



Tomorrow's Leaders Today

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

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In search of "the truth"

Could you explain your understanding of "truth" in a few minutes? Maybe if you had a whole week?

The Disciples Leadership Institute (DLI) focused on truth for its third meeting, held in August at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Mo. Using John 14:6 – "I am the way and the truth and the life." – as a starting point, 24 participants from all parts of the church worked through the week to explain



Matt Rosine (left), Sara Steen, David Yonker, and Pedro Goycolea lead music during Tuesday night's worship.

their own understanding of truth, both in the literal sense but also their own interpretations of God's intentions for the world.

DLI is HELM's project to create
See DLI, page 3

Ministerial Student Grants open doors for learning

Sometimes the right educational opportunities aren't on campus or covered by scholarship. In those cases, a new HELM program may help.

Beginning this academic year, the Ministerial Student Grant program will provide grants of up to \$3,000 for selected M.Div. students to support research projects, educational experiences outside the student's institution, study-related travel, or other

See GRANTS, page 2

Where did HELM go on our summer trips?

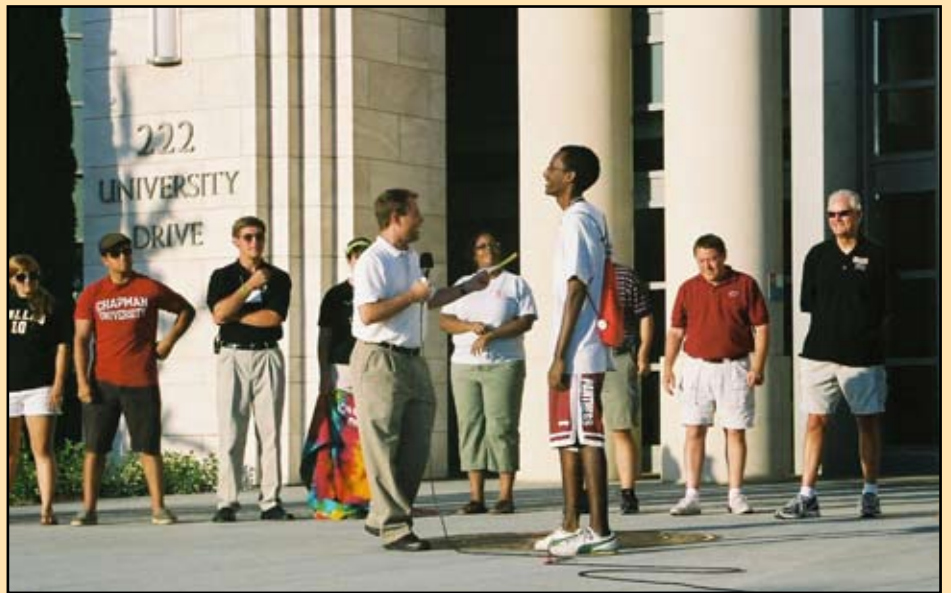
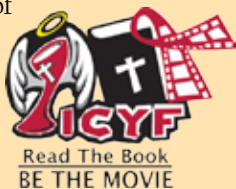
Summer is supposed to be a time to catch up on your rest, relax, and enjoy the slow pace.

Not at HELM.

HELM staff and students associated with HELM programs spent a lot of time on the road this summer.

ICYF: The largest event was July's ICYF – the International Christian Youth Fellowship. More than 750 youth and youth pastors overran the campus of Chapman University. Led by the General Youth Council, ICYF explored the theme "Read the Book – Be the Movie." Youth explored this theme in a variety of workshops and small group experiences. Topics of exploration included prayer, creative writing, dance, social justice, vocation, technology, body image, the Holocaust, urban ministry, and leadership.

Kathryn Welch, a HELM Leadership Fellow at Transylvania University, led "Rules for Radicals," teaching students how to promote effective



Peter Kidane, a senior from Allisonville Christian Church in Indianapolis, answers a trivia question during the Disciples Higher Education Trivia Challenge. Each school represented at ICYF had a turn in the spotlight to talk to more than 600 Disciples students. HELM's Brad Lyons, left, emceed the event.

change.

