

# The Virginia Christian

April 29, 2024

[www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian](http://www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian)



## Clergy News and Updates

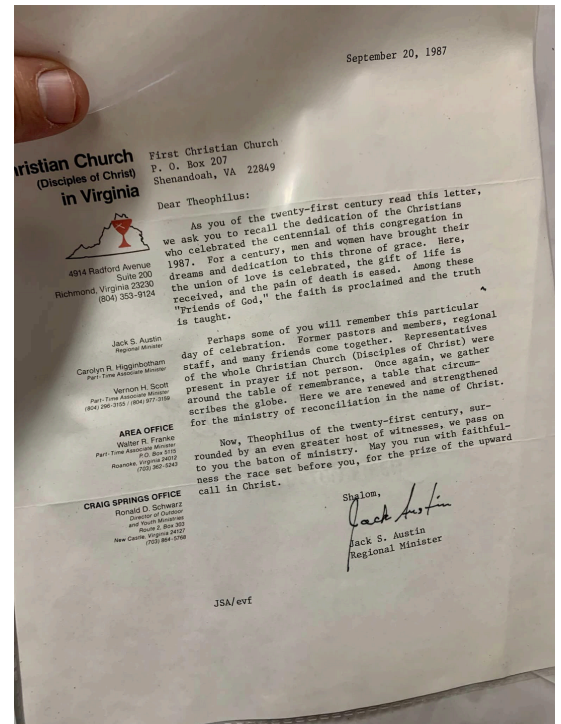
### Luray Christian Church

It was an amazing afternoon on Sunday, April 21 at Luray Christian Church for the official installation of Rev. Carmen Jennings Woodson. Many individuals from the Capital region came to the service and this led to conversations about what we might be able to do together as two regions so close by each other. It was a great day, and as the words and stories combined in the service, it felt like the way this movement for wholeness in a fragmented world should be.



### Installation Sunday at First Christian Church, Shenandoah on Sunday, April 28.

Rev. Anita McCauley is an amazing match for this church and finding new ways to be the church together. They also had a reception afterwards where they opened the time capsule from 1987.



## Representative needed

Dear Disciples friends:

We are richly blessed by committed Christians who wish to serve Christ and his church. Thank you to all those who richly share their time and talent with the wider church. We are hoping you will help us in our mission to continue our legacy of strong, dedicated leadership within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia. We are in need of a Men's Ministry representative to be presented at our Regional Assembly, May 31 - June 1. If you or someone you know is interested in sharing your gifts through the regional church leadership, please contact me at [cindystratton@aol.com](mailto:cindystratton@aol.com).

Thank you for your faithful, loving service.

Cindy Stratton  
Chair of Nominations Ministry  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia  
804-370-0719 / [cindystratton@aol.com](mailto:cindystratton@aol.com)



## **How one Virginia church is creating intergenerational community - and solving the housing crisis at the same time.**

Article by Nadine Compton,  
Creative Writer/Digital Media Specialist, Disciples Church Extension Fund

During the worst days of the pandemic, the cooped-up inhabitants of Charlottesville, VA, including elderly couples and parents with kids, would walk along the natural trail that winds itself through the woods and slopes of Park Street Christian Church (PSCC)'s property.

This happenstance intergenerational community reflects what the church aims to intentionally recreate today. With the help of [Disciples Church Extension Fund \(DCEF\)](#) and other organizations, the congregation is aiming to address the lack of housing and preschool education accessible to the low-income residents of their city.

To read further, go here: <https://disciplescef.org/blog/virginia-church-provides-intergenerational-community-housing/>



[Seminaries offer Courses for all to consider: These courses are for ministry students or just someone who wants to learn more.....](#)

**Phillips Theological Seminary:** (Intro to New Testament; Christian Ethics; Worship; Overview of the Bible; and Disciples History and Policy)

Seminary: <https://ptstulsa.edu/?s=center+for+ministry+and+lay+training&submit=>

**Lexington Theological Seminary:** Audit Classes for \$30.00 on Faith-Rooted Anti-Racism, or Stewardship as a Vision and Practice. Follow this link - <https://lextheo.edu/prospective-students/request-information/> - to begin the auditing process or send an email to [smoon@lextheo.edu](mailto:smoon@lextheo.edu) for more information. *Waive application fee with code **LTS1865**.*

Lots of work has been completed at Craig Springs recently by a mission team from Iowa... We are hoping to continue the energy at our work retreat on May 3-5th. Here are a few pictures of the improvements.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=823942959776147&set=pcb.823975519772891>

