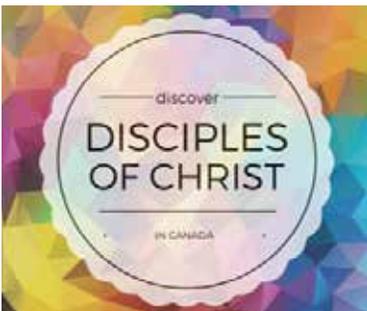


The Canadian Disciple



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

Published: June 30, 2017 (Cambridge, Ontario)



July Prayer Partners

Jul 2 All new church plants & congregations in formation

Jul 9 General Assembly & New GMP (incoming)

*Jul 16 Mapleton Church of Christ, Mapleton
Pastor: Janet Anstead*

*Jul 30 Église Évangélique Mahanaïm De La Rive Nord
Pastor: Jean Daniel Francois*

Special prayer requests:

- *Camping programs across Canada*
- *Delegates, attendees, and clergy travelling to and from General Assembly July 8-12*
- *Famine relief efforts across Africa*
- *Students and recent graduates facing new directions in life, work, and school*
- *Regional Board who meets face to face in August at the OACC Disciples Conference Grounds*
- *New GMP Nominee, Terri Hord-Owens, as she begins her ministry with us*

From Chaos to Creation

I spent an amazing week this month with the congregations of the Western Area. The theme that arose from that time, quite unexpectedly, was God's movement in our life – from chaos to creation. It didn't matter which congregation I was in, each one is experiencing a measure of what feels like chaos. Things are changing, patterns are shifting, and what used to be isn't quite so anymore. There are new initiatives, new places of worship, new leadership, new ideas...all of which contribute to the feelings of chaos, but also which remind us of the creative work the Spirit is undertaking right under our noses!

It is hard for us time-bound, gravity-tied beings to imagine what God's timeline is really like. We have only our lifetimes to answer this profound call to transformation. We can look back at history and see the result of the God's faithfulness through generations. But somehow we feel that it is our burden to ensure the survival of Christ's church. Somehow we feel that we are responsible for the growth and vitality of the seeds we are called to plant. We couldn't be further from the truth!

Yes, we have some responsibility...to sow compassion, justice, wholeness, joy, peace, and love. To share the good news of abundant life as we know it in Jesus Christ. But we must leave space for the wild and unpredictable movement of the Spirit, and the deep love and grace of God to provide the miracle of growth. What feels like chaos to us, what may even feel like failure or death, may in fact be the creative act in all of its incredible awesomeness! God has been creating for millennia! Shaping the world around us and each of us into beautiful containers for grace, love, and wholeness! It may only look like chaos to us, because we are only seeing a thin slice in the infinity of God's activity. It is high time we begin to let go of our need for control, for things to be done our way and in our lifetime, and embrace the totality of God's dream for creation. It is high time we grab hold of our part with both hands, and live this call with courageous abandon!

We are called to be co-creators...to listen to the urgings of the Spirit to live into our call to be children of light, children of the Most High God! We are called to deny fear and its lie that we are too small to be part of something so grand. We are called to live lives of extravagant love – empowering leaders young and old who have visions of where God is leading! It is time! What seems like chaos is God's creative hand coaxing us to join in! Peace, Jen

Urgent Appeal: Share Your Abundance with those Facing Famine



At the recent Governing Board meeting of the Canadian Council of Churches, an urgent appeal was issued to the churches to attend to the crises in Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen, and Somalia, where

over 20 million people are now faced with famine and extreme food insecurity. The letter which outlines the appeal will not become available until next week, but we encourage all of our Disciples congregations to take up a special offering to support the relief efforts before this becomes a catastrophe. CIDA matching grants are available for churches who give to this effort. You may give through agencies such as the Canada Foodgrains Bank, or through the Region.

If you have not had a chance to hold a special offering or fundraiser to support this urgent appeal, please consider organizing something as soon as possible so that the maximum impact can be had through CIDA matching donations. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.<>

Congratulations! Flor Marcelino Named in RBC's Top 25 Immigrants



A hearty congratulations to long-time member of Broadway Disciples United Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Flor Marcelino, who was named one of 25 Top Canadian Immigrants for 2017 by RBC and *Canadian Immigrant* magazine. According to her

bio, "Marcelino and her family moved to Winnipeg in 1982, and have called Manitoba home ever since. Prior to her political career, she was a small business owner, editor of *The Philippine Times*, and worked as a support staff at Red River College for 17 years."

