

# *the* Kentucky Christian

February 2022



## *Love Remains*



*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.*

– 1 Cor. 13:13

Put LOVE into action - Give to Week of Compassion

Received in many congregations on February 20 and 27, 2022. You can also donate on the Disciples Mission Fund webpage <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings>.

*Donald K. Gillett, II, Regional Minister*

**G**reeting in the name of the one who is the Light in our darkness, the Way when we have lost our way, the Alpha and Omega, the One whose Kin-Dom shall never end, Jesus Christ.

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah Psalms 46:1-3 NRSV*

Growing up at Park Manor Christian Church in Chicago, the worship service would always include Anthems and Hymns. There were several hymns that I particularly enjoyed that were based on scripture and often revolved around someone's life experience. One of my favorite hymns is "It is Well With My Soul." The Hymn is written from a place of deep faith by Horatio Spafford following the death of his son and daughters. "When peace like a river attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll, Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say It is well, it is well with my soul." For some these past 24 months have been just as traumatic, but I believe people of faith who know that Love Remains can declare – It is well with my soul. And as suggested by Howard Thurman, the African-American Theologian, find the growing edges.

Mercy Me, in the second verse of their recent song "Even If," sings:

They say it only takes a little faith to move a mountain / Well good thing / A little faith is all I have / Right now / But God, when You choose / To leave mountains unmovable / Oh give me the strength to be able to sing / It is well with my soul.

I thank you for the call to journey with you in ministry. I have found these past six months, while active, extremely joyful and fulfilling. I have visited over thirty of our churches and seen how faith is lived out from the east to the west and from north to the south. I have experienced the joy of ordinations, installations and the fellowship of believers.

**It is well with my soul.** There have been some additions to the staff - Rev. Molly Smothers joins us as Acting Associate Regional Minister and Rev. Tammie Douglas joins us as the Acting Director of Women's Ministries. We will soon have an Acting Director of Communications. Welcome!

**It is well with my soul.** I have witnessed congregations move forward in their witness and service in the midst of Covid 19. I have joined with congregations as they have made the difficult decision to remain open. I have witnessed congregations continue to love one another and also include me in their loving nature. I have witnessed the West Area's resilience as they have experienced unexpected weather destruction that destroyed lives, churches and homes.

It is well with my soul. I am glad that Love Remains, attending to the needs of others as we prepare to take up the Week of Compassion offering Let me just say a special thank you to our West Area Minister, Rachel Nance Woehler, and to the Week of Compassion who were right there when we needed them.



I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve the clergy, laity and the 203 congregations that make up the Christian Church in Kentucky. I want to say thank you to those who reach deep in their pockets to support our camping program and the region. **Yes! it is well with my soul.**



*"All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new lives, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of a child — life's most dramatic answer to death — this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!"*

*– Howard Thurman, African American Theologian*

# KENTUCKY DISCIPLES

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*Rev. Dr. Trey Flowers was installed as Pastor of Beargrass Christian Church, Louisville, on November 14, 2021. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, General Minister, represented the region.*



*Christy Messick was ordained into Christian Ministry at First Christian Church, Georgetown on November 21, 2021. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II represented the region. Rev. Chris Cash, Pastor, Rev. Erin Cash, and Rev. Stephanie Moon (representing the Committee on Ministry) are also pictured.*



*Rev. Patrick Messer was installed as Pastor of First Christian Church, Richmond on November 28, 2021. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II represented the region. Dr. Glen Miles and Rev. Michael Swartzentruber are also pictured.*



*Rev. Vicki Ray was installed as Pastor of Antioch Christian Church, Lexington on December 5, 2021. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, represented the region. Herb Ray and Connie Cowgill are also pictured.*



*Rev. Stephanie Rolfe was installed as Pastor of Eminence Christian Church on January 23, 2022. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, represented the region.*



*Rev. Dr. John Opsata and Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II at Dr. Opsata's retirement celebration at First Christian Church, Frankfort on December 19, 2021. Dianne Geddes is also pictured.*



