

September 1, 2018

A Leader's Packet is mailed to each congregation in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region and may also be accessed on the Region's website at <www.alnwfldisciples.org> Individuals may request to have Leader's Packets mailed to them by contacting the Regional Office at <alnwfl@aol.com> or calling 205-425-5245.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	(Gray)
Regional Officers and Regional Staff.....	(Orchid)
Items of Interest.....	(White)
Dates For Your Information.....	(Canary)
Regional Prayer Calendar (September - November, 2018).....	(Blue)
Congregational Giving Report (through July, 2018).....	(Tan)
Reconciliation Ministry Promotional Flyer.....	(Pink)
Reconciliation Grant Application.....	(White)
Grant Application - Watson Memorial Scholarship Fund (deadline is September 30).....	(White)
"Active Shooter Response Training" Flyer.....	(White)
Children Worship and Wonder Training Event Flyer.....	(White)
2018 CWF/Disciples Women's Fall Retreat Flyer.....	(Salmon)
2018 CWF/Disciples Women's Fall Retreat Registration Form.....	(White)
2018 Senior Adult Retreat Flyer.....	(Lilac)
2018 Senior Adult Retreat Registration Form.....	(White)
2019 Youthtopia Flyer.....	(Cream)
2019 Youthtopia Registration Form for Youth.....	(White)
YMCA-Camp Chandler Hold Harmless Agreement.....	(White)
2019 Youthtopia Registration Form for Adult Chaperones.....	(White)
2019 Young Adult Winter Retreat Flyer.....	(Buff)
2019 Young Adult Winter Retreat Registration Form.....	(White)
Parish Paper	
September.....	(Cherry)
October.....	(Turquoise)

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**861 Highway 52
Helena, AL 35080
(205) 425-5245
(205) 425-5246 (fax)
e-mail: alnwfl@aol.com
website: www.alnwfldisciples.org**

Regional Officers and Regional Staff

July, 2018

Moderator:	Kathy Mason 16287 Hagler Mill Drive Northport, AL 35475 205-339-6560 (h) 205-246-9652 (c) e-mail: mason217@att.net	Regional Minister:	John Mobley 861 Highway 52 Helena, AL 35080 205-425-5245(w) 205-533-3810 (c) e-mail: jpmobley2@aol.com
Moderator-Elect:	Fannie Ashley 3126 Old Dobbin Road Montgomery, AL 36116 334-279-1889 (h) 334-430-0255 (c) e-mail: fannieashley@aol.com	Associate Regional Minister	Dale Braxton 8420 County Rd. 45 Ft. Deposit, AL 36032 334-227-0011 (w) 334-412-4057 (c) e-mail : braxtondale@hotmail.com
First Vice Moderator:	Jeanette Martinez 6307 Dallas Avenue Pensacola, FL 32526 407-692-1582 (c) e-mail: martinezjean65@yahoo.com	Youth Ministries Staff Person:	Nisha Warbington 15561 Dockery Road Coker, AL 35452 205-330-8968 (h) 205-454-2054 (c) e-mail: Nisha7@aol.com
Second Vice Moderator:	Jim Storie 108 Shadow Wood Lane Florence, AL 35633 256-762-3998 (c) e-mail: jim.storie@bellsouth.net	Administrative Assistant:	Susan Henderson 861 Highway 52 Helena, AL 35080 205-425-5245(w) e-mail: alnwfl@aol.com
Secretary-Treasurer:	John Nettles 1139 Terrace Acres Drive Auburn, AL 36830 334-821-5714 (h) e-mail: jwnarchitect@att.net		
Regional Representative to the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2018-2021:			
Stuart Price 613 Owens Road Auburn, AL 36830 334-821-1123 (h) 334-707-3165 (c) e-mail: pricesb@auburn.edu			

ITEMS OF INTEREST

(from within the Region)

OUTREACH GIVING

The giving through July, 2018, by congregations in Alabama-Northwest Florida to the Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings (Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas) has increased by 18.58% over the amount given for the same period in 2017. Church-wide gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and the four Special Day Offerings have decreased by 1.5% compared to the same period in 2017. Week of Compassion offerings in Alabama-Northwest Florida are showing a year-to-date increase of 16.97% over 2017. Church-wide Week of Compassion receipts are showing a 2.7% decrease from the 2017 year-to-date total.

Disciples outreach ministries are carried out in partnership between general ministries, ministries of higher education, Regions, congregations, and other related ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The financial support given by your congregation enables this partnership to be effective in carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ. Your commitment to our shared ministries is greatly appreciated.

NEWS OF THE CLERGY

Carmen Reyes was installed and commissioned for her service as church planter with Iglesia Cristiana-Nuevo Comienzo (New Beginning Christian Church) on Sunday, August 5, 2018. The service of commissioning took place at the Cornerstone Church in Anniston, which has generously allowed the new congregation to use its facility. **Maria Zamarripa** was commissioned for her service as Associate Minister for Hispanic Ministries at First Christian Church, Anniston, on Sunday, August 19, 2018.

Dale Braxton, Associate Regional Minister and pastor of Snow Hill Christian Church, Mt. Willing, represented the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region on a two-week trip to Africa that was sponsored by Global Ministries. Rev. Braxton was part of a group that included several other Regional Ministers and church leaders.

CONGREGATIONS WITH MINISTERIAL VACANCIES

Hayneville, Woods Chapel
Mobile, Azalea Hills
Pensacola, First (Don McLaughlin is Interim Minister)
Robertsdale, First (Alan Woods is Interim Supply)
Tuskegee, Union (Edd Spencer is Interim)

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CLERGY

Blakely Wagoner, infant granddaughter of Diane and **Cameron Douglas** (retired, Decatur), is recovering from a recent illness and hospitalization. Diane Douglas is recovering from shoulder surgery she had on August 23. **Timothy Clark** (pastor, Hartselle, FCC) is recovering from injuries he suffered while on vacation in Florida. The daughter-in-law of **Tom and Diane Stephenson** (Pensacola) is under hospice care.

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Patti Allen, wife of **Paul Allen** (Pastor, First Christian Church, Huntsville), is recovering from a stroke she suffered on August 25, which required three days in the hospital for recovery and testing. She expects to make a full recovery. Bettye Ruth Taylor, mother of **Kathy Menser** (chaplain, Pensacola) is recovering from heart surgery and is facing breast cancer surgery sometime in September. Marylou Morgan, mother of **Tommy Morgan** (Phenix City), died on August 22. She was a member at Village Christian Church, Auburn. Derrick Thomas, brother of **Cassandra Smith** (pastor, Mt. Zion Christian Church, White Hall) died on August 27. A service is being planned for noon on September 8 in Fort Deposit. **Jose Diaz** (Co-Pastor, Primera Iglesia Cristiana, Fort Walton Beach) is recovering from surgery he had on August 26.

(Please notify the Regional Office of other joys and concerns.)

Mark your calendars for the next required training opportunities for clergy:

Anti-Racism Training for Ministers – April 5-6, 2019

Healthy Boundaries for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers - March 22, 2019

Note: These workshops are required for all ministers who wish to maintain their ministerial standing. They must be repeated after every 10 years.

Mark your Calendars!!

**2019 General Assembly
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

**July 20-24, 2019 – Des Moines, Iowa
Theme – “Abide in Me”**

DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICE AVAILABLE

Congregations in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region can access demographic information on their communities by going to www.Link2lead.com and following the directions given (click on “register” to get started). This Region is providing this service at no cost to your congregation. If you have not downloaded recent demographic information for your community, with the latest census updates, please do so in order to lead your congregation to meet the needs of your community. Thank you for your gifts to the Disciples Mission Fund, which makes this ministry possible.

