



# Tomorrow's Leaders Today

The good news from HELM and higher education institutions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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## Community building for Young Adults

The Young Adult Commission met in February with a larger community in mind. Gathering young adult Disciples, at events and online, was a priority for the commission during its meeting at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

“One of the tasks facing the YAC is how to help young adults develop in community. In our world that is very individual, this seems a daunting task for a group of 11 volunteers,” said YAC member Diana Batzka. “We hope that we can take small steps and be a vehicle which can help young adults form community, within congregations, within regions, within the general ministries and with each other across the nation and the world.”

A new offering for young adults is the “nonconference,” a gathering with no preplanned theme, a loose schedule, and plenty of space for creativity. The programming would be created literally on the spot – participants would create their own workshops and organize worship. The structure would develop naturally through the course of the event. Likely be a two- or three-day event, a steering committee will work with a goal of holding the first nonconference



The Young Adult Commission includes (clockwise from back left) Candice Moore, Jack Knox, Beau Underwood, Eli Rolon, Andy Holmer, Esther Lee, Katie Griffin, Trayce Stewart, Diana Batzka, and Alison Williams. Unable to attend was Mayon Marcelino.

in the fall.

The Young Adult Commission is program of Disciples Home Missions supported by HELM. Young adults range from age 18 to the 30s, overlapping with HELM’s ministry with collegians and seminary students.

The commission looked ahead at denominational events over the next

two years. The commission plans to have representation at all three ethnic constituency gatherings at the International Christian Youth Fellowship (ICYF) meeting this coming summer.

Young adult involvement in the 2009 General Assembly in Indianapolis was also a key subject. Commission

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## What’s in a name? Hanson, Hamm, & Petunia Fellows know.

Thanks to a gift from a Florida church, a fourth named Leadership Fellow will be added to the fold beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year.

### Palm Lake Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) in St. Petersburg, Fla., recently completed a donation to HELM that will support a new Fellow. A bequest



Palm Lake Christian Church, St. Petersburg, Fla.

was made to the congregation for students preparing for leadership or ministry in the church.

“[The donor] was very committed to the church and wanted to support future leaders,” said Greg Howell, pastor of Palm Lake. “We already had one scholarship fund at HELM, and adding the new bequest made the most sense.”

The first Palm Lake Christian Church Fellow will be named later this year.

Currently, HELM has three named Fellows. Each named fellow recognizes a gift made to HELM designated specifically for undergradu-

ate scholarships.

### The Sherman and Lora Hanson

Memorial Fellow is HELM’s oldest named Fellowship. Established in 2000 by the Hansons’ daughter and son-in-law, it honors the longtime editor at the Christian Board of Publication.

When possible, this title is bestowed upon students at Eureka College or Drake University and children of or-



WESTERHAUSEN

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## On campus

### Drop the "interim" - Drury finds new president already in office

Drury University named alumnus Todd Parnell the university's 16th president on January 31. Parnell had served as the as interim president of the Springfield, Mo., university since June 1, 2007, and was appointed president after an extensive nationwide search.

John Beuerlein, chairman of the university's board, noted several accomplishments during Parnell's tenure: Drury's collaboration with Missouri State University and other institutions to begin programs such as shared accelerated master's degrees and study abroad opportunities; Drury's enhancement of campus safety by adding security cameras, an emergency text messaging system and a campus siren warning system; and Drury's commitment to sustainability through such efforts as using geothermal energy to heat and cool Stone Chapel.

Parnell's family has a long history with Drury University. He met his wife, Betty, at Drury, and his two sons are also Drury graduates. His parents met at Drury, and he has ancestors in his family dating back to the 19th Century.

He is also a published author. The University of Missouri Press recently published Parnell's third book, *The Buffalo, Ben and Me*, which chronicles his trip down Arkansas's Buffalo River with his son Ben in 1995.

### William Woods University chaplain's 'GodPod' messages appeal to iPod generation

DisciplesWorld.com - Travis Tamerius, chaplain at Disciples-related William Woods University, models his chapel services on today's popular iPods, rendering his GodPod messages useful for everyday life.

Tamerius sees several similarities between how people use iPods or other popular music players, and how they might use the Bible. His weekly GodPod service of prayer and study this spring at the university's chapel unites the modern iPod attraction with ancient wisdom, demonstrating the Bible's relevance for today.

"The iPod as a musical library of songs simulates the Bible as a library of stories," he said. "Both have their 'mood music' which expresses the range of human emotion —lament, joy, frustration. With an iPod, there is the music we tend to listen to when working out, washing the dishes, enjoying a romantic dinner, or when we're upset. Similarly, the Bible has a range of stories, proverbs and songs that express the various moods



PARNELL

of human experience."

For more of this story, visit [www.disciplesworld.com/newsArticle.html?wsnID=13004](http://www.disciplesworld.com/newsArticle.html?wsnID=13004)

### CTS receives \$1.7 million Lilly grant

Grant will fund three collaborative education projects for clergy and laity.

