

the Kentucky Christian

September 2023



Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering

Received in many congregations September 24 & October 1

Sound the Trumpets:
Unmuted Ministry:
Uncommon Love;
United Service
Numbers 10:4-7

RECONCILIATION MINISTRY
SPECIAL OFFERING
SEPTEMBER 24th - OCTOBER 1st

www.reconciliationministry.org

Learn more or give online at
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Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, Regional Minister

But now...Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

– Isaiah 43:1a,18-19a NIV



I have two teenagers who graduated high school in May. Their summer has been one of discovery, relaxation and fun. Through it all I have been contemplating what would be their next steps and recognized some anxiety surrounding the topic. It is as if they have approached a threshold and are unwilling to cross it to experience what will lie ahead. This nagging feeling was made clearer as I worshiped with Rev. Peter Harper and Providence Christian Church. His message was entitled Liminality. Liminality comes from the Latin root “limen”, which means threshold. Liminality refers to the disorientation that can happen during a religious ritual; when one is in the transition between who they were before the ritual, and who they will become once it is complete. Thus, **liminality is being in the in-between—at the threshold between what is old and what is emerging—between what was before and what will come.**

What a concept—a threshold. I am not sure why this concept resonated so much with me during the message. Was it because we had just finished a wonderful General Assembly in Louisville (the first in four years)? Was it because it was my birthday (and I had been blessed with another year of life)? Was it because I now had language to describe the unusual reluctance to move forward that I witnessed in my youngest children? I am not sure, but it really stuck with me. Maybe, just maybe it was because **we are at this threshold place in both our world and in our church, with feelings of disorientation due to the dramatic changes we have experienced.** The threshold between love vs hate, fear and anger have left us a little disoriented. We have been desperately trying to get back to what was, to return to the comfort zone, the state of equilibrium we all naturally move toward. Beloved, I am so glad because even in the midst of such change we have a word of Hope found in our text, that can reorient and ground us in truth. All I know is that in a spiritual sense, **we cannot go back to what was, because it is no longer here. So let us not be consumed by fear and trepidation and start moving into our God-given future.**



Dr. Gillett speaking at the Opening Ceremony of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in Louisville, Kentucky.

Diana Butler Bass suggests in her book *Christianity After Religion* that what looks like the end of Christendom may be the beginning of another Great Awakening.

“Awakenings begin when old systems break down, in ‘periods of cultural distortion and grave personal stress, when we lose faith in the legitimacy of our norms, the viability of our institutions and the authority of our leaders in church and state.’ A “critical disjunction” in how we perceive ourselves, God, and the world arises from the stress. The end of the old opens the way for the new.”

God is indeed doing a new thing and God will continue doing new things, in new ways. Will you cross over the threshold into what God intends for you and your ministry?

It remains an honor and a privilege to have been called to serve clergy, laity and the nearly 200 congregations that make up the Christian Church in Kentucky during a very challenging, yet exciting period in our history.

AROUND THE REGION



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II at Beargrass Christian Church with Rev. Trey Flowers, Pastor.



Dr. Gillett, Senior Minister Megan Huston, and Rev. Kyle McDougall at First Christian Church, Bowling Green.



Dr. Gillett worshipping at Bloomfield Christian Church.



Dr. Gillett with Interim Minister Rev. Bob Mallory at First Christian Church, Liberty.



Dr. Gillett with Pastor Jamie Eubanks and Leah Eubanks, First Vice-Moderator of the Regional Board, at First Christian Church, Paducah.



Dr. Gillett and Pastor Scott Winkler at Old Union Christian Church.



Dr. Gillett and Pastor Doug Alexander at Moorefield Christian Church.



Dr. Gillett and Pastor Peter Harper at Providence Christian Church.

