

The Virginia Christian

May 2023



Updates, Prayer Requests and Video Link:

Here is a video update regarding several things going on in the Virginia region... more things to come... its 15 minutes but you can skip through as needed... Hope you all can feel my own enthusiasm for the things God seems to be doing with us here in Virginia.

<https://youtu.be/TeDPki2fYd4>

Rev. Merinda Easley update:

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for Rev. Merinda Easley and her husband. From Rev. Easley "Update - He is going home today. No problem with heart or anything else. Dr. told him to check his blood pressure before he takes his medicine. If below 110, do not take it.....the final conclusion is that he may have been dehydrated."

In addition, I request your continued prayers for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and do not allow compassion fatigue to forget about them.

I also ask for prayers and support for my colleague Rev. Andy Mangum, Regional Minister in the Southwest. In the recent weeks, he has been dealing with the impact of several mass shootings in Texas as well as the recent incident in which a man used his car to run over individuals who were gathered outside a migrant shelter seeking asylum in the United States. Some of our own Disciples pastor's were called in to provide immediate pastoral support for the families. I am really asking for prayers for all of my regional colleagues as the pain and suffering of those for whom they care for takes a toll on them.

BSD

Grant Request Funds Available:

Please consider applying for a grant to help your ministry. The Administrative Council will review all requests during their every other month meetings. Dream Disciples Dream!

(Anti-Racism actions and events, New Church Exploration Grants and the newly established Ministry Dream Seed Grants made possible through sale of the Summit)

Apply now at: <https://forms.gle/6Uqqi2atPrLyMModA>



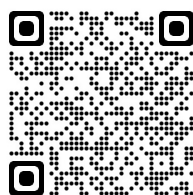
2023 Pentecost Offering - May 21 and 28

In the beginning, every church was new. It's right there in the Book of Acts. Early disciples came together, sharing all things in common, breaking bread with glad and generous hearts. God was doing a new thing: creating a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. In the beginning, Jesus sent out disciples, two by two, not to "plant" churches, but to proclaim the good news, to experience the hospitality and wisdom of neighbors all around.

At **New Church Ministry**, we believe God is calling the whole Church back to becoming new...back to becoming who we are: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Your gifts to the 2023 Pentecost Offering, received this year in most congregations on Sundays, May 21 and 28, help ensure our movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision: to be and to share the Good News, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

Half of your gift supports the local new church movement through your region's ministry. The other half supports **New Church Ministry** efforts across the United States and Canada to equip, train, and empower new leaders. So, thank you. For participating in the new thing God is still doing — just as in the beginning.

<https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/>



Calling All Young Adults!

We are calling all young adults! Are you in college? Are you in the weird stage of life where you are old enough to vote but not to rent a car? Are you seeking friends in the Church to gather with and intentionally grow in faith, leadership, and service? This is your time! You can help form a Young Adult Conference to our Virginia region. To do this, the (former) Camp and Conference ministry is hosting an "open house" on our next meeting to form a Kickstarter group. Share this info with your friends and come be a part of something that is powerful, fun, and rewarding for years to come. We will meet on **June 12 at 7:30 pm**. Here is the **Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/485473273>**

See you there!

Hayden Cran

Chair, (Former) Camp and Conference Team

***A Brother's Peace* by Jan Linn**

Families can be messy because relationships often are. The Strange family of Castle Cove, NC is no different. Three brothers grow up with the same parents who love them equally and provide for them generously because they can, yet each brother turns out different. Harrison, the oldest, takes over the family sawmill business. Sonny, the middle one, goes down the rabbit hole of alcoholism, while Sydney, the youngest, becomes an Episcopal priest who is determined to save his brother from himself, driving a wedge between them that finally forces him to confront his own humanity, including his unconscious white privilege endemic to small town southern life he has always taken for granted. Caught in the tension between the demands of truth and the resilience of hope, *A Brother's Peace* will make you laugh and cry as you experience the power of storytelling at its best.

