



The Buckeye Disciple Christian Church in Ohio

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

A covenant network of congregations in mission

April - June 2011
Volume 20, Number 2



Summer Camps and Conferences 2011



Junior Camp - For Children in Grades 3, 4, or 5

Otter Camp
Camp Christian
June 19 - 25

PLEASE NOTE: Badger & Beaver Camps
are no longer offered through the United Church Of
Christ For other Camping Options at their camps go to:
<http://www.ocucc.org/OutdoorMin/OutdoorMinistries.htm>

Chi Rho Camps - For Youth in Grades 6, 7, or 8

***All Chi Rho Camps are at Camp Christian**

Hocking
June 12 - 18

Portahoga
July 10 - 16

Maumee
July 17 - 23

Miami
August 7 - 13

CYF Conferences - For Youth in Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12

***All CYF Conferences are at Camp Christian**

(CYF = Christian Youth Fellowship)

Hiram
June 26 - July 2

Phyo
July 3 - 9

Lakeside
July 24 - 30

Wilmington
July 31 - Aug 6

Other Camps & Conferences

**Adult
Conference**
For All Adults
Northwest CC,
Columbus
June 27 - July 1

**Advance
Ministries
Conference**
Ages 19 - 29
Camp
Christian
August 14 - 21

**Grandparents
Camp**
For Children
Grades 1-2 AND
a Grandparent
Camp Christian
June 3 & 4

**Adventure
Camp**
Great Smoky
Mountains
June 5 - 11

The Early Bird Registration Deadline is **May 1st** for all Summer Camps and Conferences (except Adult Conference). All Registration fees must be postmarked or paid online no later than May 1st to receive this rate.

The Health Form must be completed for all Junior, Chi Rho, CYF, and Adventure Campers. This form must be sent in to the Regional Church Office before the Camp/Conference they are attending begins.

For all Summer Camp and Conference Forms, go to:
<http://www.ccinoh.org/camp/applications.aspx>

REGISTER or start making Payments NOW!!!

This link is for making online payments with a credit card



ACA Accredited

Camp Christian is accredited by the American Camp Association. We are in compliance with individual health, safety and program quality standards. The criteria includes standards for living areas, food service, emergency preparation, program practices, health care, personnel, transportation and administrative procedures. This accreditation assures parents and campers that our camp practices have met national standards. For more information about the American Camp Association, go to www.acacamps.org.



The Easter Offering is your opportunity to support the General and Racial/Ethnic Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. The gifts that you share support vital mission and ministry from the doorsteps of your congregation to the ends of the earth.

Incredible mission and ministry happens every day. For example, when the earthquake struck Haiti, Week of Compassion was able to distribute funds through global mission partners related to the Division of Overseas Ministries. David Vargas, DOM President said, "We were in Haiti before the earthquake and we'll be there long after the earthquake." Your gifts to the Easter Offering help us to be "there" wherever that might be, every day.

Your witness does not stop there. For the last 40 days, you have had an opportunity to learn more about our shared witness by receiving daily devotions, stories and prayers from your ministry partners. You learned that among many other things, gifts to the Easter Offering:

- help train leaders
- fund specialized ministries for women, men, children and youth
- ensure our historic ecumenical and interfaith witness
- provide supplemental pensions for clergy whose ministry did not adequately provide for their retirement

The list goes on and on – well beyond 40 Days of Witness and 40 Ways of Serving!

You can learn more about the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) by visiting www.disciples.org and by downloading the Lenten devotions at www.disciplesmissionfund.org.

Thank you for your gifts and support!

Get The Buckeye Disciple via Email!



If you would like to replace your copy with an emailed copy, please send an email ccio@ccinoh.org.

Don't forget to include your name and the address to which it's currently being sent.





Spiritual Insights

Rev. Dr. William H. Edwards

"They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together." Acts 2:42 (Contemporary Version)

This verse teaches us an important truth about the church:

The church is a family. It is not a building. It is not a club. It is not an organization or institution. It is not a religion. It is a family. It is God's family. Christianity means, not only relating to God, it means relating to other people who are also followers of Christ. When you join the church, you become a part of a family. God says that Christian life can only be lived in relationship to other Christians. Therefore, living out the spiritual journey is done in the context of "true community".

