

The Virginia Christian

January 2023



Emergency DOCTALK Zoom Around Networking Refugee Support ministries

Lily Cameron of Ashland Christian Church recently contacted me about the growing refugee support ministry in Ashland in which they participate and wondered about resources and ways to connect this with the wider Churches in Virginia. Her story is compelling and her innovative passion for this ministry will create excitement and hope in all who listen. I have decided that I need to revive "DOCTALKS" for next Thursday over the lunch hour: 12-1, to allow her to share her story and invite all Virginia Disciples who might have or are looking to start a local Refugee support ministry. The hope is to hear Lily's story and then connect and share with each other how we might work together and encourage each other. Come join this conversation and be inspired to be the best kind of church in this world!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/485473273>

Clergy News:

Rev. Dennis Akers passed away on December 30, 2022 from cancer. Dennis was a Floyd County High School and Cheyney University of PA graduate. He served in the United States Air Force and gave 22 years of service to Shelor Motor Mile. He was Associate Pastor at Mt. Zion Christian Church and Bible study teacher.

He is survived by his wife, Victoria Akers; children, Marva Denis Akers, Maria Carrie Butts, Nacina McDaniel and Dennis Marvin Akers, Jr.; grandchildren, Malcolm Elija Akers, Jacob Stockton, Jonas Stockton, and Zacchaeus McDaniel; and a host of nieces, nephews, church & work family and friends.

<https://nrvnews.com/akers-dennis-marvin/>

2023 Clergy Standing Form:

It is time! The 2023 Clergy Standing form is due **January 31, 2023**. Current requirements are boundary training every 5 years. Requirements starting next year when filling out the 2024 form will be anti-racism training every 5 years along with the boundary training every 5 years.

Go here to fill out the form: <https://www.ccinva.org/standing>

If you have any questions, please contact the Regional office at 434-846-3400.

Boundary Training for Clergy at Lexington Theological Seminary.

February 13 - 25, 2023

Register by February 1, 2023

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

Costs: \$25.00 Registration Fee

\$30.00 Tuition

\$30.00 Tech Fee

People of all ages, educational backgrounds, employment histories, and socio-cultural and linguistic backgrounds continue to hear and respond to the call to ordained ministry and to para-church and faith-based organizations, social/community agencies, and health care institutions. Yet, many clergy feel unprepared to meet the myriad challenges and uncertainties they face as they lead congregations during times heightened by social, cultural, and religious change and natural disasters. Establishing and maintaining healthy boundaries within diverse ministry contexts becomes an integral part of cultivating both clergy wellness and congregational health.

This half-credit, two-week online course will help equip clergy for pastoral leadership across ministry settings by addressing issues pertaining to boundaries in the Church. The goal of the course is to facilitate authentic and healthy fellowship and communication with God's people in congregational and denominational life. Students will grow in their identification and development of healthy boundaries and will clarify relevant strategies for self-care in ministry.

To request information on registering for classes go to:

<https://lextheo.edu/prospective-students/request-information/>

To directly apply go to: <https://lextheo.edu/prospective-students/applynow/>

Contact: Stephanie Moon, Interim Director of Admissions - smoon@lextheo.edu

Commission Ministry Course Options for the Future:

(Commission Ministers are required to take 2 courses in Bible (Hebrew Bible/New Testament), 1 course in Theology, 2 courses in Church History, 1 course in Preaching, 1 course in Disciples History and Polity, and 2 Elective courses of the candidate's choice). These courses/resources will now be offered through our partnership with Lexington Theological Seminary and Phillips Theological Seminary. This will provide more variety of courses and will reduce the cost to our candidates. We are excited to move in this direction.

Links for Courses at Lexington Theological Seminary:

<https://lextheo.edu/academics/academic-schedule/>

(Lots of courses here and you can audit courses and they will still count.)

Links for Courses offered through Phillips Theological Seminary:

<https://ptstulsa.edu/prospective-students/programs-of-study/non-credit-programs/center-for-ministry-and-lay-training/>

Virginia Youth Council starting up soon:

Please pass along to High School Youth in your church. Virginia Youth Council starting up again in February:

Application: <https://forms.gle/5pnKPLvzHwsJTjgAA>

About the Leadership Program: <https://www.youthleadershipsymposium.org/>

Virginia is one of 5 regions participating in this program with our own Regional Pod.

Applications are due by early January....Please note that the first gathering of the council is February 4th at the University of Lynchburg.

Congregation News:

First Christian Church, Hopewell, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of their heritage on November 20, 2022. They were delighted to welcome back former Interim Minister Rev. Dr. John Falk who spoke during their service as well as many old friends who joined their celebration. "What a wonderful time it is for us, as we reflect back on those who laid the groundwork and foundation for such a time as this as we celebrate our heritage and look forward to the future of where God leads us to do His work. We are grateful for all who have supported us over the years.