This novel is an excellent book for church reading groups and book clubs and has a Reader's Guide included in the back. It is available online, including Kindle and other E-books, and at all local book sellers. Jan Linn is a Disciples minister and a native of Lynchburg. He has had 19 non-fiction books published. *A Brother's Peace*, published by Sunstone Press, is his debut novel.

KINDOM OF GOD WITHIN US AMONG US

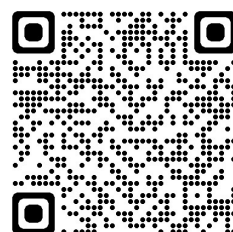
GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

July 29 - August 1, 2023 · Louisville

[General Assembly 2023](#)

Mark your calendars and start making plans - the 2023 General Assembly "The Kingdom of God Within Us, Among Us" will be held in Louisville, KY, July 29 - August 1. Engage in the dynamic discernment of the church, gather for energizing worship and deepen your faith with bible study and workshops.

Register here: <https://ga.disciples.org/>



JOIN US!
MAY 19 - 21
CRAIG SPRINGS CAMP

WORK WEEKEND



Registration: <https://forms.gle/V3imYVPT8QMhb9Fa7>



**IF YOUR CHURCH WOULD LIKE TO
COME ANY OTHER WEEKEND, PLEASE
CONTACT RON SCHWARZ AT
ADMIN@CRAIGSPRINGS.ORG
540-864-5768**

Summary of Work Weekend Tasks

Much needs to be done each spring to prepare the camp for the summer season, but as they say many hands make for light work. What follows is a summary list. For the most part they require labor, along with tools and supplies that the camp keeps on-hand. However, if you choose to bring some of your own tools and supplies it will be greatly appreciated and it will stretch what we have on hand. There is something for everyone, so come one come all.

Cleaning: All rooms in all buildings need to be cleaned & inspected for needed repairs.

Screening: There are screens on doors and windows that need to be patched or replaced.

Leaf Removal: In the fall and winter leaves blow in next to the buildings and into the ditches. To protect the buildings from rot and allow them to dry, these leaves need to be removed and spread into the woods.

Landscaping: If you have a green thumb, bring your own equipment or use what we have and work on the various flower beds, bushes, ivy and creeper.

Game Room: Everything needs to be removed, the room and equipment cleaned, and everything returned in an ORGANIZED way.

Ball Court: The court needs leaves removed, then scraped and pressure washed. A new ball box needs to be built on the side next to the road. Also repairs need to be made on the gate(s) & fencing. Donations of good serviceable balls would be appreciated..

Equipment: Trimmers and Mowers - Service, & Repair as needed and possible.

Firewood: Firewood needs to be cut, split, and stacked, please bring your own equipment.

Trail Work: Build and mark new trail-head from ball field connecting along the brook to the white blazed trail to the Potts Mountain overlooks, AND trail maintenance on the Potts Mountain Trail

Building Repairs: A variety of minor repairs need to be made by those with the skills.

Oak Lodge

This major renovation project has a variety of components remaining. Many require the skills of electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and various other building skills. For specific details and become part of this major renovation project contact admin@craigsprings.org.

Clubhouse

This project includes both inside and outside work and needs funding. The Campfire area needs picnic tables repaired or replaced. Benches around the campfire could be added. The Clubhouse itself needs to be thoroughly cleaned, some minor repairs to be made.

Antioch Christian Church, Martinsville

Antioch Christian Church held an open house to celebrate replacement for their burned church after a tragic fire in 2017. The fire completely destroyed the building of one of the oldest Black Disciples of Christ churches. Antioch was established in 1876, and the building that was destroyed had been built in 1976. The only items that were salvaged were one cross that is now displayed on the podium and some Bibles. The new church building, standing in almost the same spot as the old building, was used for the first time on the first Sunday in February, and the church members were excited to be back. See more about this at https://martinsvillebulletin.com/news/local/rebuilt-from-the-ashes-antioch-christian-to-hold-open-house-to-celebrate-replacement-for-burned/article_038ca100-d947-11ed-afe6-534944a436ce.html Send a support email to Elder Abe Draper at adraper4867@yahoo.com





"Christian Nationalism and Our Churches, Past and Present"
by Dr. Andrew Whitehead

DCHS-CUIM Dinner
Sunday, July 30 | 5PM | \$30



Scan the QR code to learn more about other events with the Disciples of Christ Historical Society at General Assembly



LTS ALUMNA RODENBERG ELECTED PRESIDENT OF HELM



The Board of Directors of Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is excited to share with the larger church that Rev. Dr. Tamara Nichols Rodenberg has been elected President of HELM.