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080

DATES FOR YOUR INFORMATION

September 1, 2018

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
- 8 Anti-Racism Team (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 10 - 12 Southeast Regional Fellowship (SERF) Retreat at Christmount - Black Mtn., NC
- 15 Active Shooter Preparedness Workshop (2:00 p.m.) - Snow Hill CC, Mt. Willing
- 22 Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - First Christian Church, Birmingham, AL
- 28 - 30 Women's Retreat - YMCA-Camp Chandler

OCTOBER

- 6 Division of Nurture (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 7 World Communion Sunday and Reconciliation Ministry Offering
- 13 Program Committee on Church Development (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 20 Division of Mission (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 27 Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office

NOVEMBER

- 3 CWF/Disciples Women Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
- 3 Regional Assembly Planning Committee (10:00 a.m.) - First Christian Church, Meridian, MS
- 7 - 8 Senior Adult Retreat - St. Bernard Retreat and Conference Center, Cullman, AL
- 11 - 18 Thanksgiving Offering Promotion (for Disciples colleges and seminaries)

DECEMBER

- 8 CSCA Christmas Party (Noon - 2:00 p.m.) - CSCA Office, Selma, AL
- 10 Committee on the Ministry (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
- 15 Executive/Personnel Committee (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 17 Regional Staff Planning (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 16 - 23 Christmas Offering Promotion (for Regional Ministries)

JANUARY, 2019

- 7 - 8 Kick-Off Retreat for 2019 Colleague Groups - Joe Wheeler State Park Lodge
- 14 Luncheon for Retired Ministers/Spouses - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach
- 14 - 16 Ministers and Mates Retreat - Hilton Garden Inn, Orange Beach
- 18 - 20 Youthtopia - YMCA-Camp Chandler
- 18 - 20 Young Adult Retreat - YMCA-Camp Chandler
- 23 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office

FEBRUARY, 2019

- 2 CWF/Disciples Women Cabinet (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office, Helena
- 5 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
- 8 - 9 Congregational Transformation Event - First Christian Church, Birmingham
- 10 - 17 Week of Compassion Promotion

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FEBRUARY, 2019 (continued)

- 16 Division of Administration and Stewardship (10:00 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 23 Regional Board (10:00 a.m.) - Location TBD
- 28 - March 2 SERF Collaboration Event at Christmount - Black Mountain, NC

MARCH, 2019

- 4 - 7 Black Ministers Retreat - Embassy Suites - Nashville Airport - Nashville, TN
- 14 Optional Arrival Date for Men's Retreat - Rolling Hills Retreat, Calera, AL
- 15 - 16 Men's Retreat - Rolling Hills Retreat, Calera, AL
- 22 "Healthy Boundaries" workshop for clergy (9:00 a.m.) - Regional Office

APRIL, 2019

- 5 - 6 Anti-Racism Training for clergy - First Christian Church, Montgomery
- 10 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 14 - 21 Easter Offering Promotion (for general ministries)

MAY, 2019

- 7 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery
- 26 - June 3 Pentecost Offering Promotion (for new congregation establishment)

JUNE, 2019

- 17 - 21 Junior Camp, Chi Rho Camp, CYF Conference - YMCA-Camp Chandler, Wetumpka, AL (tentative)
- 21 - 23 Genesis Camp and Discovery Camp - YMCA-Camp Chandler, Wetumpka, AL (tentative)
- 21 - 23 Regional Convocation Assembly - Snow Hill Christian Church, Mt. Willing

JULY, 2019

- 13 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 20 - 24 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Des Moines, IA
- 27 Commissioning and Ordination South (9:15 a.m.) - United Christian, Montgomery

AUGUST, 2019

- 14 Commissioning and Ordination North (9:15 a.m.) - Regional Office
- 25 "Senior Adult Sunday" in Alabama-Northwest Florida

**REGIONAL PRAYER CALENDAR
FOR SEPTEMBER, 2018**

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN ALABAMA-NW FLORIDA

Note: Congregations are urged to lift up in prayer during worship the congregation(s) designated on each Sunday of the year. Special prayers are encouraged for the ministers listed as well. A phone number is listed for each congregation (in some cases an e-mail address is also listed) in order for persons to make contact with that congregation to learn of special joys and concerns prior to the Sunday when it is listed.

- September 2 - Letohatchee, Mt. Moriah – Nathan Hartley, Minister (334-563-7764 or email: <nathanhartley5@aol.com>)**
- September 9 - Letohatchee, New Hope (334-548-2504) Howard Jones, Minister (e-mail: <howardjones1951@gmail.com>)**
- September 16 - Mobile, Azalea Hills (251-633-6161) Jane Lose, Board Chairperson (e-mail: <ahccdoc@bellsouth.net>)**
- September 23 - Pensacola, First (850-477-1642) Don McLaughlin, Interim Minister (e-mail: <fccpen@bellsouth.net>)**
- September 30 - Madison, Madison (256-837-8182) Beth Thomason, Minister (e-mail: <bcthom66@yahoo.com>)**
-
- October 7 - Robertsedale, First – Alan Woods, Supply Minister (251-978-2901 or e-mail: <manytrees2@gmail.com>)**
- October 14 - Helena, Grace (205-426-1233) Brad Henderson and Phyllis Kirk, Ministers (e-mail: <brad.henderson1@me.com> or <pskirk@bellsouth.net>)**
- October 21 - Montgomery, First (334-270-1320) Shane Isner, Minister (e-mail: <isner.shane@gmail.com>)**
- October 28 - Florence, First (256-764-2192) Jim Storie, Minister (e-mail: <jsstorie66@gmail.com>)**
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- November 4 - Tuscaloosa, First (205-758-2968) Tim Trussell-Smith Minister (e-mail: <tim.trussell.smith@gmail.com>)**
- November 11 - Valhermoso Springs, First (256-778-7921) Jeremy Harbin, Minister (e-mail: <pastorjeremyharbin@gmail.com>)**
- November 18 - Jasper, First (205-384-6302) C.J. Cobb, Minister (e-mail: <cj.cobb@wyle.com>)**
- November 25 - Valley, Fairfax (334-756-3941) Duwayne Bridges, Minister (e-mail: <burningbridges@msn.com>)**
- Montgomery, United (334-262-3382) La'Rue Smith, Jr., Minister (e-mail: <lsmith7106@gmail.com>)**

