

# Around our Region

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- Regional Minister Report
- April-June 2024

Barry Christian Church World Café revealed a desire to try new ways to engage their community and younger adults with children.





# Hosting the Asamblea de Obra Hispana

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- Pastor Acosta (Alfa y Omega CC) receives the acclamation of the Asamblea for hosting the event. He represents the Central U.S. on the Obra Hispana Board
  - Rev. Terri Hord Owens congratulates Jessica Lopez for her vocal performance during the region-sponsored aftersession
  - Our region budgets \$5,000 annually to help cover expenses for local Hispanic Disciples to participate in the Obra Hispana
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# ROADMAP TO FUNCTIONAL ZERO



CHECKPOINTS



ACCOUNTABLE TEAM



QUALITY, BY-NAME DATA



BEST PRACTICES

## First Christian Church, Olathe

- Working to expand their service to the community collaborating with:
  - Good Faith Network
    - Government and faith communities working toward effective 0 homelessness in Johnson County, KS
    - Mental Health
    - Affordable Housing
  - The Farmlink Project
- Feeding hundreds of hungry families
- *Using MissionInsite Demographic service paid for by our region*





# Interim Pastor James L. Vertreese and Wife



# Fellowship Christian Church

Called Rev. James Vertreese as interim minister

James accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior and was baptized in 1968 at Central Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. He and his wife, Patricia, were united in marriage to Patricia Copping on August 11, 1973. They have three sons: Dornell (Shella), Kevin (Jenny) and Derek (Dahlia). They have nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. James graduated from East High School in Kansas City, Mo in 1966. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. He also has an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Automotive Technology from Longview Community College. James was a member of Central Christian until January 2005, when he joined Broadview Christian Church. James is a charter member of New Vision Christian Church, founded in March 2005. He was licensed by New Vision Christian Church and accepted the position of Administrative Pastor, under Pastor Kevin L. Harris, Sr., in December 2008. James became an ordained minister in July 2014 and is in good standing with the Greater Kansas City Region of The Christian

William Rose-Heim (bilrh@kcdisciples.org) is signed in



# Congregations with Pastoral Leadership Transitions

- Barry CC – interim minister
- Country Club CC – assoc. min.
- FCC Blue Springs – sharing a pastor with Belton CC
- Fellowship CC – minister
- Good Shepherd – minister
- Louisburg – minister
- Missouri City – pt. time min.
- Pleasant Hill FCC – pt. time min.
- Raytown CC – pastoral care min.





## First Christian Church Smithville – leadership experiment

- Elders and other lay leaders studied materials from the Disciples Interim Ministry course – providing leadership
- Congregational Board approved Mission/Vision/Identity
- Search Team to be appointed this summer



# Historic Installation at First Christian Church Independence, MO

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- Pastor Anthon Mondaine Jr.(second from right) was officially installed as senior minister of this multi-cultural congregation
- Rev. Dr. Delesslyn Kennebrew was among the speakers at the service.







## Be the Neighbor Group in Kansas City

### Kansas City - FILLED

\$350 per person

Grades 6-12, College, Intergenerational

Justice 101 - Connect Trip

Learn more

- Be The Neighbor is a justice-based service-learning trip ministry that equips youth and adults to live lives of love, service, and justice.
- Be The Neighbor visualizes a world where, through love of neighbor, justice is realized, people flourish, and communities are made whole.
- <https://betheneighbor.org>
- Participating Host/Teaching Congregations: Independence Boulevard, Hillcrest, St. Andrew, Community, Overland Park



# The Church Narrative Project

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- Next training session:
  - September 26-28, Chicago
  - Applying the principles of TRANSFORMATIVE COMMUNITY CONFERENCING:
    - A facilitated process to help factions work together to create a better future shared story
  - Signed up so far:
    - Don Witlfong
    - Bill Rose-Heim
    - ??? (Let BR-H know if interested)

**CHURCH NARRATIVE PROJECT:**

- Ten regions have participated in Transformative Community Training and StoryHour over the past year

Logos shown include:

- Central Rocky Mountain Region Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Arizona Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)
- CONNECT SUPPORT CELEBRATE Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City
- The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest
- Michigan Disciples Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska
- Together... Making Disciples The Christian Church in Illinois & Wisconsin



# Workshops offered this year

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- Contextual Healthy Boundaries
  - Clergy
  - Congregations
- Contextual Anti-racism
  - Co-facilitator: Rev. Sheryl Tucker