Rev. Dr. Rodenberg served as the 20th President of Bethany College in Bethany, W.Va., from 2016-2022. From 2011-2016, she served as Vice President for Advancement at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. Prior to Brite, Dr. Rodenberg served as a two-year intentional interim President at the Disciples Seminary Foundation in Claremont, Calif., from 2009-2011.

In addition to her academic administrative work, Dr. Rodenberg is an ethicist, earning her PhD from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. She earned her Master of Divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary and was ordained by the Christian Church in Kentucky in 1992. Her call to be the President of HELM is historic, as she is the first woman to serve in this capacity.

Dr. Rodenberg comes to HELM as an accomplished administrator, collaboration builder, and gifted leader of our church. The HELM Board of Directors congratulates Dr. Rodenberg and welcomes her to the HELM family. They also honor her husband, Rev. John Rodenberg, and their two adult children, Heather and Matthew. Dr. Rodenberg will begin her ministry with HELM on May 1, 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

PIEDMONT DISTRICT CONVENTION AUGUST 3 - 5, 2023

**NEW COLLEGE INSTITUTE
191 FAYETTE STREET, MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112**



Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

The 141st Session of the Piedmont District Convention that will be held August 3, 2023 to August 5, 2023, each day beginning at 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be no night services nor Sunday service this year. There is a change in venue. The convention will be held at the New College Institute, 191 Fayette Street, Martinsville, VA 24112.

**The Theme: Servants of the Master, Don't Quit in Hard Times - (Keep Your Fire Burning).
Scripture: Romans 12:11 & 12 (MSG).**

Continental Breakfast and Boxed Lunches will be provided on Thursday and Friday.

Saturday Lunch will be held at the Fieldale Park, 188 Field Avenue, Fieldale, VA 24089.

These Hotels are recommended for the Convention:

Hampton Inn Martinsville, 50 Hampton Drive, Collinsville, VA (276) 647-4700
Hampton Inn Eden, 724 S. Van Buren Rd, Eden, NC (336) 627-1111

Convention 2023 will focus on training and workshops that are guided by scripture and God's Holy Word, The Bible, for The Body of Christ. Please encourage all congregants to attend. Worship Services are scheduled to be held Thursday - Friday from 2:00 - 3:00 pm, Saturday 12 noon to 1:00 pm. The Disciple Men will be in charge of Worship on Thursday, August 3rd. The Youth will be in charge of Worship on Friday, August 4th. The Disciple Women's Ministry will be in charge of Worship on Saturday, August 5th.

Registration Fees are as follows: Adults Early Bird \$80 until Jul 7, 2023 after 7/7 \$100.
Youth will be half price at \$40.

Note: The cost of continental breakfast and lunch will be included in the registration fee.

To Register please contact Deacon Mildred Preston (276) 638-7011, Rev. Kara Fleurizard (336) 986-8115, Pastor Kathy Thomas (276) 692-5350 or email pdc141session@gmail.com

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rev. Kathy Thomas -Grant, Moderator PDC
Rev. Kara Fleurizard, Moderator-Elect PDC
Rev. Dr. Tijuana Hayes, Assistant Secretary PDC

Schedule

9:00-9:30 am Thursday - Saturday Registration & Continental Breakfast

Thursday

9:30-12:00 Groups
12:00-12:30 Lunch
12:30-12:40 Bathroom Breaks
12:40 - 2:00 Mental Health
2:00 - 3:00 Worship (Disciple Men's Ministry)

Friday

9:30 - 12:00 Groups
12:00 - 12:00 Lunch
12:30 - 12:40 Bathroom Breaks
12:40 - 2:00 Mental Health
2:00 - 3:00 Worship (Christian Youth Fellowship)

Saturday

9:30 - 10:30 Business Mtg
10:30 - 11:00 Breakout Groups
11:00 - 12:00 Presentations
12:00 - 1:00 Noon Worship (Disciple Women's Ministry)
1:00 - 1:15 Closing Communion Service
1:15 - Head to Fieldale Park for Convention Celebration!