Report Date
08/20/2018

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA
DISCIPLES MISSION FUND AND SPECIAL DAY OFFERINGS

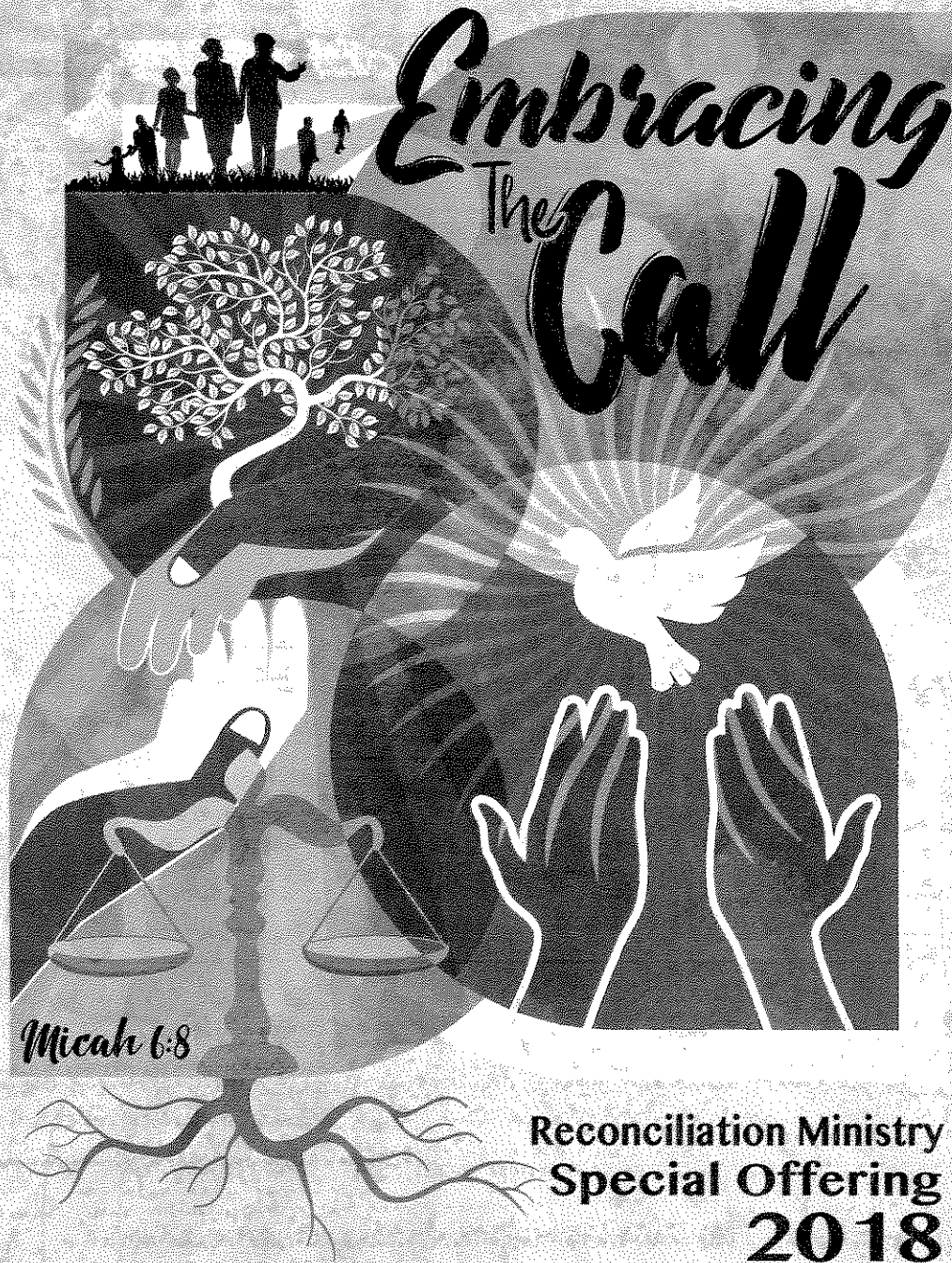
Giving Through
July, 2018

	CONGREGATION	2017	2018	% CHANGE
DISTRICT I	ATHENS, FIRST	0.00	400.00	+
	DECATUR, FIRST	921.00	1,201.48	30.45
	FALKVILLE, CEDAR PLAINS	130.00	220.00	69.23
	FLORENCE, FIRST	6,618.64	10,440.00	57.74
	HARTSELLE, FIRST	0.00	3,527.00	+
	HUNTSVILLE, FIRST	9,748.05	10,449.72	7.20
	HUNTSVILLE, GRATEFUL LIFE	0.00	0.00	-
	HUNTSVILLE, PRIMERA IGLESIA	0.00	0.00	-
	MADISON CHRISTIAN	1,462.65	5,112.44	249.53
DISTRICT II	VALHERMOSO SPRINGS, FIRST	2,373.23	1,682.49	-29.11
	ANNISTON, FIRST	74.00	998.00	1248.65
	ANNISTON, NUEVO COMIENZO	0.00	0.00	-
	BIRMINGHAM, FIRST	16,646.14	16,260.46	-2.32
	BIRMINGHAM, NEW VISION	750.00	150.00	-80.00
	BIRMINGHAM, MACEDONIA	962.85	1,060.00	10.09
	BIRMINGHAM, PRIMERA IGLESIA	2,422.76	2,846.38	17.49
	BIRMINGHAM, ROEBUCK	0.00	0.00	-
	BIRMINGHAM, VALLEY	7,757.01	9,691.07	24.93
	COTTONDALE CHRISTIAN	0.00	2,090.00	+
	HELENA, GRACE	6,535.36	7,030.10	7.57
	JASPER, FIRST	446.00	120.00	-73.09
	MERIDIAN, MS, FIRST	10,099.66	6,668.00	-33.98
	TUSCALOOSA, FIRST	4,716.63	5,168.72	9.59
DISTRICT III	AUBURN, VILLAGE	610.00	1,092.00	79.02
	CAMP HILL, PLEASANT VIEW	70.00	223.00	218.57
	LANETT, FIRST	0.00	0.00	-
	TALLASSEE, MACEDONIA	200.00	250.00	25.00
	TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, MT. CALVARY	254.00	220.00	-13.39
	TUSKEGEE, UNION	4,650.00	5,600.00	20.43
	VALLEY, FAIRFAX	0.00	0.00	-
	VALLEY, FIRST OF RIVER VIEW	1,053.36	567.33	-46.14
DISTRICT IV	DOTHAN, FIRST	200.00	200.00	=
	FORT DEPOSIT, SNOW HILL	2,450.00	2,100.00	-14.29
	GREENVILLE, AMBASSADORS	0.00	0.00	-
	GREENVILLE, HARRISON STREET	100.00	200.00	100.00
	GREENVILLE, NEW BETHEL	0.00	0.00	-
	HAYNEVILLE CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	-
	HAYNEVILLE, LITTLE UNION	800.00	850.00	6.25
	HAYNEVILLE, MOUNT ZION	1,350.00	325.00	-75.93
	HAYNEVILLE, NEW SALEM	50.00	0.00	-
	HAYNEVILLE, SELLERS MEMORIAL	370.00	986.00	166.49
	HAYNEVILLE, WOODS CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	-
	LETOHATCHEE, BIG UNION	500.00	1,000.00	100.00
	LETOHATCHEE, MT. MORIAH	125.00	170.00	36.00
	LETOHATCHEE, NEW HOPE	200.00	78.00	-61.00
	MINTER, BRAGGS	0.00	0.00	-
	MONTGOMERY, FIRST	13,887.30	14,448.42	4.04
	MONTGOMERY, UNITED	200.00	250.00	25.00
	MATHEWS, MOUNT PLEASANT	0.00	0.00	-
DISTRICT V	CENTURY, EDWARD POINT	125.00	0.00	-100.00
	FAIRHOPE CHRISTIAN	3,764.66	6,490.00	72.39
	FOLEY, SOUTH BALDWIN	296.51	98.57	-66.76
	FORT WALTON BEACH, FIRST	6,893.83	6,023.98	-12.62
	FORT WALTON BEACH, IGLESIA	0.00	200.00	+
	MOBILE, AZALEA HILLS	2,634.48	1,747.66	-33.66
	PENSACOLA, FIRST	1,795.46	7,132.74	297.27
	PENSACOLA, ARBOL DE VIDA	140.00	742.30	430.21
	PENSACOLA, WESTWOOD	216.50	200.00	-7.62
	ROBERTSDALE, FIRST	231.00	226.00	-2.16
	SARALAND, OAKMONT	1,170.00	1,000.00	-14.53
	CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AL/NW FL	100.00	50.00	-50.00
TOTAL		116,101.08	137,586.86	18.51

NOTE: THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JANUARY - JULY 2017 TO GIVING JANUARY - JULY 2018

		WEEK OF COMPASSION (including Designated WOC)			RECONCILIATION (including Designated Reconciliation)		
	CONGREGATION	2017	2018	% CHANGE	2017	2018	% CHANGE
DISTRICT I	ATHENS, FIRST	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	DECATUR, FIRST	505.00	20.00	-96.04	119.00	0.00	-100.00
	FALKVILLE, CEDAR PLAINS	250.00	375.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	-
	FLORENCE, FIRST	2,596.00	2,651.00	2.12	0.00	0.00	-
	HARTSELLE, FIRST	0.00	1,680.00	+	0.00	0.00	-
	HUNTSVILLE, FIRST	3,670.00	3,882.00	5.78	0.00	0.00	-
	HUNTSVILLE, GRATEFUL LIFE	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	HUNTSVILLE, PRIMERA IGLESIA	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	MADISON CHRISTIAN	595.00	3,247.00	445.71	0.00	310.00	+
DISTRICT II	VALHERMOSO SPRINGS, FIRST	0.00	130.00	+	150.00	0.00	-100.00
	ANNISTON, FIRST	200.00	0.00	-100.00	0.00	0.00	-
	ANNISTON, NUEVO COMIENZO			-			-
	BIRMINGHAM, FIRST	881.00	3,485.00	295.57	0.00	0.00	-
	BIRMINGHAM, NEW VISION	0.00	100.00	+	0.00	0.00	-
	BIRMINGHAM, MACEDONIA	50.00	110.00	120.00	50.00	0.00	-100.00
	BIRMINGHAM, ROEBUCK	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	BIRMINGHAM, PRIMERA IGLESIA	170.67	158.00	-7.42	0.00	0.00	-
	BIRMINGHAM, VALLEY	1,805.00	1,242.00	-31.19	0.00	0.00	-
	COTTONDALE CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	HELENA, GRACE	105.00	770.00	633.33	0.00	0.00	-
	JASPER, FIRST	25.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	MERIDIAN, MS, FIRST	7,980.00	4,896.00	-38.65	0.00	0.00	-
DISTRICT III	TUSCALOOSA, FIRST	705.00	995.00	41.13	0.00	0.00	-
	AUBURN, VILLAGE	470.00	518.00	10.21	0.00	0.00	-
	CAMP HILL, PLEASANT VIEW	93.31	111.81	19.83	0.00	0.00	-
	LANETT, FIRST	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	TALLASSEE, MACEDONIA	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, MT. CALVARY	96.00	0.00	-100.00	0.00	0.00	-
	TUSKEGEE, UNION	500.00	600.00	20.00	0.00	450.00	+
DISTRICT IV	VALLEY, FAIRFAX	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	VALLEY, FIRST OF RIVER VIEW	265.34	758.61	185.90	0.00	0.00	-
	DOTHAN, FIRST	100.00	100.00	=	100.00	0.00	-100.00
	FORT DEPOSIT, SNOW HILL	200.00	300.00	50.00	100.00	0.00	-100.00
	GREENVILLE, AMBASSADORS	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	GREENVILLE, HARRISON STREET	25.00	0.00	-100.00	0.00	0.00	-
	GREENVILLE, NEW BETHEL	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	HAYNEVILLE CHRISTIAN			-			-
	HAYNEVILLE, LITTLE UNION	150.00	150.00	=	0.00	0.00	-
	HAYNEVILLE, MOUNT ZION	50.00	0.00	-100.00	50.00	0.00	-100.00
	HAYNEVILLE, NEW SALEM	30.00	0.00	-100.00	0.00	0.00	-
	HAYNEVILLE, SELLERS MEMORIAL	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	HAYNEVILLE, WOODS CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	LETOHATCHEE, BIG UNION	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	LETOHATCHEE, MT. MORIAH	45.00	70.00	55.56	15.00	20.00	33.33
	LETOHATCHEE, NEW HOPE	0.00	151.00	+	100.00	0.00	-100.00
	MINTER, BRAGGS	1,640.00	1,440.00	-12.20	0.00	0.00	-
	MONTGOMERY, FIRST	2,398.00	1,470.00	-38.70	0.00	0.00	-
	MONTGOMERY, UNITED	0.00	100.00	+	0.00	0.00	-
DISTRICT V	MATHEWS, MOUNT PLEASANT	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	CENTURY, EDWARD POINT	25.00	0.00	-100.00	25.00	0.00	-100.00
	FAIRHOPE CHRISTIAN	1,097.00	1,519.00	38.47	0.00	100.00	+
	FOLEY, SOUTH BALDWIN	209.87	377.23	79.74	0.00	0.00	-
	FORT WALTON BEACH, FIRST	368.00	195.00	-47.01	0.00	0.00	-
	FORT WALTON BEACH, IGLESIA	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	MOBILE, AZALEA HILLS	316.00	0.00	-100.00	0.00	0.00	-
	PENSACOLA, FIRST	418.00	310.00	-25.84	0.00	0.00	-
	PENSACOLA, ARBOL DE VIDA	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
	PENSACOLA, WESTWOOD	95.00	88.00	-7.37	0.00	0.00	-
	ROBERTSDALE, FIRST	0.00	160.00	+	0.00	0.00	-
	SARALAND, OAKMONT	502.00	660.00	31.47	0.00	0.00	-
	CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AL/NW FL	0.00	1,008.00	+	0.00	0.00	-
TOTAL		28,631.19	33,827.65	18.15	709.00	880.00	24.12