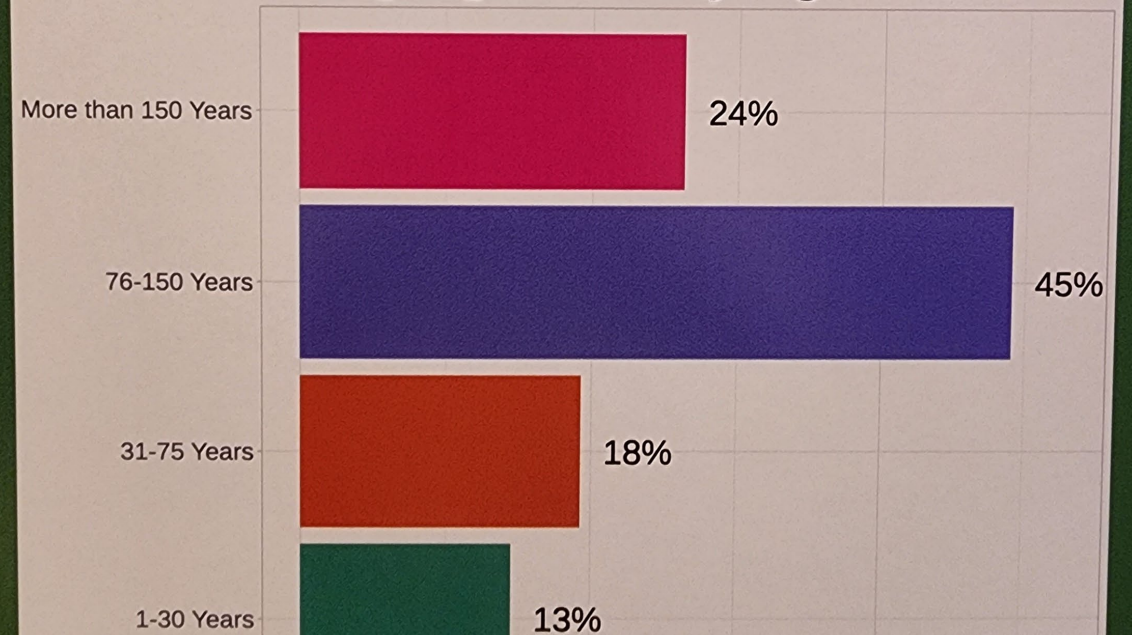
# AROUND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

- Number of Disciples congregations listed in the Yearbook for 2023

Listed Congregations

2,887

## Congregations by Age



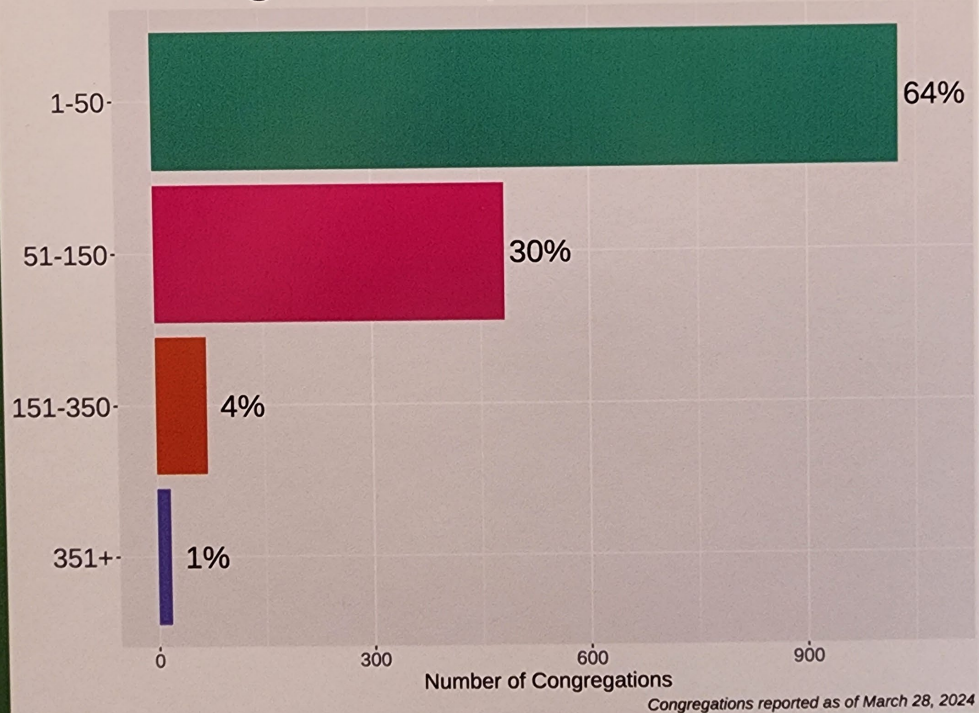


Listed Congregations  
Reported

57%

## AROUND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

### Average Worship Attendance



- It takes an average worship attendance of 100+ to afford a full-time pastor
- 78% of giving to congregations comes from those born before 1964 – what happens when those good stewards age out?