Classes and Facilitators:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Armor-bearer / Ushers | Rev. Dr. Tijuana B. Hayes |
| 2. Disciple Men | Rev. Dr. Kenneth Davis |
| 3. Elders/Deacons/Trustees/Communion | Rev. Dr. McHenry |
| 4. Music/Worship Leaders | Bro. Jarrett Hagwood |
| 5. Pastors/Ministers/Clergy/Spouses | Rev. Dr. Bill Lee & Rev. Kenny Hooker |
| 6. Finances | Rev. Merinda Easley |
| 7. Disciple Women's Ministry | Sister Wanda Redd |
| 8. Mental Health - Burnout | Rev. Dr. Montenique Finney |

All Presidents and/or Chairs of these groups are asked to use opportunities to speak and talk about needs, necessities, reflections, and give final words to their members. Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 is specifically set aside for final words of encouragement from the Leadership Heads.



Clergy Retreat at Eagle Eyrie, September 24-26, 2023

Clergy - please come, rest, relax and renew.

Congregations - please treat this as a gift for your ministers to keep them physically, mentally and spiritually healthy in order that they can take care of their congregations.

BSD

<https://youtu.be/oGp95trgd7A>

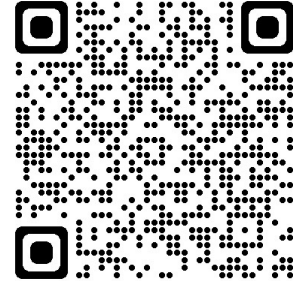


[Virginia Camping Ministry Opens Up Registrations](https://www.ccinva.org/virginiacampingministry)

This year we have camps that take place at Craig Springs, University of Lynchburg and other locations. There are camps for youth and adults. We are expanding our camping ministry because a positive Spiritual/Camp experience is a good thing for all of us! Check out the online registration page here.....keep checking back as we are continuing to add new camps.

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

BSD



[Regional Mission Trip being added to Virginia Camping Ministry Opportunities \(for both youth and adults\)](#)

July 4 - 8

Western Kentucky Tornado Rebuild

Looking for a way to make a difference and get members in your congregation excited about how church can really make a difference in the world? The Christian Church in Virginia (Disciples of Christ) is adding a mission trip to the 2023 camp schedule. Participants will do tornado relief work in Western Kentucky from July 4 - 8. The group will stay at First Christian Church, Princeton, KY. CrossRoads Missions will provide most of our meals. The lodging and meals are provided by generous donors. This is open to middle school students (rising 6th graders or at least 11 years old), high school students and adults of any age. The participants need to have the ability to go up and down stairs to the bunk rooms and work outside during hot and humid days. Those over 16 years of age will build homes with Habitat for Humanity in Dawson Springs, KY and those 11 years of age to 15 years of age and their chaperones will do other tornado recovery work and community development work. The cost is \$100.00 if you ride in the van, \$50.00 if you provide your own transportation. Additional costs will be lunch on the way and on the way back and ice cream and other snacks. You can register through the Craig Springs camp portal. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster at jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com or 270-963-8527.

You can register for this camp on the Virginia Camp Ministry page:

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

Here is a video about where and why we are headed to Western Kentucky to help our sisters and brothers and show how CHURCH can make a difference!