NOTE: THIS REPORT COMPARES GIVING FROM JANUARY - JULY 2017 TO GIVING JANUARY - JULY 2018



September 30th & October 7th



www.reconciliationministry.org

Embracing the Call

Have you ever found yourself in the presence of someone who was greatly overwhelmed, and you felt powerless to ease their pain? Recently while participating in a meeting for a rally to highlight the plight of people living under the oppression of poverty, the moderator of the meeting was being criticized by the participants because he apparently made a decision without securing approval from the group. Because of this, the group felt left out and their emotions started getting reactive. Soon, I felt my own anxiety increasing. I took a deep breath and asked the group, "What do you need today?" Slowly, the tone of the meeting changed.

Words like trust, confidence, and fairness began to emerge. I wondered, "Is this not what God asks us every day, beckoning us to the ministry of reconciliation?" It seems as if in the midst of our tensions and anxieties God is asking us, "What do you need today to embrace my call?"

In the scripture preceding the well-known verse of Micah 6:8, The Message version reads, "How can I stand up before God and show proper respect to the high God?" The prophet ponders in response to God, "shall I give... the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" God has created and empowered each of us with numerous gifts, passions, and experiences for how we respond to the prophet Micah's question.

But, what if we changed the question? What if in the midst of our emotions, feelings, anxieties, and even as we ponder the sins of our souls, we stopped to ask God "What do you need from me today?" Last year's special offering reminded us that everyone has a story. Will you join us this year and let yours be one of doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with God?

Through your giving to Reconciliation Ministry, our churches are hosting "One Bag of Tea" conversations where everyone's voice is valued; our Youth are leading and teaching faith-rooted activism; and our leaders are developing and participating in educational opportunities that promote justice that heals and love that binds us together with our God and neighbors. Will you Embrace God's Call?

Will you support Reconciliation Ministry today?

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA
(Disciples of Christ)

RECONCILIATION GRANT APPLICATION
(For a Regional Partnership in Reconciliation Ministries)

NOTE: "Reconciliation Ministries" are understood to be congregational programs of education and outreach that address the issue of racism in North America and which have the effect of building racial understanding, healing, and harmony for participants in these programs. Congregations are encouraged to sponsor such programs and, if needed, request grants from the Reconciliation Fund. In the past, two or more congregations have formed partnerships in sponsoring Reconciliation Ministries. The Anti-Racism Team of the Region, which takes action on grant requests, encourages these partnerships and will look favorably upon grant applications that originate from such partnerships. The Anti-Racism Team also welcomes grant requests from Districts that need funding for special initiatives that intend to foster an anti-racist/pro-reconciliation identity.

Date _____

Name of Congregation (s) (or District) _____

Minister (or Contact Person) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please offer a brief description of the program which clearly states: (Attach a separate sheet)

- 1) the purpose, description, and anticipated goals of the program
- 2) the number of persons who will be involved in leadership of the program
- 3) the number of persons served through the program
- 4) the budget for the program, which itemizes anticipated expenses and lists sources of income for the program, including the amount the congregation(s) (or District) will allocate
- 5) any other relevant information concerning the history and development of this program

Amount of Funds Requested _____

Do you anticipate making additional grant applications for this program in the future? _____
(Yes or No)

Signature of Person Completing Form _____

Role/Position in the Congregation _____

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA
(Disciples of Christ)

MILDRED B. WATSON MEMORIAL FUND

Purpose

The Mildred B. Watson Memorial Fund is a permanent fund established by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region, in partnership with Valley Christian Church, Birmingham, and the Christian Church Foundation, that will provide annual income to support leadership education for persons in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. Mildred Watson supported the entire Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and had a strong desire to see young people and young adults gain exposure to the ministries of the wider church. She valued education for all Disciples and she particularly wanted to see ministers have the education, resources, and support they need for their service to the church. The Mildred B. Watson Memorial Fund will provide resources which address these commitments that were dear to Mildred Watson during her lifetime.

APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE WATSON FUND

Name of Applicant:

Date of Application

Address of Applicant

City

State

Zip Code

E-Mail Address of Applicant

Phone Number of Applicant

Congregation Where Applicant is a Member

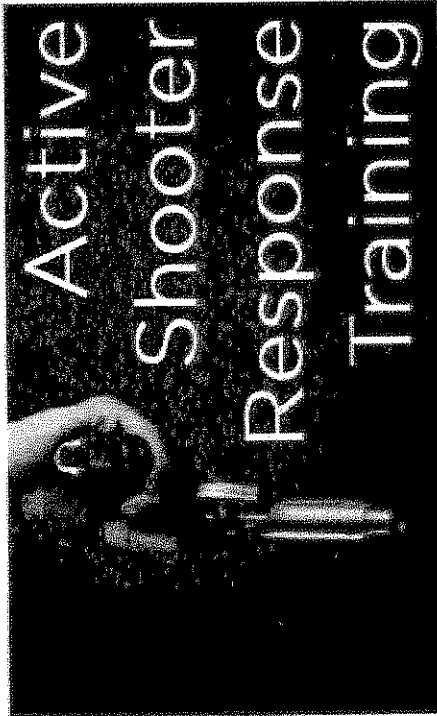
Minister's Name

Based on the Purpose of the Mildred B. Watson Memorial Fund, as described above, please attach a separate sheet summarizing the opportunity for which you are requesting a grant and how it relates to the purpose of the Watson Fund. (Please limit to one page)

What is the total amount needed to participate in this opportunity. \$ _____

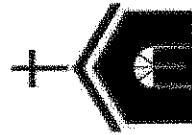
Of this amount, how much will you be able to pay? _____ How much do you anticipate obtaining from other sources, if any? _____

What amount are you requesting from the Watson Fund? _____



YOU ARE INVITED!

Insurance Board is hosting a FREE workshop on Saturday, September 15, at 2:00 p.m., at Snow Hill Christian Church in Mt. Willing!