That is why I am excited about the vision we have in the Christian Church in Ohio. **"In covenant together, we are gifted and called to become a true community"**

In the book of Acts we see the formation of the church -- the community of Christ's followers "living out the spiritual journey" -- who were so devoted and filled with the love of Christ that people from all over the world, from all walks of life, all ethnic and cultural backgrounds were impacted and drawn into this new community, and transformed by what they experienced.

I believe that God is calling us to become that kind of community of faith as a Regional Church -- a community so filled with the Holy Spirit, so transformed by the love of Jesus Christ, and so yielded to the power of the Spirit in our lives that people in our world would be drawn in and transformed by what they experience in our churches. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our community makes it possible for what happened in and through the church in the book of Acts to happen in and through us in our world today!

Thanks be to God, there is a fresh wind of the Spirit moving to unite the church as a family of friends, a family of faith, a family of God. It is happening here among Disciples in the Ohio Region. By the power of the Holy Spirit, our vision to be a **"covenant network of congregations in mission"** that demonstrates true community, is an invitation to a new way of living for the 21st century church. It's an invitation to become a part of something that can change the world!

Ohio Women's Ministries Convocation

April 16th, 2011 – 8:00am

Gender Road Christian Church - 5336 Gender Road, Canal Winchester, OH 43725

Just Women:

Spiritual,

Seeking,

Serving



Romans 12:9-13



Keynote Speaker: Sheila Spencer

Program Director and Merger Staff, Office of Disciples Women in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

This is an annual one-day retreat sponsored by the OWM Commission. It is an opportunity for women to come together and share in good fellowship, learning, make new friends, and worship as one body of Christ!

Message from Regional Associate Pastor, Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum

The poet Robert Browning wrote, "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed its grasp, or what's a heaven for." Likewise our vision should exceed what we can see with our physical eyes or experience in our physical world. In the church, vision is about how, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God shows us what can be and how we can be a true community, embodying a spirituality that is built on our foundation with Jesus Christ, along with a passion for justice. What vision for your congregation has God given you?

Here is one vision for the church. It is from Bill Thomas, a Columbus native who grew up in Woodland Christian Church. He has lead the singing at the last several General Assemblies and at one of them he shared a song he wrote about his vision for the church. In "I See a Church", he describes his vision:

"I see a church with a vision, I see a church on a mission. I see a church with its doors open wide, and the poor and the rich worship God side by side, and the young and the old have both put down their pride, and yes we who are different don't have to hide, and all of God's children can sweetly abide..." (words and music by William Thomas, Jr. copyright 2001, Sedit Music).

I share Bill's vision for the church, its doors open wide to receive all those looking for a place to worship and serve. Those doors open out so that we can go out into the world as sons and daughters of God, serving all of the people of God.

Our reach can exceed our grasp, our vision can exceed our sight, that is what heaven and earth are for.

Deadline for entries into the July - Sept issue of
The Buckeye Disciple

Due in the Regional Church Office by
June 1, 2011

Submitting via email is preferred ccio@ccinoh.org

Message from Regional Associate Pastor, Rev. Stephen Bentley

This past weekend I had the joy of leading retreats at two of our congregations. We began each retreat reading the story of the Transfiguration from Matthew 17:1-9. What a fantastic experience it must have been for these men of Jewish heritage to be standing in the very presence of the two pillars of their faith and their master, Jesus. It was indeed a mountain top experience; one they would have wanted to last a life time. One wonders if they were not secretly giving thanks that they were named among the elite few chosen to witness such an event. How quickly those back down the mountain are forgotten in the midst of such a great experience. "True Community" was their very present. There was no need to look elsewhere. "True Community" was Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, with the three disciples.

Both groups shared how the church is very much like Peter and James and John. In some sense, we had built tabernacles and in them we worshiped the Most High God. "True Community" became for us that community within the church building. Over time, the community outside the church was forgotten and changed drastically.

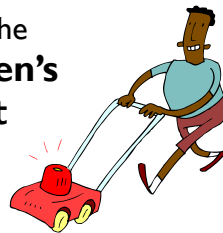
As the disciples are challenged to be true community by coming down the mountain back to that group they had forgotten, so the church is called to an ever expanding understanding of what "true community" is all about. It is about being in relationship with the community right at our doorsteps. Yet it is even larger. It is about building relationships with other congregations and sharing experiences as a way of strengthening each other's ministry. It is about building relationship of caring, sharing, hoping, and dreaming with the purpose of building a stronger ministry in each of our local contexts.