2023 RECONCILIATION OFFERING

Rev. Josh Snyder, Associate Regional Minister for Faith Formation and Treasurer



The office of General Minister and President has set aside **September 24 and October 1 as the days for the 2023 Reconciliation Offering**. This serves as a reminder to all Disciples that we are an Anti-Racist/Pro-Reconciliation movement, a reminder that was also issued at the 2023 General Assembly with the passing of **GA-2341: Calling the Church to Oppose Christian Nationalism**. Here are a few words from the background description from that resolution:

Christian Nationalism contends that government and public policy at every level of civic life (from national government to state and provincial legislatures to hyper-local boards, such as school boards, library boards, city councils, and the like) should reflect values identified with an extremely restrictive Christian ideology that upholds nativism, white supremacy, xenophobia, and heteropatriarchy. Christian Nationalism asserts that this form of Christianity should be privileged in public life over other belief systems, and that power belongs in the hands of persons who are white, natural-born citizens.

This is an important resolution, and the work of the Anti-Racist/Pro-Reconciliation ministry team is important as well. This team has been working hard over the past few years to make sure all the clergy in our region have received anti-racism training through the curriculum “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other.”

In recent months, several congregations in our region have hosted this same training for their members. This has been a blessing as the ultimate goal is to build up a church and a region that is, in its entirety, anti-racist.

That work is continuing as we are now hoping to host a District-Wide training event. The idea is that one congregation will host, while the other congregations in that district will bring members and lay leaders to the event (clergy are, of course, welcome too).

(Continued on page 5...)



Rev. Snyder with Interim Minister Rev. John Opsata at Carrollton Christian Church.



Rev. Josh Snyder and Rev Stephanie Wolfe at Bromley Christian Church.



Rev. Snyder with Rev. Tracy Siegman at First Christian Church, Covington. Photo by Sterling Staggs.

2023 RECONCILIATION OFFERING

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(...continued from page 4.)

While we strive to continue to build up this ministry, there are things each of us can be doing to promote this ministry and its goals:

1. Remember the Reconciliation Offering on September 24 and October 1 (or give online anytime at reconciliationministry.org/2023-give-to-reconciliation-ministry-special-offering/)
2. Encourage those around you to attend training events whenever possible.
3. At all times model Christian behavior by welcoming all regardless of skin color.

And finally, remember the words of the Apostle Paul: **There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** - Galatians 3:28

Please continue to pray for this ministry. Support it however you are able. And participate in it as time and opportunity allow.

*Lord, Jesus Christ
who reached across the ethnic boundaries
between Samaritan, Roman and Jew
who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives,
help us to break down the barriers in our community,
enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry,
and free us to challenge and uproot it
from ourselves, our society and our world.*



Rev. Snyder with Pastor Timothy Polley at Dry Ridge Christian Church.



Musician Josh Inzer, Music Minister Tommy Cook, Rev. Josh Snyder, Associate Minister Merideth Sprigler, and Associate Minister Jerry McBroom at First Christian Church, Louisville.



Rev. Snyder with Senior Minister Rev. Chinna M. Simon at Madison Avenue Christian Church.

HOW ABOUT SOME GOOD NEWS

Rev. Molly Smothers, Associate Regional Minister for Congregational Development



There are days when being an Associate Regional Minister is rough - not going to lie. But there are days that make an old pastor's heart sing, even when the world is (sometimes literally) on fire.

I work with the Committee on Ministry – four teams of clergy and laity that help guide folks who are called to ministry as they go through the process; whether ordained or commissioned, chaplaincy or education, bi-vocational or full time. We are looking to add an additional five or six candidates in the next few weeks. **Good news.**



Rev. Smothers brought the message on Sunday, April 16, at Point Pleasant Christian Church. She is seen here with their minister, Rev. Carla D'Alessio.