INSURANCE BOARD
Partners in Protection

Email Don Taylor at Donandsonja1@aol.com to register. **Register by September 1!**

In light of recent tragedies involving armed assailants entering our churches and other institutions, our churches are asking:

- How best to protect their members particularly on limited budgets
- Whether to use armed security guards or local church members with a concealed carry permit
- What to expect from their insurance policy if an incident happens
- How law enforcement will respond

This workshop is designed to give you the information you need to develop a plan best suited to your church. **There is no cost to participate.**

Elizabeth Vance

Manager, Marketing & Communications



INSURANCE BOARD
Partners in Protection

700 Prospect Ave • Cleveland, OH 44115 • 216.736.3243 • 800.437.8830 ext. 3243
evance@InsuranceBoard.org • www.InsuranceBoard.org

Children Worship & Wonder Training Event

Date: Fri. September 14, 6p–9pm
Sat. September 15, 9am–5pm

Location: Union Christian Church
1111 Co Rd 69
Tuskegee, AL 36083

Cost: \$120 per person
Plus purchase of book
Young Children and Worship

Register online:

www.discipleshomemissions.org/

Deadline: September 7, 2018
(Cost after deadline: \$150)

For more information or to register by phone:

(317) 713-2641

Marissa Ivey, Ministry Associate



Trainer: Jane Nettles
Auburn, AL





Women's Fall Retreat

"ONE IN THE SPIRIT"

September 28 thru September 30th

YMCA Camp Chandler, Wetumpka, AL

What to Bring: Bible, bedding, sheets, pillow, blanket, towels, toiletries, casual wear, rain gear, new or used items for silent audition, journal or writing materials, coffee cup, water bottle. Shoes!! They must be worn at all times ☺ Camp Chandler does not rent linen supplies.

Donations for the Well House will be collected: Debit cards and/or toiletries.

Important Information: "In consideration of others we request no children at this event."

Registration: Begins on Friday, September 28th at 3:30 p.m. Retreat begins with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Retreat ends Sunday at 10 a.m. All guest must register and receive name tag and/or bed assignment.

Method of payment: mail checks to the Regional office or pay electronically. No money for registration will be collected at the retreat. All funds must be submitted to the Regional Office before the Retreat.

Mailing address: Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 Checks Pay to: Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida

Electronically: <http://www.alnwfldisciples.org/>

Cost: Weekend: \$130 / early bird \$115 *EARLY BIRD DATE IS SEPTEMBER 7, 2018*

Friday Only \$50 / early bird \$35 (1 meal, no lodging)

Saturday Only \$100 /early bird \$75 (3 meals, no lodging)

Non-registered persons are not eligible to take the place of persons already registered unless the exchange is communicated with the Regional Office at least 5 days prior to the start of the event.



FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

September 28 – September 30, 2018

YMCA Camp Chandler, Wetumpka, AL

REGISTRATION FORM

"ONE IN THE SPIRIT"

Resource Leader Rev. Pat Donahoo, Executive Director of Disciples of Christ Women's Ministries

NAME _____

CONGREGATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL _____

E-MAIL _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST RETREAT? YES NO HOW MANY RETREATS HAVE YOU ATTENDED? ____

_____ I NEED A LOWER BUNK BECAUSE OF PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

_____ I NEED TO BE NEAR AN ELECTRICAL OUTLET BECAUSE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

_____ I NEED SPECIAL SEATING _____ I NEED TRANSPORTATION FOR WORKSHOPS

ROOMMATE REQUEST _____

IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY RESTRICTIONS PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SPECIAL MEALS AND THE CAMP WILL PREPARE IT. Microwave & refrigerator are available.

No money for registration will be collected at the retreat. All funds must be submitted to the Regional Office before the Retreat.

Mail this form to:

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080

Make checks payable to: Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida

Fee enclosed: _____ Friday only (\$50 or \$35 if postmarked by Sept 7th.)
_____ Saturday only (\$100 or \$75 if postmarked by Sept 7th.)
_____ Full Weekend (\$130 or \$115 if postmarked by Sept 7th.)

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ONLY APPLIES IF REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT ARE POSTMARKED BY SEPTEMBER 7TH. NO PARTIAL PAYMENTS ACCEPTED.

REFUND POLICY

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region: 100% refund for emergencies, provided that notification is received prior to the beginning of the event; 50% refund for emergencies in which notification (written) is made after the beginning of the event; 100% for non-emergencies if requested in writing at least seven days prior to the first day of the event; No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations after seven days prior to the beginning of the event. Written requests for refunds must be received by the Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 (email <alnwfl@aol.com.>), within seven days of the last day of the event.

While refunds are not available other than as outlined in this policy, substitutions will be allowed as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, is able to locate an eligible participant who is able to take the slot and as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, communicates this information to the Regional Office. The Region will not be responsible in assisting in identifying a substitute. Notification should be provided to the Regional Office as soon as possible and any substitute must complete the necessary paperwork prior to arrival at the event.

Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010

ADDENDUM

Non-registered persons are NOT eligible to take the place of persons who have already registered unless they communicate the exchange with the Regional Office at least 5 days prior to the start of the event. A late fee will be assessed as required by the Fee Schedule.

Approved by the Regional Board, February 24, 2018

Seventeenth Annual

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT

Wednesday, Nov. 7 - Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018

(Begins at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday and concludes by 1:30 p.m. on Thursday)

“Hear Me!”

Retreat Leader:

Melvia Carter

Elder, Snow Hill Christian Church, Mt. Willing, AL

ST. BERNARD RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

1600 St. Bernard Drive, Cullman, AL 35055 (Phone: 256-734-3946)

(at I-65, exit #308, go about 3-4 miles on Hwy. 278 E., to the retreat center entrance)

Cost Options

\$100/person, double occupancy room w/ 2 twin beds (Early-Bird cost is \$90)

\$125/person, single occupancy room w/ 2 twin beds (Early-Bird cost is \$115)

\$70/person for participants lodging off-site (Early-Bird cost is \$60)

****Limited Financial Aid is Available upon Request****

Early-Bird Deadline is October 17, 2018
--

Christian Church in Alabama-NW Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT - Wednesday, Nov. 7 - Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018
St. Bernard Retreat Center, 1600 St. Bernard Drive - Cullman, AL 35055 (Phone: 256-734-3946)
(at I-65, exit #308, about 3-4 miles on Hwy. 278 E. to the retreat center entrance)

“Hear Me!”

Led by: Melvia Carter, Elder, Snow Hill Christian Church, Mt. Willing, AL

REGISTRATION FORM

(Please use separate form for each person registering)

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

_____ Phone Number _____

Home Congregation _____

*****Please describe any dietary restrictions, food allergies, or physical limitations on a separate sheet.***

Please check **ONE** of the following options:

Option One [Enclose \$100 with this form (before October 17, pay only \$90)]

(Option One includes registration and all four meals at St. Bernard Retreat Center.)

_____ I am planning to room in the dormitory (double occupancy) at St. Bernard Retreat Center.

_____ I plan to room with _____.

_____ Please assign a roommate.

Option Two [Enclose \$125 with this form (before October 17, pay only \$115)]

(Option Two includes registration and all four meals at St. Bernard Retreat Center.)

_____ I am planning to room in the dormitory at St. Bernard Retreat Center without a roommate.

Option Three [Enclose \$70 with this form (before October 17, pay only \$60)]

(Option Three includes registration, plus four meals at St. Bernard Retreat Center: lunch and dinner on Wednesday, and breakfast and lunch on Thursday.)

_____ I am planning to find lodging on Wednesday somewhere other than St. Bernard Retreat Center.

Note: Those choosing to stay at a hotel may make their reservations directly with their hotel of choice.

Send appropriate payment with this registration form to:
Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080

Early-Bird Deadline is October 17, 2018

REFUND POLICY

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region: 100% refund for emergencies, provided that notification is received prior to the beginning of the event; 50% refund for emergencies in which notification (written) is made after the beginning of the event; 100% for non-emergencies if requested in writing at least seven days prior to the first day of the event; No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations after seven days prior to the beginning of the event. Written requests for refunds must be received by the Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 (email <alnwfl@aol.com.>), within seven days of the last day of the event.

While refunds are not available other than as outlined in this policy, substitutions will be allowed as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, is able to locate an eligible participant who is able to take the slot and as long as the original registrant, or responsible adult, communicates this information to the Regional Office. The Region will not be responsible in assisting in identifying a substitute. Notification should be provided to the Regional Office as soon as possible and any substitute must complete the necessary paperwork prior to arrival at the event.

Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010

ADDENDUM

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Approved by the Regional Board, February 24, 2018

2019 Youthtopia

Winter Retreat for Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12)

At **CAMP CHANDLER**

www.campchandler.org

**Join us as we enjoy a weekend of games, challenges,
and adventures led by your
Regional Youth Council**

WHEN: January 18-20, 2019

(Begins at 7:00 pm Friday - ends at 10:00 am Sunday)

Cost: \$130.00 (includes lodging, meals, snacks, and T-shirt)

Each church is expected to provide one paid registered adult for every 1-6 youth attending the event. All adults attending must register and pay fees.

What to Bring?

BIBLE
Offering
Sleeping bag/ bedding
Fitted twin sheet/Pillow
Toiletries
Towel

SNACKS to share
(Girls Sweet and Boys Salty)

Sturdy shoes
Flashlight
Jacket/ Raincoat
Camera
Closed toe shoes for high ropes
Bug spray

We Are a Drug-Free Community - no drugs, alcohol, or tobacco!!!!