Join us in covenant together, as we recognize our giftedness and calling to be the "True Community" God is calling us to be.



Plan now to attend the Ohio Disciples Men's Spring Retreat

Camp Christian
May 20-21, 2011



The Buckeye Disciple

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Regional Calendar

April

- 8-9 Youth Council Meeting @ Camp Christian
- *8-10 Children Worship & Wonder Training @ Washington Ave Christian Church [REGISTER NOW](#)
- 12 Interim Ministers Working Group @ RCO 10am-2pm
- 12 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 14 Vision Team Conference Call @ 7:00pm
- *15-17 Advance Spring Retreat @ Camp [REGISTER NOW](#)
- *16 Women's Convocation @ Gender Road Christian Church, Canal Winchester, OH [REGISTER NOW](#)
- 22 **Good Friday, RCO Closed**
- *23 Cleveland Christian Home 5K Walk & Run for Kids @ the Cleveland Zoo [REGISTER NOW](#)
- 24 **Easter Sunday**
- 26 Ohio Disciples Extension Corporation @ RCO 10am
- 30 Congregational Transformation Event @ Disciples Christian Church, Cleveland Hts.

May

- 2-3 Oreon Scott Lectures @ Bethany College - WV
- 4 RCO Staff Meeting
- 5 Regional Elders Meeting @ RCO
- 7 Advance Scholarship Fundraising Talent Show @ Franklin Circle C.C., Cleveland 1:30pm
- 10 Personnel Committee Meeting @ RCO 10am - 2pm
- 10 Webinar on the New Order of Ministry @ 7:00pm
- 12 Retired Ministers Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 14 Cleveland Christian Home Spring Workday
- 17 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- 19 Ohio Disciples Outreach Meeting @ RCO 10am - 3pm
- 20-22 Ohio Disciples Men's Spring Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 27-29 Disciples Fellowship Retreat @ Camp Christian
- 30 **Memorial Day, RCO Closed**

June

- 1 **Deadline for entries into The Buckeye Disciple**
- 1 RCO Staff Meeting
- *3-4 Grandparents Camp @ Camp - [REGISTER NOW](#)
- *4 Youth Scholarship Golf Outing @ Scioto Reserve, Powell [REGISTER/DONATE NOW](#)
- *5-11 Adventure Camp - [REGISTER NOW](#)
- 7 Executive Committee Meeting @ RCO
- *12-18 Hocking Chi Rho Camp @ Camp- [REGISTER NOW](#)
- *13 Cleveland Christian Home Golf Outing - Scramble for Kids [REGISTER NOW](#)
- *19-25 Otter Junior Camp @ Camp - [REGISTER NOW](#)
- 21 Commission on Ministry @ Northwest CC, Columbus
- *26-July 2 Hiram CYF Conference @ Camp Christian - [REGISTER NOW](#)
- 27-July 1 Adult Conference @ Northwest CC, Columbus

July

- *3-9 Phyto CYF Conference @ Camp - [REGISTER NOW](#)
- 4 **Fourth of July, RCO Closed**
- *9-13 General Assembly, Nashville, TN- [REGISTER NOW](#)

RCO = Regional Church Office

* Online Registration is now available

For the full Regional Calendar- <http://www.ccinoh.org/calendar/regional.aspx>



Scholarship Fundraising Talent Show

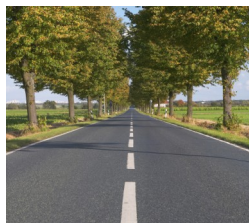
It's that time of year again! Time to experience the talents of current conferees and alumni of the Advance Ministries. Each year we hold a Talent Show to raise money for the scholarship fund for Advance Ministries. Advance is a ministry of the Christian

Church in Ohio for all young adults ages 19 – 29. The Talent Show will be held at Franklin Circle Christian Church in Cleveland Ohio on May 7, 2011 at 1:30pm. We hope to see you there! You do not need to be currently in Advance or an alumni to attend this wonderful event. The event is free but donations are welcomed and encouraged! We are still in great need of performers! If you would like to perform an act please contact Joslyn (Perry) Anschutz at jpanschutz@gmail.com. For more information about Advance Ministries go to <http://advanceministry.org/>.