"I enjoyed listening to them. They led the discussion, and they took it where they wanted it to go. It's great to have people being able to talk about the big issues."

Two HELM-related ministries had a presence at ICYF. Three members of

the Student Ecumenical Partnership (STEP) Leadership Team – Disciples Katie Blaisdell and Brandon Cook, as well as United Church of Christ's Meredith Jackson – promoted campus ministries and social justice. The Young Adult Commission's Alison

See SUMMER, page 3

Lost and found: Campus ministry count up 69% and counting

A simple request to update information in a database resulted in dozens of campus ministries connecting with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Although new Disciples congregations have been sprouting up like wildflowers in the past few years, the increase in campus ministries is not from new starts. Instead, it appears ecumenism is responsible for the increase.

Whatever the cause, it's good news. In March 2007, 84 campus ministries reported an affiliation with Disciples. In late August 2008, 142 campus ministries claim a Disciples connection – an increase of 69%, with more expected through the end of the year.

The increase came to light as the result of a redesigned web site for the Education Camps Ministry Team (ECMT), a partnership of seven mainline denominations working together in campus ministry as part of the National Council of Churches. For several years, HELM has maintained ECMT's web site, www.higheredmin.org, and the campus ministry database needed more flexibility. ECMT hired consultant Chris Higgins, who works with the Disciples' Communication Ministries in Indianapolis. He rebuilt the database from the ground up, making it easier to add new ministries and update existing records. That database was ready early this summer, and Disciples campus ministries were the test case to iron out glitches.

The big jump came when the other denominations affiliated with the site asked their own campus ministries to update their files or to add new listings.

"We've always thought there were more out there, but it's difficult to track campus ministries because they're always changing locations or staff or names," says HELM's Brad Lyons. "This database, and a little help from our partner denominations, gives us a better idea just how Disciples are doing campus ministry."

If you know a Disciples campus ministry, check www.higheredmin.org/directory to make sure it's entered in the database. A link to add new campus ministries or update information is at the bottom of the page.

The new listing makes "Campus Ministry of the Week" a significantly larger task. Each week a campus ministry is featured on HELM's web site. For new campus ministries, the next open date to be featured is March 28, 2011.

Five doctoral students share HELM's post-graduate scholarships

Five students at Disciples institutions are recipients of HELM scholarships for students pursuing doctoral degrees.

Jae Hyung Cho, a student at the Disciples Seminary Foundation and Claremont Graduate University, is the 2008 recipient of the William Gilbert and Florence Leonard Jones Scholarship recipient. Established by an anonymous donor, the Jones Scholarship is given annually to a full-time student pursuing the degree of Doctor of Philosophy who is either preparing for ordination in, or already ordained in, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and intends to provide leadership to a congregation or other agency of the church.

Four Disciples women received the Ann E. Dickerson Scholarship,

given to female members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) working toward the Ph.D. degree in religion studies. 2008 recipients are:

- **Kristel Clayville**, Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago
- **Patricia "Tish" Duncan**, Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago
- **Christy Newton**, Disciples Seminary Foundation and Graduate Theological Union
- **Katy Valentine**, Disciples Seminary Foundation and Graduate Theological Union

A special Higher Education and Leadership Ministries fund supports Dickerson Scholarship, named in honor of the former HELM Board member.

Church-college relationship focus of new panel

How Disciples colleges and universities and the church relate is the subject of a new panel called by the General Minister and President at the request of the HELM Board of Directors and the Council of Colleges and Universities.

Following a year of informal discussion among undergraduate education leaders and HELM, the Task Force on Undergraduate Education gathers a variety of Disciples experienced in Disciples higher education to examine the current relationship, including the three-decade-old covenants binding the church and the schools.

Chaired by Rev. Charles Watkins of Central Christian Church in Decatur, Ill., the panel will work over the next year.

GRANTS

opportunities.

