

Northern Lights Reflections

Official Newsletter of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region

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A publication of the
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in the
Northern Lights Region

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A Moment with the Moderator

Regional Moderator, Rev. John Keener

One of the great joys of life have been my grandchildren. These little human beings have stolen my heart and made life a great joy. They have even gotten me to do things I wouldn't normally do . . . like dance. In the past I limited my dancing to moments when I had had some liquid encouragement. Now I have no problem hiking up my pants and waltzing around with the grandchildren . . . and it does not matter how silly I look.

And, I love it!

I love the movement. I love the laughter. I love the pure joy of it all. Dancing is good for the soul. We probably need more dancing in our lives. Jesus wants us to dance. Shall we dance? Here is the recent devotional from my church: <https://northernlightsdisciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2021SeptNewsletterDevotionDoc.pdf>



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Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Northern Lights Region

Prayer Calendar

September 19-25

Journey Christian Church

1933 NE 125th St, Seattle, WA 98125

(206) 363-1438

Minister: Sacia Vik Email: office@journeyseattle.org
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

Since July 2018, when the paths of Lake City and University Christian churches joined to become Journey Christian Church, the faithful walk of the congregation continues to live into its name: to be a place where we nurture one another in our journey with God and nurture God's work within our community. On July 1, 2020, the merger became effective and Journey Christian Church in Seattle became an official Disciples of Christ Church in the Northern Lights Region. With this step forward, our focus in the coming

months, as expressed by Development Pastor Sacia Vik, is to be "open to what is, and curious about what we can find and become", that "we will notice new things growing — even if they are tiny and subtle as the first, fragile buds on the trees." While we continue our long-standing programs of meals and community service partnerships, we listen for new ways to develop our mission and of being church amidst the challenges of global pandemic; and continue to act towards unity as society wrestles with racism.



Our prayer is spoken by the hymn; This is a Day of New Beginning. "With "the Spirit's daring, [we] step from the past, and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving. Seeking new paths, and sure to find. Christ is alive, and goes before us. To show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; Our God is making all things new." May we clearly see where God is guiding us and become the hands of hope and healing.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A place to share news from our Northern Lights Region congregations, clergy, and leaders.

Englewood Christian Church, Yakima, WA— Rev. David Decker begins an interim call on September 19, 2021.

To submit a Community Connection, please use our webform at <https://northernlightsdisciples.org/community-connections-share-our-news/> or email office@northernlightsdisciples.org with your news. Be sure to include your name, the congregation's name, and any relevant links or other details. We edit for readability and space as necessary.

Central Christian Church, Great Falls, MT— Pastor Stephen Underwood will be celebrating his ordination on September 18 in Tennessee. Congratulations Pastor Stephen!

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**RECONCILIATION MINISTRY
SPECIAL OFFERING 2021**

**REVEALING
GOD'S JUSTICE**

"The time is always ripe to do what is right."
- REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SEPTEMBER 26TH AND OCTOBER 3RD
RECONCILIATIONMINISTRY.ORG

ISAIAH 56:1

Reconciliation Ministry Offering Reflection

Years ago, while walking to my predominately white middle school, I witnessed something that has been preserved in my memory for decades. Several yards ahead of me was Josette; a girl I barely knew. Although her skin color was the same as the majority of the students, her appearance was drastically different from other female classmates. She wore long dark skirts, sweaters, heavy black brogans, and often kept a scarf tied around her head (not a burka or hijab). As we approached the schoolyard, I could hear a few boys yelling at her. As I got closer, I heard these words: "Go back to where you came from you nasty Jew!", "You're ugly!", "Nobody wants you here!" There were other unkind statements. Even though I didn't know what a Jew was, I knew that their actions were wrong. I looked ahead, pretending to not hear or see anything, and went straight to my class.

The prophet Isaiah admonishes God's beloved in Isaiah 56:1 to, "Maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed." Frequently, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us that "The time is always ripe to do what is right". The message is clear: We are to do what is right with the time God has given us. It is a precious gift like the gift of reconciliation through Christ Jesus. How I wish I had the courage to take time to do what was right on Josette's behalf.

The Ministry of Reconciliation offers each of us the opportunity to "do what is right". Your giving supports diversity & inclusion through leadership development in our colleges, provides grants to ministry partners to further the work of anti-racism. It creates opportunities to heal our brokenness by promoting relationship-building through our One Bag of Tea program, and by equipping congregations to be advocates for racial justice in their communities.

Yes! The time is always ripe to reveal God's justice. Thank you in advance for your generosity to Reconciliation Ministry!