*Rev. Ron Sinclair was installed as Pastor of First Christian Church, Fort Thomas on January 9, 2022. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, represented the region. June Deagon is also pictured.*

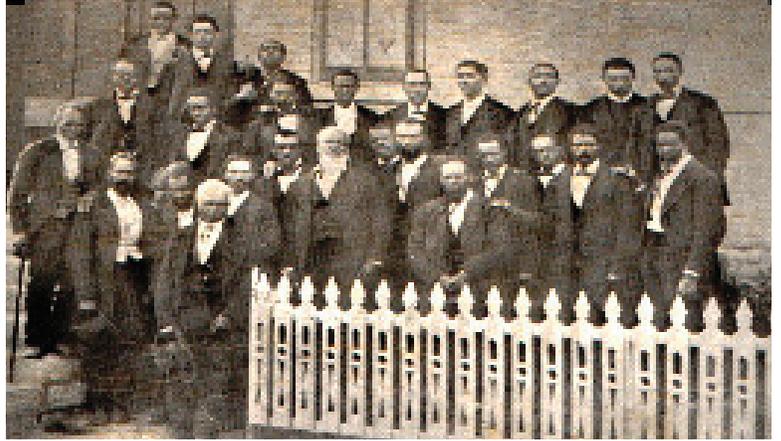


*Donna Webster was ordained into Christian Ministry at Unity Christian Church, Radford, VA. Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler represented the region.*

## The Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention 1872

*A Historic note 2022*

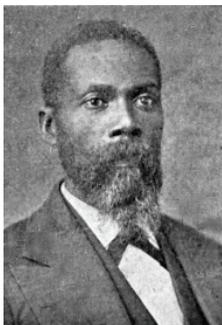
Records of the 1959 National Christian Missionary Convention note the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention (KCMC) consisting of 15 preachers serving 30 congregations with a combined total of 2,109 members; only 3 of those preachers were considered full-time. The Convention was organized in 1873 as a means of “strengthening weaker churches.” This gathering of all black congregations met annually to educate and train Christian leaders. Many of the preachers who served in those early years were former slaves who had been taught to read by their slave owners and “groomed” to preach. The congregations who had their beginnings prior to 1864 have similar stories. As slaves they worshipped in a white congregation, often seated in the balcony. At some point they were allowed to worship on their own in a location provided and supported by the white congregation.



During the mid 1900’s, the KCMC congregations maintained communication throughout the year by publishing the Kentucky Christian Evangel, a quarterly newsletter. In 1948, as the Convention celebrated 75 years of service, this picture of the first Convention delegates was published in the Kentucky Christian Evangel.

Of the 30 congregations noted in the 1959 records, 12 are still active. They are: Historic Second Christian Church, Midway (since 1832); East Second Street Christian Church, Lexington (1851); East Maple Street Christian Church, Nicholasville; Fairview Christian Church, Sharpsburg; Broadway Christian Church, Germantown; Broadway Christian Church, Winchester (1868); Seventh Street Christian Church, Paris (1868); Second Christian Church, Lawrenceburg (1869); High Street Christian Church, Mt. Sterling (1874); Hill Street Christian Church, Louisville; Robbins Street Christian Church, Covington; and Second Christian Church, Mayfield.

A review of the histories of KCMC congregations reveals that, between 1850-1950 preachers, Alexander Campbell; Preston Taylor; H.M. Ayers; Stafford Campbell; I. H. Moore; R. E. Hathaway; George Letton; and others served as pastor for more than one congregation, on more than one occasion.