In the last week we heard one candidate speak of finding their joy in the pastorate. Another spoke of the realization that one of the 'essentials' of our denomination is the quality of treating each human being with the respect that comes from being a child of God. A third spoke about seeing their church reaching out to include everyone – their words and their actions were one. **Good news.**

I preached last month in Chaplin, Kentucky at the Chaplin Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Josh Simpson is their minister; he is a commissioned bi-vocational pastor. The Sunday I was there, the church was full of happy folks – fourteen of which were youth. Fourteen. Who came out of Sunday School talking about Moses leading his people through the Red Sea. Did I mention fourteen youth? **Good news.**

Yesterday my husband and I attended a concert held on a very hot afternoon in the sanctuary of the church to which we now belong: First Christian Church, Lawrenceburg. (We don't get to be there much on Sunday mornings because I travel to different pulpits a lot, but it's our church.) Rev. Keith McAliley (music director and organist of FCC), Angela Easton (pianist of FCC), and Kris Anderson (member of FCC and musician on many occasions) all performed rhapsodies – from Brahms to Albeniz to Gershwin to Mercury (as in Freddy Mercury - we heard "Bohemian Rhapsody"!). The bulletin stated that the definition of the word rhapsody is based on a Latin derivation from a Greek word meaning 'to stitch'. Those musicians put time and effort into producing a concert that raised \$2,750 for Bridgeport Christian Church in Frankfort, to help them rebuild after a fire. **Good news.**

On days when the world seems to be falling apart, let us remember our siblings in Christ; the ones who can see hope in welcoming others, the ones who dance as they leave Sunday School because they learned a story about Moses, the ones who work to provide help to others – not out of charity but because we're family.

Family. Stitched together by the song of Love. Church, listen: that's good news.



Rev. Smothers worshiped with Bridgeport Christian Church in Frankfort on Sunday, August 6th. She is seen here with Board Chair Anita Bolen; Bridgeport's senior minister is Rev. Ann Shepherd.

AROUND THE REGION

TKC 7



Associate Regional Minister Rev. Molly Smothers brought the message at Bedford Christian Church on Sunday, April 23rd. She is seen with, from left, Kim Temple, Neil Bryan, and Bob Yowler.



Rev. Smothers worshiped with New Union Christian Church in Versailles on July 16th. She is seen here with New Union's minister, Rev. Dr. Deb Phelps, and Rev. Dean Phelps, Kentucky Region's former interim Regional Minister and the current interim Regional Minister of Christian Church Capital Area.



Rev. Smothers worshiped with Hustonville Christian Church Sunday, June 18th. She is seen here with their minister, Rev. Robert Shaw.



Rev. Smothers worshiped with First Christian Church, Mount Sterling on Pentecost. She brought the message and spent time with former colleagues and friends. She is seen here with choir director Ashley Tyree, Associate Minister Michelle Ballard, and music director and organist Terry Ensor.



Rev. Smothers worshiped with Bethany Christian Church in Nicholasville on Sunday, August 13th. She is seen here with Elder Lucy Jones; Bethany's minister is Rev. Dann Masden.



Rev. Smothers brought the message for the service on May 7th at Paint Lick Christian Church. She is shown here with their minister, Rev. Garth Lehman.

Testimonies from our Campers

Rev. Dave Carr

Many of you are familiar with CCK's camping program and the two campgrounds the region maintains on behalf of our congregations. Others of you may have heard about camp from the youth of your church that attend each summer, but know very little about the actual experience of attending camp. Still, there are Disciples in Kentucky that are aware we have camp but know nothing about our facilities and the opportunities they provide. We believe that no one is better equipped to explain the beauty and joy experienced during camp than the campers themselves. **Please take a moment to hear from two of our youth as they share the power of the camping experience that your congregation provides.**



Kennedy at Camp Wakon' Da-Ho, Summer 2023

Camp Wakon' Da-Ho is my home. I am constantly reminded of how deeply it has impacted my life. My family has been attending camp events since I was very young, and I can say with full confidence that I would not be the same person without it. Because of camp, I have lifelong friends, I am more empathetic, more in tune with nature, closer to God, and I am much more confident. This place is filled with love and support, and it is a place where one can truly be themselves with no judgment.

