

The Canadian Disciple



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

Published : June 2, 2016 (Guelph, Ontario)



Greetings, Sisters & Brothers in Christ!

It seems a strange & wonderful thing to be writing an article in our almost century old publication *The Canadian Disciple* as Regional Minister. I am truly humbled & honoured to have been chosen to work with our Board, Pastors, & congregations, in arguably the most interesting times in Canadian religious history. We are not the same church we were 20, 40, or 50 years ago. But I hope that is something that we come to celebrate in the months & years to come. Gone are the halcyon days of bursting-at-the-seams buildings. The church no longer holds sway in government halls or in society at large. That doesn't mean we don't have purpose or an urgent call to which we are to respond. Indeed, the need for true community, deep spirituality, unconditional love, & a passion for justice, are exactly what the world aches for. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is good news to the marginalized, lonely, hurting, hungry, & dying. It is our task to live that Good News in real and tangible ways to heal & restore our broken world.

The beauty of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is that we are all unique. Our variety of views, theologies, methods, cultures, & contexts enable us to reach out to different kinds of people with different kinds of needs. We are a beacon of hope to many because we are honestly trying to be together intentionally, embracing our differences. We are tied together in the knowledge that the love of God through Jesus Christ can & does heal the world.

Friends, I look forward to what the future will bring. I have a deep & abiding love for Christ's church & a profound appreciation for the breadth, depth & width of Disciples' identity here in Canada. I trust that we will keep one another in prayer as we work together locally & nationally. Thank you for your letters, cards, and phone calls. I appreciate your thinking of me & covet your prayers. Looking forward to seeing you all in person in the months to come. Peace, Jen

June Prayer Partners

June 5 - New Church

Please keep in prayer this week all of our new church plants & congregations in formation. Also pray for those who are dreaming of starting a new ministry but have deep questions & concerns. Disciples of Christ have begun over 800 new congregations over the past 16 years all over North America! Your prayers bolster the spirits of those doing the hard work of starting new works.

June 12 - Wyndholme Christian Church, Dartmouth, NS (Pastoral vacancy)

June 19 - Guelph Christian Church, Guelph, ON

June 26 - Eglise Evangelique Baptiste Manahaim, Laval, PQ (Pastor Daniel Francois)

Upcoming Events

All Canada Convention

August 11-14, Milton, NS

Youth Encounter

August 8-14, JCP/Milton, NS

Have you registered yet?

Register online at
www.allcan2016.ca

Reminder: **Nominations for George H. Steward Award due June 10, 2016.**

Send in nominations to Ben Kidd at mail@canadadisciples.org



Our thanks for his five years of service to the Canadian Region goes out to Rev Rick Hamilton who finished his time with us as Interim Regional Minister on May 31, 2016. We wish him every blessing in whatever the future holds for him and his family. To read Rick's farewell letter to the Canadian church, [click here](#). Welcome also to our new Regional Staff members: Rev Dr Jen Garbin, Regional Minister, and Ben Kidd, Regional Administrator. Learn more about your team on our website www.canadadisciples.org.

A Letter of Farewell from Rev Rick Hamilton,

Today is 31 May 2016. It marks the end of my almost five year term of service as your Interim Regional Minister. Tonight at Midnight, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Garbin officially "takes the reigns" as your Regional Minister.

Sometimes it seems such a short journey. Yet I look back today at all which took place, all the ways our lives have intersected, and I know it was a fairly long period of time. I am thankful to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada, its members and friends for the love, kindness, and support shown to me these last five years. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for any mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here. Because of you, I am forever changed. Because of you, even though I can never alter the location of my birth, nor would I choose to deny the nation of my life, I am forever "AmeriCanadian". Thank you all for the many treasured moments. For the joys. For the challenges. For being uniquely you and

uniquely church. You have broadened my world view and my perspectives. Thank you.

I am immensely proud of the team you have called to cover my ministry responsibilities. They bring immeasurable gifts and graces to their ministry. Treat them well and love them deeply, as I know you will. I am eternally thankful for all of those who shared in leadership over the years, whether on boards, committees, or task groups (I don't dare try names); I believe the ministry we shared together was good for the Christian Church in Canada.

Stay together at the table. Reach out in love. Serve those who are not yet members of your body. Honor the scriptures. Do not neglect to worship. Pray for me, and I will pray for you. Thankful in all of my remembrances of you and the ministry we shared. Finally, once in a while, think of "Deep Southeast Manitoba" and chuckle. I would count it a fitting tribute to our time together.

Grace and Peace, Rick

A Call for Stories, Updates, & Connections

One of the great legacies handed down over generations of Canadian Disciples is our eagerness to share stories from our corners of the vineyard. *The Canadian Disciple* from its inception in the early-mid 1900s onward featured inspirational moments, calls for prayer and support, and special events that helped us connect to one another coast to

coast to coast. As we journey into God's future, it will be vitally important that we share these stories once again. Please send your anecdotes, photos, important events, challenges, and updates from your ministry to Jen at rm@canadadisciples.org to be included in future editions of *The Canadian Disciple*. <>

Mission First



At our upcoming All Canada Convention we will be taking part in a MISSION GATHERING as part of the MISSIONFIRST! initiative. You may be asking...what is MISSIONFIRST? Here is a little bit of detail and invitation to explore.