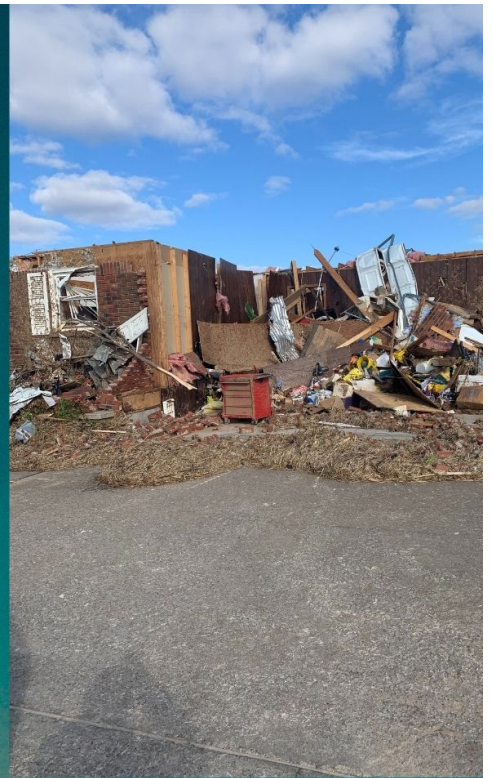
<https://vimeo.com/693227008>

BSD

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN VA REGIONAL 2023 MISSION TRIP

Western Kentucky to help with
Tornado recovery efforts

**TUESDAY, JULY 4-
SATURDAY, JULY 8**



Accommodations are provided by
First Christian, Princeton, KY.

16 years and above will be building
Habitat for Humanity Homes for Tornado families,
11 to 15 years old will be doing other tornado recovery
and community development with our chaperones.
We will have devotionals each day and end the week
with an evening at Kentucky Lake.

**The cost is \$100 per person or \$50 per person if
you provide your own transportation.**

Registration is on the Craig Springs Camp Portal

Virginia Camping Ministry | Ccinva



**Use the QRCode to learn a little
bit about our partner and their
work**



To register for the ARPR training, go to <https://www.ccinva.org/arpr>

Anti-Racism & Pro-Reconciliation Ministry
Schedule Workshops

Please register at www.ccinva.org, under the Anti-Racism & Pro-Reconciliation Ministry. Lunch will be provided at each workshop.

Piedmont District Convention - Location: Christian Church Campsite

Pastor Kathy Thomas-Grant, PCD Moderator
Email: kjstthomas1026@gmail.com
Contact Person: Pastor Kathy Thomas-Grant, PCD Moderator
Workshop Date: May 20, 2023
Time: 9:00am-3:00pm

District 3 - Loudon Avenue Christian Church

730 Loudon Avenue, Virginia 23221
Pastor Anthony Holmes
Contact Person: Reverend Eva Hughs
Workshop Date: July 08, 2023
Time: 9:00am-3:00pm

District 7- Seventh Street Christian Church

4101 Grove Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221
Pastor Hollie Woodruff
Email: revhollie@seventhstreetchristianchurch.org
Contact Person: Pastor Hollie Woodruff
Workshop Date: TBA

District 11- Strasburg Christian Church

165 High Street, Strasburg, Virginia 22657
Pastor Rob Lovett
Email: sttrchrch@shentel.net
Contact Person: Pastor Rob Lovett
Workshop Date: June 10, 2023
Time: 9:00am-3:00pm

Anti Racism/ Pro-Reconciliation Ministry, Youth Picnic

Location: Timberlake Christian Church, Pastor Ben Moore
20261 Lynchburg Highway, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502
Anti Racism/ Pro-Reconciliation Team, Hosting
Contact Person: Regional Office, ccinvaoffice@gmail.com
Picnic Date: Saturday, August 12, 2023
Time: 10:00 am-4:00pm (Parents and guardians welcome)

Anti Racism/ Pro-Reconciliation Ministry, "Table Talk"

Location: University of Lynchburg
1501 Lakeside Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502
Anti Racism/ Pro-Reconciliation Team
Contact Person: Regional Office
Event Date: Saturday, August 26, 2023
Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm (No Lunch)



THIS IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
Virginia Disciples Women's Ministry (VDWM)
2023 Fall Retreat October 6-8
Hilton Garden Inn, 4025 Wards Road, Lynchburg, VA
REGISTRATION
Registration Deadline August 31, 2023

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone (Cell) _____ (Home) _____

Email _____ Home Church _____

Registration Fee: \$155.00

includes all programs, 3 Saturday meals, Sunday breakfast

Dietary restrictions _____

NOTE: Your registration fee provides a significant conference room discount.

