

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

*FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, August 15,
7 pm on Zoom*

*Trustees Meeting,
Thursday, August 17,
6:30 pm on Zoom*

*SH Joint Worship at
Minnehaha Falls, plus SH
board meeting after,
Sunday, August 20*

*Coffee Hours continue,
9 am on Wed & Sat;
Happy Hour
5 pm Thurs*

Pastor Laurie and Pastor Dan receive award from Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance at GA

At the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance banquet at General Assembly, Pastor Laurie and Pastor Dan were deeply humbled and honored to receive **The Carol Blakely Recognition/We Are Called Award**.

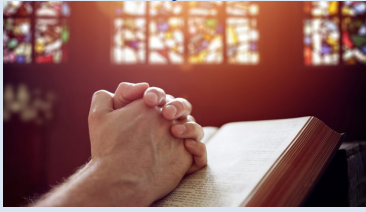
This Recognition is named for Carol Blakely of Caldwell, Idaho, a Disciple mother of a gay son, who broke silence at the 1977 Kansas City General Assembly, and called on all Disciples to name the reality that gay, lesbian, bisexual and affirming persons are our sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, parents, congregants, pastors and staff.



Mrs. Blakely was the first recipient of this Recognition which was given at the Alliance Aftersession during the 1989 Indianapolis General Assembly. The award is given to a member(s) of the Alliance who has contributed significantly to the call on Disciples to name the reality which Mrs. Blakely dared to name, to the other purposes of the Alliance and to the growth and development of the Alliance within the general manifestation of the church.

Pastor Dan, as a former Alliance leader, has presented this award in past years, and said that each year's winner is kept secret until the actual presentation. So this year, Pastor Dan was the one to be surprised to hear his name and Laurie's name called – and Pastor Laurie was not even present, because of being involved in another meeting at the time!

So, we offer congratulations to Pastor Dan and Pastor Laurie for this significant award, and for their on-going work for LGBTQ+ issues both locally and nationally.

In Our Prayers

We rejoice with **Pastor Dan, Pastor Laurie** and all the others of our church who participated in General Assembly which Dan reported was “great!”

We pray in gratitude for **Rev. Ron Keith, Justin Carlson**, and our other FCC pastors who will be in the pulpit in the coming weeks.

We pray in concern for **Ann Wolverton and Karen Westphal** who were both diagnosed with COVID, which has hit their housing complex; we pray also for their families, especially **Skip Wolverton and Warren Westphal**; for **Margaret Hutchens**, who has concerns for the health of **her brother-in-law** and **her friends Leman and Troy**, the legal difficulties of **a family member**, and her mother’s cat.

We pray for **Pastor Laurie and Bryan** for rest and renewal during her sabbatical.

We pray for the family of **Ricky Cobb II**, killed in an incident with Hennepin County law enforcement.

Gracious God, we lift up these persons in our prayers, asking the blessing of your Grace and outpouring of your Love upon them. Amen

Views and Viewpoints

Martha Harris



Designs, they are a changin’ for the Disciples

Pastor Dan’s recent FCC eblast had some news about General Assembly that surprised and intrigued me. The news was that Rev. Terri Hord Owens, the General Minister and President of the Disciples was re-elected to her second term, which didn’t surprise me. What did was that this would be a “one-time 8-year term,” because of changes to the Design of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Hmm. Changes to the Design? That sounds big! So I followed the link Pastor Dan provided in his eblast on August 4 and learned that the Assembly had voted to approve significant restructuring for how future General Assemblies will work and also how the General Board will be configured. GMP Hord Owens was given this special 8-year term in order to help steer the church through all of this. The new Design will be implemented after the 2025 General Assembly.