"Marcelino has faced many challenges, including a brain tumour in 2002 that affected her speech. The mother of five adult children and grandmother to four boys hasn't let this obstacle slow her down, however. While she's not seeking the party leader position on a permanent basis, as interim leader Marcelino has been a vocal critic of the government's policies, and a popular face at community events like citizenship ceremonies, kids

and cultural events, Philippine Heritage Week and the Winnipeg Pride Parade."

"In 2007, she, became the first racialized woman ever elected to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, and, in 2009, the first person of ethnic background to be given a cabinet position. She was given the portfolios of culture, heritage and tourism, and later multiculturalism and literacy. Re-elected in 2011 and again in 2016, Marcelino stepped up to become interim leader of the NDP provincial party in the last election in which the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba's victory ended nearly 17 years of NDP government."

Says Flor, "I am humbled and honoured to learn that I was selected as one of Canadian Immigrant magazine's RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrants of 2017. I would like to dedicate this award to migrants and first-generation immigrants in Canada who are facing the pressures and insecurity that come with moving to a new place. To them I say honesty, work ethic and steadfast determination will pay off with a better life for themselves, their families and friends here in Canada and "back home".

My husband Orli and I have been in Canada now for 35 years. It hasn't always been an easy ride becoming a Filipino Canadian but it has always been a worthwhile journey. Canada is now our home. Here, we can fight for our freedoms and values without being persecuted. Here, it's a more even playing field. You don't have to start out rich in order to be successful later on. Here we can provide a decent life for our families through hard work. Where we came from, hard work doesn't always ensure that. Success has a different

definition for different folks. For me, success means getting up again after stumbling, after painful blows, after defeats. Success means making new friendships, maintaining old friendships and being a good friend. Success means devoting myself to the service of others. Success is hollow without seeing our families and our communities uplifted."

Congratulations to you and thank you for your outstanding service both in and out of the church.<>

Labour of Love: "Where Love is Felt, the Message is Heard"

I had the pleasure of worshiping with Westlock Community Church during my time in Alberta this past month and while there I was introduced to Wally Sczebel and his wife Roseanna (pictured below). While I had lunch with them and the rest of the congregation at their weekly potluck, Wally began to tell me the story of a "little ministry" he began some 50 years ago (1964). I was so intrigued by this short encounter that I asked to come to visit



and hear the whole story later in the week. A few days later, I took the scenic drive up to Legal, Alberta to meet them on their homestead.

When I arrived, both Wally and

Rosie were outside working in the barn, but soon welcomed me into their beautiful home. There they told me the story of the beginnings of Teen Time ranch and camp. Its an incredible story of one man's saying "yes" to the call to minister in a unique way to the needs he saw around him.

Although Wally is in his early 90s, his memory of those early days and why he created this amazing ministry are clear and uncluttered. With much emotion and deep compassion, he told me the story of how we felt the call to care for the youth and teens in his area who seemed to be cast aside, addicted, troubled, and dying sometimes at their own hands. He knew that he had to do something,

had to show them that someone loved them just the way they were. So he had the idea of creating a camp where the youth could get away from the pain and brokenness of their lives & surroundings, be in the country, and eventually be introduced to a loving God.

Wally unashamedly states that he had to do this work outside the church for a long time because the church folks back then didn't seem to understand that these kids needed to be loved before they could hear the story of faith. Some church leaders didn't see what Wally could, that there was no way that many of these kids could even hear the message of the gospel in the state they were in...but needed to be loved unconditionally first. In time, as relationships and trust were built, then they would ask questions and counsellors and leaders could help them find their way to Jesus. For many of those campers, they had never known that kind of love and hope, that kind of acceptance. And while the impact of their time at the camp wasn't immediately recognizable, over the years, many came back as counsellors, supporters, leaders...and a few went into ministry themselves to serve the hurting as they had been served.

Teen Time didn't always have it easy. There were many times when the ministry's future was in doubt. There wasn't always enough money, volunteers, or even space. But somehow, God was faithful and supplied the need...year over year, decade over decade. Now Teen Time sees over 1,000 youth each year on its expansive facility.

A far cry from the “wagon train camps” of its early years, Teen Time ranch boasts brand new cabins for boys, girls, and families, a huge mess hall with downstairs amphitheatre and games room, lakeside pavillion with kayaks, canoes, and even archery, dozens of horses (and two donkeys), and a log-cabin chapel, all nestled on 350 acres of rolling hills in the Alberta countryside.



Programs range from paintball, extreme, riding, fishing, and even the good old wagon train camps. While there is much more about the camp that I could tell you...please take a moment to look through the website...its quite impressive!