I just registered for the Craig Springs Work Retreat on May 3-5. I will be there Friday night and all day on Saturday. I hope you might come help out as well... [https://www.craigsprings.org/get-involved/work-weekends?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWOCMTAAAR1zzKBtgBDMBVxJ4RNvUUUpj7ogYwMg7GtFNotrEgIMGl2CWYnKp6ipx1ic\\_aem\\_AXzenOqFM0yUaelVX7kX6VJj3TpBUYfa4kgjw4OqZg2z-dVXRBwFC9qa9uRRY2l0bfeGgxIJbYXYJzXKtggqQYti5](https://www.craigsprings.org/get-involved/work-weekends?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWOCMTAAAR1zzKBtgBDMBVxJ4RNvUUUpj7ogYwMg7GtFNotrEgIMGl2CWYnKp6ipx1ic_aem_AXzenOqFM0yUaelVX7kX6VJj3TpBUYfa4kgjw4OqZg2z-dVXRBwFC9qa9uRRY2l0bfeGgxIJbYXYJzXKtggqQYti5)

### **Craig Springs Camp & Retreat Center Employment**

Craig Springs Camp & Retreat Center is looking for a seasonal maintenance manager for the 2024 season. This is a perfect opportunity for a retiree or teacher looking for seasonal work, or for anyone with the skills looking for a change of pace in the mountains of SW Virginia. Job Description is available upon request, but the duties would include grounds and building maintenance with supervisory responsibilities for staff assisting with those duties. The position is open to commuters or housing can be provided, pay commensurate with experience.

***Email [admin@craigsprings.org](mailto:admin@craigsprings.org) for more information.***



### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

<https://www.napad.net/> - North American Pacific/Asian Disciples July 17-20

<https://www.obrahispana.org/> June 20-22 - Obra Hispana Disciples Kansas City, MO

<https://www.nationalconvocation.org/biennialsession> - National Convocation Assembly July 11-14, Greensboro, NC

**Piedmont District Convention 142nd Session**

**Save the Date: August 1-3, 2024**

**Pre-Assembly Event ARPR Workshop – Thursday, August 1, 2024**

**Location: Martinsville, VA**

**Register for the Virginia Regional Assembly (June 1) and pre-event (Friday May 31)**

**<https://www.ccinva.org/ministries>**



**REGISTER NOW:**

**<https://www.ccinva.org/ministries>**



*175th Regional Assembly for the Christian  
Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia* 

*We Are Stronger ....*



*Acts 2: 46-47*

*Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.*

*May 31 - June 1, 2024*

*Friday Pre-Assembly*

*Saturday 10 - 3*

*The University of Lynchburg*

*Total Cost \$15 and includes box lunch*

*We are a MOVEMENT for WHOLENESS in a FRAGMENTED World*

**Regional Assembly Lodging**

Lodging is not being provided by the University this year. When you go to either Expedia.com or Hotels.com and put in your destination (Lynchburg University), the description will show how far from the University the hotel is.

**[www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com)**

**[www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com)**

## **Cross-Region Clergy Retreat**

On Tuesday April 2nd, the border between North Carolina and Virginia became porous as Disciples clergy from the neighboring Central District in North Carolina and District 4 in Virginia came together for a one-day post-Easter spiritual life retreat. These colleagues gathered at the Saint Francis Prayer Center near Stoneville, NC to spend a day in prayer and to reflect deeply on what God is saying to us at this point of the journey.

The group was facilitated by spiritual director Becky Hambrick of Cary who led us in a day SoulCollage®, a form of discernment, prayer, and questing after the Spirit. Pictured below are retreat participants (left to right): Min. Michell Beech (Ekklesia SC), Facilitator Becky Hambrick, Min. Robert Smith (Jerusalem CC Martinsville), Rev. Dr. Ken Davis (Mt. Olive East CC Martinsville), Rev. David Harrison (FCC Winston-Salem), Rev. Abby Catoe (FCC Walnut Cove), Rev. Buddy Self (Stoneville CC), Pastor Ronald Glover (Mt. Pleasant CC Greensboro), Rev. Dr. Jackie McHenry (FCC Reidsville), and kneeling, Regional Elder Rev. Dr. Tom Stephenson.



The event was the brainchild of Rev. Abbey Cato with support from Regional Elder Tom Stephenson. We are grateful to the men's and women's fellowship groups of FCC Greensboro and FCC Walnut Cove for their financial support of the event which enabled us to keep registration cost very reasonable and to cover the expenses of a quality event.



