



Tomorrow's Leaders Today

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

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We say Christian Church! You say (Disciples of Christ)!

From testimony about HELM's ministry at our dinner to cheerleaders on stage, leading cheers of "Campbell! Stone!", HELM's experience at the 2009 General Assembly in Indianapolis provided plenty of opportunities to share the results of our ministry of developing leaders for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the world.

Among the more than 5,600 attendees were dozens of current and former participants in leadership development programs such as the Leadership Fellows Program, Student Ecumenical Partnership, and the Disciples Leadership Institute. Workshops on leadership development for youth and on crisis communications drew good crowds, and we lost count of how many conversations we had about the future.

Disciples colleges, universities, and theological institutions showed their commitment to the church. The undergraduate institutions hosted a pizza lunch for youth and youth sponsors that drew hundreds of potential students and leaders.

The struggling economy was on a lot of Disciples' minds, including ours. We were proud that our giveaways were the cheapest we've ever offered: stickers making fun of how cheap our giveaways were. We also economized by printing fewer handouts and saved a big chunk of money by holding our Board of Directors meeting concurrently with the assembly.



ADAM FRIEBER/DISCIPLES/WORD



PARENTHESES!
Alexis Westerhausen and Tom Calvert-Rosenberger lead the General Assembly in cheers during HELM's presentation, with help from Jesse Stephenson and Katie Johnson.

HELM's giveaway stickers cost 1/10th of a cent each.

Youth and leaders alike learn lessons by Shadowing a Leader

By Katie Johnson

Special to Disciples News Service

Youth were given a unique opportunity to learn from denominational leaders at the 2009 General Assembly. Thirty youth participated in the "Shadow a Disciples Leader" program that paired young people and leaders with similar interests.

HELM promoted the program and accepted applications, and Olivia Bryan Updegrove, a minister at First Christian Church of Orange, Calif., made the pairings.

Evidence of this program was all around General Assembly, though it might not have been obvious. Vice Moderator Bob Alvarez was shadowed by youth Christian Smith, a member of the General Youth Council. Christian had the opportunity to participate in worship on Friday evening when he helped give the invitation to offering with Alvarez.



OLIVIA BRYAN UPDEGROVE

Week of Compassion director Amy Gopp and her shadow, Rebecca Parker.

Amy Gopp, director of Week of Compassion, was shadowed by Kentucky native Rebecca Parker. Parker spoke highly of her experience with the program. She and Gopp had set aside a couple of hours to spend together, but time flew by and they ended up being together longer than planned.

"It really inspired me," Parker said of the experience. While it's easy to get caught in the mind-set of being powerless as a young person, Parker said spending time with Gopp reminded her that she's not. "I can be a part of the church, I am important, I can lead," Parker said.

Gopp had equally positive things to say about her shadow. "It was amazing, she was amazing!" Gopp said. "I wanted to shadow her after she shadowed me!"

Shadows trailed representatives from a dozen General Ministries, the moderator team, and several volunteers.

Serving Leadership Diversity Relationship

The four speakers at the Great Disciples Leadership Quiz had one simple direction to consider when preparing their remarks: "Describe your experiences with HELM." Perhaps because each of them relates to HELM in a unique way, our four speakers each found different themes.

Cisa Payuyo, HELM Director, Associate Director of Church Relations at Chapman University, and seminarian, drawing on her new knowledge of Greek:

"The first verb is *apokrinesthai* - to answer. HELM gives board members the opportunity to answer the call to serve the church. Our board is made up of lay leaders, professionals, university professors and administrators. Together we look for ways and at ways we can best support our institutions of higher education, how we can best celebrate leadership development for Disciples undergraduate students and how we can nurture Disciples seminary students in order for them to answer - *apokrinesthai* - their call to ministry... The second verb is *akuow* - I hear. The HELM fellows that have come through Chapman are a unique group of young adults. With them, I hear and I see (another Greek verb, *blepo*) how they take their passions and turn them into actions that help make their university a better place. The leadership skills and the community bonds they have gained in HELM have helped them give life to their passions."



Chesla Nickelson, seminarian at Christian Theological Seminary, on her experiences in the Disciples Leadership Institute:

"What I found, what I experienced, what I was able to establish was more than I could have ever imagined. There were young people and not so young people... It was a small group with great diversity. Through large group discussions, small group biblical explorations, collective worship services, the powerful witness and response sessions and of course daily communion I fell in love. I fell in love with the ability to have difficult conversations about difficult issues with a group of people who had very different opinions, backgrounds and perspectives... Thanks to HELM and its Disciples Leadership Institute, I began to develop relationships with Disciples of varying hues. I learned quite a bit about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and I was given a new source of motivation and companionship on what can be an exhaustingly lonely journey in ministry."