*Please make checks payable to & mail check & registration form directly to:
Christian Church in Virginia; 1290 Enterprise Dr; Lynchburg, VA 24502-5744*

Hotel Reservations must be made on your own.
Hotel Discounted Rate Deadline: September 6, 2023

The VDWM rate: \$151/night, including all taxes.

Phone Reservations-Call: 434-239-3006 (front desk)

Use group code VDW or Virginia Disciples Woman's Retreat for discounted rate

Book Online-use the following link to get the discounted rate:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=LYHLVGI&groupCode=VDW&arrivaldate=2023-10-06&departuredate=2023-10-08&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Please let the hotel know of any mobility challenges that may require attention.

~see over for hotel amenities & driving directions

- Each room is equipped with a microwave, a refrigerator, Keurig® coffee maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board.
- Wireless and High Speed Internet are complimentary in every room.
- Enjoy the hotel's indoor heated pool with spa and state-of-the-art fitness center featuring Precor® fitness equipment
- 24-hour complimentary access to our business center which includes copies, faxes and the use of two PC terminals for our registered guests
- The Garden Grill and Bar® offers sumptuous dining and features upscale American cuisine. It is open daily for breakfast and dinner.
- 24-hour Pavilion Pantry® convenience mart.

Driving Directions

Driving South US-29 BUS S/Lynchburg Expressway:

- 1) Take Left Hand Exit for US-29 BUS S/Wards Road (Signs for Danville)
- 2) Stay Right at the fork, continue on Wards Road
- 3) Drive 1.3 miles and turn left at Aspen Dental
- 4) Follow service road .02 miles to HGI entrance on left

Driving North on US-29:

- 1) After passing the entrance of Lynchburg Regional Airport turn right after 2nd light
- 2) Travel .02 miles past Aspen Dental to HGI entrance

Driving East on RT 460:

- 1) Take Exit for US-29 BUS N ramp to Lynchburg
- 2) Travel .04 miles turn right at Aspen Dental
- 3) Follow service road .02 miles to HGI entrance on left

Driving West on RT 460:

- 1) After Passing Liberty University take exit for US-29 BUS N
- 2) Stay in right hand lane and make an immediate right at Aspen Dental
- 3) Follow service road .02 miles to HGI entrance on left



**2023 VA Disciples Women Seminary Scholarship
Deadline is postmarked by August 15, 2023**

The Virginia Disciples Women Scholarship Fund was established to assist women preparing for the Christian Ministry.

The amount available each year is determined by the amount in the fund. The amount of the award is based on financial need, and the number of applications (up to \$2,500).

GUIDELINES

1. The applicant must live in Virginia.
2. The applicant must be a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for a least one year prior to making application.
3. The applicant must currently attend an ATS accredited seminary and be under the care of the Commission on Ministry in Virginia at the time of the application.
4. The applicant must show financial need.
5. A completed application form and transcript, if available, must be mailed to Virginia Disciples Women Scholarship Fund, 1290 Enterprise Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502. A picture for publicity will be required if a scholarship is awarded.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Permanent Address: _____ School or Temporary Address (if applicable):

Email: _____

PLEASE STATE BRIEFLY YOUR PLANS AND GOALS

EDUCATION

Current Institution (Seminary):

Address: _____ Entrance Date: _____

Number of credits or classes completed _____ Anticipated Graduation Date _____

Previous Institution(s): please list each institution and the dates you attended.

CHURCH ACTIVITY

I am under the care of the Commission on Ministry in _____ Region.

Local: Please identify home congregation(s):

District:

Regional:

General Church:

FINANCIAL NEED

Cost of education for one year

Financial Resources available:

Tuition: _____

Scholarships: _____

Books: _____

Savings: _____

Housing: _____

Yearly Net Income: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Please explain any unusual circumstances or expenses that may affect your situation.