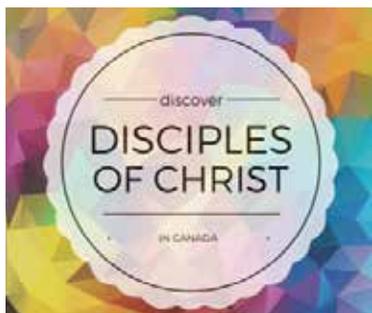


The Canadian Disciple



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

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August/September Prayer Partners

*Aug 21–Broadway Disciples
United Church, Winnipeg MB*
Currently in the Search & Call
process led by the United
Church.

*Aug 28–Evangelical Missionary
Church, Laval, PQ*

*Sep 4–The Gathering Place,
Ridgetown, ON. Pastor Doug
Rowley*

*Sep 11–Summerville Christian
Church, Summerville, NS. Pastor
Russell Prime*

*Sep 8–Westlock Community
Church, Westlock, AB*

*Sep 25- Eglise Evangelique
Mahanaim, QB. Pastor Jean
Daniel Francois*

*Do you have pictures from the
2016 All Canada Convention?
Please let Ben Kidd know at
mail@canadadisciples.org if
you are willing to share them
with us! Thank you.*

2016 All Canada Convention Mini-Edition

Over 100 Disciples from across Canada gathered in Liverpool and Milton, Nova Scotia to re-connect, re-vision, re-member, and re-invigorate! It was an incredible time of fellowship, learning, worship, prayer, praise, celebration, and of course, good food. There was much music, laughter, and memories shared over the four days.

Words cannot express our profound appreciation for Pastor Russell Prime of Milton Christian Church (DoC) and his leadership both with the Youth Encounter and with the overall convention. He leads a phenomenal group of people who worked with faith and dedication to bring together a convention that not only was meaningful for those who attended, but was affordable as well. Thank you to the good people of the Milton Christian Church who worked tirelessly over these past two years with a spirit of hospitality to ensure all attendees experienced the “down-home-ness” of the South Shore. Many thanks to the Planning Committee which was made up of people from across Nova Scotia, and led by our new Moderator, Debbie Weatherhead. There was not a detail left out from a fantastic lineup of speakers from across the continent, General Ministries, and ministry experiences, to great music (thank you Pat Howell and others) and entertainment, to hand-painted beach stone mementoes of the occasion. A great website kept us to date with convention goings-on and allowed us to save some trees by using electronic versions of our docket and other handouts.

Our guests at this convention were numerous: our GMP Rev Dr Sharon Watkins who spoke at the Youth led Worship and participated in the Installation of our new Regional Minister; Rev Dr Mark Toulouse, Principal of Emmanuel College, TST who was the College Lecturer and shared some in-depth insight into the history, theology, and rich heritage of Disciples; Rev Paul Tche, President of the Council on Christian Unity who gave a workshop on the work of the Council and the concept of unity; Rev Caroline Hamilton-Arnold, Assistant Director of Week of Compassion, who persevered through many travel trials shared some of the work of this great ministry; Jim Hamlett of the Pension Fund who came to be with us one last time before his retirement; Rev Danah Cox, Pastor of Campbell Stone United Church who shared a unique ministry initiative combining art, food, and the gospel; Julia Keith of the World Convention of Disciples of Christ (next one being held in

All Canada...continued

India this coming January); Rev Janet Anstead, Pastor of Mapleton Christian Church, who shared some insights into the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the impact of Residential Schools; Dr Gail Allan who is the Program Coordinator for Interchurch and Interfaith and Ecumenical Officer in The United Church of Canada was with us as an observer and to meet both our American and Canadian participants; Rev Dr Stanley Helton of Alberta Bible College; David Nicholson of the Pension Fund; and Bob Howell of Johnston Christian Park.

A huge thank you goes out also to Awit Marcellino who organized and directed our Youth Encounter 2016. With the help of Zack Saulnier, Russell Prime, Drew Gillette, Marycel Juan, and Grace Ingal, this group travelled the province, learned about First Nations culture, completed some mission projects, canoed and participated in other sports on land and water, and studied equality and living with respect with one another. This dynamic group led Saturday worship and taught us all to not despair when times are tough, be willing to try new things, and listen to the voice of God in all things.

We have some fantastic leaders coming through the ranks! God has equipped us well for the work we are called to.

A great missions projected encouraged attendees to bring along essential items for folks who struggle with poverty and homelessness. Towels and sunscreen along with grocery cards are often the last things people can afford to buy on their own when they are in crisis. We hope that these gifts will help to ease suffering in South Shore in some small way.

Many hands went into making this convention a success. Many people from across our great country and God's amazing church helped out in thousands of different ways. It is a testament to Canadian Disciples' spirit of collaboration, creativity, faithfulness, and hope.

There will be more updates from the convention to share with you in future editions of the Canadian Disciple. This is just a taste and an opportunity to say thank you. If I have unintentionally missed anyone, please accept my apologies!

Peace, Jen<>



Reminder: If you didn't get a chance to grab a Canadian Disciple hockey jersey, there are still a few left! Please email us to reserve yours at mail@canadadisciples.org.

