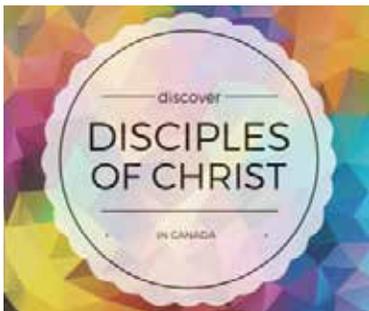


The Canadian Disciple



A Publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada

Published: March 22, 2018, (Cambridge, Ontario)



March/April Prayer Partners

Mar 25 Summerville CC,
Summerville, NS Pastor:
Russell Prime

Apr 1 Easter Special Offering:
General Ministries

Apr 8 Westlock Community
Church, Westlock, AB

Apr 15 Hillcrest CC, Toronto,
ON Pastors: Fred Dizon, Ann
Stainton, Robert Steffer

Apr 22: McKernan Christian
Church, Edmonton, AB
Pastor Ed Stover

Apr 29: West Gore Disciples
Church, Kennetcook, NS
Pastor Gus MacDonald

Special prayer requests:

- Pastors and their families as we head into Holy Week
- Youth and Young Adults who are gathering for special events
- Seminarians who are finishing up the semester
- Lay leaders in all of our congregations who are vital to ministry
- Leadership of the DoC as we discern the path forward

Letting Go

Growing up, Lent was something I thought only the Catholic church marked. Although I did try once in a while to give up something like my friends did, it wasn't a practice that "stuck" until much later in life. I didn't understand fully what this time of preparation was supposed to be about, other than sacrificing something in order to get close to the sacrifice Jesus made throughout his life, ministry, and death. However, as I got older, and began my own ministry within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada, I gained a deeper appreciation of how fruitful and transformative this time can be. I began to see it as a time to intentionally take stock of my life and practice, how I was moving through time, using my gifts, ordering my life, and living into the identity of a child of God. I realized that it was easy to sacrifice superficial things...chocolate, coffee, etc. Much harder was sacrificing the important stuff, like time. I often taught, and tried to live, the practice of taking back something – a sacrifice of a different kind. I have tried to practice each year taking back time: intentionally making time for the things that are important – prayer, spending time with family and friends, rest, and meditation and study

This year I have gone back to giving something up. But it's not material things, or practices, or habits...rather, I have been practicing giving up words. In particular, words that express something different than what I believe or intend. For example, I regularly will apologize for being late. Instead, I have been expressing gratitude for someone's patience! It's not an easy thing to do, but I am hopeful that I am creating a positive habit that will last.

I offer this word of encouragement to all of us and the congregations in which we live and serve...what words should we be giving up as we move forward into the future that God is working with us to build? We believe that life conquers death, love conquers fear, and that with God nothing is impossible...but our language regularly points in the opposite direction. I encourage all of us to listen intently to how we speak at meetings, in sermons, with one another as we plan and dream together and alone. Are we using words that speak to an attitude of scarcity rather than abundance like "just" and "only"? Are we using words of division rather than unity like "us/them" and "those people" rather than "we"? Are we focused on the problems we seem to face rather than the strengths and opportunities that we should be celebrating? Friends, the words we use create the reality in which we live. As we move into Holy Week, let us abandon words that reinforce the lie of scarcity and brokenness, and embrace the abundance, generosity, and unity that has already been gifted to us by the Creator! May we continue to grow in God's love as we live and work in the world! A Blessed Holy Week to you all – Jen Garbin

News from the OACC

Last week the OACC gathered at Winger Christian Church for their regular meeting. It was well attended by all of the Ontario congregations and well hosted by the good people of Winger whose gifts of hospitality shone through.

Like most congregations and Christian organizations in Canada, the OACC has been facing significant challenges over the past number of years: giving is down, volunteers for board positions are getting harder to find, attendance at meetings is sometimes sporadic. Yet, there is a strong desire to continue to work together and find a way to do ministry, fellowship, and learn together in this changing landscape. A frank, honest, compassionate, and faithful conversation was

started at this meeting, with a general agreement that we cannot continue to operate the way we always have. An overwhelming appreciation for the growing camping program and fellowship between the churches was strongly expressed, and highlighted as potentially the focus going forward. There was energy and hope coming out of the discussion, and a commitment to begin conversations at each of the congregations to start to think creatively about the future. In the coming weeks, congregations are asked to keep in prayer concerning where God is leading the OACC and its member congregations. More information about the process, meetings, and suggestions will be forwarded as they become available. -- Jen Garbin

An Update from Sugarbush Christian Church, Guelph, ON

Sugarbush Christian Church was planted by Rev. Dr. Jennifer Garbin in 2011 with the generosity of the Guelph Christian Church & the energy/ support of the Garbin family, their friends, & key members of the community. In Dec 2017, we celebrated Jen's dedication, heart, & leadership as our church planter & senior pastor with a special dinner & "roast." Jen has now transitioned out of this role to focus on regional ministry & we wish her well!