Retired Clergy Retreat

Spouses of Retired Clergy are welcome to come to this event.
May 12, 2011 ~ 9:30am – 3:30pm ~ Camp Christian
Speaker: Sonny Wray, Vice President for Advancement
Lexington Theological Seminary

The annual Retired Clergy Retreat is scheduled for May 12. The retreat will be from 9:30am to 3:30pm and will be held at beautiful Camp Christian. The theme for this year's event is "***Distast Learning: A Pioneering Venture in Theological Education.***" The speaker for the retreat will be Dr. James (Sonny) M. Wray, Jr. Sonny is native of Mississippi and received a B.A. degree from Millsaps College in 1969 and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Lexington Theological Seminary in 1974. He has been a vice president of the Seminary since 1977, serving in the areas of development, administration, and accreditation. He is a member of Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and is the current president of the Lansdowne Neighborhood Association. He has served as a chapter and national officer of Kappa Alpha Order, representative of Kentucky Council of Churches, president of Kentucky Kickers Soccer Club, soccer director of Bluegrass State Games and Bluegrass Invitational Tournament, director of Volunteer Center of the Bluegrass, director of Central KY Planned Giving Council, treasurer and director of Community Montessori School, secretary of Dunbar Academic and Athletics Boosters, Inc., and president of Dunbar Soccer Boosters. Dr. Wray is an elder at Crestwood Christian Church in Lexington and has served as moderator of the board, stewardship chair, nominating committee chair, building committee chair and member of the senior minister's pastoral relations committee and member of the senior minister search committee. His hobbies include fishing, reading and gardening. He and his wife Donna are the parents of James "Jay" Wray. Registration - \$10.00 per person - Register online www.ccinoh.org



Adventure Camp 2011 Great Smoky Mountains

For High School age Youth and Adults of all ages!

This year's Adventure Camp will take us to the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains from June 5 – 11, which is prime wild flower season. There we will discover God's presence in the great outdoors. We will spend the week camping in beautiful Cade's Cove group campground.

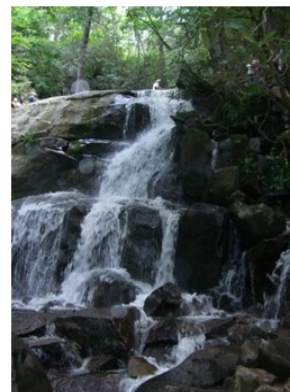
Cades Cove is a lovely valley surrounded by beautiful mountains. Each day will include day hikes to waterfalls and other natural wonders of this area. It is a beautiful place for pictures. Day packs would only include your camera, lunch, water and anything else you wanted to lug around with you for a couple of miles.

This camp is for everyone with an adventuresome spirit. If you are not experienced at camping in the great outdoors, you will be accompanied by several people who are well accomplished campers so you can learn. You may bring your own camping equipment or we will supply the basics for you as supplies last.

However, if your idea of camping is a hotel, there is a option that will allow you stay in a hotel close by and join us for all of the hikes and then return to your bed in the evening.

Cost for the event is: \$250.00 per person for High School age youth and adults of all ages. This includes all expenses for the week. You will be responsible for any souvenirs. Our group camping area is limited to 20 people so get your paid registrations in early to make sure you get a spot. For those of you wishing to make your own housing plan in the area but want to join us for the hikes the cost is \$100.00 and includes registration and lunch for the day. Econo Lodge and Highland Manor Inn in Townsend are just two of the possibilities.

If you are interested or if you have any questions, contact Rev. Stephen Bentley at sbentley@ccinoh.org or 614-433-0343.



Christian Board of Publication Special on General Assembly commemorative chalices

Until May 1, the Christian Board of Publication (CBP) offers Disciples a chance to order the General Assembly commemorative chalice at 25 percent off the regular price. The chalices are hand-thrown and glazed by artists of SJ Pottery in the Missouri heartland. Each piece is unique, and features a design based on the "Tell It!" logo of the 2011 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly gathering in Nashville, Tenn.

For more information, go to www.chalicepress.com/2011-General-Assembly-Commemorative-Chalice-with-logo-P826.aspx.





