

The Virginia Christian



January, 2025

www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian

Clergy News

Rev. Frances Stanley's father passed away and services were held on January 16th at Slash Christian Church. Memorial gifts may be made to the Disciples Week of Compassion at <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/give.html>
You can send a note to Frances at frances.stanley@icloud.com

Rev. Gary Page. It is with profound sadness and enduring hope in Christ to inform you of the passing of our beloved Reverend Gary Page. Pastor Page was a devoted husband, father, and faithful servant of the LORD. As we mourn his loss, we find solace in the promise of eternal life and the assurance that he is now in the presence of our Savior. We respectfully request your prayers for his family, that they may experience God's peace and strength during this difficult time. Funeral Service 1:00 pm Friday, January 31 at Clark S. Brown & Sons Chapel.

Rev. Clyde Maynard Powell, Jr. who served at First Christian Church in Pulaski some years ago passed away. His last full-time calling was at Sixth Street Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Middletown, IN, where he served from 1996 until 2014. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to **Ballard and Sons Funeral Home** in Middletown. Memorial contributions can be sent to The Middletown Food Pantry, Middletown Fire Department, Middletown EMS or the Middletown Library. You may express a condolence or share a memory of Maynard at www.ballardandsons.com.

Pastor Robert Smith has retired! After serving as distinguished Pastor at Jerusalem Christian Church for 17 years, Pastor Smith preached his last sermon on Sunday, December 29, 2024. Pastor Smith served Jerusalem Christian Church after the Rev. Eugene Reynolds retired. As Pastor, his members report that he is a great leader, mentor and educator. We pray God's bountiful blessings upon Pastor Smith and his son Randall as they move forward in life in the Lord. You may email him at robertsmithcv@comcast.net

Pastor Ruth Duenez Harrison was approved for full commissioning to ministry and the service was held at the Church of the Covenant in Lynchburg, where she was officially installed as the Co-Lead pastor of the Church of the Covenant. You can send a note of congratulations to harrisonruthie@yahoo.com

BSD



Disciples Good News Podcast/Zoom Show Coming Soon

This Podcast is a partnership between regions and will lift up stories of congregations/ministries that have found a way to grow and thrive. The hope is to allow people to tell their story of how they were able to find a way forward with GOD into a ministry that is making a difference. Too often we just want to buy a kit or read about something that worked and copy it in our situation and too often it does not work. Our hope with this podcast is to lift up the stories with the belief that they will inspire not so much the copying of the end result but the organic process and discernment that lead to the growth and faithful purpose. Some of these stories will come from Virginia while others will come from across this great movement of ours called the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada. Stay Tuned!



225 in 2025 to the General Assembly this Summer!

My friend and current Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada, Elder Clyde Hunt of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, TN, has put forth a challenge to all regions to send at least 225 members to the upcoming General Assembly. I accept that goal and ask you to help me by encouraging members within your church to attend.

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will gather in person from July 12 - 15, 2025, in Memphis, TN. This year's General Assembly theme: "BEYOND" is based on Ephesians 3: 20-21.

Now to the one who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us, to them be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen!

<https://ga.disciples.org/>



Register now to join us in Charleston, South Carolina for our 2025 Black Ministers Retreat!

“You, Stand” is our theme and our retreat text is Exodus 33:7-22.

God instructs the leader to stand on the rock and God will cover them. We have planned a time of refreshment, learning, and remembrance. Come and enjoy!

<https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=0ac66ae4-8023-4ea4-afcd-7915d01268d8&envId=p-2Xj0BII5rEm8MRVgKSYv6w&zone=usa>

YOU, STAND!
Exodus 33:7-22
March 11-13, 2025


Dr. Heber Brown, III
Retreat Trainer
Black Church Food Security Network


Dr. Irie Lynne Session
Retreat Preacher
The Gathering, Dallas, TX


Dr. Rickey McCray
Retreat Psalmist
The Way CC, Indianapolis

- Opening Evening at Forte Jazz Lounge
- Mother Emmanuel Remembrance Tour
- International African American Museum
- “Higher Ground” Training
- Songs We Can Stand On
- Powerful Worship
- Yoga on the Beach

BLACK MINISTERS RETREAT
Charleston, SC
Registration Cost: \$195 / Group Hotel Rate: \$149 plus tax

>>Bus transportation is provided for events.<<
>>>Be sure to reserve your room after registering.<<<



Are you or someone you know discerning a Call to Ministry?