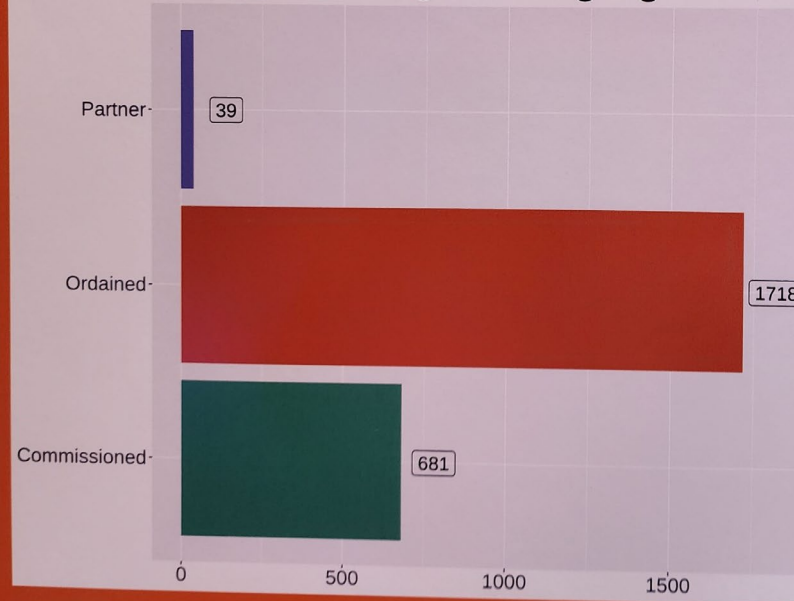


AROUND THE  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH (DOC)  
IN THE U.S. AND  
CANADA

Active (not retired) clergy  
holding standing in the  
Disciples

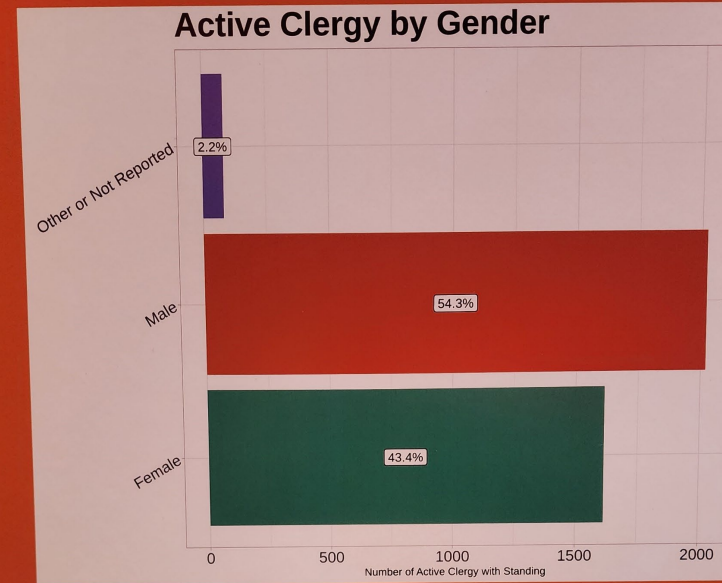
**3,717**

Clergy Serving in Congregations





# AROUND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) IN THE U.S. AND CANADA



66% of active clergy, with standing, are serving in congregational settings

6:5 is the ratio of listed congregations to clergy serving in congregations

**ALEX**  
DATA FOR DISCIPLES





## AROUND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

- New Regional Ministers
  - Rev. Paul Allen – Northern Lights
  - Rev. Kerry Keresey – Alabama/NW Florida
  - Rev. Alison Roebuck – Great River Region (*not pictured*)
  - Rev. Paxton Jones – Short-term Interim, Nebraska



# AROUND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) IN THE U.S. AND CANADA



- Rev. Dr. Chris Dorsey, President of Disciples Home Missions (pictured) addressed the College of Regional Ministers meeting in Chicago about:
  - Mission – Engaging in coordinated missions on behalf of the whole church.
  - Advocacy – Acting and speaking to promote greater justice and mercy
  - Programs - Providing innovative programs and resources to congregations, regions, clergy and laity.