Communiqué

The 2011 Issue of Communiqué is now available for download online. Communiqué is the annual publication which reviews the work of the General Board, which met this year in Indianapolis, Feb. 26-March 1. Readers of this year's Communiqué will find reports on the upcoming 2011 General Assembly; resolutions that will be considered at the Assembly; the

board's decision to recommend to the General Assembly that General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins serve a second six-year term; and nominations of the new Moderator Team. In addition, a copy will soon be mailed to each congregation. To download a copy of Communiqué, visit:

www.disciples.org/generalboard

Find Your Bliss with Cleveland Christian Home

By Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa

Become a blessing for the 1500 at-risk children, youth and families touched by the only Disciples-related child and family services agency in Ohio. Check out this list to find an opportunity that fits you and helps us.



• 5K Run & Walk for Kids, April 23 at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Get \$200 in sponsorships and be registered for a raffle to win a new iPad!

Gain free admission to the zoo for the day

Register at www.cchome.org or call 216-476-0333.

• Disciples Workday, May 14

We can use all the help we can get—yard work, cleaning and organizing. Let us tailor a project to the skills and needs of your group. Please RSVP.

• Golf Scramble for Kids: June 13

New location: Fox Meadow Country Club in Medina New, lower entry fee

• Business Sponsors are Needed

Your organization or business can gain valuable visibility at our events for an investment of \$100 to \$7,500. That's a win-win contribution!

• Give Where We Need it Most—the Partnership Challenge

Call me or watch our video at www.cchome.org to learn how you can strengthen the future for thousands of children. Your contribution can also aid the Christian Church in Ohio, our Partner in Mission.

• Help launch an Online Auction

Are you an experienced eBay seller? Or do you enjoy gathering donations for charity auctions? We're looking for folks like you to help us prepare for a one-week online auction in July 2011.

• Follow us on Facebook

Share the good news that together we can be the angels who bring healing and hope to children who are looking for a miracle.

Disciples Fellowship Retreat

May 27-29 ~ Camp Christian

A gathering of disciples, families, and friends of all ages

Come and enjoy the music of "No Longer Strangers", a contemporary Christian group from Westlake Christian Church. Sit back and listen to their wonderful renditions of some old hymns, and some new ones too! You'll be singing and toe-tapping right along with them! We will also be having our usual break-out sessions in the morning and afternoon, including photography, fishing, scrapbooking, crafts, bible fun and more! Crafts and fun time will be available for children under 12 during the sessions.

What a great way to get away from the hustle and bustle of your everyday life and enjoy the out-of-doors! Go home feeling renewed after spending time with fellow Christians. This is a great opportunity for you and your family to come and experience camp together. This also gives the younger children a chance to see what camp is like when they attend partnership, Chi Rho or CYF summer camp. Hope to see you there!

Memorial Day Service Project we will be assembling new green chairs for camp. If possible, bring (power) screw drivers, paint brushes, and (chain) saws (and old clothes you don't mind if they get paint on them!!)

Abbreviated schedule: Friday night: registration starts at 8:30 p.m. in the dining hall and continues with fellowship and snacks. Saturday: meals, singing, morning & afternoon sessions, crafts, free time, fishing, boating, vespers, our dearly beloved **talent show** and a "hayless" hayride. Sunday: breakfast, singing, camp clean-up, worship and closing circle. **Please note:** Our retreat will now be concluding with the closing circle after worship. We will no longer be serving Sunday lunch so you can be home in time to share the holiday with your families.

What to bring: warm bedding and linens, casual clothing, personal toiletries, towels, rain gear, flashlight, and bug repellent!! You may also want to bring family style games, musical instruments, sports equipment, crib or highchair (if needed).

Please bring to share for the evening snacks; A-F: Fruit / G-M: Veggies / N-Z: Cookies

Cost: under 2 years ~ free, ages 3-5 yrs. ~ \$30.00, ages 6-12 yrs. ~ \$40.00, and ages 13 yrs. -adult ~ \$60.00. The maximum cost for an immediate family group (everyone living in the same household) is \$180.00. Saturday only attendance (no overnight lodging) is: \$25.00 per adult, children 6-12 yrs. ~ \$15.00, children 3-5 yrs. ~ \$10.00. This includes all meals.

Cabins can accommodate up to 12 people. Each dorm style room in the Monroe Lodge has 2 single beds and is available for an additional \$5.00. If needed, you may be asked to share a cabin with another family.

