October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

In these times when so many people are navigating a mounting number of uncertainties in our lives, please consider the person who serves as the minister where you worship. When did they last go on vacation? Do they have health insurance, or are they worried about going to see a doctor? Might you consider writing your minister a letter, or a note, letting them know what you appreciate about them? Is there a book that they have expressed an interest in reading that you might enable provide for them? Can you surprise them by decorating their office?

WELCOME to Nathan Jones — our new Communications and Office Manager

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Afghan Refugee Resettlement

Our Local Churches in Omaha and Lincoln have begun to plan what we might do, together, to resettle 2, 3, or 4 households. Lutheran Family Services is working closely with the Regional Church who is, in turn, also working with Week of Compassion (WoC) and Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM).

Lutheran Family Services is projecting that families will arrive in Omaha and Lincoln in January and February 2022.

Please contact Rev. Chris Morton if you are interested in learning more about how the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is partnering across all three expressions of The Church: Local, Regional, and General.

General Church Disciples News: www.disciples.org

Clergy Struggling with Stress — Sleeplessness — Anxiety?

The Pension Fund of the Christian Church is making this confidential, no-cost resource available to our clergy through the Ministerial Relief and Assistance Fund. Learn to Live offers online programs and clinical assessments based on proven principles. FREE Seminar – September 21st @ 1:00 pm Central/12:00 pm Mountain

Educational Grants for Disciples Clergy

Life-Long Learning is a commitment that we as a denomination make to our Commissioned and Ordained Clergy. Applications Available Sept 1st – Oct 31st

Ministry Position: Disaster Response Organizer

This position may be remote.

Week of Compassion is seeking a full-time staff person to join the ministry as the Disaster Response Organizer, to work closely with the team on domestic disaster.
This person will work with Disciples communities to build capacities for disaster response, including preparedness, relief, and long-term recovery. The person should be self-motivated, driven, and be able to develop a deep relational understanding of the church and its structures.

**Congregational Change — A 20 Year View**

- 60% of Churches (those worshipping 1-50 people) have fewer than 6% of ALL attendees in the USA
- Prior to the pandemic, many congregations were small and getting smaller, while the largest ones keep getting more attendees.
- Despite continued declines in attendance overall, about a third of congregations are growing and are spiritually vital.
- Being a larger congregation offers some distinct advantages, but each size grouping has certain strengths.
- Congregations have continued to diversify, particularly in terms of racial composition.
- A dramatically increased utilization of technology can be seen over the past two decades, even pre-pandemic.
- The fiscal health of congregations has remained mostly steady.
- There is a clear and demonstrated path toward vitality with characteristics that are consistent across the two decades of our survey efforts.

The Entire Report, *Twenty Years of Congregational Change*, is 29 pages with a slant towards the question of “Church Growth” and insights about revitalization. More than 1,000 CC (DoC) congregations participated.

**New Church Hacks: Decolonizing The Church**

On Oct 13th, Rev. Naomi Washington Leapheart, Rev. Brandon Wrencher, and Rev. Chris Morton joined Rev. Terrell McTyre to share their “hacks” for decolonizing The Church, and for a panel discussion. The Webinar is an hour-long and can be watched anytime. [To read Rev. Morton’s four “hacks” visit the Regional Church’s Web Site.](#)

**Pilgrimage to Ecuador —**

November 10th - 19th Join the Virtual Tour for $25

The Tour will be hosted by Ecumenical Foundation for Development, Integration, Training, and Education.

Registration is only one click away!
Dear Disciples — A Message
From Rev. Terri Hord Owens, GMP

This is about doing what is right, about making justice happen, about loving our neighbor enough to want for them what we want for ourselves. It is possible for us to change our society and align it with these values that we say ground who we are.

Thanksgiving Offering
November 14th and 21st
Resources are Available NOW!

2021 Pray-For List  https://disciples-ne.org/pastors/

October 3  Unadilla Christian Church
October 10  Verndon Christian Church
October 17  Weeping Water First Christian Church
October 24  Wilsonville United Baptist Christian Church
October 31  Nebraska Regional Minister

Regional Office Calendar:  https://disciples-ne.org/calendar/

OCT 4  Clergy Cluster – Lincoln
OCT 4  Disciples Behavioral Health Initiative - Meeting by Zoom
OCT 7  Clergy Cluster – Eastern Nebraska
OCT 7  2022 Regional Assembly Planning Group
OCT 10  Installation Service for Rev. Mark Sewell – Elmwood CC
OCT 11  Continuing Review Committee of Regional Church Board – Zoom Meeting
OCT 12  Nebraska Ecumenical Partners – Meeting by Zoom
OCT 13  Chaplains Zoom Call – Meeting by Zoom
OCT 13  New Church Hacks – Decolonizing Your Church – Webinar on Zoom
OCT 19  Tri-Regional Partnership Steering Committee – Meeting by Zoom
OCT 20  College of Regional Ministers – Meeting by Zoom
OCT 25  Regional Church Budget & Finance Committee - Meeting by Zoom
OCT 26  Cotner College Board of Directors – Meeting by Zoom
OCT 26  Youth and Outdoor Ministries Committee - Meeting by Zoom
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 27</td>
<td>Chaplains Zoom Call – Meeting by Zoom</td>
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<td>OCT 31</td>
<td>Installation Service for Rev. Dennis Fulbright – Shubert CC</td>
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<td>SEPT 27</td>
<td>Clergy Cluster – Lincoln</td>
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<td>SEPT 28</td>
<td>Tri-Region Partnership Initiative Steering Committee – Zoom Call</td>
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