This new program is supported by the Hughey-Peery Fund, in partnership with the Pension Fund of the Christian Church.

An applicant must be a member of a Disciples congregation and under care of a regional commission on ministry and have completed the first year of an M.Div.

degree at an accredited seminary. A student may receive one grant during her or his M.Div. studies.

Recipients will provide a written report on their experiences to HELM following the project.

More information about the new program and the application process is on HELM's web site, www.helmdisciples.org.



2009 General Assembly

July 29-August 2
Indianapolis, Indiana

HELM Celebration
Saturday, August 1

DLI

personal and professional linkages among younger congregational leaders from both new and established congregations and across the divides of race, culture and language. DLI is intentionally diverse: half of the participants are from new congregations, half from established congregations; half are People of Color. Centered around a week-long event, DLI combines worship, discussion, testimony, various spiritual disciplines, and fellowship to transcend those divides.

“Diversity and openness is key to the advancement of *all* types of ministry,” said Earle Fisher, a new church pastor in the Memphis area. “This is the ethos of DLI.”

New connections also bring new understandings of faith and ministry.

“Being able to connect with people with such diverse backgrounds and journeys was really helpful,” said Danny Gulden, a pastor at Sandy Spring Chris-



tian Church in Atlanta. “The differing perspectives on the church helped me to better understand my own ministry context and the needs of other people.”

Through its first three years, DLI has been funded by grants from two foundations. Support for future meetings will be provided by DLI participants and other sources. HELM

has agreed to find funding as well as supporting the DLI’s planning and organization.

In an effort to draw more diversity to the conference, DLI accepted applications for this year’s conference and will do so again later this year. The 2009 conference will be organized by a six-member steering committee.

SUMMER

Williams help students remember their new status once they finished their high-school education.

Other HELM students at ICYF were new Leadership Fellow Charisse Knorr, a member of the General Youth Council; Leadership Fellow Jesse Stephenson, representing Transylvania University; and Tiffany Curtis, a Leadership Fellow alumna representing the Disciples Peace Fellowships.

HELM students and staff led “family groups” of about a dozen students each that allowed for deeper discussion and community. Many also helped lead the first night’s ice-breakers on Chapman’s football field.

Disciples higher education institutions were well represented at ICYF. More than half of the schools had displays and staff or volunteers to talk to prospective students. Saturday night’s talent show, sponsored by HELM and Disciples undergraduate institutions, started with a trivia contest in which each school was the answer to one question – giving each school a minute to talk to the large audience.

Schools represented at the event, included Bethany College, Brite Divinity School, Chapman University, Christian

Theological Seminary, Columbia College, Culver-Stockton College, Drury University, Eureka College, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lynchburg College, Phillips Theological Seminary, Texas Christian University, and Transylvania University.

HELM and Disciples colleges and universities were major sponsors of ICYF. Other key organizations were Disciples Home Mission, Week of Compassion, the Pacific Southwest Region, the California and Northern-Nevada Region, the Kentucky Region, *Disciples-World Magazine*, the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, the Oreon E. Scott Foundation. Artesia Christian Church, which closed its doors for the last time in 2007, gave \$5,000 to ICYF as a symbol of support for the church’s future.

The next ICYF, scheduled for the summer of 2012, will be at Lynchburg College.

NYE: STEP was also represented at the National Youth Event, the UCC’s counterpart to ICYF, in Knoxville, Tenn. Chrissy Stonebraker, a student at Hiram College, represented

Disciples at NYE.

The theme for the week was “Living the Life,” encouraging students to think environmentally and live peacefully with other cultures.

“As a team, we tried to get our word out about what we do through every person we talked to – and I mean every person,” Stonebraker says. Giving away fair-trade tea and freebies gave her many opportunities to spread the word about STEP.

Ethnic constituencies: Three events gathered the ethnic constituencies of the denomination this summer. HELM President Dennis Landon attended the 20th Session of the National Convocation in Memphis, Tenn., and the National Hispanic and Bilingual Assembly in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

The North American Pacific/Asian Disciples held their biennial gathering the first weekend in August in Stony Point, N.Y. HELM Leadership Fellow Esther Lee led the young adult activities, and HELM’s Brad Lyons led two workshops – one for youth and one for adults – on Disciples educational opportunities.