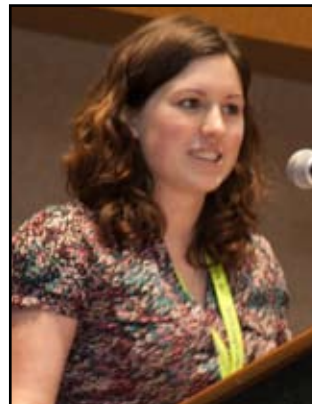
Steve Mason, HELM Leadership Fellow alumnus, seminarian at Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt University:

"(HELM gives) a holistic approach to the Leadership Fellows conferences so that HELMsters leave the program with a full set of skills as they continue their leadership in the church outside the undergraduate realm. It is at these conferences that students can really meet leaders in the church and learn from working in a close setting with them. Some of the best examples of leadership that students learn from are found within HELM through the models of Brad (Lyons) and Dennis (Landon), both of whom seem to be perennial influences on how students view ministry and their roles in the work of the church. It is partially due to the direction of my experience with HELM that I pursued further graduate work at Vanderbilt Divinity School and am seeking ordination in our church. Thanks to HELM and its leaders, and may we all continue supporting this program and the young people that it nurtures."



Kathryn Welch, HELM Leadership Fellow at Transylvania University:

"(Leadership Fellows) may not get to see each other but once or twice a year, but I still feel like there is a special bond within the program. We are all very different, with many different styles of leadership as well as life goals, but I am inspired by each of the fellows I have met... I have talked a lot about my relationships, but I think that is what makes HELM so great. HELM provides opportunities for young college leaders, for seminarians, and for Disciples pastors and professionals to come together, form relationships, and be enriched and inspired by one another. One of the things I was always taught growing up is that church is about family, it is about forming relationships with other people, and it is about learning from the people around you. I have learned a lot with HELM, and I hope that I have provided something to the conversation. And you know what is so wonderful about HELM? They continue to bring people together and foster new relationships."





Allie Lundblad, a second-year Leadership Fellow, staffs HELM's display. Nearly two dozen volunteers helped out at HELM's display over four days.



New Leadership Fellows C.J. Findley-Grubb and Aly Gideon (standing) get in on the act. Gideon played the office know-it-all in a staff meeting about leadership programming, much to the chagrin of Kristen Walling (left) and Merillat Pittman (second from left.)

ADAM FRIEBERG/DisciplesWorld



During an aftersession on campus ministry, Jenny Wynn of Cameron Campus Ministry in Lawton, Okla., describes what students expect from campus ministers. Heather Godsey, incoming chair of HELM's Council on Ministries in Higher Education, listens.



HELM's Dennis Landon and Caroline Hamilton notice a striking resemblance following our presentation Thursday morning.



Allison Enari (left) belted out HELM's next iTunes smash, "Leader." Backing up are Kristen Walling, Caroline Hamilton, and Chrissy Stonebraker. The presentation is expected to be available online this fall.

ADAM FRIEBERG/DisciplesWorld

HELM Board reviews diversity, audit

The HELM Board of Directors spent the Saturday afternoon of General Assembly in its only in-person meeting of the year. While it's not ideal for a board to meet for only a few hours at a time, good stewardship set the date: With many board members already planning to attend General Assembly, avoiding a St. Louis-based meeting helped HELM save between \$8,000 and \$9,000.

The gathering marked the first time in at least 15 years that HELM's board met formally during the General Assembly.

In addition to reviewing HELM's scholarship program and the most effective way to use limited resources, the board also engaged in conversation about how HELM can lift up diversity in other areas such as campus ministry and how partnerships across racial and cultural lines can be moved to the center of HELM's mission.

The board also reviewed HELM's "very clean" 2008 audit and discussed additional ways to improve accountability.

Pop quiz! Get out your HELM pens!

This year's questions for the Great Disciples Leadership Quiz, pulled from five categories (General Minister and President Sharon Watkins, Alumni of Disciples schools, "By the Numbers," Alexander Campbell, and Disciples celebrities) proved the toughest questions so far. Here are three questions; answers are below the article to the left:

- 1) Everybody knows that Bob Barker, long-time host of "The Price Is Right," was a graduate of Drury University, but the show's announcer, Rod Roddy, also attended a Disciples school. Which one?
- 2) Name the former Disciples pastor, and graduate of Hiram College, who was said to be the first author to sell a million copies of a novel, and the first person to make \$1 million dollars selling fiction.
- 3) How many regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are not named for a US state or states?