## **Pentacost Offering**

By Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster, Chair, New Church Team, VA Region

On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the Birthday of the Church. We reflect in our worship how the wind of the Holy Spirit swept through Jerusalem and brought people together. Some churches will have a birthday cake that day or do other expressions of celebration. Whether your individual church is a few decades old or a couple of centuries old, we all know it took committed followers of Christ to birth the church. The Pentecost offering is a time for us as Disciples of Christ to support new churches. On May 12th and May 19th,, our churches will collect the Pentecost offering to help the general church train, equip leaders, and to help our region to support new churches.

The Virginia Region's New Church Committee is excited to announce we have two works in progress. The first is the Ministry Church in the Church Hill section of Richmond. This group led by Minister Laticia Lee meets every Tuesday evening for worship and study, offer pop-up activities such as distributing diapers on a Saturday morning, and is offering retreats for those who have been affected by trauma. Laticia and her team have been ministering to those struggling with financial and food insecurity, and dealing with violence and other trauma.

The second work in progress is in Harrisonburg. We are working to establish a foundational group that has a heart for ministry with young adults. We have met with the local United Church of Christ pastor and are in the early stages of collaborating with him on an agreement to use some of their space. We have also met with disciples in the community and beyond that are committed to starting this church. We are looking to do some pop-up events this summer, form a regular foundational group that will meet for study, prayer and discernment and form a student group on campus that we have affectionately named "JMU DOCS" to go along with the JMU Dukes theme.

So you might be wondering how can you be helpful. Here's how.

1. Please pray for the work of our New Church Team for these two ministries in progress;
2. Please give generously to the Pentecost offering;
3. Consider partnering with Pastor Laticia in providing diapers and/or other essentials for residents who are struggling in her neighborhood in Church Hill;
4. Assist us in identifying members in your congregation that attend James Madison University or former members or others people you know that might be interested in a Disciples church that reside in the Harrisonburg area ;
5. Share this article widely-in your newsletter, on social media and even consider reading it on Sunday morning before you collect the Pentecost offering.

Thank you for your support of New Church. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster at [jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com)

# Camp Registrations are now Open!!

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

# CCINVA

## VIRGINIA CAMPING MINISTRY



### Craig Springs Summer Camps - 2024

- June 17 - 22 2nd Annual Regional Multi-Generational Mission Camp - Charleston, SC.
- June 23 - 27 New Covenant Camp is catered for our younger campers. Open to those who have completed 1st through 5th grade.
- June 24 - 28 Nature Camp (counselors report on June 23). A camp experience for young campers who otherwise may not be able to attend camp. Adults serve as mentors to our high school campers. (By invitation only)
- June 30 - July 5 Special Camp is dedicated to campers with physical and intellectual disabilities.
- July 1 - 6 CAMPDD (Culinary, Art, Music, Photography, Dance, Drama), pronounced "Camped," is open to campers who have completed 3rd through 12th grade.
- July 7 - 12 Triple 1 Camp offers the traditional church camp experience. Open to campers who have completed 3rd through 12th grade.
- July 14 - 19 Triple 2 Camp offers the traditional church camp experience. Open to campers who have completed 3rd through 12th grade.
- July 19 - 21 Family Camp is a weekend getaway open to all ages.

### TREC Camp - July 13 - 20, 2024

TREC Camp is an interesting Church Camp program based out of Lynchburg, VA. This week will offer you plenty of new challenges and fun. TREC Camp will involve campers ages 13 to 18 in high adventure activities each day of the week. In the past, our activities have included: hiking, tubing, canoeing, horseback riding, mountain boarding, repelling and climbing, zip line and caving. This is a camp for youth who enjoy new challenges and the fellowship of a small camp. Must be able to swim.

Cost: \$420.00

Contact for Registration Info and Medical Forms: Pastor Dan Netting: 540-556-8455/ dannetting@msn.com

### 2ND ANNUAL MULTI-GENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP TO CHARLESTON, SC JUNE 17 - 22, 2024

## THIS CAMP IS FULL

Everyone 11 years of age and above is welcome (11 - 17 yr olds must have a parent or chaperone). Accommodations will be at James Island Presbyterian Church, Charleston, SC. We will be building and repairing homes, working in food banks and homeless shelters. (We will have an inside option for those who are bothered by the heat.) We will have devotionals each day and have free time to experience historic Charleston and the beach.