If you are unable to pay at least half, or you cannot obtain a scholarship from your church, and would like a scholarship from the DFR committee, please contact Ben Williams ~ 937-376-1131 or benwilliams@woh.rr.com.

Is your congregation or district doing something amazing? Tell us about it!!

ccio@ccinoh.org

*He is not here;
he has risen, just as he said.*

*Come and see
the place where he lay.*

Matthew 28:6 NIV

The Adult Conference Experience

June 27-July 1, 2011

By Betty J. Adams

I have a child's spirit when it comes to being excited about the Adult Conference Experience. You may recall taking a trip with children that never tire of asking: "Are We There Yet?" Well I am getting anxious to arrive at Northwest Christian Church on June 27, 2011, to experience a week of spiritual and social growth that has always happened for me when I attend Adult Conference.

I find Adult Conference to be a place where you are made to feel as one of God's treasures. Adult Conference is full of endless possibilities where faith is deepened and broadened. The theme this year is: "Not Locked In: Reaching Within and Beyond."

Conferees get to choose two classes [from a list of about 6 classes] to attend daily, and all can attend the thought-provoking daily Bible Lectures and inspiring sermons at nightly Vespers, as well as educational and informative Forums. We have wonderful meals together and the opportunity to take part in the Conference Choir. And that is not all because there are many other opportunities where new friendships are made, and there is free time, etc. It is all just great and something to be excited about.

The Adult Conference Experience provides an expanded perspective about our heritage of faith that stretches forth into a glorious hope and vision for what God will accomplish in the future, which gives meaning for us today.

Our Bible Lecturer this year will be Dr. Margaret Nutting Ralph, Director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies at Lexington Theological Seminary. Our Vesper Speaker is the Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Sr. Pastor of Fifth Christian Church in Cleveland.

I invite you to make your destination for June 27, 2011, as the Northwest Christian Church, Columbus, Ohio, to be a conferee of the 74th Adult Conference which will be held from June 27-July 01, 2011.

As usual, this 74th Adult Conference promises to be a great gathering where conferees are free to explore issues openly and honestly, without judgment. That is the way I found them to be, and that is one of the many reasons I am excited and looking forward to arriving at the destination of Northwest Christian Church on June 27, 2011! Looking forward to meeting you there.

Congregational Transformation

Taking into consideration the complexity of Congregational Transformation and the diverse nature of the conditions and scenarios that congregations within the Christian Church in Ohio find themselves, the Regional Church's Congregational Transformation Ministry Team believes that there is no one single "cure all" approach. The role of the Regional Church is to be a partner to resource pastors and congregations as they discern their own unique "spiritual strategic journey" of transformation. Therefore, the Congregational Transformation Ministry Team has developed a Regional Church model of support that will educate and train leaders, identify and utilize resources, and network congregations and pastors to share their learnings and experiences. This model of support is comprised in networks:

Network of Leaders

A key component of the model is the development of a "Leadership Network" for pastors who have covenanted to become "Transformational Leaders". The leadership network will be intentional in:

- Sharing the outcomes of congregational insights related to the use of transformation resources;
- Creating a "community of learning" through the use of "webinars", so that training and vision casting events for transformation can be held without requiring travel. (*Webinars are events held with the combination of conference call and internet-based presentation*);
- Writing articles on the topic Congregational Transformation for the Buckeye Disciple and sharing experiences at regional events.

Network of Congregations

Another component of Regional Church support of congregational transformation is the development and facilitation of a "resource network" among congregations who make a formal decision and a Covenant with the Regional Church to become a "Transforming Congregation."

The Pastoral Staff and the Congregational Transformation Team will closely monitor the activity of the **congregational network** and offer recommendations by evaluating new transformation resources and sharing the results with the pastoral and congregational leadership networks.

Network of Coaches

Coaching is an exciting way to draw out from within pastors and leaders the gifts and skills for transformation. The Congregational Transformation Team considers coaching perhaps the single most important resource for transformation and leadership development available for pastors and congregations. The Christian Church in Ohio has trained and developed a support network of coaches to work with pastors and congregational pastors committed to Transformation.

Congregational Transformation is...

A **spiritual, systemic, and strategic journey** traveled by a congregation urgently striving to realize what God has called to be and do.

The Regional Church Office of the Christian Church in Ohio is here to serve you and your congregations. We want to hear from you. We can be reached at 614-433-0343 or email us at ccio@ccinoh.org.