*H.M. Ayers*



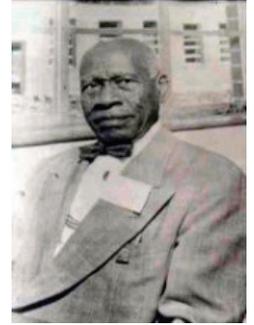
*Preston Taylor*



*Stafford Campbell*



*R.E. Hathaway*



*I.H. Moore*

## Disciples Women

I have been a member of the Kentucky Disciples Women's Ministries Cabinet since 2017 serving as worship leader, liturgical writer, and spiritual guide. In December of 2021, I accepted a call to be Acting Director of Women's Ministries in Kentucky. Most honestly, I didn't know if I could do the job but God always reminds me that I am not alone in whatever I do for Christ's community of believers. God is always with us. I also received such support from my Sisters in Christ I felt confident that God will accomplish much for Christ's Church through the Kentucky Disciples Women's Ministries in Kentucky.

The Disciple Women's Ministries will continue to support women in their congregations, homes and families. We will offer opportunities for connection with one another and the larger church. As we discover our gifts for ministry, we encourage and support women to make holy use of their gifts as God guides them. As Disciples Women, we make this holy journey together in Sisterhood through Jesus Christ. I am delighted to be working with the Kentucky Disciples Women's Ministries. My faith tells me that we are going to have a great year!



*Rev. Tammie Douglas, Acting Director of Women's Ministries*

KENTUCKY DISCIPLES WOMEN'S CHORAL RETREAT  
has been cancelled due to Covid-19

Save the  
Date!

## Christian Church in Kentucky Regional Assembly

November 3-5, 2022

First Christian Church, Georgetown, Kentucky

Welcome back to in-person Regional Assembly! We will celebrate together with a feast of workshops, fellowship, worship, and prayer. Your Regional Assembly planning team is also preparing a digital assembly experience if you cannot make it to Georgetown. Mark your calendars now and look for more information to come.

FaithTrust 

Online Boundaries training is now available.  
To register online, visit [ccinky.net](http://ccinky.net) or call 859/ 233-1391.

### UPCOMING SPRING DATES

- March 1-2, 9am-12noon Eastern time both days
- Saturday, March 5, 9am-3:30pm Eastern time
- Saturday, May 21, 9am-3:30pm Eastern time



Seeing the Face of God  
in Each Other

Regional conversations on race, racism,  
and reconciliation

This online training meets the anti-racism training  
requirement for ministerial standing in Kentucky.  
The cost is \$30.

To register, visit [ccinky.net](http://ccinky.net) or call 859/233-1391.

### UPCOMING SPRING DATES

- February 16 - 17, 9am-12noon Eastern time both days
- March 18-19, 9am-12noon Eastern time both days



*Rev. Molly Smothers, Acting Associate Regional Minister*

I'm new around here, so let me introduce myself. I am Rev. Molly Smothers and I am serving as the Acting Associate Regional Minister here in Kentucky until 31 October. I am a graduate of Transylvania University and Lexington Theological Seminary. I've served as senior minister at Republican Christian Church, First Christian Church in Mount Sterling, and First Christian Church in Morehead. For the last six years I transitioned to interim work with congregations in Independence, Owensboro, Georgetown, Harrodsburg, Maysville, and Flemingsburg. My husband Leon and I live on a farm in Rowan County. I am excited about this new calling and working with the Rev. Dr. Gillett and the rest of the staff.

One of my responsibilities is working with the group heading up our Reconciliation ministry. Their work is so crucial, especially in these times. Their commitment to this work moving forward is grounded in prayer and meditation, and this is evident.

Reconciliation is the branch of the larger Regional ministry that oversees "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other," one of our essential components in Standing. Those who are currently facilitating those sessions offered through the Region are well trained and committed to the effort. However, more trainers are needed. Many of us who are ordained have already participated in the training and have benefitted from the education. Is being trained to be a facilitator something you might be interested in pursuing? Would you make that a matter of prayer? There will be more information about this in the weeks to come.

If you are a clergyperson and have not yet been a part of the "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" workshop, there are additional times scheduled for the next couple of months – February 16 and 17, and March 18 and 19. You may sign up at [ccinky.net](http://ccinky.net).