YOUTH REGISTRATION FORM FOR Youthtopia
DEADLINE: January 8th, 2019

**Complete this from along with the Medical Information and Agreement page
and mail to:**

Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Hwy 52, Helena, AL 35080

NAME _____

M/F _____ GRADE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

T-SHIRT SIZE - _____

(subject to availability if registration is not received by deadline)

CONGREGATION _____

(Include City) _____

ADULT CHAPERONE ACCOMPANYING YOU:

**2019 COVENANT for Participants
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA**

Please read (or have read to you) the following. Sign this covenant, obtain parent signature and mail with completed camp registration form and appropriate fees. Thank you for your help!

- I will come to retreat expecting to grow in my faith and in relationship with others, becoming a special part of the retreat community. In order to do this, I covenant to follow all the rules and guidelines set by the Christian Church in Alabama Northwest Florida and any others set for this event. With this, I commit myself to the following: To be on time, attend and be attentive for all activities and participate in them fully
- Have fun and make sure everyone else has a great time
- To respect each other regardless of age and to respect others' feelings and thoughts
- I will not go from adult to adult until I get the answer I want
- Be myself and open to making new friends
- Be inclusive at all times
- Cooperate with the leaders, keynoter, director and other staff members at all times
- Be respectful of God's beauty in this special place and only leave footprints behind
- To take all that I learn about God and share it with my friends, family and church

Youth Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

2019 MEDICAL INFORMATION AND RELEASE
MEDICAL HISTORY

Please answer with (yes or no):

- _____ Do you have any health problems?
- _____ Are you currently under the care of a physician or psychologist?
- _____ Do you require handicapped-accessible facilities?
- _____ Do you have any food or other allergies?
- _____ Do you expect to have any difficulty with normal event activities?
- _____ Do you take any prescription medication?

Detail All Medical and Dietary Issues Below:
(if more room is needed, please attach a sheet to this form)

Circle Below: Should your child be allowed appropriate over-the-counter medications to be given as needed?

Yes or No

SIGNATURE, AGREEMENT AND RELEASE:

In case of emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp director to hospitalize, order injections, anesthesia or surgery for the child named above in order to secure necessary, proper medical care. I understand that I will be contacted immediately in the event that something unforeseen happens requiring my attention. I release the Noah's Ark staff and management, camp directors and counselors, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida and its staff, from all responsibilities in case of sickness or accidents causing injury occurring during camp. I have provided proof of insurance to those in charge.

Signature of Parent/Guardian
(Signature required regardless of age of camper)

Emergency Contact(s) Name & Phone Number:

Insurance Information:

Name of Insurance Company, Address and Telephone Number

Member Name Member ID

**THIS MEDICAL FORM MUST BE COMPLETED TO
PROCESS YOUR REGISTRATION.**

YMCA OF GREATER MONTGOMERY – CAMP CHANDLER
RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY
AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration for being permitted to utilize the facilities, services and programs of The Young Men's Christian Association of Montgomery, Inc. ("YMCA"), the undersigned, on behalf of himself or herself and his or her heirs, personal representatives and next-of-kin, does hereby agree to the following:

1. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY RELEASES, WAIVES, DISCHARGES AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE the YMCA, its successors and assigns, and its directors, officers, employees, and agents (collectively, the Releasees) from any and all claims, demands, damages, actions, causes of actions, or suits of whatever kind or nature arising or resulting from any loss or damage to property or injury or death to person, whether caused by the negligence of Releasees or otherwise, while he or she is in, upon, or about the premises of the YMCA or using any of its facilities, services or equipment, or participating in any program or activity offered by or affiliated with the YMCA.
2. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the Releasees and each of them from any loss, liability, damage, or cost they may incur, whether caused by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, due to his or her presence in, upon, or about the premises of the YMCA or use of its facilities, services or equipment, or participation in any program or activity offered by or affiliated with the YMCA.
3. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY EXPRESSLY ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND RISK OF BODILY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, whether caused by the negligence of Releasees or otherwise, while he or she is in, upon, or about the premises of the YMCA or using any of its facilities, services or equipment, or participating in any program or activity offered by or affiliated with the YMCA.

In the event of injury, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Releasees to provide or cause to provide such medical care and treatment to him or her as may be necessary and appropriate. The undersigned understands that he or she is solely responsible for all costs incurred for such medical care or treatment.

The undersigned hereby gives his or her permission to the YMCA to use indefinitely, without limitation or obligation, photographs, film footage, or tape recordings which may include the image or voice of the undersigned for the purpose of promoting or interpreting YMCA programs and activities.

I HAVE READ AND VOLUNTARILY SIGN THIS FORM AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.

Signature of Participant

Date

Parent or Guardian of Minor Child or Ward

I, as parent or guardian of the above named minor, hereby give my permission for my child or ward to participate in any program or activity offered by or associated with the YMCA and further agree, individually and on behalf of said minor or ward, to be bound by all of the terms set forth above.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

CHAPERONE REGISTRATION FORM FOR Youthtopia

DEADLINE: January 7th, 2019

Complete this page along with Medical Form and Covenant page and mail to:
Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida, 861 Hwy 52, Helena, AL 35080

NAME _____

M/F _____

Have You Completed Safe Gatherings Training? ☐ Yes ☐ No

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

T-SHIRT SIZE - _____

(subject to availability if registration is not received by deadline)

CONGREGATION _____

(INCLUDE CITY) _____

Safe Gatherings trainings is required for ALL Regional Youth Volunteers. If you have not already completed this training, please contact Nisha7@aol.com to begin the process. While adults are allowed to attend events without the training, they are not able to serve in the full capacity of leadership during the weekend. The process can take several weeks so please contact Nisha ASAP if you need to complete Safe Gatherings.

**2019 COVENANT for Participants
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
IN ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA**

*Please read (or have read to you) the following.
Sign this covenant, obtain parent signature and
mail with completed camp registration form and
appropriate fees. Thank you for your help!*

- I will come to retreat expecting to grow in my faith and in relationship with others, becoming a special part of the retreat community. In order to do this, I covenant to follow all the rules and guidelines set by the Christian Church in Alabama Northwest Florida and any others set for this event. With this, I commit myself to the following:
To be on time, attend and be attentive for all activities and participate in them fully
- Have fun and make sure everyone else has a great time
- To respect each other regardless of age and to respect others' feelings and thoughts
- I will not go from adult to adult until I get the answer I want
- Be myself and open to making new friends
- Be inclusive at all times
- Cooperate with the leaders, keynoter, director and other staff members at all times
- Be respectful of God's beauty in this special place and only leave footprints behind
- To take all that I learn about God and share it with my friends, family and church

Signature

2019 MEDICAL INFORMATION AND RELEASE
MEDICAL HISTORY

Please answer with (yes or no):

- _____ Do you have any health problems?
- _____ Are you currently under the care of a physician or psychologist?
- _____ Do you require handicapped-accessible facilities?
- _____ Do you have any food or other allergies?
- _____ Do you expect to have any difficulty with normal event activities?
- _____ Do you take any prescription medication?

Detail All Medical and Dietary Issues Below:
(if more room is needed, please attach a sheet to this form)

SIGNATURE, AGREEMENT AND RELEASE:

In case of emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp director to hospitalize, order injections, anesthesia or surgery for the child named above in order to secure necessary, proper medical care. I understand that I will be contacted immediately in the event that something unforeseen happens requiring my attention. I release the Noah's Ark staff and management, camp directors and counselors, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida and its staff, from all responsibilities in case of sickness or accidents causing injury occurring during camp. I have provided proof of insurance to those in charge.

Emergency Contact(s) Name & Phone Number:

Insurance Information:

Name of Insurance Company, Address and Telephone Number

Member Name Member ID

**THIS MEDICAL FORM MUST BE COMPLETED
TO PROCESS YOUR REGISTRATION.**

YOUNG ADULT WINTER RETREAT

**YMCA-Camp Chandler
near Wetumpka, Alabama**

January 18 -20, 2019

Theme

“Faithful Citizenship”

Guest Facilitator

Rev. Tabitha Isner

Disciples Minister in Montgomery, Alabama

Cost – \$50 per person

(This event is subsidized by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region)

The Young Adult Winter Retreat is open to all who consider themselves to be young adults in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. Persons in this group might be students, and non-students, married or single, with children and without children. Young adults in Alabama-Northwest Florida are a diverse group, yet they all are needing to be nurtured in their faith and strengthened through their fellowship with one another. Being together in the retreat setting will allow participants to grow closer to God and to each other.