Cost: \$225/person or \$175.00 if you provide your own transportation.

Contact: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster - 434-774-8494 jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com

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

REGISTER HERE:

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



[WWW.CCINVA.ORG](http://WWW.CCINVA.ORG)

# NATURE CAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED!

**To: All Ministers and Youth Leaders**

**From: Amy Jones Williams, Adult Advisor, Nature Camp, June 22nd-28th**

Hello to all of our highly esteemed Disciples of Christ Leaders in Virginia,

I am Amy Jones Williams, one of the Adult Advisors of Nature Camp, and I need your help getting teen youth who will have just completed the 9th grade this summer through just graduated to be Counselors for Nature Camp. Nature Camp was started in the mid 1970's. Some influential people who started Nature Camp were Crusher Bowers, and others such as Ellen Canode and Elaine Wilson Austin who were influential adult leaders.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar, Nature Camp is a camp for underprivileged children, pardon me if I do not use another term, but this is the term I use over "at risk" or other terms. At Nature Camp, we pair a teen youth, who applies to be a Counselor, with an underprivileged child, known as camper, to be together throughout the week of Nature Camp, where a very special bond is developed between the two. We have a plethora of adult supervision, but Nature Camp is actually run by a Youth aged Director and Assistant Director who are teens themselves, and this allows them to learn leadership skills and hopefully "plants the seed" for ministry in their future. Before the campers get there, our teen counselors go through training, which is necessary and helpful for the week ahead.

At camp, the campers are greeted by their very own Counselor, who takes them to their room where they have their name and a stuffed animal waiting for them on their bed, so they know they are accepted and welcome there. The stuffed animal serves as a friend to comfort them at night and they take them home to keep forever. We also have a "store" with gently used clothes displayed just like in a store, where the campers can go "shopping", and they love doing that! We have worship every night, and a time each morning for singing & receiving a message to help them develop a sense of spirituality. We have a games, a talent show, dance, a cookout, craft time, swimming every day, and a night swim one evening. One day we have farm animals come to us, kind of like a mobile petting zoo! We use the camp curriculum to help encourage good self-esteem, develop empathy for others, and feel like they are at a safe place where they know they will be fed, have their own bed to sleep in, and have a person who is their very own to take care of them as mentors throughout the week. Nature Camp changes lives, it is hard to explain, but if you ask anyone who has participated in prior years, they can confirm this.

Because teens have to have just completed 9th grade to be a counselor, that only leaves them with 3 summers to be a counselor. When Covid hit, we had to cancel Nature Camp two summers in a row, and that left only a few teen counselors who had counseled before and could come back the summer of their graduation year, and we are almost having to start from scratch getting teen counselors to participate again. After a couple of summers, they will love it, just like they have in the past, but we need to have more teen counselors to come to Nature Camp. It isn't like "babysitting", it really is a blast, they feel what a true sense of purpose is, and they get a lot of breaks & time to have fun with each other as counselors. All of them who counsel always want to come back, I promise! I was a Counselor back in the day and it had such an effect on me I am still involved!

I sign off for 75 hours of community service work for all of the teens who counsel, and I write great referral letters for colleges, jobs, whatever they need!

If there is any way you could possibly encourage your youth from just finished 9th grade until just graduated to please come to Nature Camp, all of the Adult Advisors and I would be so incredibly grateful! If you or they have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at any time!

Thank you for your time and thank you all for everything you do for the DOC in Virginia and for Craig Springs! I appreciate each one of you!

Amy Jones Williams  
Cell: 804-357-0996  
Amy.jones@vibonline.org



# 2024 Virginia Disciples Women Seminary Scholarship Application

## 2024 VA Disciples Women Seminary Scholarship Deadline is postmarked by August 15, 2024

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.

The Virginia region is excited to announce the dates for this year's Disciples Women's Retreat! Save the date for October 11-13, 2024, as they plan to gather at Smith Mountain Lake to celebrate 150 years of Disciples Women and sow seeds of faith together. Registration will begin in May and you can ensure you receive all updates in two ways:

- Email [2024.VDW.Retreat@gmail.com](mailto:2024.VDW.Retreat@gmail.com) to be added to our email distribution list for all future updates.
- Join our private Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/415828094313416> - to get all updates and meet other Disciples Women interested in attending.

Thank you in advance for helping us make this year's retreat successful!