Additionally, the Reconciliation Ministry Team has formed three task forces, two of which are set up to carry this work forward into our congregations and Lexington Theological Seminary. You will be hearing more about that in the weeks to come. The third task force is reaching out to those who have already taken the training and might wish to be a part of a small group to further conversation and implementation. If you have completed the training and are interested in participating in a group to continue the conversation, please email Rev. Dean Bucalos at [dbucalos@yahoo.com](mailto:dbucalos@yahoo.com) or Rev. Stella Hollis at [hollis\\_stella@n2newdirection.org](mailto:hollis_stella@n2newdirection.org).

There are many other aspects of my job that you will hear more about in the months to come. I will be visiting congregations to connect and see what churches are doing and how they are faring during this unusual time in our lives. Looking forward to meeting many new folks and reconnecting with friends from the past.

'Til we meet around the Table again,

Rev. Molly Smothers

## West Area News Partnering Together in Recovery

In their response to the December 10-11 and January 1 tornadoes, churches in the West Area are working in partnership to share God's love with our neighbors:

**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Princeton** is hosting work day Thursdays at noon each week through November 17, 2022. They are inviting other churches to join their members and youth to do a variety of tasks and tornado relief work. They intend to post the week's work plans and location on their Facebook page ("First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Princeton, Kentucky") by Tuesday at 4pm prior to each Thursday, and they plan to offer both more and less physical tasks. As of this writing, they have hosted workers from **Berea Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) near Russellville**, **Cadiz Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**, **Liberty Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) near Hopkinsville**, and **First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Madisonville**.

**Millbrooke Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Hopkinsville** and **Ilsley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** partnered to provide needed items to those impacted by the tornado. Members of Millbrooke collected the items and delivered them to the church in Ilsley, who distributed them to neighbors and family members in the Ilsley and Barnsley areas outside of Dawson Springs.

**Second Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mayfield** hosted several item distribution days in their fellowship hall and church parking lot. On December 21, they welcomed members from **First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Carbondale (Ill.)**, **First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Du Quoin (Ill.)**, **First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Murray**, and **First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Paducah** to receive, sort, and distribute trucks of water and other needed items.

# AROUND THE REGION

TKC 7



*Bridgeport Christian Church, Frankfort -  
Pastor Ann Shepherd and Rev. Derek Penwell*



*Historic Second Christian Church,  
Midway - Pastor Rick Smith and  
Rev. Molly Smothers, Acting Associate  
Regional Minister*



*First Christian Church, Covington-  
Pastor Tracy Siegman*



*First Christian Church, Versailles -  
Pastor Marcus Lynn, Jennifer Lynn and  
Dr. Charisse L. Gillett*



*Central Christian Church,  
Lexington - Pastor David  
Shirey joined by Minister  
Christian Smith*



*Seventh Street Christian Church, Paris -  
Pastor William Garr joined by Sister Deborah Garr*



*Lancaster Christian Church -  
Pastor Jiann Burford*

## Growing an Idea

**G**rass and weeds adorned the grounds beside our church of stone and stained glass. What's wrong with that picture? Unwilling to accept a vacant landscape an idea began to germinate in my heart. Why not grow a garden?

Upon approval I picked up my shovel and began to dig. Immediately I was met with the tough resistance of hard compacted clay soil unwilling to budge. I dug anyway tilling the ground for the coming plants until more resistance tried to halt my work. Unknown to me when the garden idea formed there were buried rocks and bricks from the previous church which had burned directly beneath where some plants would go. They would be difficult to unearth. At this point quitting would have been easier. But why should I allow these obstacles to ruin what I believed was a good idea? I wrestled the obstructions out of the ground so the plants could grow well. From horseflies to humidity the ongoing resistance wanted me to give up but my resolve was stronger. The desire for a garden captivated my heart so much I met every opposing challenge believing in the value of a garden regardless of the cost or my comfort. I kept digging, planting, mulching, weeding and watched a garden slowly emerging. Like a growing seed the idea began to blossom into ruby red roses and lavender lilies, bright crimson tulips and golden daffodils.