In the last 5 years, Virginia Disciples have experienced a major increase in those experiencing a call to ministry. These "Calls to Ministry" come in many forms from full-time ministry to Bivocational (part-time) positions. Some are called to chaplaincy, therapy, congregational preaching, youth ministry, advocacy, teaching and so much more. Ministry comes in so many varieties because God continues to call people to serve the whole Body of Christ. If you know someone who is interested, pass this link along to them to begin the process. In Disciples the process to ministry is a partnership/covenant between the Regional Commission on Ministry and the local congregation and the candidate. Take a look and keep encouraging people to follow that call.

<https://www.ccinva.org/becomeaminister>

General Board Nominations are Due by February 15, 2025

This is a new process in order to help create a General Board of the whole church that represents the full diversity of the church. We/I need you to look around at the people in your orbit that you think would make great leaders for the whole church. It might just be you! Go to the link below and nominate them. From this list of nominations and applications the General Nominating Team will recommend a team to serve. Even if one does not get chosen for the General Board, this list will be shared with all other ministries in the whole church to make sure that the best leaders across the whole church are invited to serve to help us be stronger together. So please take the time to click the link below, learn more and nominate someone you know to serve the amazing church!

<https://disciples.org/general-board-nominations/>
<https://disciples.org/general-board-nominations/>

First Christian Church, Salem, VA

First Christian Church, Salem, is seeking a qualified part-time Music Director. The candidate would be directing our chancel choir and praise band. A vocalist would be a plus! Estimated time would be 25 hours per month. Interested candidates should forward a resume to FCC at fccsalemva@gmail.com, Attention: Music Director



Nature Camp 2025 Counselor Application

Hi there! Thank you so much for your interest in serving as a counselor at Nature Camp this summer. Nature Camp is a powerful, transformative, important ministry. At Nature Camp, you will be paired one-on-one with a camper who ranges from 8-11 years of age typically. Throughout the week you work to make their week special and memorable! That can be done through hiking, swimming, fishing, dancing, crafting, or endless rounds of four square.

Nature Camp is held at Craig Springs Camp and Retreat Center. Counselors will be arriving on June 21st at Craig Springs for training with campers arriving on June 23rd. Please ensure as you apply, that you are able to attend the entire duration of that time. The director for Nature Camp this summer is John Weeks and the assistant director is Tristan Goodman. Along with adult advisors, Nature Camp is fully planned and implemented by the high-school youth Disciples of Christ Youth of Virginia.

The purpose of this application is to ensure you are a great fit for Nature Camp and to help us pair you with your future camper! Applications are due prior to registering for Nature Camp. Please be as honest as you can. Even if you have served as a counselor before we ask that you please complete this application. Once accepted, you will receive an email with the registration link.

Applications due by April 15th. Thanks!

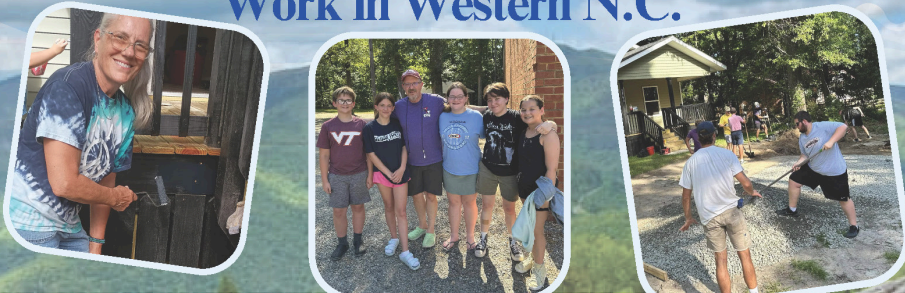
John Weeks, Youth Director
 Tristan Goodman, Youth Assistant Director
 Amy Jones, Adult Advisor



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJpkMBd_h1SWc6HyknnJUcRFWZ6P05M8idwATImTmVPLmZWg/viewform

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN VA (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
3RD ANNUAL
MULT-GENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP
JUNE 15 - JUNE 20, 2025
Hurricane Helene Recovery
Work in Western N.C.

AGES 11 TO 11
ALL YOUTH AGES 11-17
MUST HAVE A CHAPERONE



\$270*
/person

Includes lodging and meals at Christmount Christian Assembly, Black Mountain, N.C.

We will be doing construction, working in food banks, clean up and debris removal.

Register online @
Questions? Contact Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster
jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com

*Non-Disciple Adult \$320

June Multi-Generational Mission Trip:

This past summer 29 faithful disciples from the region of Virginia went to Charleston, SC for our second annual Virginia Region Multi-generational mission. We were able to serve in many ways and were planning on returning for a second year. However, with the devastation of Hurricane Helene in Western NC, we are now planning on going to Western North Carolina from June 15 - 20, 2025. We do not have a lot of details to share at this point because the region of North Carolina is developing plans with Week of Compassion to accept volunteer groups. We have been in contact with Rev. Karen Kelly who is coordinating efforts for the region of NC. If you have questions about our June Mission trip, please contact trip leaders Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster at jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com or Diane Clark at 804-712-5728. We do not know when registration will open up, but if you think you will go on the trip, please let Diane or Jonathan know so we can get some idea of how many people might participate. The region of Virginia is also planning other ways to help in this recovery effort.