Now in our 7th year, Sugarbush engages between 6-18 people at our weekly worship service, including several members from Guelph Christian Church. On the last Saturday of the month, we host a potluck after the service. We also host a monthly Dinner Church that attracts between 6 - 15 people of all beliefs. At Dinner Church, a professional chef teaches a new recipes and a member of the group starts a discussion that touches on everyday life, culture, and spirituality. We seem to always be gathering around a table (and food)!

Over the years our demographics have shifted. Many of our youth (who, at one point, made up half of the congregation) have graduated high school, are working, enrolled in post-secondary education, or have moved away (we stay in touch over Facebook & Instagram, of course!). Although we are a small church & one that is in transition, we are in-

tentional about seeking opportunities to learn more about the Guelph community, its needs, & other ways of being God's hands & feet in this place.

Last spring, the Core Team led a series of monthly discussions on the church's mission and vision, leadership, and commitment. In the fall, the Core Team built on these discussions and introduced the possibility of working with Pastors Eric Law and Rose Ann Vita of the Kaleidoscope Institute to explore the Holy Currencies model of missional and sustainable ministries. This year we're having monthly sessions with Pastor Rose Ann to focus on relationship-building, gracious leadership, stewardship, and wellness. As well, we're receiving coaching from Pastor Eric. We hope to learn more about the people in our church and in the wider community, our gifts, and how we can live out our call to discipleship together, every day.

This year, Disciples congregations in Ontario will be hosting the All-Canada Convention from August 2-5, 2018 in Guelph. If you have any questions about the event or wish to help, please contact KaeliSweigard (kaelisweigard@gmail.com) or Wendelin Galatianos (galatian@sentex.net, 519-824-4838). We hope to see you, our Disciples family, at the All-Canada Convention in Guelph!

-- Wendelin Galatianos & Pastor Awit Marcelino

An Update from Brush With the Spirit, Calgary, AB



Brush With the Spirit is Canada's newest church plant, located in Calgary, AB, and led by Pastor Danah Cox and his leadership team. We are excited by the hard work they have been doing over the past few months as this new and exciting

ministry takes shape. Here is what was recently posted by BWTs on their Facebook page...and inspiring testament to the unique call they are experiencing! Keep them in your prayers as they continue to grow and take shape! For more information, please be in touch with Pastor Danah Cox (you can find contact information at www.canadadisciples.org).

Our Mission: (Re)awakening the unique creative inner voice within each of us, through the power of a collaborative community (re)connecting together to the Creative Spirit available to all of us.

Our Vision: In a time of great transition in how individuals engage their spiritual nature, BWTs unlocks understanding of the creative process so as to provide seekers of all stripes a means to approach life's greatest mysteries in community with one another.

Our Values:

FAITH VALUES:

1. BWTs seeks to meet people where they are in their spiritual journey, and provides a safe space for them to expand/explore spirituality through creative process.
2. We believe that to engage one's innate artistic abilities and creative sensibilities fully involves connecting to a larger creative force.
3. We believe this creative force is available to all people, and that each person needs to discern their own spiritual/creative path in relation to this force.
4. We maintain that acknowledging this force most fully frees the creative self and thus provides a big step toward personal wholeness.
5. We maintain that opening/strengthening connections to the creative force affords our community a powerful tool to rise above the stress and anxiety that typifies much of materialistic North American culture.
6. We see the BWTs community as a haven for participants to explore their own spiritual/creative journey and as a hatchery for outreach ideas that engage participants with the needs in the world.

KEY METHODOLOGY:

1. Blending current technology with enduring technique: BWTs seeks ways to leverage new digital technologies and old world tactual technics, to help spread the joy of the creative process to others.
2. Ongoing Mutual Learning: We are a community that seeks to learn with humility, open to learning from each other as well as sharing our knowledge.
3. Celebrating and Communicating our Creativity: BWTs members will be encouraged to share a portion of the content they create as part of celebrating the (re)awakening of the creative force in their lives.

All Canada Convention / Regional Assembly Update

The All Canada Convention is just around the corner! Online registration is available now by visiting our website www.canadadisciples.org or by sending in the registration form (with deposit) located at the end of this newsletter. Once again, we are thankful for a generous gift by the Milton Christian Church (Milton, NS) who are subsidizing the cost of registration for everyone!