On campus

Transy 'N' Team invites youth interested in ministry

Is there a high-school student in your congregation considering ministry? Make sure they know about Transy 'N' Team, a weekend event specifically for students considering ordained ministry.

Transy 'N' TEAM (TEAM stands for "Totally Excited About Ministry") will take place November 14-16 at Transylvania University in Lexington, Ky.

Except for travel costs, Transy 'N' TEAM is free. Register online at transy.edu/ Follow the Campus Life link to Campus Ministries and Transy 'N' Team.

Nearly 500 people have registered for Transy 'N' TEAM since its first event 15 years ago.

Bethany, LTS discuss educational partnerships

Several top administrators from Lexington Theological Seminary visited Bethany College recently to continue discussions about developing educational partnerships between the oldest college and the oldest seminary of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Among the programs under consideration are short- and long-term courses designed to encourage the development of vocational and lay leaders.

Columbia College nationally ranked in number of minority students completing degrees

Columbia College ranks 16th of the top 50 institutions nationwide granting bachelor's degrees to African-American students in business management, marketing and related support services, according to Diverse Issues in Higher Education's "Top 100 Undergraduate Degree Producers."

Columbia College awarded 391 bachelor's degrees to African-American students during the 2007-2008 academic year. The college also was noted for serving American Indian students, ranking higher in business-degree completion than some tribal colleges and universities in the west and southwest.



Culver-Stockton community dries out after near-record flood

Canton, Mo., hometown of Culver-Stockton College, weathered near-record flooding in June. Thanks to hundreds of volunteers, though, Canton escaped major damage.

C-SC Chaplain Brent Reynolds said the college hosted a handful of flooded-out families and later approximately 30 residents of a senior citizen's assisted housing unit.

The National Weather Service reported the Mississippi River crested nearly 14 feet above flood stage on June 18, the second-highest crest on record. Sandbagging on the Canton levee kept the water at bay. Reynolds said about 100 members of the college staff, more than a dozen students, and several churches lent a hand in the effort.

"We had churches, two, two-and-a-half hours away come to help," Reynolds said. "They didn't really have any connection to campus; they just knew that we were a Disciple institution, and they wanted to help out."



Nobody was too young to help in the effort to keep floodwaters out of Canton, Mo., home of Culver-Stockton College.

Culver-Stockton College

"Think Purple, Live Green" is TCU's fall semester theme

TCU is offering students, faculty, staff and the community an opportunity to get engaged in sustainability this fall through the university's 2008 Sustainability Theme Semester. The "Think Purple, Live Green" semester will consist of presentations by well-known personalities in sustainability, special classes, symposia and workshops discussing how to make human economic systems last longer and have less impact on ecological systems.

Drury University hosts Mid-America Regional Assembly

Drury University is pleased to be a host for part of the Regional Assembly in Mid-America on October 11. Assembly participants will enjoy a dinner on campus and then attend an evening entertainment program featuring the Drury Singers and other musicians as well as a "mystery play" performed by members of the Missouri State University Department of Theatre and Dance.



Longtime Disciples leader Jim Johnson returns to lead LTS

Dr. James P. (Jim) Johnson, the former president of the Christian Church Foundation and the Church Finance Council, was tapped in August as the 16th president of Lexington Theological Seminary.

A 1965 LTS graduate, Johnson has served as a congregational pastor and denominational leader during his more than 43 years in ministry. He most recently was in charge of planned giving for the Mayo Foundation.

Eureka College enrollment up 50% in five years

For the third consecutive year, enrollment at Eureka College has reached an all-time high. Enrollment on Aug. 26, one day before classes began, was 758.

The college welcomed its largest-ever incoming class of 259, including 156 freshmen and 103 transfer students. The previous high was 232 new students.



More higher education news is online at www.helmdisciples.org