To Register go here: <https://www.ccinva.org/missioncamp>

Mission Wednesday Zoom Check ins:

Below are a few links and information regarding our common effort to help with recovery and rebuild efforts in North Carolina following the hurricane. Like most disasters, there has been lots of attention for recovery and clean up efforts but this area will need years of rebuilding. We are working with Christmount and Week of Compassion to determine when and how we can be part of long term recovery/rebuild efforts. With this goal in mind we are beginning to collect names/contacts for individuals/churches who might want to be part of mission trips to the area. We know not every church can organize something but together as region we can join together and make a real impact. Please pass along the link/QR code to individuals who might be interested. We will also continue to meet via zoom calls every other week to share information, resources and ways churches/individuals can make a real difference... Thank you, as always, for being willing to work together as Disciples in Virginia.

See Video, QR code, Website link and zoom schedule/link below:

The zoom link (noon on most 2nd and 4th Wednesdays is: ...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/485473273?pwd=MkxtZEZsR2wrYWNFMlVXK0h3ay9ZLz09>

<https://youtu.be/ee0-a8DT08M>

Mission Interest QR.jpg

<https://www.ccinva.org/hurricanerelief>



2025 Peace Intern Applications

Disciples Peace Fellowship is overjoyed to announce that we are now accepting applications for the 2025 DPF Peace Intern Program! Visit disciplespeace.org/apply to learn more about the program and to start your application! Applications are due by January 31, 2025.

Each year DPF selects three young adults (21-years-old or older) to serve as Peace Interns. This is a 12-week, paid, summer internship (\$3,000 stipend) that will allow you to serve as an advocate for peace and justice in many different ways and in several different formats. The 2025 DPF Peace Internship will be a hybrid model again this summer. That means that Peace Interns will serve at in-person Disciples of Christ Church Camps AND they will have remote work weeks where they work on specific projects with Disciples Justice Ministries groups (like AllianceQ, Reconciliation Ministries, Green Chalice, Be The Neighbor, and more) or interfaith/ecumenical peace partners (like the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, and Blessed Tomorrow). The 2025 Peace Intern summer experience will begin in late May, include a working trip to General Assembly in Memphis, and conclude in early August.

Learn more here:

<https://www.disciplespeace.org/what-is-a-peace-intern>



Launch 25 Young Adult Retreat

On a snowy weekend January 10 - 12, the New Church team hosted 10 young adults from across the region for Launch 25 at Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA. The goal of the weekend was to help the region understand how young adults experience and want to experience a community of faith. The group ate together, snow tubed, worshipped together and had sessions focused on key words, the 5 practices of fruitful congregations and the vision of the General Church's New Church division. We meditated, played games, shared our thoughts and concerns, prayed together and grew spiritually. Three goals came out of the weekend.

1. For the New Church team to develop a regular intergenerational worship, fellowship and service time in Harrisonburg.
2. For regional churches to consider developing district wide young adult events.
3. To have a regular regional young adult retreat in January of each year.

We are producing a full report of the weekend, if you would like a copy, please email jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com



New Church Ministry's Virtual Leadership Academy

New Church Ministry's (<https://newchurchministry.org/>) virtual Leadership Academy course (<https://newchurchministry.org/leadership-academy/>) isn't just about the DisciplesNEXT (<https://newchurchministry.org/about/disciplesnext/>) church growth framework. It also features workshops from experts across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada on social media marketing, financial health, creation care, starting a congregation on a dime, financial essentials for emerging faith communities, LGBTQ+ affirmation, and social entrepreneurship. Join us on CHURCHx to expand your knowledge as a new church leader!

https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=228&fbclid=IwY2xjawGkfVhleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHc3Rhj6Fd3UYvndXY6qoRP9ijXq2xpwHafwAPgnrziWrRefbmc0PQqgzKw_aem_cuNSL89Z76-T2jYHRMYIZA&utm_campaign=linkinbio&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=later-linkinbio

Thanks for your support,

Nadine (“nuh-deen”) A. Compton (She/Elle/Ella)
Creative Writer/Digital Media Specialist
Disciples Church Extension Fund
o: 317.713.2523 | c: 317.225.2986
disciplescef.org | newwaysdcef.org | newchurchministry.org