I believe that WKDH has given me the best of friends, and for that I am extremely grateful. Even though I only see them once a year, we pick up right where we left off. I know any of them would do anything for me, and it goes both ways. We all have such a deep love for one another, and it is unmatched by any other friendships I've ever known. I'm in college now, and still talking to the camp people I

met in elementary school. The bond we share is strong and special. The people of Camp Wakon' Da-Ho are my family.

Thinking back on my camp experience, it's hard to pick a favorite memory. Maybe it's when I was elected to be co-president my senior year at CYFI. I got the chance to lead camp for a week and learn what it means to be a leader. It was a blast, and I'll definitely never forget it. Or maybe it's when my brother and I started a dance circle to Beyonce's "Single Ladies" during the dance party. Maybe it's all the times my mother and I danced in costumes for the variety show.

These are all wonderful memories that I will cherish forever, but to me, camp is all about the little moments. The small things that happen during the week that make you smile. The symphony of fireflies on the hill, the sound of rain on the front porch, the energizers in the mornings, the spontaneous singalongs in the bathhouse at night, sharing stories with my small group, hug zippers, giggling at the sound of bullfrogs in the lake, giving each other friendship bracelets, singing at the top of our lungs during campfire, running to get seconds at dinner, endless games of 4-square, the inevitable ice breakers. Being without technology makes you notice things like this, and that is what camp is all about. Being present in the moment. There is truly nothing like it.

I am eternally grateful to camp WKDH for giving me such wonderful memories and opportunities. I've grown as a person and as a child of God. I strongly believe that if everyone went to camp, the world would be a better, more loving place. Camp Wakon' Da-Ho is Heaven on Earth, and I can't wait to go back.

Thank you,

Kennedy Fuqua



Cyrus at Morning Watch, Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Summer 2023

Here are a few reasons why I love attending Camp Kum-Ba-Ya. I am a member of the LGBTQ+ community, and I was skeptical about attending KBY for that reason. However, when I showed up, everyone asked for my preferred name and pronouns. Everyone there is so accepting and welcoming. I met a lot of new people there who are like me and made a bunch of new friends. The adults there are very polite and fun to be around. They are all very responsible and caring to the campers.

There was an interest group named “God Talk”, and it’s not only religious conversations. It’s a group where you can just talk to other people about deep topics such as Civil Rights, Religion, our current state in the world, opinions, etc. It is a very nice discussion group. I will definitely be taking it again when I go back next year in 2024.

My cabin mates were all very funny and kind. I also got to hang out with my good childhood friend since we both went to First Christian Church, Madisonville for preschool. It was a very diverse group in romantic orientation, gender identity, race, and religious views. It may intimidate some, but it is a great way to socialize and enjoy summer.

We have a “beach party” at the end of every camp week. We go down to the lake and swim, dance, and socialize. There’s a suggestion sheet for the music they play that night too. I have a great time every year.

Overall, Camp KBY has helped me discover my views on religion and my identity. I didn’t consider myself Christian when I first showed up due to past issues with

religion, but coming to KBY helped me gain a healthier view on it all. I’d 100% recommend everyone to come to camp here next year. It’s a week to enjoy yourself with your peers, have fun, and mix in God with it all.

Thank you,

Cyrus Carver

Our camps are not a ministry that our region provides to our churches. Rather, they are ministries that our congregations provide to their young people and the adult volunteers who make camp possible. Without the financial support from individuals and congregations there is no camp and, therefore, no stories like the ones you just read.

Yet, financial support is not the only resource we need. Without adult directors, counselors, nurses, and people willing to provide transportation to and from the campgrounds, there is no camping program. Nothing breaks the hearts of the camping community more than having an empty bed, but still needing to turn a person away because there aren’t enough adult volunteers. **Please consider giving a week of your summer to our campers. You will be spiritually uplifted and make a lot of new friends. You will be shaping the young leaders of our “movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.”**



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Marsha Thornton, Jr., Director of Women's Ministries



We are hosting our Women's Fall Retreat October 21-22 at Barren River Lake State Park - 1149 State Park Road, Lucas, KY 42156. We will begin registration at 9:00am, followed by worship at 10:00am. If you can, plan to come to the park Friday night to fellowship, enjoy the beauty of the park and get rested for Saturday morning. You can make your reservation right now; we have cabins and hotel rooms blocked. Call (270) 646-2151 for lodging information.