L to R – Rev. Amy Gopp (Exec. Director, Week of Compassion), Dr. Eyamba & Molingo Bokamba, Rev. Chad Delaney (Pastor, Mantua Center Christian Church)

Mantua Center Christian Church

Mantua Center Christian Church recently hosted Dr. Eyamba Bokamba, a native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and current Professor of Linguistics at the University of Illinois, for a lecture and showing of a documentary on his homeland. Dr. Bokamba also delivered a moving Sunday morning message on the story of the Good Samaritan.

Dr. Bokamba, accompanied by his wife Molingo, covered many topics over the course of their weekend visit, including the history and culture of the Congo and the role that the Christian community has played in alleviating poverty and providing health care and education for the Congolese people. He also shared difficult and sobering stories of war and colonialism, the cruel exploitation of the Congo by western countries for its vast natural resources, and the predatory practices of neighboring African governments.

The Bokambas also offered their own life stories as examples of the outreach efforts of the Disciples of Christ, as both were educated in the Congo by schools founded by the church and came to the US to study under the sponsorship of the denomination. The Disciples presence in the Congo dates back to the late 1800's, and today there are over 650,000 Congolese Disciples.

This was the second visit to MCCC from a representative of the Congo. Maman Nzeba, who serves as the Director of the Dept of Woman & Family for the Church of Christ, spoke with the congregation in June of 2010 about her efforts to strengthen families and empower women in the Congo.

Inspired by these stories, MCCC member Linda Idoine will be traveling to the Congo this summer for a firsthand look at the outreach efforts supported by The Week of Compassion, the humanitarian and disaster relief arm of the Disciples of Christ.



Una Historia Futura

Glenn Carson is now providing "A Future History" in Spanish.

A Spanish translation of the book, "A Future History," which looks at the central tenets of the Stone-Campbell heritage is now available for PDF download. For more information, visit: <https://store.discipleshistory.org/index.php/all.html?p=3>

Kemper Road Christian Church

Kemper Road Christian Church in Cincinnati celebrated Black History Month by hosting a program by National Sorority Of Phi Delta Kappa Incorporated, Xinos and Kudos on February 13, 2011. The teens read and cited poems by African Americans. A reception followed.

The Anti Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team (ART) sponsored 2 movie events depicting race relations on February 20 & 27, 2011. An intermission time was held for participants to eat snacks that were furnished by the Anti Racism Team.

Both events included an invitation to the community and were well received.

Disciples reach out to Japanese earthquake victims

Week of Compassion, the Disciples relief, refugee and development mission fund, is providing financial assistance to our sisters and brothers in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami on March 11 that has left the island nation dealing with several crises, including flooding and radiation poisoning emitting from a nuclear facility. At this writing, it is estimated that deaths from the disaster may exceed 18,000 people. More than 400,000 are living in makeshift shelters or evacuation centers.



Through Global Ministries, the common witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, Week of Compassion has already responded to our primary partner, the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ), with an initial emergency response grant and continues to channel funds as requests are made by GM partners. The UCCJ has established a relief committee and is currently researching, planning and launching an appropriate response. Global Ministries missionary, Jeffrey Mensendiek, is based in Sendai and working with the UCCJ in spearheading their response to this disaster. To learn more about the UCCJ response: ameblo.jp/jishin-support-uccj-en/page-1.html#main

Your gifts to Week of Compassion also support a collaborative effort between Church World Service and the Japan Platform, a coalition of 32 non-governmental organizations, government service agencies and media outlets in Japan. CWS will be providing support and channeling contributions to individual members of the Japan Platform, and is also prepared to support efforts of faith-based partners in Japan, including the National Christian Council of Japan. Your additional gifts to Week of Compassion are still needed. For more and to give, see: www.weekofcompassion.org/updates/2011/3/16/crises-in-japan-and-your-gifts-in-action.html

For general news on the earthquake in Japan, the UCCJ and other partners: globalministries.org/news/eap/major-earthquake-hits-japan.html

For updates from GM missionaries in Japan, Jeffrey Mensendiek, Martha Mensendiek and Casilda Luzares: globalministries.org/news/eap/japan-missionaries.html

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**Christian Church in Ohio
Disciples of Christ**
A covenant network of congregations in mission

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