It's likely your faith community has done some visioning in the last few years. The general expression of the Church is doing the same. As the year 2020 nears, it is time to listen for God's continuing call and to seek together where God is calling Disciples next in our shared mission and ministry.

Addressing the 2014 General Board, General Minister and President Sharon Watkins set out a

challenge: "The time has come to lighten our load and tighten our focus – on mission! I am inviting our church, in all its expressions, to join in a conversation on God's mission for Disciples today."

Since General Board, a group of Disciples from many professional and cultural backgrounds has been meeting about just how to find this new focus. The proposal called Mission First! was presented to the General Board in April 2015. It includes a call to mission and a pilot model for helping us identify a common direction in mission.

Mission First! addresses the need to find a new shared focus in mission. We are not setting aside pro-reconciliation/anti-racism, new and transforming churches or leadership development. **Mission First!** seeks to help Disciples identify the next mission priorities God has for us as we move toward the year 2020 and beyond. Learn more, watch videos, and register for a MISSION GATHERING at www.missionfirst.disciples.org.

General Announcements & Invitations

To receive the Canadian Disciple in your email, please send your request to rm@canadadisciples.org or sign-up on our website www.canadadisciples.org.

Did you know we are on Facebook? Search "Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada" and you will find us! "Canadian Young Adult Disciples" also have their own page. Stay connected with Disciples across Canada and the United States.

Stay up to date with the work of Global Ministries by subscribing to their weekly email blast which highlights different areas of the world where our missionaries are at work, as well as providing useful study materials for use at home or in the congregation. Sign up today at www.globalministries.org.

Please take a look at our website to see if your congregational information is up to date! If it is not, kindly send your edits to rm@canadadisciples.org.

Contact information for Rev Dr Jennifer Garbin:

Email: rm@canadadisciples.org

Phone: 519-826-5767 Text: 519-731-4629

Snail Mail: 30 Grandridge Cres, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 8G1

Regional Office Mail: PO Box 72053, Coxwell/Danforth PO, Toronto, ON, M4C 0A1



Wow, can you believe it's June already?! August and our 2016 All Canada Convention are drawing closer. Excitement is building here in Nova Scotia and across our Disciples churches in Canada.

Register now for an exciting event, which will exhilarate, invigorate, educate and uplift you. You can register, book your room and pay the very minimal registration fee or \$40.00 all online at www.allcan2016.ca . A printable paper registration form is also available on the website.

While you're there, cruise around the website to learn of some of the exciting things we have planned, some of the sights to see in Nova Scotia, and get a preview of some of the dynamic speakers who will be there.

Friday evening of the convention will feature an East Coast Kitchen Party which will blend Nova Scotian performers and worship. This promises to be a moving experience that will allow us to praise God with a spirit of love and fellowship.

Disciples talent will be front and centre on Saturday evening, so dust off your dancing shoes or hone your juggling act. This will be your night to shine!

If you, or your group, will be sharing your talents with us you can let us know beforehand or when you arrive. It'll be fun!

Also, if you will be bringing children with you we'd like to know ahead of time so that we can prepare a program or babysitting for them so that you can fully enjoy the convention. Just indicate on the registration form the ages of your children and we'll take care of them. If you've already registered, just send the information in an email to me at dbweatherhead@gmail.com

We can't wait to see you all and show you some Down East hospitality!



Wow, can you believe it's June already?! August and our 2016 All Canada Convention are drawing closer. Excitement is building here in Nova Scotia and across our Disciples churches in Canada.

Register now for an exciting event, which will exhilarate, invigorate, educate and uplift you. You can register, book your room and pay the very minimal registration fee or \$40.00 all online at www.allcan2016.ca . A printable paper registration form is also available on the website.

While you're there, cruise around the website to learn of some of the exciting things we have planned, some of the sights to see in Nova Scotia, and get a preview of some of the dynamic speakers who will be there.

Friday evening of the convention will feature an East Coast Kitchen Party which will blend Nova Scotian performers and worship. This promises to be a moving experience that will allow us to praise God with a spirit of love and fellowship.

Disciples talent will be front and centre on Saturday evening, so dust off your dancing shoes or hone your juggling act. This will be your night to shine!

If you, or your group, will be sharing your talents with us you can let us know beforehand or when you arrive. It'll be fun!

Also, if you will be bringing children with you we'd like to know ahead of time so that we can prepare a program or babysitting for them so that you can fully enjoy the convention. Just indicate on the registration form the ages of your children and we'll take care of them. If you've already registered, just send the information in an email to me at dbweatherhead@gmail.com

We can't wait to see you all and show you some Down East hospitality!