Christian Theological Seminary has been awarded a grant of \$1.7 million from Lilly Endowment, according to CTS President Edward L. Wheeler. The funds will support three ongoing programs: Indiana Clergy Peer Group Study Program, Lifelong Theological Education, and The Faith, Wealth, and Community Leadership Project

"Thanks to the support of Lilly Endowment, we will strengthen three major initiatives, integrate them with each other, and align them more closely with our Master of Divinity program," says Wheeler. "Both clergy and lay leaders of congregations all over Indiana will be able to participate in these programs."



More than 140 young Disciples gathered at Barton College in March for the North Carolina Region's CYF Mid-Winter Retreat. The theme for the weekend, derived from Hebrews 12, was "Running the Great Race." During their stay, students toured the Barton campus, learned about Disciples higher education, and met with Barton President Norval Kneten, kneeling at the far left.

Photo provided by Barton College

### Take me out to commencement, take me out with the crowd...

Bethany College graduates should brush up on their baseball terminology. Their commencement speaker will be Allan H. (Bud) Selig, Commissioner of Major League Baseball.

"As the state's oldest private college, Bethany has been a small college of national distinction," Bethany president Scott Miller said. "It is fitting and proper that our graduates have the opportunity to hear firsthand from the leader of our national past-time."

Commencement is scheduled for May 17.

## YOUNG ADULTS

member Andy Holmer is already a member of the General Assembly planning group. Other aspects of General Assembly planning, such as workshops and worship, as well as special events specifically for young adults is already under way.

Thinking of the greater online community, the commission plans to relaunch [www.docya.org](http://www.docya.org), a web site started three years ago with young adults in mind.

Beyond young adults are other groups that the Young Adult Commission wants to engage in conversation, including local church pastors, the General Youth Council, campus ministers and chaplains, and regional and general

church representatives.

The commission met Saturday morning with Associate General Minister and Vice President Todd Adams to get a larger view of how young adult ministries fits in with the changing needs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Adams suggested several ways young adults can be involved in denominational discussions as well as other ideas to develop more young adults for service on boards and advisory panels.

Current members of the Young Adult Commission are:

- Diana Batzka of Nashville, Tenn. She will serve as the moderator through 2008.

- Katie Griffin of Evansville, Ind.
- Andy Holmer of Los Angeles
- Jack Knox of Dallas
- Esther Lee of Fort Worth, Texas
- Mayon Marcelino of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
- Candice Moore of Detroit
- Eli Rolon of Hammond, Ind.
- Trayce Stewart of Cleveland, Ohio
- Beau Underwood of Chicago
- Alison Williams of Bloomington, Ind. She had served as the moderator over the past two years.

Tod Isminger of Disciples Home Missions and Brad Lyons of Higher Education & Leadership Ministries serve as staff liaisons.

## Scouting for new leaders: HELM connecting with youth pastors

Even though HELM's primary focus traditionally is higher education, our connections with Disciples youth are crucial to our mission. Youth programs are the church's "farm system," where we go to get our next batch of emerging leaders. Two youth events in 2008 are giving HELM an opportunity to help the church enhance those ties.

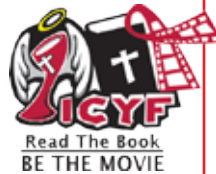
In March, HELM was represented at the first meeting of the Disciples Youth Ministry Network (DYMN), a grassroots organization that aims to better connect youth pastors at the local and regional level. With more than 50 participants, DYMN provided connections to hundreds of youth across the country. HELM's Brad Lyons encouraged youth pastors to talk to students about Disciples colleges and universities and to pass along information about HELM's collegiate programs such as the Student Ecumenical Partnership, a nationwide campus ministry database, and the HELM Leadership Fellows Program.

HELM has also assisted in the planning of this July's ICYF - the International Christian Youth Fellowship. This event will bring Disciples high-schoolers together at Chapman University. Youth will join together in worship, study, play, and a wide range of workshops and fun activities that will build life-long relationships.

ICYF also provides opportunities for Disciples colleges and universities, who will be at the gathering to tell students about the benefits of a Disciples education. Many schools will bring along students to personify that education, and those students will have leadership opportunities of their own.

ICYF is underwritten by two grants from the Interpretation Fund, created when Disciples undergraduate institutions set aside a portion of the support they received from the Disciples Mission Fund to provide funding for special projects that tighten the bond between the schools and the church.

For more information on ICYF or the pre-event mission trip, visit [www.icyfchapman.org](http://www.icyfchapman.org).



## NAMES

ained ministers. Since no Leadership Fellows currently attend Eureka or Drake, the current Hanson Fellow is Alexis Westerhausen, a sophomore at Culver-Stockton College from Girard, Illinois.

The Richard Hamm Leadership Fellow recognizes the leadership of the retired General Minister and President (1993-2003). Established at the 2003 General Assembly in Charlotte and initially funded by an offering taken at the final year of her or his college studies. The current Hamm Fellow is Kelly Rand, a social work major at Texas Christian University from Olathe, Kansas.