The clock is ticking...please register today for Fall Retreat! Deadline to register is September 30th and registration is \$35. Head to www.ccinky.net/ministries/disciples-women/ to learn more and get registered.

Save the dates
2024 SPRING CONFERENCES
 First Christian Church Danville - April 13th
 First Christian Church Owensboro - April 27th
QUILTERS & KNITTERS RETREAT
 First Christian Church Berea - June 24th - 27th

We're excited about what is going on in the region of Kentucky. Please send us any information about what's going on for women in your congregations. We want to share, and we want to participate. The work we're doing shouldn't be God's best kept secret!

Feel free to contact me, Marsha Thornton Jr., Director of Women's Ministries at marsha@ccinky.net.

Please mark your calendars and save the dates for our upcoming events!

Save the Date!
 The Kentucky Disciples
 Women's Choral Retreat
Sing into Spring!
 Friday, February 23 ~ Sunday, February 25, 2024
First Christian Church
 112 East College Street Georgetown, KY 40324
 www.ccinky.net
 (859) 322-5653 - Shari
 The Kentucky Disciples Women's Choral Retreat
 shari.caldarelli@gmail.com

NEW CHURCH MINISTRY

TKC 11

Pastor Chloe Specht

New Church Ministry is growing and expanding in Kentucky! In our most recent quarterly meeting, the New Church Ministry Team came together to discuss our plans for the future and to celebrate the milestones that our congregations are making.

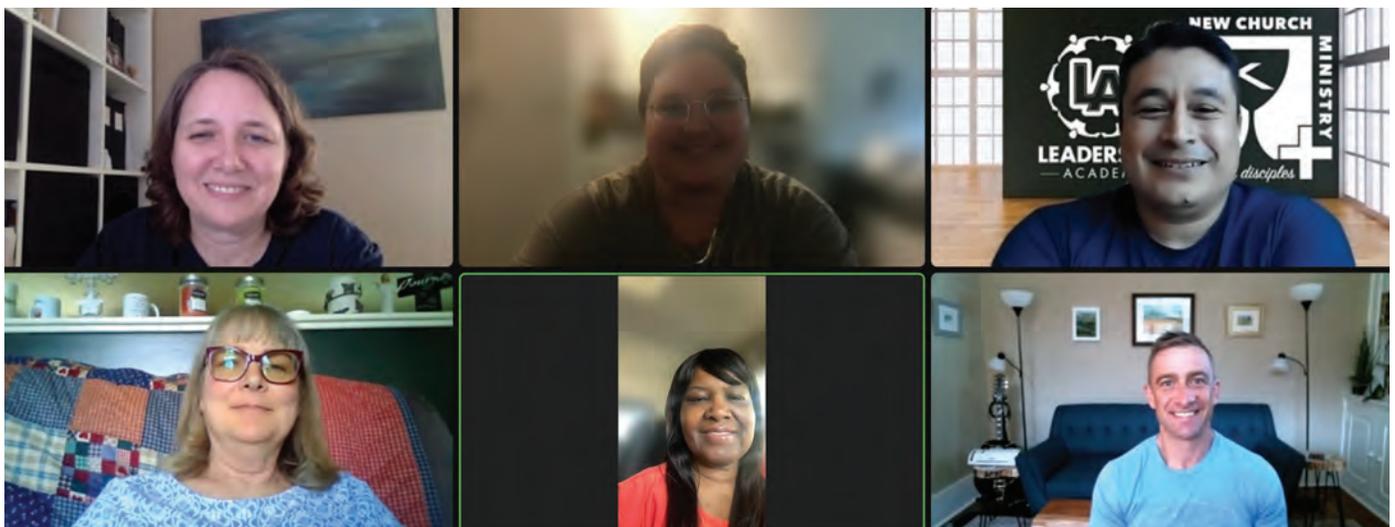


Our team celebrated the upcoming restart of New Life in Christ Christian Church, which will begin worshipping again in September. New Life in Christ Christian Church meets inside Dismas Charities – Diersen House, a detention center in Louisville, and offers worship services, bible studies, and life skills classes, among other life-changing resources.

