tending grounds, and more. They've even been known to step in as counselors when needed, and to lead music and energizers! Former interns in most cases continue to serve in the church!

Applications can be found on our website – [www.kansasdisciples.org/summer-camp](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/summer-camp) – for more details, or email Steve Martin, [smartin@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:smartin@kansasdisciples.org).

**Application Deadline is February 1**

## Andy Beck to Keynote 2019 Spring Youth Retreat

Kansas youth – both middle-school and high school students – are all invited to Tawakoni for the annual spring retreat March 1-3.



Rev. Andy Beck, senior minister of Hillside Christian Church in Kansas City, MO will keynote.

Andy is known for his prophetic preaching. Youth will enjoy his sense of humor and his energy. He has been a popular youth speaker and the Kansas youth will enjoy him greatly!

The annual retreat, under the direction of the KCYP Cabinet, will begin with registration at 7 pm. Please eat before arrival as dinner is not provided.

The retreat will include five keynotes, time for music and worship, fun times of games and fellowship and an act of service for the campground.

Mark your calendars for this awesome event. Registration will open in January coinciding with the January edition of the *Kansas Messenger*.

**Ministers Week 2019  
February 4-6  
Brite Divinity School,  
Fort Worth, TX**

Clergy are invited to the TCU campus for three days of inspiring worship, thought-provoking lectures, enriching workshops and an uplifting organ recital and hymn sing. Featured preacher is Rev. Dr. David Lose and plenary speakers are Wil Gafney, Marcia McFee, and Eric Law. No fee to attend; pre-registration is encouraged.

# SpiritFest



**Ladies, mark your calendars now for  
SpiritFest2.0!  
2019 KDW Spring Event  
refresh...rejuvenate...renew”**

The theme is Kansas Disciples Women on a Mission. The dates and host churches are:

**April 6:** First CC, Salina

**April 7:** Hillside CC, Wichita

**April 13:** First CC, Independence

Some changes are in the works for this event; this will not be the same Spirit Fest as in the past! Please come see what new experiences are in store for you, along with the opportunity to study, worship and fellowship with women across the region. Be sure to watch the regional website beginning in January for online registration information!

## 2019 KDW Fall Retreat

KDW Women’s 2019 Fall Retreat will be Oct 2 - 4 and Oct. 4 - 6. Mark your calendar, and plan to attend, because it is certain to be an exciting event! Join with the women of the region as we explore Faith That Overflows!

Did you take a fountain selfie at the retreat in October? Remember that you can send it to Mary Hunter ([masuhu0530@gmail.com](mailto:masuhu0530@gmail.com)), and you just might see yourself in a future publication.



## 2019 Spirituality Retreat

Looking for a chance to get away for a time of renewal? Seeking a way to deepen your relationship with God? Do you wonder what is God’s will is for your life?

Come find out at the annual Spirituality Retreat March 7-9, at the Heartland Spirituality Center in Great Bend.

Registration will open in January. Look for more information in the January Kansas Messenger.

## 2019 Clergy Retreat

*Rest, Relax, and Renew*



Clergy from around the region are invited for a time of fellowship and conversation with a “resident theologian” April 23-24 at Tawakoni.

Our guest scholar is General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens.

Take advantage of this opportunity to rest after the busy Easter holiday while getting to visit with our General Minister and President.

The cost is \$65 and covers your lodging for two nights and four meals.



## Art of Church Communication

*Tuesdays in March*

One way that your church can become a better steward of what you have is by aligning church communication and church vision. Learn how to communicate better and reach your church’s mission goals at the 2019 Art of Church Communication workshops.

These workshops will be Tuesday mornings, 9:30-12:30, in March at Disciples Center at Tawakoni. Both in-person and video options will be available.

Each workshop will include discussion on various strategies and

hands-on application. They are not just for church office staff. Anyone interested in church communication ministry, regardless of skill level, is welcome and encouraged to attend.

### Topics:

- ◆ Your Church Story in Photographs
- ◆ Building Your Church’s Public Image
- ◆ The Community Connection
- ◆ The Welcome Center

Registration is now open. A minimum of 6 paid registrations is required by February 15 to hold workshops.

## Birthdays:

All the saints who are 80, 90, 95, 100 and beyond

### November

Charles Page, Atchison First CC 100

### December

Zelma Smith, Baxter Springs First CC 102

### January

Edna Hall, Dighton First CC 107

Marjorie Carson, Wichita Riverside CC 102

## Anniversaries:

All those who are celebrating 50, 60, 65 and more years together

### December

Wilbur & Lou Dorsey, Wichita Hillside CC 72

Charles & Marjorie Freeman, Wichita Hillside CC 70

### January

Ralph & Dicy Janssen, Erie First CC 77

Richard & Dorothy Odle, Wichita Hillside CC 71

Gene & Wilma Long, Clearwater First CC 70

George & Geraldine Cantrell, Coffeyville First CC 67

## In Memoriam:

**Betty Mohney**, Hillside CC, died

Nov 6. Mohney was also of a member of Pratt First CC, former regional moderator, and a former president of International CWF.

**Gail Shore**, Wellington First CC, died November 5, 2018 at the age of 80. Gail was the husband to retired minister Sallie Shore.

**Ruth Ann Moran** died October 21, in Santa Barbara, Cali. Ruth is the mother of Disciples Musician Andra Moran. Ruth Ann served on the regional staff and also served as an interim minister at Horton First CC and co-pastored at Pittsburg First CC for nearly seven years.

Augusta First CC pastor **Keith Cross** died October 20. Keith served Augusta First CC for six years. Memorial Service was Oct. 25, at the church.

Retired pastor **Danny Haggard** died October 19. He served as pastor at Scott City First CC and Baxter Springs First CC and served as an intentional interim in Yates Center, Girard, Chanute, and Columbus. He and June, his wife, led many mission trips, also Dan served as director for several junior high camps.

Former associate regional minister Beth Gerardy's mother, **Mona Baird**, died Oct. 18 in Edmond, Okla. at the age of 101. She worked in the Christian education of children and in leadership training, both locally and regionally for many years. She was active in the Christian Women's Fellowship of her church, serving in many offices.

Holton FCC pastor, Jim McCollough's mother **Betty McCollough** died October 27 at the age of 97.

## Transitions:

**Don and Kathy Bryant** ended their intentional interim ministry in Enid, Okla. in September. They have retired and moved to Arizona.

Hiawatha First CC has called **Lynn Dickson** as their interim minister. He began in October.

**Ben Hitzfeld** begins pastoral ministry at Manhattan FCC Dec. 30. He is returning to his Kansas roots from Texas.

**David Pendergrass** ended his pastoral ministry at Lawrence First CC in October.

**Scott Schurle** ends his pastoral ministry at Garden City First CC on December 1

**Rob Scofield** has finished his interim ministry at Lyons First CC.

**Terry Ford**, pastor of FCC Liberal is retiring December 31.

**Greg Rea** ended his pastoral ministry at Salina First CC on November 18.

## Ordination Anniversaries

All those who have served 25 years or more in ministry

### December

Victor Schwarz 1952

Laura Dargitz 1957

Dale Walling 1981

Jan Keeler 1983

Kim Rea 1989

### January

Jim Beaumont 1962

Terry Hatfield 1971

Pat Nixon 1985

Doug Amend 1987

Donna Schultz [CM] 1992

Robin McGonigle 1993

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