Gracefully Submitted by,
Karon Alexander

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Exploring a Wide(r) Welcome: Resources for Going Deeper and What's Next

AllianceQ – the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance
Executive Director + Minister Melissa Guthrie Loy

Where do we go from here?

I get paid to answer people's questions with questions; my role – and yours too, really – is to nurture the next question. *Why answer questions with questions? A). I don't have the answers. B). The context matters. Your context – your story – matters. AllianceQ resources and tools are helpful when used intentionally and organically in each context; nothing is prescriptive but instead invitational.*

To write the next chapter, we examine our histories. What has worked well?

What didn't work at all? Who was involved? Who is missing from the story?

The mission of AllianceQ – the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance – is to build a just and inclusive church; we lift up and we center marginalized voices. Disciples are most familiar with our resources for [Open & Affirming Ministry](#); with ecumenical partners we provide *Building an Inclusive Church* trainings. We accompany churches and organizations on a welcoming journey, one that never ends; equipping them to shape communities of authentic welcome and belonging where every body is honored in the body we call the church.

What are the values of your faith community? What makes your church special? What draws people to the church and keeps them there? What does the general public say about the church or organization? In your public proclamations, does your ministry say what it means and mean what it says? Do actions give life to your words?

Check out this article: [Say what you mean and mean what you say, why and how O&A](#)
Watch this four-minute video from Alysha Laperche: [Why O&A, The Power of Naming](#)

We're invited to pursue deeper relationships with one another and new relationships with neighbors. We're all invited to examine our definitions of family and community. May we ask hospitable questions to learn about one another, may we engage gracefully with one another, may we seek connection. May we care for each other. May we strive to bridge differences and celebrate diversity. May we shape communities of authentic welcome and belonging.

Resources + Tools for the Journey

This [Northern Lights Shining a Light on the Table Event Handout, Building an Inclusive Community Overview](#)

The [Building an Inclusive Church Congregational Assessment Tool](#)

AllianceQ
Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance



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University Christian Church Legacy Foundation Seeks Managing Director

The University Christian Church Legacy Foundation is a Seattle-based foundation whose mission is to support and encourage children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma and homelessness. A Board of Directors manages an endowment of about eleven million dollars. The Foundation anticipates a first round of grants in the Winter 2021-22.

After the decisions that brought University Christian and Lake City Christian together to form a new congregation, Journey Christian Church in North Seattle, the University Christian leaders engaged in the process of selling the historic property on the southwest corner of 50th Street and

15th Avenue NE, in the shadow of the University of Washington, to be used for student housing. A prior sale of the church parking lot and two additional properties across the street to Bellwether Housing led to the development of Arbora Court, a six-story building with 133 affordable apartments for low-income individuals and families. The Foundation manages an investment of \$12,000,000 including \$1M to provide yearly grants to Arbora Court children/families for special enhancements and extra needs. In addition, the congregation made outright legacy gifts to seven Disciples general/regional ministries and to twenty-three local outreach causes the congregation had supported over the years. They also created an endowment to aid in the launch and to support the on-going ministry of Journey Christian Church.

[Download the complete job description at https://northernlightsdisciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/UCCLFJobDescription090921.pdf](https://northernlightsdisciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/UCCLFJobDescription090921.pdf)

Reimagining the Use of Our Buildings

After the pandemic, many congregations started pondering what to do with their buildings since they already learned how “to do church” without a building. Can we reimagine the use of our buildings so they become a tool for ministry? In this workshop we will hear inspiring stories of how other congregations are reimagining the use of their buildings to continue serving their communities.

Join Rosario Ibarra, Consultant for Disciples Church Extension Fund hosted by the Christian Church in Oregon and Southwest Idaho on **Saturday, September 18, at 10am Pacific/11am Mountain**, for this timely workshop

Register HERE to attend this event: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvJwrVKYiCf01hWJvKbBBFu_Z31G8NSiDnZW4NIrkkhyTg/viewform

Congregational Survey Open Sept. 7-30

Congregations are looking for Christian education, worship, and outreach resources in new places and formats, especially after the upheaval of the pandemic.

Disciples general ministries, led by Disciples Home Missions (<https://discipleshomemissions.org/>) and Chalice Press (<https://chalicepress.com/>), have created a survey to gather information on what kinds of resources, both hold-in-your-hands and virtual, congregations plan to use in the next few years. This information will help your general ministries adapt to the new environment.

Please take a few minutes to have a representative of your church, whether that’s a pastor, staff member, or lay leader, complete the survey. Thank you in advance for your participation!