I was interested in sharing this story with you not only because I am a huge advocate of Christian camping, but because this is a story that we all need to hear. We don't need to hear the story of Teen Time and Wally & Rosie's dream because it's a huge success despite all the odds...but because of the simple fact that tens of thousands of lives have been touched in amazing ways because one person said “YES!” to that still small voice that said, “feed my sheep.”

This is a story of the tenacity of the Holy Spirit to work with those who open themselves up to be co-creators. Wally never dreamed that this camp would become what it is today. And when I asked him what he thought was the most important thing people should know about responding to the call of God, he said many things...but the one that sticks in my mind the most is this: do what you can with what you have. Don't worry about the future. Love the people around you and God will do the rest. This is a story that I hope we can all learn from and be inspired by. For it is a story that gets to the heart of who we are as disciples of Christ. We may not always know where God is leading. We may not always be able to say with certainty that the ideas we have, the skills and gifts we possess, the visions we see will lead to something that will survive through generations. But that should not stop us from trying. It should not stop us from responding with those gifts and skills so that others can

encounter love in a real way...in the special way that only you have the capacity to show.

I hope this story inspires all of us, young and old and every point in between, to think deeply about where is God is calling us this very day. For there is much need in our communities, our homes, our towns and cities...and much passion and love and energy in each of us!



I want to say a special thank you to the young man in the photo with me. This is Mike Lang. He came to camp when he was just a young teen because his mom said he was too addicted to video games and needed to get some fresh air! He isn't a religious kinda guy (although he is now active in his local

church)...but he loved camp, made great friends, and the experience, he says, changed his life. Now an adult (and an electrician), he takes his vacation time to come and counsel at camp, and spends his spare time on the property helping with renovations and other work that needs to be done. During the impromptu tour he gave me of the grounds, I heard in his voice the deep love he has not only for this place but for the teens and adults who come here. He talks passionately about the camp but also about how lives are transformed through the work of the Spirit here, lived out in unconditional love for all. Who knew that Wally's simple “yes” would impact the life of this young man some five decades later? And who knew how much God's love, lived out through Mike's “yes” will impact those he works with now? Like the Good Book says, when seed is scattered, the harvest is 30, 60, even 100 fold, thanks to the grace of God! (Matt 13:8). Friends, we all have gifts to share to bring about God's Shalom in this world...how will you share yours? <>

(You can read all about the amazing journey of Wally and Rosie in their book *Where Love Is Felt, the Message Is Heard: The Legacy of Wally and Roseanne Sczebel (Teen Time, The First "45")*.)

Dinner with Disciples



At Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Toronto we have a relatively new gathering named Dinner with Disciples. Our first meeting in December 2016 consisted of four people eating out in our church's neighborhood in a dark and noisy restaurant. In January 2017, we moved to meeting once a month at our church building on a Friday evening around a shared table to spend time catching up with each other in conversation, eating dinner, and having a group discussion rooted in the Bible. Our potluck style dinners have ranged from unplanned smorgasbords to themed meals, like "taco night." Our discussions have encouraged

sharing and learning from one another, and have ranged in topics from: following Jesus, religion vs. spirituality, what the church is, and the centrality of fellowship to Christian life. By June, we had our largest group yet—thirteen people.

What is Dinner with Disciples? You could simply describe it as conversation, dinner, and Bible based discussion. But that only makes up the parts and doesn't give the big picture of what it is all about. Dinner with Disciples is ultimately our attempt to be the church better together. This means that our gathering around the table is a connecting point to facilitate individual and communal growth as disciples of Jesus; for ourselves, our friends, and those who may not attend church at all.

Our group is for all ages and we encourage you to join us. Everyone is welcome to bring an item of food to share with the group for dinner. Discover when Dinner with Disciples meets next by checking Hillcrest Christian Church's website calendar – <https://hillcrestdisciples.ca/news/calendar/>

-- Justin Schwartz, Ministry Intern, Hillcrest

Disciples-Catholic Dialogue in Puerto Rico

Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council, Puerto Rico – The fifth session of the Fifth Phase of the Disciples of Christ—Roman Catholic International Commission for Dialogue took place in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, June 23-28. The general theme for the current phase of dialogue is "Christians Formed & Transformed by the Eucharist." After an introductory meeting in Nashville, TN, in January 2014, the Commission approached the topics related to what it means to be formed by the Eucharist. In 2016, the Commission moved its study focus to



"Christians Being Trans-formed by the Eucharist," and the 2016 session was held in Calgary, discussing the general theme "The Eucharist & Relationships within the Church." This year's session approached topics related to the theme "Living the Sacraments." The overall goal of the dialogue, which started in 1977, is to seek the full visible unity between the two communions.