In Me...Create

At our closing worship, we installed our new Regional Minister, Rev Dr Jennifer Garbin. What follows is the text of her sermon which pulled together our time together and presented a challenge for all of us from local congregation to region... it's time for us to go and create this new world God dreams of for us (Text: Revelation 21:1-7):

It's been an awesome convention! Thank you to all the amazing people who have worked so hard so diligently, attending to the smallest of details to ensure that we were all cared for, entertained, fed – spiritually and physically, and felt the presence of God here. Truly the spirit of hospitality is alive and well in the South Shore! Thanks be to God for the many hands and lives that have contributed to this gathering.

Friends, this has been an incredible weekend. We have shared not only meal and hours together, but so many stories...so much passion, so much longing, so much promise, so much hope. We have shared from our hearts and spoke our deep longing to one another for renewal and revival in this church...and God has been listening.

We have put aside anything that could potentially divide us, all of those “non-essentials” and focused instead on unity, in being one spirit of love for another. We have struggled at times to do the hard work of personal and institutional transformation. Like the butterfly chrysalis, we may still look like goop inside as we unlearn our bad habits and old ways of being and remember together, perhaps for the first time what it means to live in faith and hope and love...we might still look like goop...but the skeleton of something new is taking shape in our midst. God is at work in this church!

God is at work in our church not because we need to survive...but because God desires us to work alongside of the Holy Spirit and our companion the Risen Christ, incarnate love...to be partners in the ministry of re-creation, healing, and love for all the world.

The theme of our convention is Create In Me... we have had faith that God has the power to create in us and through us marvellous things. We have had faith that the ancient stories shared between the faithful for millennia hold essential truths...and are

still relevant for us today. We have leaned into the profound promise that we are beloved and can never be taken out of the hand of the Creator. We have grappled with the awesome conviction that we are children of God has not abandoned us, that we still have purpose, that there is a hope that is housed within this community that can transform not only ourselves, our home congregations and ministries, but the entire world.

We have believed. We have listened. We have earnestly prayed. And now we, like Sharon spoke of last night...now, we wait.

We wait for this new heaven and earth to come, to grow up around us. We wait on God to continue this great work that Love has started. We wait. We watch. We wonder...will our prayers for transformation be answered? Will God respond to our hard work, visions and dreaming?

The simple answer is...God already has.

God has been listening, God has been attentive, God has been watching and maybe rubbing hands together and giggling...oh boy, do I have something in store for you!

These moments of anticipation make us feel amazing...they fill us with hope like the John's vision of a new heaven and a new earth, where sorrow and suffering have been replaced by light and love, unity, and wholeness. These moments where exhaustion and exhilaration mix and mingle and shake us up are awesome and we say we should do this more often – and the planning committee gives us a reality check. And we go home with all kinds of dreams and wait for God to do it for us.

For so many of us, the prayer is on our lips daily – create in us...God, create in us...help us, lead us, speak to us...and when God does and we feel it in our guts...we continue to pray, create in us, God, help us, God, lead us, God show us the way... and God does...and we feel it in our heads and our hearts and our connections...we pray, God help us, God lead us... you see where I am going with this?

We stand still in a posture of prayer...waiting for God to do the work. To answer our prayers.

In Me...Create (continued)

But God already has. God has already attended to our needs and seen our passion and intention and faithfulness and desire to be love and light in the world. God has shown us the vision and now says...go. I am in you and you are in me... so go...create. Create this world that you have dreamed with me. Create the relationships you desire. Create sanctuaries of deep relationship! Create communities of welcome and hospitality! Create wells of healing and wholeness in your world. Nothing is missing. You have all you need. You have all the gifts skills dreams and visions that have been shaped by your deep love of me of your friend, Jesus the Christ.

God has answered our prayers...do you believe it?

God has responded to our deep longing, to the sighs and groans too profound for words – do you believe it? There are no burning bushes, no loaves and fishes multiplied beyond count, no hurricanes being calmed nor water turning into wine... but our lives have been transformed. And we have been gifted all we need to do this work. You have seen it. You have heard it. Do you have eyes that truly see the wonder of what you have been given? Are your ears open and twitching at the whispers of the Spirit that there is something going on here and in each of

us and Christ's church that has been brewing for some time? Time to take the pot lid off and serve up this mess of hodge-podge to a hungry and lonely world!

Friends...the vision of a new heaven and a new earth where there is no more tears, no more sadness, sorrow, dying, brokenness will only fully come to pass if we move from our complacency and catch the spirit of love and wholeness that is blowing through us. Through God we have the ability to create amazing things. In the Spirit of love and acceptance that comes from the heart of love, we have the capacity to transform death and dying to life and love. In the love of the one who loved us first we find our feet and our hands to do the work, we find our ears our eyes to see the deep aching of the world and God's abundant response. In the power and purpose of the Creator of the Universe we find our roots and the power and purpose to bring to pass that which was promised...that which is already but not yet...that which God has dreamed for creation since the beginning of time.

God answers us...go. Create. Love. Be. Hold my creation in your hearts and mend it as you would your own heart and life. Amen.

A few memories from All Canada 2016





There are many more pictures and stories to share. You can find some pictures on our Facebook page (thanks Debbie Weatherhead, Ben Kidd, Victor Garbin, and others who helped capture these fantastic moments). Stories to watch for in our next Canadian Disciple: George H. Stewart Award Winners, Encounter update, Canadian Outreach initiative, Meet the New Board, Equipping Areas, and more!

General Announcements & Invitations

- Notice: Regional Minister will be on vacation Aug 16-22 and will be back in the Guelph office on Aug 23. Please contact Debbie Weatherhead, Moderator, or Ben Kidd, Regional Administrator, with any questions or concerns at mail@canadadisciples.org.
- 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.

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