In the coming weeks, congregations will be receiving by email and snail mail, packages of forms, posters, and other information to assist attendees to get registered. Please spread the word and encourage as many as possible to come out...this is not just a business meeting! Far from it! Disciples in Canada are coming together for Fellowship, Worship, and Education...a ripe opportunity to celebrate our life together, gather skills and tools to engage in ministry more effectively, and to have fun doing it! See you August 2-5, 2018 in Guelph, Ontario!



CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

CANADIAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

WORSHIP | EDUCATION | FELLOWSHIP

FEATURING COLLEGE SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. Lisa W. Davison is the Johnnie Eargle Cadieux Professor of Hebrew Bible at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK. Davison's first book, *Preaching the Women of the Bible*, was published in 2006. Prior to joining the faculty of Phillips Theological Seminary, Lisa was Professor of 1st Testament at Lexington Theological Seminary (1996-2009) and Professor of Religious Studies at Lynchburg College (2009-2010). Dr. Davison is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature.



**AUGUST 2-5 2018
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
GUELPH, ONTARIO**

**REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.CANADADISCIPLES.ORG/ASSEMBLY**



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada 2018 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM August 2-5, 2018 University of Guelph

Please complete one form for each person registering.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal code: _____
 Email: _____ Phone #(s): _____
 Home church: _____

Pickup from airport required (circle one)? Yes No Child care info required (circle one)? Yes No
 Flight Info: Inbound (airline, flight #, time): _____ Outbound (airline, flight #, time): _____

REGISTRATION FEE

EARLY BIRD! \$60 for entire conference BEFORE MAY 1, 2018 # of registrations _____ x \$60 \$ _____
 AFTER MAY 1, 2018 \$75 # of registrations _____ x \$75 \$ _____
 ONE DAY REGISTRATION \$25 (Pls indicate day _____) # of registrations _____ x \$25 \$ _____
Sub Total REGISTRATION FEES \$ _____

MEAL PLANS: (only available by pre-registering on or before July 1, 2018)

Dietary Restrictions: _____
 Full Meal Plan (incl 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 suppers, & Sat banquet) # of Meal Plans _____ x \$150 \$ _____
 Saturday Banquet ONLY # of Banquet _____ x \$25 \$ _____
Sub Total MEALS \$ _____

COLLEGE RESIDENCE ACCOMMODATION: (only available by pre-registering on or before July 1, 2018)

If staying for 1 or 2 nights only, please indicate which nights: Thursday Friday Saturday
 Shared dorm room (FOR 2 PEOPLE, linens supplied,taxes included) @ \$98/night # of Nights _____ x \$98 \$ _____
 Indicate preferred roommate's name: _____
 Single dorm room (linens supplied,taxes included) @\$49/night # of Nights _____ x \$49 \$ _____
Sub Total ACCOMMODATION \$ _____

PARKING PASS \$9/day (not needed if staying in residence. Needed for Thurs/Fri only) # of Days _____ x \$9 \$ _____
PRINTED DOCKET \$20 # of Dockets _____ x \$20 \$ _____

LESS REGISTRATION DEPOSIT (non-refundable after July 1, 2018) \$30.00
 (Please enclose cheque payable to "Christian Church (DoC) in Canada")

TOTAL INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM \$ _____
BALANCE DUE ON ARRIVAL \$ _____

Send completed registration form, with deposit and/or full payment to:
 Iris Lambert, Convention Registrar
 c/o Sugarbush Christian Church (DoC)
 86 Glasgow Street N, Guelph, ON, N1H 4W2

Are you driving to Convention? If so, would you be willing to help transport people to the Saturday evening banquet & program? Please indicate Y or N and how many passengers you can accommodate # _____. THANK YOU!

For Office Use Only: Deposit Rec'd _____ Chq# _____ Cash _____ Other _____ Date: _____ Confirm Sent Date: _____
 Full /Balance Rec'd _____ Chq# _____ Cash _____ Other _____ Date: _____ Room # _____

2018 Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada

George H. Stewart Award

The George H. Stewart Award is given in recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada. The Board of Directors for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada created the George H. Stewart Award in 1998, in order to recognize living individuals who have given years of outstanding service and dedication to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada. It is given for years of service (a decade or more) beyond the local congregation at the national or international level. The Awards are presented at the All Canada Convention, also known as the Regional Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada. Congregations, groups, or individuals (including board members) may make nominations for possible recipients of the award to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will make the decisions regarding the offering of the Award. If the Board decides that there are no individuals who meet the minimum requirements, then no Award will be offered in that Convention year. The following is a list of criteria for the George H. Stewart Award:

- a) Living individual who has made a significant contribution to the work of AllCanada
- b) Numerous years of service (a decade or more) beyond the local congregation or area; those years of service having been at the national or international level
- c) Numerous years of outstanding service and dedication to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada

I/we would like to nominate _____ for the George H. Stewart Award. We feel this person is deserving of this award because:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return to: Jennifer Garbin, 1161 Hamilton St, Cambridge ON, N3H 3G1 by **July 2, 2018**

Or scan and email to: rm@canadadisciples.org

George H. Stewart Award Nomination Form
Modified February 28, 2018

Previous recipients of the George H. Stewart Award are:

2016 Diane Rutherford, Jean MacArthur, Elaine Lyons

2014 Rev. Stuart D. Fraser, Janet Fountain, Rev. Diane DemoiseySteffe, Rev. Dr. Robert Wesley Steffer

2012 None Selected

2010 None Selected

2008 Stan Litke, F. Thomas Rutherford, Keith Simpson, Peter Fountain

2006 A. Elizabeth (Betty) Manthorne, Tom Fountain

2004 Minnie Rigg, Jean Miles-Howard, Kenneth MacDougall, Albert Owen

2002 Margaret McNeil, David Le, Wallace (Wally) Howlett, George Rawson, Fred Gordon, Mervin L. Bailey

2000 Wilfred Cosman, James Henderson, Dorothy Jefferies, Russell Legge

1998 Jean Gordon, Margaret Stainton, Hutcheson Oliver, W. McCully, Alice Porter, Robert Shaw, Elmer Stainton, Halsey Waklin, Kenneth Wills

2018 Assemblée de l'Église chrétienne (Disciples du Christ) au Canada

Prix George H. Stewart

Le prix George H. Stewart est décerné en reconnaissance du service exceptionnel et du dévouement à l'Église chrétienne (Disciples du Christ) au Canada. Le Conseil d'administration de l'Église chrétienne (Disciples du Christ) au Canada a créé le Prix George H. Stewart en 1998, afin de reconnaître les personnes qui ont donné des années de service et de dévouement exceptionnels à l'Église chrétienne (Disciples du Christ) Canada. Il est donné pour des années de service (une décennie ou plus) au-delà de la congrégation locale au niveau national ou international. Les prix sont décernés lors de la Convention pancanadienne, également connue sous le nom de Convention régionale de l'Église chrétienne (Disciples du Christ) au Canada. Les congrégations, les groupes ou les individus (y compris les membres du conseil d'administration) peuvent faire des nominations pour d'éventuels bénéficiaires du prix au conseil d'administration. Le conseil d'administration prendra les décisions concernant l'offre du prix. Si le conseil d'administration décide qu'il n'y a pas de personnes qui satisfont aux exigences minimales, aucune récompense ne sera offerte au cours de cette année. Voici une liste de critères pour le prix George H. Stewart:

- a) Personne vivante qui a apporté une contribution importante au travail de All Canada
- b) De nombreuses années de service (une décennie ou plus) au-delà de la congrégation ou de la région locale; ces années de service ayant été au niveau national ou international
- c) De nombreuses années de service exceptionnel et de dévouement à l'Église chrétienne (Disciples du Christ) au Canada

Jevoudrais / nous aimerions nommer _____ pour le prix George H. Stewart. Nous pensons que cette personne mérite ce prix parce que:

Signé: _____ Date: _____

Signé: _____ Date: _____

Veillez retourner à: Jennifer Garbin, 1161, rue Hamilton, Cambridge ON, N3H 3G1 avant le 2 juillet 2018

Unnumériser et envoyer un courriel à: rm@canadadisciples.org

Les récipiendaires précédents du prix George H. Stewart sont:

2016 Diane Rutherford, Jean MacArthur, Elaine Lyons

2014 Rév. Stuart D. Fraser, Janet Fontaine, Rév. Diane Demoisey Steffer, Rév. Dr. Robert Wesley Steffer

2012 Aucunsélectionné

2010 Aucunsélectionné

2008 Stan Litke, F. Thomas Rutherford, Keith Simpson, Peter Fontaine

2006 A. Elizabeth (Betty) Manthorne, Tom Fontaine

2004 Minnie Rigg, Jean Miles-Howard, Kenneth MacDougall et Albert Owen

2002 Margaret McNeil, David Le, Wallace (Wally) Howlett, George Rawson, Fred Gordon, Mervin L. Bailey

2000 Wilfred Cosman, James Henderson, Dorothy Jefferies, Russell Legge

1998 Jean Gordon, Margaret Stainton, Oliver Hutcheson, W. McCully, Alice Porter, Robert Shaw, Elmer Stainton, Halsey Waklin, Kenneth Wills

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