

The Disciples Leadership Institute (DLI) is HELM's project to create personal and professional linkages among younger congregational leaders from both new and established congregations and across the divides of race, culture and language. Built around a week-long event, DLI is intentionally diverse: half of the participants are from new congregations, half from established congregations. Half are non-Anglo. And everybody is engaged in a week of sharing faith stories.

About DLI

Planned entirely by a participant steering committee, the meeting focuses on experiencing and working together to understand the multiplicities of worship, faith experience, and theological expression brought by the participants. The steering committee creates a structure for conversation and accountability that encourages participants to testify and challenge each other around a series of questions. The conference also provided opportunities for informal fellowship, recreation, and the introduction of various spiritual disciplines.



the conference, within the project's overall goal to narrow the distance between new church and established church leaders, and between Anglo and non-Anglo leaders. Through their creativity and wisdom, the conference focuses on experience and relationship.

DLI's first three years were underwritten by grants from the Oreon E. Scott Foundation and the Shumaker Family Foundation. This funding has made it possible for first-time participants to come at no cost, a valuable ministry to the cash-strapped world of ministry.

As the project enters its fourth year in 2008, DLI is seeking additional support to ensure its continued ministry to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the larger world.

Gathering in community

Each conference has a unique theme – the 2008 theme is “Hearing the Truth, Speaking the Truth, Living the Truth” – that is manifested in several different ways.

- * Worship reflects the diversity of the group and of Disciples in general, including many worship styles and sermons from participants covering the breadth of theological understandings.

- * Small groups create more intimate settings for discussion, revelation, and bonding.

- * After a short testimony or presentation, selected pastors are “cross-examined” by another participant in an effort to understand the different spiritual relationships or to compare and contrast different theological views.

- * Throughout the week, participants

The six-member steering committee has full freedom to construct



“When we arrived, we were a diverse group of people who didn't really know each other. During the week we were able to share this diversity, to grow, and to have authentic conversations and interactions. By the time the week ended, we were friends, prayer partners, and a unified force to be reckoned with!”

*Lonora Graves, layperson,
Sacramento, California*

examine theology through arts and crafts, in-depth Bible study, walking stations of the cross or a labyrinth, or other exercises that may not normally be available for pastors.

* Downtime provides opportunities for community – for those who want to continue the dialogue beyond the schedule – or time alone for reflection.

Just as we all learn in our own ways, these different opportunities combine to create a unique experience – and creates an extremely powerful witness to our church.



Testimonials

“It’s great to see our church intentionally bringing together the people of such different backgrounds, new church and existing church pastors, clergy and laity, Latino, African-American, Asian, White, Haitian. This is not what our church will be in 15 years. This is what our church is now.”

Matt Rosine, pastor, Sugar Land, Texas.



“Taize, lectio divina, and so many other ideals and lessons – it’s been so inspiring. But I’ll also take home the true behavior of Disciples for others and the Holy Spirit’s joy working differently in each of us.”

Suhee Oyungerel, layperson, Oakland, Calif.

“I felt an atmosphere of openness which allowed each of us to be vulnerable and uncomfortable.

Yet it allowed us to grow closer to God and to each other.”

Eli Rolón, a layperson, Hammond, Indiana

“God is about to do something powerful. God is starting to work and secure the foundations of a new revival. This healing, confronting, and brain-stirring event helped me see Jesus, God and the Gospel from a totally different perspective.”



Ana Rivera-Acevedo, pastor, Anniston, Alabama

“The developed relations were the most helpful for me. They have challenged me, enlightened me, and urged me to continue in this journey while giving me strength. I have learned there are people taking this journey with me whose spirits I will carry into my ministry.”

Chesla Nickelson, seminarian, Indianapolis, Indiana

How you can help



The Disciples Leadership Institute relies on the support of Disciples who share the church’s vision for multi-cultural,

anti-racist, and pro-reconciliatory church with Disciples who share their unique ministries.

To learn more about how you can support DLI, please contact:

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries

11477 Olde Cabin Road, Suite 310

St. Louis, MO 63141

314-991-3000

helm@helmdisciples.org

or visit the DLI web page, www.helmdisciples.org/dli.



Disciples Leadership Institute

Higher Education & Leadership Ministries
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Disciples Leadership Institute

2008 Application

A program of Higher Education & Leadership Ministries

Applicant's Name _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name or Initial

Applicant's _____
Permanent Street Apt. #

Mailing _____
Address City State Zip Code

Home Phone () _____ Cell Phone () _____

E-mail: _____ Date of Birth _____

Applicant's home congregation: _____
Street or P.O. Box

Congregation address: _____
City State Zip Code

Approximate congregation age: 0-5 years 5-10 years More than 10 years

Current employer: _____

Demographic information: Because the Disciples Leadership Institute aims to be a cross-section of the church and has a strong emphasis on diversity, factors such as race, gender, and ministerial status are considered in the selection process. Please select options that apply to you in each of these three categories:

Ministerial status:

- Layperson
- Ordained minister
- Licensed minister
- Current student

Institution: _____

Gender:

- Male
- Female

Ethnicity:

- Caucasian
- African American
- Asian or Pacific Island American
- Hispanic
- Haitian
- Native American
- Other: _____

Please list positions of leadership you have held in the local, regional, and/or general church.
Use a separate sheet if necessary

ESSAY: In 300 words or less, describe the congregation you serve, whether as a layperson or minister, and its current ministry.

REFERENCE: Please provide the name, phone number, and e-mail address of at least one reference HELM could contact in support of your candidacy. If you are a pastor, we would ask that the referee be a layperson; laypersons are asked to have a reference from their local church pastor. If you are a student, an instructor who knows you well may also provide a reference.

Name	Phone	E-mail
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

NOTIFICATION PROCESS: Because of the short amount of time between the application deadline and the conference, applicants will be notified of their status during the week of July 14-18. If you cannot be reached at the phone numbers provided on this form during that time, please include an alternate phone number.

Alternate phone number _____

Dates at which I can be reached at this number: _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: By signing this form, you agree that you are willing and able to attend the 2008 Disciples Leadership Institute August 11-15, 2008, at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri. You are also agreeing that HELM may use your image and words in promotional materials without additional compensation.

Applicant Signature

Date

SEND APPLICATION, ESSAY, AND REFERENCE INFORMATION TO:

Higher Education & Leadership Ministries
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),
11477 Olde Cabin Road, Suite 310
St. Louis, MO 63141-7130

Fax: 314-991-2957

E-mail: helm@helmdisciples.org

All materials must be received
no later than **July 11, 2008.**