I have never attended a General Assembly, but, according to the new Design, I may have a chance to participate virtually in the future. Once the details have been ironed out, General Assembly will move from a two-year to a three-year cycle. Here is language in the new Design: “*Every three years, there will be a hybrid meeting, with opportunities for participation in person and online; in the other two years of the cycle, the Assembly will meet in online-only gatherings. This change will allow more people to participate in the General Assembly and engage in a variety of ways.*”

For me, especially from the vantage point of our tiny Disciples presence here in Minnesota, the business of the national Disciples has always felt almost invisible. However, during Pastor Laurie’s 2019 sabbatical, the Disciples leaders who came to speak (Rev. Lee Hull Moses, GMP Chief of Staff; Rev. Van Nguyen, Director of Week of Compassion; Rev. Rick Lowery, DOC Historical Society President) were wonderful, and sparked my interest in and sense of connection to the national Disciples organization. During the pandemic, I tuned to some of the 2021 Assembly via the livestreams and links provided and found it pretty interesting.

You can contact Pastor Dan for a link to the new Design, or copy and paste this URL in your browser to read all about it: <https://disciples.org/covenant-project/>. It explains not only what changes have been approved, but gives background on how it all came about. Maybe we will all find ways to be more connected to the wider Disciples church.

Right now: Click here to sign up for Sabbatical fun!

Women's Pool Party @ Arlene's House – Saturday, August 19

This event is for women only – Saturday, August 19, beginning at 11 am.

[Click here to learn more and sign up](#)

Drag Queen Bingo @ Roxy's Cabaret – Tuesday, August 22

Drag Queen Bingo @ Roxy's Cabaret, 1333 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis – this is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 22 at 7 pm – we will keep you updated if the schedule changes. [Click here to sign up](#)

Progressive Open House – Saturday, August 26

Join us for a day of food and fun! [Click here to learn more and sign up](#)

FCC Day at the State Fair – Monday, August 28

Join us on Monday, August 28 for a fun day at the Minnesota State Fair. We will plan a couple times and places to meet up and enjoy the fair together.

[Click here to sign up](#)

FCC Day At Como Park – Sunday, September 17

Join us after church on Sunday, September 17. Enjoy the zoo, conservatory, mini-golf, etc. We will gather at the picnic shelter from 2-8 pm, with a grilled supper at 6 pm. [Click here to sign up](#)

Nature Art Activity Hosted by Elaine Tucker – Saturday, September 30

Elaine will host a program at Eastman Nature Center at Elm Creek Park from 10 am – 12 noon. You can bring your own lunch and stay for more exploration, hosted by Elaine, or on your own from 12 noon – 2 pm. Attend one or both halves. [Click here to sign up](#)

Tour Time With Pastor Dan – Saturday, October 14 [Click to learn more and sign up](#)

Sabbatical Dinner Groups

Would you be interested in being in a small group to gather for dinner, perhaps once a month, during Pastor Laurie's sabbatical? [Click here to learn more and sign up](#)

Trivia/Game Time

We will have a couple of opportunities to join with others online and possibly in-person to play trivia and other games. Dates to be announced soon! [Click to sign up](#)

[Click to sign up](#)

Mission at Our Doorstep delivers

Thanks for ALL of the donations to Health Commons at Central Lutheran! We had 6 bags to donate: very full of needed personal hygiene items. Thank you for your generosity for people experiencing homelessness.

SpringHouse Joint Worship

Our annual outdoor joint worship will be Sunday, August 20 at Minnehaha Falls, 10:30 am. Watch for eblast information on shelter location. Following worship, the SpringHouse board will meet.

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30, in person or
livestreamed at fccmpls.org

Children's Table Activities in person during worship: **Join us!**
Children's Activities are also available online at www.fccmpls.org

Revised Common Lectionary
August 13, 2023
Jesus Walks on the Water
Matthew 14: 22-33



Sculpture at Crystal
Cathedral, Garden
Grove, CA

*First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis,
is a partner church at SpringHouse Ministry Center*

Reflections on the Word

*Matthew 14:27 – But immediately
Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take
heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”*

Storms will come: a job is lost; a
relationship dissolves; a loved one
gone. Our faith cannot prevent the
storms and Jesus does not promise to
help us walk on water. He promises
to be our compassionate companion
as we are tossed in the boat, calming
the storms of terror and anxiety
swirling within us.

*When the waves of despair threaten
to swallow us, Jesus, be our calm.
Amen.*

Frank Rogers, Jr, in *Disciplines* 2020,
adapted.

*A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of
the City*

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