Christian Church in Alabama-NW Florida, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080

YOUNG ADULT WINTER RETREAT 2019

(With Rev. Tabitha Isner, Ordained Minister in Montgomery, Alabama)

January 18 - 20, 2019 ---- YMCA-Camp Chandler

Check-in begins as early as 4:00 p.m. on Friday. The Retreat officially begins after dinner on Friday at 7:00 p.m. and ends Sunday morning after worship and before lunch

Please note: Lodging is dormitory-style.

Attendees are reminded to bring their own bedding, towels, and toiletries.

“Faithful Citizenship”

----- Please detach and return -----

REGISTRATION FORM

(Use a separate form for each person)

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone No.: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Congregation _____

**Please note any food allergies on this form.

Any young adult who is wanting to participate in this event but who is unable to pay the registration fee is asked to contact John Mobley <jpmobley2@aol.com>. Limited financial assistance may be available. All grants will be kept confidential.

<p>Please enclose payment of \$50 with this Registration Form Payment must be received by January 11, 2019.</p>

Mail To:

Christian Church in AL-NW FL, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 Phone (205-425-5245) Fax (205-425-5246)

REFUND POLICY

Refund Policy for events sponsored by the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region: 100% refund for emergencies, provided that notification is received prior to the beginning of the event; 50% refund for emergencies in which notification (written) is made after the beginning of the event; 100% for non-emergencies if requested in writing at least seven days prior to the first day of the event; No refunds will be given for non-emergency cancellations after seven days prior to the beginning of the event. Written requests for refunds must be received by the Regional Office, 861 Highway 52, Helena, AL 35080 (email <alnwfl@aol.com.>), within seven days of the last day of the event.

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Approved by the Regional Board, February 20, 2010

ADDENDUM

Non-registered persons are NOT eligible to take the place of persons who have already registered unless they communicate the exchange with the Regional Office at least 5 days prior to the start of the event. A late fee will be assessed as required by the Fee Schedule.

Approved by the Regional Board, February 24, 2018



Christian Church In Alabama - Northwest Florida

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

861 Highway 52 * HELENA, AL 35080 * (205)-425-5245*(205)-425-5246 - Fax

*Email: ALNWFL@aol.com or JPMOBLEY2@aol.com

THE PARISH PAPER

SEPTEMBER 2018

CHECKING UP ON CLERGY HEALTH

ASSESSING THE COST OF SACRED WORK

Many people feel called to their work and respond to job demands in ways that reflect a sense of vocation. But do we expect clergy to perform their calling with even greater devotion and sacrifice? Because clergy define their work as sacred, taking care of themselves may always be a lower priority. One writer describes the high cost of sacred work in this way: "if your back-drop is burning bushes and having a child at age ninety, or if it's bumping into an angel with premarital plans for you . . . who are you to turn down a relatively minor request like leaving vacation to perform a funeral?"¹

The Latest Numbers

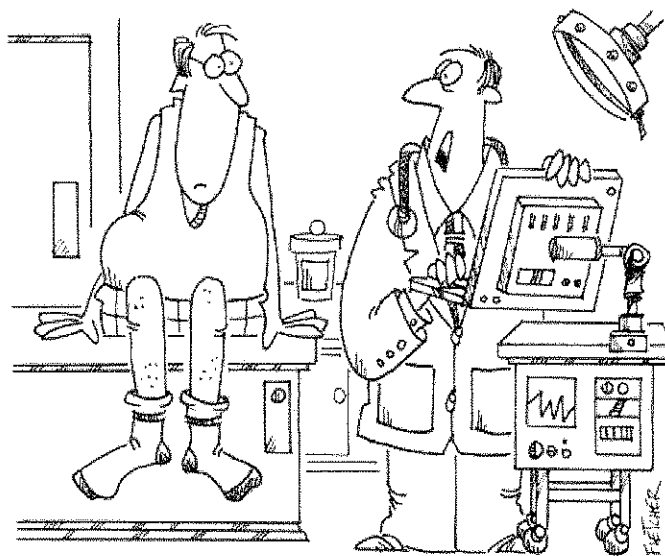
Findings from a ten-year, longitudinal study suggest that unraveling all the complexities of clergy health and well-being is not easy. Although the study drew from a large number of United Methodist clergy, the research results mirror findings from other Protestant clergy samples. This landmark study also carefully tracked intervention efforts and evaluated how individual clergy might change their health status and habits over time.²

Physical health. Just as health insurance costs for the general population continue to climb, the same holds true for clergy. In fact, these costs for clergy remain higher, partly because clergy submit more health care claims.³ National studies reveal clergy have higher rates of obesity than the general population, regardless of age. Obesity causes and complicates other health issues, especially chronic diseases, such as diabetes, arthritis, asthma, and heart disease.⁴ Lack of exercise and a damaging diet contribute to weight gain as well as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, stress, and other health negatives.

Mental health. Levels of depression among clergy remain higher than the U.S. population as well. The study found 8.7% of clergy suffer from some depression (compared to 5.5% of the U.S. population). Both male and female clergy demonstrated these higher-than-average rates of depressive symptoms. This surprising finding runs counter to what appears in the general population, where

females typically present much higher depression rates than males. However, among clergy, the opposite pattern surfaces: twice as many male clergy report depressive symptoms compared to males in the U.S. (8.8% to 4.4%).⁵

What might be some of the causes behind these higher clergy depression rates? There are probably more reasons than can be explored here, but some possibilities include aging (the average age of clergy continues to scale upward), side effects of medications, long hours, presence of congregational conflict, unrealistic clergy expectations about ministry, excessive demands by congregants, and serving as the first line of support in difficult life circumstances (illness, death, divorce).⁶ Yet another factor could be self-selection. Some clergy who went through traumatic life events may seek out ministry as a healing experience. Their own life encounters could make them especially sympathetic to others' suffering and form their approach to ministry. Henry Nouwen wrote about "the wounded healer," who exemplifies how one's own suffering can serve as a source of strength and hope for others.⁷



"WALKING THE WALK ISN'T ENOUGH...
IT'S TIME TO TRY SOME LIGHT JOGGING."

The good news: More than two-thirds of the study's clergy qualified as "flourishing" compared to only about half of the U.S. population. Clergy are more likely to report being happy, satisfied with their life, filled with a sense of direction and meaning, and enjoying many warm and trusting relationships.⁸ What appears to be a contradictory finding, given the higher-than-average depression rates, confirms what other researchers discovered. Clergy consistently demonstrate remarkable resiliency and better-than-average psychological and social functioning. These measured positives simply do not lie on the same continuum as depression, anxiety, or stress.

Hope-Filled Implications

What do these recent results say to clergy, those who care about them, and those who wish to see congregations strengthened by healthy leadership?

For clergy. After hearing about the health initiative, large numbers of clergy wanted to participate in the health program—so many that new groups had to start in waves every six months. The protocol called for assessment on key components of physical health once they agreed to participate, including weight, waist circumference, blood pressure, HDL cholesterol, and triglycerides. Even before clergy began to participate fully in the program, they showed significant improvements in these metabolic syndrome indicators, which are linked to heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Awareness and frequent monitoring of physical health indicators resulted in improved outcomes and seeing improvements helped motivate pastors to stick to an exercise plan and continue healthy eating. Screening for potential risks and access to health care is essential for long-term outcomes.

Unfortunately, the program failed to decrease rates of depression or stress symptoms. Although pastors were encouraged to nurture their family and friendships, other components of mental and social health—financial and other context stressors—went largely unaddressed.⁹ These findings underscore that clergy cannot obtain better health alone without the support of congregations and their denominational leaders.

For congregations. Lay leaders play an important role in supporting healthy behaviors in clergy. Encourage the pastor to take a day off a week, pursue a relaxing hobby or interest, get regular exercise, and spend time with family and friends. Other ways to provide stress-reducing support include honoring the boundary between ministry and personal time, offering a

Sabbatical, providing funds for continuing education or personal study (books), or granting time for participation in clergy peer groups.¹⁰ Refrain from insisting that every ministry task is equally important and must be carried out by the pastor. When pastors find ways to spend more time on their joy-filled ministry tasks, they feel greater satisfaction in ministry.

For denominations. The most highly satisfied pastors cite their denomination as a critical partner in their ministry effectiveness. Judicatory leaders can advocate for adequate salaries, housing allowances, healthcare benefits, and pensions, even for clergy in part-time positions. And they can encourage pastors to seek help with physical, psychological, or family issues.

Too many denominations struggle to provide health care resources at the regional or judicatory level. Because the bargaining advantage of national-level organizations yields better and more cost-effective benefit plans, denominations should explore new, national strategies. Further, the obligation to ensure access to full benefits and equal compensation, regardless of age, gender, or race, rests with denominational bodies.