Papers were prepared by the Most Reverend David Ricken, "Transformed by the Eucharist: Living Encounter with Jesus Christ," and

for the Disciples of Christ, Rev. Dr. D. Newell Williams, "Transformed by the Eucharist: Coming Face to Face with the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ." A biblical paper entitled "Breaking the Rules: Jesus Transformed by His Experience" was presented by Dr. Mary L. Coloe, pbvm, of the Catholic Church. At this session, the Commission also worked on a very preliminary draft which will be finalized in Green Bay, WI, USA in 2018. Each day of the dialogue began and concluded with prayer together led alternately by Disciples and Catholics.

While in Puerto Rico, the Commission, at the invitation of the Most Reverend Roberto González Nieves, Archbishop of San Juan, attended the Holy Mass on the Feast of Saint John the Baptist at Catedral de San Juan Bautista on June 24. The following day, they attended the Sunday worship service at Primera Iglesia Cristiana Central (Discipulos de Cristo), the first Disciples congregation to be founded in Puerto Rico. The Commission was greeted by Pastor Gamaliel Ortiz. On June 26, Rev. Miguel Morales, General Pastor of the Disciples of Christ in Puerto Rico, invited the Commission to the Puerto Rican Disciples national

office for dinner and conversation. The Commission was joined by the Disciples local church pastors and national staff along with Rev. Carlos Algarín, Catholic episcopal vicar of Bayamón.

In reflecting on this meeting of the dialogue team, Dr. Merryl Blair, Disciples, said, "While we have been talking about how we are formed and transformed by the Eucharist, so we are also experiencing the transforming joy of being welcomed into each other's worship. We affirm together that we encounter Christ in the Eucharist, and leave, transformed, to live as a community of hope, love, and compassion."

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Julien Hammond, Catholic, affirmed, "Our experience in Puerto Rico has been extraordinary. Not only were we treated to the most gracious hospitality by both our Catholic and Disciples hosts, but we witnessed a high degree of real (if still incomplete) communion between our two churches on this island. Our study on 'Christians being transformed by the Eucharist' took on special meaning and impetus in the context of the Puerto Rican experience." (excerpt from Council on Christian Unity Press Release. <http://councilonchristianunity.org/>) <>

Will we see you in Montreal? July 29

REMINDER! Are you coming to Montreal to share in the festivities and worship of our brothers & sisters in Christ? Please let the Regional Office know if you are planning to attend so that we can let Pastor Mezidor know of expected numbers!! I sincerely hope we will join together in great numbers to show our support and love for Disciples in Quebec!!!

**From: The Christian Church Pentecostal
Missionary Of Prayer (Disciples of Christ)
68 Boulevard Cartier Ouest # 3
Laval Des Rapides, QC. H7N 4H9**

To Christian Church Disciples Of Christ

Dear brothers and sisters, Peace and grace in the Lord Jesus with you. Christian Church Pentecostal Missionary Of Prayer (Disciples Of Christ) members, invites you in their anniversary, from July 23 to 30. Our activities will be on 68 Boul. Cartier

Ouest Laval Des Rapides # 3 every evening at 6 h 30 to 9 pm. Our preacher is pastor Fadinel Tremont from Maryland. Theme is: Ask ye the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain. Zechariah 10:1.

Twenty-nine Saturday it is the day the Church anniversary ministry. For this opportunity we have a worship praise and thanksgiving will offer to the Lord. We will asking you a special offering. We are starting at 3 h pm, we wait for you to come take part in this evening blessing in Jesus-Christ. We have many groups and chorales for this thanksgiving service, for heighten the praise of the Lord Jesus-Christ. For all information please you will call (514) 237- 0177, (450) 629-4559, or by email lucienminister@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your participation and God bless.

Pastor, Lucien Mezidor <>

Changes in the Region's Financial Office

There have been some significant changes in the financial office of the Region. We welcome in Sarah Leitch of the Mapleton congregation as our new Treasurer and are so very thankful for her willingness to serve Christ's church in this vital way. We ask that you keep Sarah in your prayers as she learns the ropes and hits the ground running. In addition to Sarah, we also welcome Flow Office Wisdom, a Guelph-based online office resourcing firm, led by Sugarbush core team member, April Burrows. Flow is a certified B Corp and offers a variety of office services including web design, social media, fundraising, bookkeeping, and office administration (among other things). Flow will be taking care of the bookkeeping end of things and

working closely with our Finance committee and Sarah. We also say a hearty thank you to long-time treasurer, Minnie Rigg, for her hard work all these years, and especially over the past year as we have searched for a new treasurer. Minnie is hard at work closing up the books for this past fiscal year and we are so thankful for her faithfulness to God and Christ's church and for keeping us on a fiscally sound footing. (Remittance forms were emailed out to all churches a couple of weeks ago. In the event that your congregation did not see this email, there is a new form included with this month's Canadian Disciple.)