The Petunia Fellow honors a 2006 gift from Petunia Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Wytheville, Va. In choosing the Petunia Fellow, HELM aims to select a student from Virginia or a student studying at a school in or near Virginia. In 2007-2008, Kristen Walling, a sophomore peace studies major at American University in Washington, D.C., is the Petunia Fellow.

Students selected for named fellowships are asked to communicate with the fund's donors regularly. The grant each student receives is the same as other Leadership Fellows. That can create some interesting connections.

"While I was writing to my sponsors I realized that Sherman P. Hanson was an interim pastor at my church, First Christian Church of Virden, from October 1953 to July 1954," Westerhausen says. "My grandma knew him personally since she went and still goes to my church weekly. I found it very interesting and neat that he knew my church personally!"

If you are interested in underwriting a HELM Leadership Fellows position, please contact us at 314-991-3000 or by e-mail at [helm@helmdisciples.org](mailto:helm@helmdisciples.org).



RAND



WALLING

## You say 'Goodbye,' I say 'Hello.'

The next time you call HELM's office, you'll probably hear a new voice.

Janice Martin joined HELM's staff in February. As administrative assistant, Janice will be involved in all parts of HELM's ministry, including answering most incoming phone calls and handling scholarship inquiries. A St. Louis-area native, Janice and her husband, Greg, live in Florissant.

Helping Janice learn the ropes at HELM is Elnora Hinson, a 10-year employee of HELM. Elnora originally planned to retire in September but graciously agreed to stay on until a new employee could be hired and trained.

"Elnora had an amazing ministry during her decade at HELM, and we're going to miss her," says HELM President Dennis Landon, "but at the same time, we're thrilled to add Janice and all her skills to our team."



## HELM accounting software joins the 21st Century

It may seem like a small change, but HELM's new accounting software has been years in the waiting.

Initially installed in 1989, before some current college students were born, the old software works in DOS, the aging programming language that most people forgot when Macs and Windows debuted. Written specifically for the Division of Higher Education, the software would be old enough to take a driver's test.

Instead of taking it out car shopping, though, we're retiring it. After several years of shopping and waiting for prices to come down, HELM purchased our new accounting software, CHIPS, at one-eighth of the original cost.

"While taking care of our old system and waiting for prices to come down created some hardships, we exercised good stewardship," says Linda Plengemeier, HELM's Vice President and Treasurer. "Hopefully we can make our new system last 18 years if we need to."

## HELM Board adds Kagiwada, Strong, and Underwood

HELM has added a former college president, a current seminarian, and a well-known civil rights activist to our Board of Directors beginning in 2008.

Trained as a lawyer specializing in international human rights, **JoAnne Kagiwada** headed the final phase of the lobbying initiative for the Japanese American Citizens League that achieved full funding of a \$1.25 billion redress program for Americans of Japanese descent who were interned by the US government during World War II. She has served as vice president of the National Council of Churches and, with her late husband, David, was among the founders of what is now the North American Pacific Asian Disciples. She resides in Oakland, California.



KAGIWADA

The retired president of Culver-Stockton College, **Ed Strong** served as an ex officio member of the board while he chaired the Council of Colleges and Universities. He has served for several years on the HELM investment committee and is employed as Director of the Compre-



STRONG

hensive Campaign for West Central Illinois Public Television. Prior to his service at Culver-Stockton, he taught at the University of Tulsa. He resides in Kirkwood, Missouri.

An M.Div. student at the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago, **Beau Underwood** has served on several Disciples organizations. A graduate of Eureka College, he served two years on the STEP Leadership Team and is currently a member of the Disciples Young Adult Commission and the Executive Committee of the General Conference of Disciples Men. He is a native of Princeton, Illinois.



UNDERWOOD

Kagiwada and Strong will serve through 2011. Underwood will complete his term in 2010.

In addition to the new members, two current members of the HELM Board have agreed to serve a second four-year term.

**Miriam Cruz** is co-founder of Cruz & Associates, a communications firm specializing in political campaign consulting, public affairs and educational consulting targeting the Hispanic community. She has also been an advocate

for education, business, health care and other issues in the Hispanic community. Prior to establishing the consulting firm, Ms. Cruz worked as deputy assistant to President Carter for Hispanic Affairs. She is a member of First Spanish Christian Church in Chicago and an associate member of National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

A former Dean of the University of Chicago Divinity School and the nearby Disciples Divinity House, **W. Clark Gilpin** is a historian of Christianity who studies the cultural history of theology in England and America since the seventeenth century. Gilpin is a graduate of Lexington Theological Seminary and the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago.

Cruz and Gilpin will serve four-year terms.

Departing the board are Carla Fletcher and Richard Marshall, both from St. Louis, Missouri.

Members of the HELM Board of Directors are confirmed by the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) after selection by the HELM board. Board members may serve a maximum of two terms or eight years.