### 2024 Virginia Women's Disciples Retreat Planning Team

*Save the Date!*

\*\*\* VIRGINIA DISCIPLES WOMEN PRESENTS \*\*\*

**SOWING**

**SEEDS OF FAITH**

*A Women's Retreat*

**OCT 11-13, 2024**

W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center  
at Smith Mountain Lake

I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love.'  
Hosea 10:12

Email [2024.VDW.Retreat@gmail.com](mailto:2024.VDW.Retreat@gmail.com) to join email list  
Join our Facebook group to get updates:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/415828094313416>



## Empowering Clergy to Partner in Substance Use Prevention, Treatment Support, and Recovery

### A VIPCARE-FACILITATED WORKSHOP

VIPCare invites clergy of all traditions to this no-cost, interactive seminar facilitated by VIPCare counselors and substance abuse specialists Chris Bowers, MDiv, and Margie Smith, PhD, DMin, LPC, CSAC.

In this workshop, you will:

- Develop an understanding of addiction as a prevalent social issue, including in religious communities
- Learn strategies for substance use prevention in your congregation
- Learn core competencies for responding to people experiencing addiction or their concerned loved ones
- Learn how to support those in recovery in your congregations and communities
- Participate in generative discussion with workshop leaders and your colleagues
- Learn about available community resources for individuals and families
- Receive handouts to take back to your congregation that will resource you and your congregants

### DATES AND LOCATIONS

The workshop is free of charge. Two sessions (covering the same general content) will be offered:

Thursday, May 23  
9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
Good Shepherd Baptist Church  
2223 S Crater Road, Petersburg

Thursday, September date TBD  
9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
Bon Air Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
2071 Buford Road, Richmond

### REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION

To register for one of these sessions, please go here - <https://www.vipcare.org/empowering-clergy-workshop>  
Questions? Contact [development@vipcare.org](mailto:development@vipcare.org).

## Information from Disciples Church Extension Fund

### Join the DCEF team

Since 2006, hundreds of congregations have claimed a new future that arises from a clear sense of purpose and ministry. As the demand for this service increases, Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) is seeking clergy and lay leaders to join our group of contract assessors and coach/facilitators to serve faith communities in this endeavor. Applications are due April 30. Full job description here: <https://disciplescef.org/careers/>



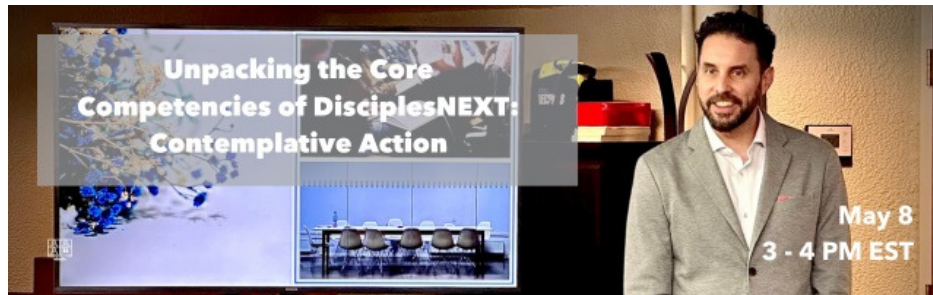
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### Unpacking the Core Competencies of DisciplesNEXT: Contemplative Action

What does contemplative action look like day to day? Join New Church Ministry for a webinar featuring Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray, Director of Justice and Advocacy Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that explores this core competency of DisciplesNEXT, its connections to spiritual formation, and what it has to do with New Church!

Register here:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_q2XZw021T7WM1gJj9P7Ktg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_q2XZw021T7WM1gJj9P7Ktg#/registration)



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## Invest to Bless

You can, by investing with Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF). Funds invested with DCEF allow us to make loans to congregations to help their ministries thrive, while you get a good rate of return.

# 5%\*

\* Current Fixed Interest Rate: 5%; 18 months; rates may change without notice.  
Minimum new investment: \$5,000 for individuals; \$10,000 for churches/organizations.

800.274.1883 • [invest@disciplescef.org](mailto:invest@disciplescef.org) • [disciplescef.org/invest/](https://disciplescef.org/invest/)



This is not an offer to sell our securities to you and we are not soliciting you to buy our securities. We will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The offering is made solely by our Offering Circular, which you should read carefully before making an investment decision. Our securities are not insured by the FDIC or any other government agency. Rates may change without notice. Consult your tax advisor. An investment involves certain risks and a risk of loss as more fully disclosed in the Offering Circular.