Additionally, we had so much to share about General Assembly! We have all been moved and inspired in so many different ways to build up the Kingdom of God in our churches and communities. We were thrilled and delighted to be joined at our quarterly meeting by Rev. Dr. Jose Martinez, who serves as the Minister for New Church Strategies and leads New Church Ministry for the General Church. Jose shared with us about DisciplesNEXT, which is New Church Ministry's new methodology to foster faith communities.

DisciplesNEXT offers a practical methodology centered in our collective mission to be “a movement of wholeness in a fragmented world.” DisciplesNEXT emphasizes contemplative action, prophetic advocacy, and faith-rooted organizing as the three core competencies of New Church Ministry leaders.

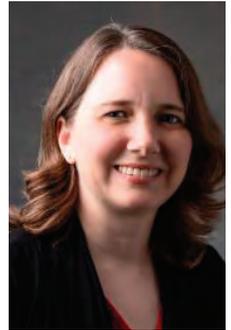
As we embark on an exciting new season of New Church Ministry, we are looking forward to growing the New Church Ministry Team. We're eager to work with Disciples who support the work that New Church Ministry is doing in Kentucky. **If you are dreaming of new ways of being the Church and want to partner with us, please reach out to chloe@cckinky.net for information about joining the New Church Ministry Team!**



Kentucky's New Church Ministry Team's quarterly meeting

Counting Our Blessings in the West Area

Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, West Area Regional Minister



It's not even November and we're already counting our blessings here in the West Area:

1. We're thankful that Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Summer 2023 was AWESOME! Attendance at camp this year is already up 19% from 2022, 10% higher than 2019, and 23% higher than 2018. Thanks to all of our staff, directors, and counselors. And thanks to our summer campers, who volunteered to build a labyrinth, stain the pavilion railing, and assemble the new rocking chairs. Thanks for serving, campers!
2. We're grateful that our new Merrimack canoe from the Issac Sterett Adventure Foundation took its maiden voyage and that our Sailing Camp Directors shared the joy of sailing with three camps this summer.
3. With a grant from the National Benevolent Association, we were grateful to partner with First Christian Church, Benton to host Camp Agape, the first camp at KBY designed for middle school youth in foster care. Donations from First Christian Church, Madisonville, Joy Closet of Hopkinsville, and individuals helped fund this special camp and will seed funding for 2024!
4. In July and August, it was a blessing for KBY to host two tornado response teams—one from the Christian Church in Virginia and the other from AmeriCorp serving with the International Orthodox Christian Charities, an ecumenical disaster response partner of Week of Compassion.



Robin Underwood and Steve West from Beech Grove Christian assembling the new bunk beds.

(Continued on page 13...)



Dee Moore Wells poses with the AmeriCorp members working with the International Orthodox Christian Charities disaster response efforts.



Rev. Jeff Bruce paddling the new canoe, a gift from the Issac Sterett Adventure Foundation.

(...Continued FROM page 12...)