Regional Minister's Travel Schedule

The summer is a busy time in the life of the church and the office of Regional Minister is no different. Below please find Jen's tentative travel schedule for the next few months.

- July 8-12: General Assembly (Indianapolis)
- July 16: Chalice CC, Mississauga
- July 23-28: Ontario CIT Camp (Disciples Conference Grounds)
- July 29-31: Montreal: Eglise de Prieres Anniversary celebration
- August 2-6: Nova Scotia: Disciplefest
- August 14-16: Regional Board face to face meeting (Disciples Conference Grounds)
- August 20-16: OCYF Youth Camp (Disciples Conference Grounds)
- September 12-13: UCC-DoC Dialogue (Crieff Hills)
- September 24: Guelph CC, Guelph
- October 28-November 5: Westlock CC, McKernan CC, Western Area

If you would like Jen to visit or preach at your congregation, attend a board meeting, annual meeting, lead a workshop or retreat, please contact the office at mail@canadadisciples.org. Please keep our RM in your prayers as she travels in the coming months.

Important Dates in the Region

1. **Regional Board Meeting, August 14-16.** Please keep your Board in prayer as we work on all kinds of exciting stuff in our Region. Our Annual General Meeting will also happen at this time. Date & time TBA.
2. **Camping Programs!** Please register & share information with friends & family re our camping programs. Camping is an important part of our life together, and an extension of all our ministries.

News of the Family

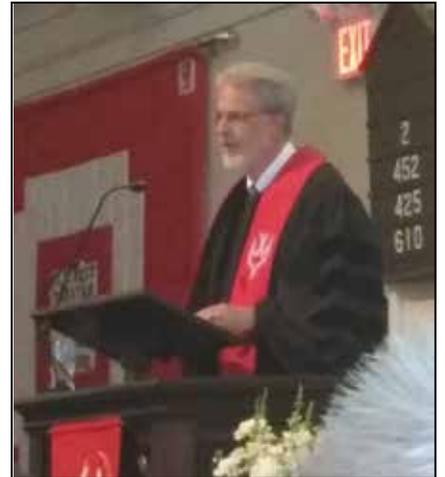


Sunday School children at Hillcrest honour the fathers in the congregation with a great presentation and song.

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Rev Dr Mark Toulouse, retired principal of Emmanuel College, brings an inspiring word at the ordination of Ann Stainton, Hillcrest

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L-R: Rev Dr Jennifer Garbin (Regional Minister), Rev Dr Mark Toulouse (Principal, Emmanuel College), Rev Dr Robert Steffer (President, College of Churches of Christ), Rev Fred Dizon (Pastor, Hillcrest), stand with newly ordained Rev Ann Stainton (photo: Sarah Himaya)

Congratulations to Rev Ann Stainton, Hillcrest on the occasion of her ordination to Christian Ministry! Well done, Ann! (photo: Sarah Himaya)

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Building birdhouses at Family Camp, OACC Disciples Conference Grounds (photo: Sarah Leitch)

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Celebrating the men of Wyndholme Christian Church, Dartmouth

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REMITTANCE FORM

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada
48854 Mapleton Line, R.R. #2 Springfield, ON N0L 2J0
Phone: (226) 927-1933



Email: treasurer@canadadisciples.org

Credit to: Church CWF Other: _____

DISCIPLES MISSION FUND:

| | | |
|----------------|-------|----------|
| Undesignated | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Easter | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Pentecost | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Thanksgiving | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Annual Fund | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Blessing Boxes | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Designated: | _____ | \$ _____ |
| | _____ | \$ _____ |
| | _____ | \$ _____ |

WEEK OF COMPASSION:

| | | |
|--------------|-------|----------|
| Undesignated | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Designated: | _____ | \$ _____ |

REGIONAL PROGRAMS:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------|----------|
| Congregational Development | _____ | \$ _____ |
| New Church | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Youth/Young Adults | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Outreach in Canada | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Other | _____ | \$ _____ |

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHEQUE: \$

Please make cheque payable to "Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada"

Remitted by:

Name _____ Church _____
Address _____ (mailing address for congregation)
_____ Postal Code _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Thank you for your contribution to the work of the Christian Church (DoC) in Canada.