Men's Ministry Reforming

Check out this video from Rev. Greg Ott as he sends out a call to all men and men's groups across the Virginia Region. We need to get together. Send Greg an email at

pastorgregott@gmail.com. See video here <https://youtu.be/gLHEAG6Lq5E>

If you are looking for a way to connect your men with the larger church for some activities, please take the time to watch and send Greg a note so he can begin gathering us together!

Craig Springs Camp Schedule 2023

June 19 - 23 New Covenant Camp
June 25 - 30 Nature Camp (campers arrive on 26th)
July 3 - 8 Special Camp
July 10 - 15 Triple 1 Camp
July 17 - 22 CAMPDD
July 24 - 29 Triple 2 Camp
August 4 - 6 Family Camp

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Winter Talk - February 13-15, 2023

Virginia Region will provide \$300 scholarship to first 3 people who want to attend this event:
<https://centerforindigenousministries.org/winter-talk-2020/>
(Ignore the 2020, it is really for 2023. Note: You can also attend virtually).

Winter Talk is a three-day conversation at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma on the Christian Doctrine of Discovery and its influence on Christian theology and polity. Hosted by Center for Indigenous Ministries (DOC), Winter Talk is dedicated to furthering the conversation on the Christian Doctrine of Discovery and its dismantling.

Winter Talk is an important time for Canadians and US siblings to gather, eat, learn and talk about the Doctrine of Discovery's impact on North American peoples. All people are welcomed to Winter Talk; a place and space of accountability to American Indignity where the Indigenous voice is principle in an exploration of the past, an understanding of the present, and a visioning of the future.

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1 Million Dollar Grant Awarded - The Proclamation Project

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has received a grant of \$1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help support and equip Disciples for the task of preaching the good news. The program will kick off January 20th, 12:30 - 2:00 pm with a virtual preaching workshop - <https://app.experiencewelcome.com/events/zAunJd/stages/oafjgV> and a sermon series resource for preachers to use in preparation for next summer's General Assembly. As the program takes shape, it will grow to include a resource library, support for preachers in bi-vocational settings, cohort groups, and learning opportunities for Disciples preachers. The Office of the General Minister and President will be developing a team to lead the effort, which will provide support and resources for preachers from the diverse communities that make up the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Proclamation Project is being funded through Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching Initiative. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is one of the 32 organizations receiving funding in an invitational round of grants for the initiative, which is designed to help Christian pastors strengthen their abilities to proclaim the gospel in more engaging and effective ways.

Anti-Racism & Pro-Reconciliation Ministry Training Schedule

Note the events currently scheduled and look for sign up soon.

<https://www.ccinva.org/arpr>

Piedmont District Convention
Piedmont District Convention Center, Reidsville NC
Pastor Kathy Thomas-Grant, PCD Moderator
Email: kjsthomas1026@gmail.com
Contact Person: Pastor Kathy Thomas-Grant, PCD Moderator
Training Date: March __, 2023

District 1: Hillsville Christian Church
120 Edgewood Drive, Hillsville, Virginia 24343
Pastor Monika Hunter
Email: hillsvilleccpastor@gmail.com
Contact Person: Pastor Monika Hunter
Training Date: Saturday, February 18, 2023

District 2: Unity Christian Church
400 Tyler Ave. Radford, Virginia 24141
Pastor Wendy Wilson
Email: unity2012@verizon.net
Contact Person: Pastor Wendy Wilson
Training Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023

District 7- Seventh Street Christian Church
4101 Grove Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221
Pastor Hollie Woodruff
Email: revhollie@seventhstreetchristianchurch.org
Contact Person:
Training Date: TBA

District 8- Hilton Christian Church
100 James River Drive, Newport News, Virginia 23601
Pastor Natalia Chamberlain
Email: ncchamberlain@yahoo.com
Contact Person:
Training Date: Saturday, February 11, 2023

District 11- Strasburg Christian Church
165 High Street, Strasburg, Virginia 22657
Pastor Rob Lovett
Email: sttrchrch@shentel.net
Contact Person: Rev. Rob Lovett
Training Date: TBA

ARPR Training at Hilton Christian Church



Hilton Christian Church

100 James River Drive
Newport News, Virginia 23601

Dear Disciples,

Hilton Christian Church is hosting a Regional Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation (ARPR) Training. This training will be held Saturday, February 11, 2023. This training is open to all Disciples, clergy and lay.

Details:

8:30-9:30 Registration
9:00-9:30 Meet and Greet
9:30 Prompt start of training
12:00 Light lunch
12:30 Training resumes
3:00 End of training

We will not go past 3pm for this training.

Cost:

A freewill offering will be taken to cover the stipend for the training team and the cost of food.

Registration:

Preregistration is required. Please, email Hilton CC at hiltonccoffice@gmail.com no later than Thursday, February 2 at 11:30am. Include your name, number of people for whom you are registering, preferred contact information, and any physical or dietary accommodations needed.

I look forward to hosting you in Newport News as we do this important work together.

In Christ's service and yours,

Rev Natalie C Chamberlain