5. What a blessing that our new cabin furniture arrived and has been assembled by amazing volunteers from AmeriCorp/International Orthodox Christian Charities; Beech Grove Christian; Crofton Christian; CrossRoads Missions; FCC, Glasgow; FCC, Hopkinsville; FCC, Owensboro; FCC, Paducah; FCC, Princeton and others. All but two cabins are now furnished with assembled beds, cubbies, and cabinets. The remaining two will be assembled once their renovations are complete.
6. On August 5, we gathered at a Camp KBY Open House to give thanks to God for the interim ministries of Dee and Al Wells. What an amazing blessing they have been to our ministry.
7. We are so thankful for Brandon, Elizabeth, and Phil Cook, who designed and built a new back deck for the Camp Manager residence—a great place for a morning devotion time and that first cup of coffee to begin the day.
8. After being on hiatus for the past few years, due to the pandemic, it's going to be great to meet, greet, sing, and just get back together again for All Disciples Sing & West Area Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 5, at First Christian Church, Paducah beginning at 4:00pm Central. More details: www.westareadisciples.org

And the counting continues...thanks be to God!



The seniors arrive in style for the beach party on their last night of CYF camp.



The Cook Family on the new deck.



CYF campers setting flags and the rope outline for the new labyrinth at Kum-Ba-Ya.



Crossroads Mission volunteers (from Mount Carmel Christian Church, Parkside Christian Church and Community Christian Church) help assemble the new rocking chairs at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya.

Ministerial Changes

On May 1, **STAN MCDUGAL** became Interim Minister of First Christian Church, Ashland.

On May 7, **CHAD BOSEKER** was installed as Pastor of Simpsonville Christian Church.

On June 25, First Christian Church, Hopkinsville bid farewell to Senior Minister **REV. WADE MILLER** and his wife Rev. Theta Miller.

On July 1, **GEORGE IRVIN** transitioned to Pastor of LaGrange Christian Church.

On July 1, **DEKE RIGOR** became Interim Minister at Campbellsburg Christian Church.

On August 5, Camp Kum-Ba-Ya and the West Area hosted an Open House Re-Retirement reception and gave thanks for the ministry of Interim Camp Manager **REV. DEE MOORE WELLS** and her husband, Al, as they returned to retirement life in Tennessee.

On August 5, **ED CARL** was installed as Pastor of Roaring Springs Christian Church.

On August 13, **CAREY MCGUIRE** was installed as Pastor of Butler Christian Church.

On August 27, **DIKIEA ELERY** was installed as Pastor of East Second Street Christian Church in Lexington.



Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler with Ed Carl, Pastor of Roaring Springs Christian Church



Interim Camp Manager Rev. Dee Moore Wells and her husband, Al



Rev. Dikiea Elery was installed as Pastor of East Second Street Christian Church, Lexington on August 27. Dr. Gillett and Rev. Smothers represented the region.



Senior Minister of First Christian Church, Hopkinsville Rev. Wade Miller and his wife Rev. Theta Miller at their farewell celebration on June 25.



Rev. Chad Boseker was installed as Pastor of Simpsonville Christian Church on May 7. Dr. Gillett represented the region.

Save the Date – Kentucky Regional Assembly 2024

Save the date and join us for our next Regional Assembly: August 1-3, 2024 in Mount Sterling, Kentucky! We will be hosted by First Christian Church, Mount Sterling, High Street Christian Church, and Somerset Christian Church. Plenty of hotel rooms have been reserved, luncheons have been booked, workshops are being gathered, and there will be amazing music from several great groups, including the Black Gospel Ensemble. Keep an eye out for more information in the coming months – we look forward to gathering in Eastern Kentucky next August!



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2022-2023

CCK Moderators

SYVOSKIA BRAY POPE

Moderator

LEAH EUBANKS

1st Vice Moderator

SCOTT HOLLEY

2nd Vice Moderator



CCK Outdoor Ministries - 2023



**To our entire camp family –
thank you for an amazing summer! We'll see you next year.**

**For further information, including age limits for each camp, visit
<https://www.westareadisciples.org> or www.ccinky.net or call
the regional office at 859-233-1391.**

**Subscribe to the CCK Email List and Receive Up-to-Date Notifications on
Regional Information at ccinky.net.**

The Kentucky Christian Subscription Rates

Individual: \$3 per year

Every Family Plan: \$1.50 per family (Annual payment is made by the congregation for all resident families.)