Sitting on the church steps sipping coffee one day I noticed a bee coming to a flower for nectar. The bee passed the word and later brought his buddies to enjoy the free food. I imagined the nectar being transformed into honey for someone's breakfast toast enhancing our connection with nature. Drivers who never graced the inside of our church slowed down to admire a rainbow of colors that spoke more vividly of creation's beauty than one of my sermons. Children in the church grew in love for the flowers as they plucked the blooms for bouquets and had their picture taken. A member's idea to honor and remember loved ones led to a "Memory Garden" of donated flowers. A neighbor dropped by unannounced to offer butterflies she raised that quickly settled in and made the garden their own. Like the tree sheltering birds in the parable of the mustard seed the idea had become for others a home.

I look back to various turning points in the garden's development when the outcome was uncertain as in when voracious weeds tried to overwhelm the flowers. If I had quit the garden, its blessings would not be here today. The garden continues to grow.

Blessings to you in growing your idea!

Peace!

Chuck Waugaman  
Minister of Monterey Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Monterey, Kentucky



## Ministerial Changes

- **FAY BLEVINS**, Interim, Butler Christian Church, Butler,
- **DENNY GOSNEY**, Pastor, Crittenden Christian Church, Crittenden
- **DON CHASE**, Transitional Minister, Bloomfield Christian Church, Bloomfield
- **BILL KINCAID**, Interim, First Christian Church, Frankfort
- **AMANDA MEADE**, Pastor, First Christian Church, Louisville
- **TRACY PARKER**, Interim, Shepherdsville Christian Church, Shepherdsville
- **REV. MOLLY SMOTHERS**, Acting Associate Regional Minister
- **REV. TAMMIE DOUGLAS**, Acting Director of Women's Ministries

## Kentucky Regional Ministry Team

### REV. DR. DONALD K. GILLETT, II

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### REV. MOLLY SMOTHERS

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### REV. RACHEL NANCE WOehler

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### REV. CAROL DEVINE

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### REV. LON OLIVER

Contract District Minister for  
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## 2021-2022

## CCK Moderators

### SYVOSKIA BRAY POPE

Moderator

### LEAH EUBANKS

1st Vice Moderator

### TRACY PARKER

2nd Vice Moderator

### *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.)

## Christian Church in Kentucky Regional Assembly

**November 3-5, 2022**

First Christian Church, Georgetown, Kentucky

*Save the Date!*



## OUTDOOR MINISTRIES 2022 CAMP DATES



### Kum-Ba-Ya

Chi Rho.....	June 6-11
CYF .....	June 12-18
Young Disciples .....	June 20-22
Discovery .....	June 24-28
Junior .....	July 27-July 1
Chi Rho Sailing .....	July 4-8
CYF Sailing .....	July 11-15

The camp's site committees released the following dates for camp for 2022. These are tentative only, of course, given the pandemic. Camps will not happen unless it is absolutely safe to do so. Information will be forthcoming on all these dates on a regular basis.

### Camp Wakon'Da-Ho

Spring Work Weekend.....	March 18-20
Mini Camp .....	June 3-5
CYF 1 .....	June 6-11
Eighter's Camp .....	June 12-18
Junior 1 .....	June 20-24
Camp 101 A .....	June 24-26
CYF 2 .....	June 27-July 2
Chi Rho 1 .....	July 4-9
Chi Rho 2 .....	July 11-16
Junior 2 .....	July 18-22
Camp 101 B .....	July 23
Y'ALL Camp .....	September 2-4
Fall Family Fest.....	October 7-9

For further information, including age limits for each camp, visit  
<https://www.westareadisciples.org> or [www.ccinky.net](http://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  
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/XP1FVQ8/ccknews> or you could use the link to this page  
<https://www.ccinky.net/the-kentucky-christian/> where you can choose to join the mailing list.