(1) Texas Christian University. (2) Harold Bell Wright, who wrote The Shepherd of the Hills and 19 other novels. (3) 11 regions: Canada, Capital Area, Central Rocky Mountain, Great River, Greater Kansas City, Mid-America, Northeastern, Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Southwest and Upper Midwest.

On campus

Thayer called to serve as chaplain at Bethany College

Rev. Scott Thayer has been named to the dual position of Chaplain of Bethany College and Pastor of Bethany Memorial Church.

Thayer received his Bachelor of Arts from Central Michigan University, and a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. He has completed coursework in theology from the University of Bonn, Germany, and Ph.D. work at Emory University in biblical studies.

Most recently, he served as Senior Minister at the First Christian Church in Tuscaloosa, Ala., where he also served as President of Campus Ministry Association at the University of Alabama. He is a member of the Outdoor Ministry Task Force, an Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team member, and a member of Division of Mission in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region of the Christian Church (DOC). He is also a board member of the Council on Christian Unity.

Thayer and his wife, Jeanne, are parents to 12-year-old Michael.

“Joy in resurrection” at Lexington Seminary

DisciplesWorld — Before a crowd of 400, Lexington Theological Seminary president James Johnson exclaimed, “I’m here to report that there is joy in resurrection!”

Rather than dwell on recent financial difficulties for the seminary, which largely stem from the global economic recession, Johnson focused his remarks on the signs of hopefulness surrounding the seminary’s new curriculum and pedagogical approach.

He named five indications that God is at work and that change is being well received: First was the successful completion of a court case surrounding LTS finances. “The court hearing didn’t have to turn out positive, but it did.”

Second, he cited financial support for LTS has increased 46% overall and 41% from alumni/ae, in the midst of the recession.

Third, he said, inquiries from potential students for 2010 are high.

Fourth, the strong work ethic and

Searching for seminarians

Federal laws protecting student privacy make it tougher each year to identify Disciples seminarians. While many schools agree to pass along information to their students about Disciples programs, a few seminarians will slip past our radar.

We need your help. If you know a Disciples seminarian, make sure that student knows about HELM’s Seminarians list serv. It’s the easiest way to find out about the Seminarians Conference, the Ministerial Grant program, and other opportunities. Send them to the web site above to sign up.

Seminarians list serv:
www.helmdisciples.org/theological/seminarians.htm

commitment of trustees impressed Johnson. Last January, for example, the trustees passed twenty reports — some of which were policies immediately enacted — in a marathon meeting. Normally this level of work would require many meetings.

Finally, Johnson praised the LTS faculty for their dedication to the seminary, its students and the ministry of the church and for their willingness to change quickly. “Generally higher education institutions, including seminaries, have not earned reputations for changing rapidly,” Johnson quipped.

Oklahoman, Oregonian receive ministry fellowships to attend Eureka College

Lindsay Rittgers of Midwest City, Okla., and Douglas Collins of Albany, Ore., have received Ministry Fellowships to attend Eureka College this fall.

The full-tuition, four-year scholarships are based on academic achievement, leadership and a desire to enter the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The fellowship includes two mentorships with ministries related to the Christian Church. The program pays for the costs associated with the mentorships.

“Eureka College is pleased to welcome Lindsay and Doug to this ministry program,” said Eureka College Chaplain Bruce Fowlkes. “They have made leadership and service to the church their personal goals, and they will be wonderful additions to the Eureka College campus and the Eureka community.”

Barton College helps restock food pantry

Faculty and staff returning to Barton College brought more with them

than the expected pencils and planners. Packages of non-perishable food items piled up as the Barton community answered Hope Station’s call for help.

Hope Station, an interfaith community agency located in Wilson, placed ads in the local newspaper asking for food donations to replenish their nearly exhausted supply. Luann Clark, administrative assistant to the vice president for administration and finance, read the notices and was moved to respond. Clark emailed the campus community and asked them to bring items to the opening College Assembly. They filled the back of a pickup truck and two additional boxes filled with late donations.

President loses his head; good samaritan returns it

For more than two months, a statue of James A. Garfield, former president of



Hiram College and the United States, stood headless, unable to gaze on his alma mater.

The head of the 95-year-old sandstone statue was stolen May 14, less than a week

after its arrival on campus. On July 31, a good samaritan — not a suspect in the investigation — returned the head to police.

“We’re obviously thrilled to have the head back so that we can restore the statue to its original condition,” said Hiram College President Thomas Chema. “We’re grateful to the good samaritan who helped recover the head. The statue represents Garfield’s connection to Hiram and is a wonderful addition to our campus, sitting adjacent to our new Garfield Institute for Public Leadership.”

More news at www.helmdisciples.org.