Assessing the Rewards

For clergy: What gives you joy? How does your passion for ministry best connect to your congregation's needs?

For congregations: Have people in the congregation made too many demands on the pastor during the past year? How often have people been critical of things the pastor has done? How does your congregation make the pastor feel loved and appreciated?

For denominations: Do we regularly check in with our clergy to listen to their concerns and needs? How are we planning to improve the ministry environment to promote better clergy health?

1. Rae Jean Proeschold-Bell and Jason Byassee, *Faithful and Fractured: Responding to the Clergy Health Crisis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2018), 24.

2. *Ibid.*, xx-xxii.

3. *Ibid.*, xvi.

4. *Ibid.*, 84.

5. *Ibid.*, 37-38.

6. *Ibid.*, 3.

7. Henri J. M. Nouwen, *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society* (New York City: Doubleday, 1972).

8. Proeschold-Bell and Byassee, 114.

9. Cynthia Woolever, "Big Ministry Trends for 2014," *The Parish Paper*, January, 2014.

10. Cynthia Woolever, "How to Avoid Pastor Burnout," *The Parish Paper*, January, 2013.



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THE PARISH PAPER

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DON'T DISAGREE, DELIBERATE

HOW TO LEAD COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS IN YOUR CHURCH

The church is no stranger to controversy. Chapter 15 of the Book of Acts describes a heated debate among the apostles at a gathering in Jerusalem. Should Gentiles be welcomed as Jesus' followers or only Jews who kept Moses' law by getting circumcised? When they resolved the matter, the letter they sent out to the churches acknowledged God's work in the midst of disagreement: "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us," they wrote, that even non-Jews should be welcomed (Acts 15:28). Yet if disagreement about church matters can be holy, what about community matters? Should church leaders ever discuss issues of public concern and ask community members to join them? If so, how?

Creating Space for Conversation

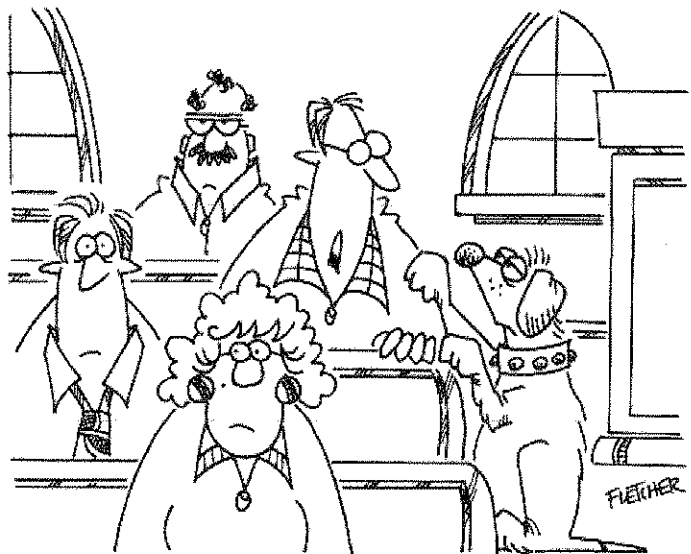
During an election season, some churches offer forums in which candidates for public office speak to the community about public issues. According to one research study, 16% of mainline Protestants, 12% of other Protestants, and 8% of Roman Catholics are members of congregations that hosted such forums.¹ In addition to candidate forums, a newer model has emerged for discussing issues of public concern that emphasizes fairness and respect among participants. Sometimes called a "deliberative forum," this highly structured meeting is designed so that everyone gets a chance to speak and provide their perspective, others listen respectfully, and all in attendance discuss the options so that the best solutions emerge.² While deliberative forums go by many names and take a variety of forms, they all share a structured process, one that requires advance preparation from the participants and aims to include a diverse group of people.³

A Deliberate Process for Deliberative Work

The Reverend R. Gregg Kaufman, an Evangelical Lutheran pastor in Jacksonville, Florida, began experimenting with deliberative forums as a way to introduce churches to dialogue about public issues. The inspiration

for Reverend Kaufman's work came from the Kettering Foundation (www.kettering.org), a nonprofit foundation that gathers community leaders to find ways to make democracy work better. With advice from a group of pastors hosted by Kettering, Reverend Kaufman began to use deliberative forums in several churches in the Jacksonville area. A few months before the presidential election in 2016, Kaufman held one at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral on the topic of political dysfunction.

Using a guide designed by the National Issues Forum Institute, *Political Fix: How Can We Get American Politics Back On Track?* Kaufman laid out the process for the group: First, he invited everyone to speak about a personal stake they have in the issue. Next, he presented ground rules that emphasized listening and respect. Then he added a twist: no talk about the Trump/Pence or Clinton/Kaine presidential tickets. The goal was to find ways to talk about political dysfunction and solutions to the problem in a way that



"JUST RELAX, BUDDY...
THEY SAID EVERYONE WOULD GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK."

encouraged respectful speaking and listening. The issue guide presents three options for consideration:

1. Break the grip of special interests: The key to addressing gridlock and dysfunction in government is to rein in special interests and curb the influence of big money.
2. Increase responsibility: Our best hope of fixing American politics is to restore individual responsibility in communities and at every level of government.
3. Fix the mechanisms of politics: The mechanisms of government are no longer responsive to the will of the people. We need major structural changes to make the system work as it was intended to.

Discussing politics with strangers can be intimidating, even with topics that might appear easy to reach consensus about. Some participants arrived at the meeting tense, expecting heated arguments. Before the discussion got very far along, however, the tenor of the group began to shift. “Speech that was like shaky steps on thin ice began to take on the feel of a driveway basketball game,” according to an observer who later wrote about the evening. Kaufman has held over a dozen such forums in the Jacksonville area, with most of them using churches as sponsors or to provide the venue.⁴

Deliberative work tends to be exploratory and open to revision. Meetings are designed so that everyone gets a chance to speak and listen respectfully. The goal is to move toward understanding, find some common ground, and identify possible solutions. For this reason, the National Issues Forum Institute (www.nifi.org) provides four-page printed guides that present three different and sharply defined policy options. The guide asks participants to examine the options together, keeping in mind the trade-offs or disadvantages implicit in each one.

Creating a Process for Your Church: An Example

When rhetoric becomes heated around a specific community issue, church-based forums give participants the chance to cool their tempers. In 2015, for example, in the midst of public concern over police violence and community safety, two Tennessee pastors joined forces to encourage dialogue. Oak Ridge, Tennessee is also known as the “Secret City” because it was established in the 1940s as a community for workers in the federally sponsored Manhattan Project, which built the first atomic bomb. Over time, this city of 29,000 has become increas-

ingly diverse. In the summer of 2015, the largely white Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church responded to outrage over police violence nationwide by posting a message on its electronic sign: Black Lives Matter. When the pastor, the Reverend Jake Morrill, began receiving death threats, he called a meeting with his colleague, the Reverend Derrick Hammond, pastor of Oak Valley Baptist Church, a largely African American congregation in the city. At that meeting, also attended by a Roman Catholic priest and the city’s chief of police, the group decided to take the sign down and host a series of three public forums called “Community Matters.”

After considerable discussion, the group designed a process for discussing the community’s issues fairly and in depth. The process aimed to: identify the issues of most concern to the community, do research using quantitative data that would offer an objective basis for understanding the concern, identify resources that might improve the situation, and resolve the issue by taking collective action. The ground rules were simple. Participants were to 1) speak as an individual, not as a representative of a group, 2) speak to concerns without laying blame or personal attacks, and 3) “Remember there is no room for disrespect.”⁵

If Not Us, Then Who?

“One who spares words is knowledgeable; one who is cool in spirit has understanding” (Proverbs 17:27). Group discussion does not have to be twisted by anger or marred by disrespect. Deliberation is possible, even concerning controversial matters such as immigration, gun violence, or the opioid epidemic. By hosting forums, church leaders can offer a space where difficult issues get raised, and though perhaps not resolved, at least considered respectfully and fairly. Along the way, churches might help their members as well as community residents learn how to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39).

1. Mark Chaves, “Religious Variations in Public Presence,” in Robert Wuthnow and John Evans, eds., *The Quiet Hand of God*, (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2002), 118.

2. Tina Nabatchi and Matt Leighninger, *Public Participation for the 21st Century* (Hoboken, NJ: Jossey-Bass, 2015), 276.

3. Ibid., 276.

4. Linell Ajello, “Out of the Shadows of Polarization,” *Kettering Review* 34, no. 1 (Fall 2017), 23-29.

5. Derrick Hammond, “Employing Democratic Practices to Address Community Forum Concerns” presented to the Kettering Foundation, October 20-21, 2016.