



Tomorrow's Leaders Today

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

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
www.helmdisciples.org
helm@helmdisciples.org
314-991-3000

Produced by Higher Education and Leadership Ministries

March 2010

This summer, it's time to Share

Share 2010, the national student ministry gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, will gather college students and campus ministry professionals in the summer of 2010 for a week of worship, fellowship, networking, service, and learning.

The registration fee is exceptionally low – just \$75 for students, with travel stipends available – to make it possible to draw a variety of students to the event.

The five-day conference, scheduled for June 28-July 2, is being organized by HELM, the United Church of Christ's Local Church Ministries, Texas Christian University, and the Student Ecumenical Partnership.

"Everybody will go home from this conference knowing a lot more about campus ministry," says HELM President Dennis Landon. "Students, campus ministers, and denominational staff will learn successful, tested ideas from other campus ministries. We will connect with other students and campus ministers and college programs, and we hope to forge a stronger connection with the national church."

The primary audience for this

conference is college students affiliated with the Disciples or the United Church of Christ. That connection can be through either a home congregation or a campus ministry or congregation you found at school. Students also need to have completed at least one semester of undergraduate studies AND need to be heading back to campus in the fall.

The event is also open to campus ministers and college chaplains actively involved in ministering with a four-year or two-year campus. All campus ministers and chaplains need to bring at least one student from their campus ministries.

A 10-member steering committee met at TCU in November and January to create the five-day schedule, identify resource staff, and begin recruiting participants.

The gathering will focus on:

- Leadership, Identity, and Evangelism
- Service and Social Justice, and
- Spirituality and Worship

Amid those themes will be workshops from students and professionals alike. Applicants are invited to propose their own workshop topic, whether it's

See SHARE 2010, page 3

HELM Leadership Fellows application deadline extended

April 30 is the new deadline for college-bound students who want to sharpen their church leadership potential by participating in the HELM Leadership Fellows Program.

Current high school seniors and community college students planning to attend a regionally accredited American college or university as full-time students beginning in 2010 are eligible. Applicants must be members of a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation and express a commitment to serve the church as a clergy or lay leader. Participation in the program can be renewed up to three additional years.

The application requires an essay, three references, and official transcripts, and all materials must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2010. All complete applications are reviewed anonymously by a scholarship committee, and students will be notified by May 31 whether they have been named as fellows.

The original deadline was March 15.

Applications and guidelines are available on HELM's web site, www.

See FELLOWS, page 3



HELM's Council on Ministries in Higher Education met in late February, reviewing our work with students and how we can strengthen ties with student ministries. Council members are (front row, from left) April Oristano of First Christian Church, Eugene, Ore.; Culver-Stockton College chaplain Brent Reynolds; Heather Godsey of the Wesley Foundation in Knoxville, Tenn.; University of Houston student Melissa Tran; layperson Sara Richardson with honorary council member Peter, both of St. Louis; (back row) HELM president Dennis Landon, TCU student Jeremy Arnold, and Ben Bohren, regional minister for Northern California-Nevada. Transylvania University chaplain Dave Carr was unable to attend.



Three newcomers join HELM Board

The HELM Board of Directors has three new members – two “at-large” appointments and an ex-officio representative.

Manuel Collazo is a licensed minister and software consultant in Casselberry, Fla. He served as the first vice-moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from 2003-2005.

Ana Rivera-Acevedo is a student at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. A native of Cuba, she served as pastor of Iglesia Cristiana Hispana in Anniston, Ala. She has also been a member of the steering committee for HELM’s Disciples Leadership Institute.

Collazo and Rivera-Acevedo’s terms run through the end of 2013. They replace Chuck Blaisdell of First Christian Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Tim Lee of Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas.

Heather Godsey joins the board as the chair of the Council on Ministries in Higher Education. Godsey is the program director of the Wesley Foundation in Knoxville, Tenn. She is also the co-editor of “Oh God, Oh God, Oh God! Young Adults Speak Out About Sexuality and Christian Spirituality,” recently released to high praise by the Christian Board of Publication. Amy Kay Pavlovich of Columbia, Mo., previously represented this council.



COLLAZO



RIVERA-ACEVEDO



GODSEY

Morales called to regional ministry

HELM director Jose Morales Jr., has been called to be the Transitional Regional Minister for the Central Rocky Mountain Region, which serves Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Morales recently served as associate pastor of Iglesia del Pueblo - Hope Center - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Hammond, Ind.



MORALES

Born in Puerto Rico in 1978, he has lived in the country of Venezuela and the U.S. in Ohio and Illinois. Morales is a freelance writer, and is frequently asked to be a keynote speaker and preacher. He serves as an adjunct professor at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Since 2006 Morales has been instrumental in HELM’s Disciples Leadership Institute.

Lexington Theological Seminary welcomes Gillett to new position

Charisse Gillett, a member of the HELM Board of Directors, has been named as vice president of administration and special projects at Lexington Theological Seminary. Gillett’s duties for the new position include supervising student recruitment and working on admissions and scholarships. She also will partner with the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in creating programs and materials to help improve ministers’ wellness.



GILLETT

Gillett previously worked with Transylvania University’s Lilly Endowment grant focusing on the theological exploration of vocation and in Midway College’s admissions department. From 2003-2005, she served as the denomination’s moderator. Her four-year term on the HELM Board of Directors began in 2007.

Young Adult initiative aims for multi-cultural and inclusive church

(Disciples News Service) A major initiative involving young adult Disciples to address the issues of becoming a truly multicultural and inclusive church was proposed by a planning committee meeting in January.

The proposed initiative would bring young adults together for hands-on exposure to diverse cultural and racial experiences through a series of work trips to different Disciples mission stations across the United States.

The creation of this planning committee was one of the major recommendations made by the March 2008 Consultation on “Becoming a Multicultural and Inclusive Church.”

The planning process represents collaboration among several general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including the National Convocation, the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (CPOHM), the North American Pacific Asian Ministries (NAPAD), Reconciliation Ministry, Week of Compassion, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM), Disciples Home Missions (through its Young Adult Commission), and the Council on

Christian Unity.

The proposed initiative looks to a year-long program where groups of 12 to 15 Disciples young adults will visit four mission stations of the Disciples of Christ representing different cultural and racial contexts. The goal of the work trips is to launch a movement that creates a space for focused conversation around the interrelated issues of poverty, systemic racism, immigration, and exclusion. The hope is to develop a model of action and reflection to empower participants to personally impact their communities and congregations.

The planning team tentatively identified four sites and dates for the visits. It is anticipated that this gathering will be much larger than the previous events, with the possibility of opening participation to any Disciples young adult who would like to attend.

The young adults who participate in the work trips will be nominated or endorsed by the various sponsoring ministries within the church. Participants at each site will be selected to insure equal representation among ethnicities and gender balance.



HELM is on Facebook and Twitter. Visit www.helmdisciples.org for links.

SHARE 2010

attracting students, doing outreach, or thinking differently about their faith.

“This is a conference by college students, for college students,” Landon says. “We want everything to be something students can take home and use.”

Each day will also feature a different style of worship. Additional attractions include:

- **Keynote speakers:** Each morning’s first speaker will focus on that day’s theme. Sharon Watkins and Geoffrey Black, General Ministers and Presidents for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ respectively, are tentatively scheduled to attend.

- **Campus ministry swap meet:** Campus ministries are invited to bring a display illustrating successes in campus ministry - where ideas started, the planning involved, what worked, and how it affected the campus ministry community.

- **Service experience:** Participants will go to Fort Worth social service locations for an afternoon of community service.

- **Small groups:** All participants will have a small but diverse group to touch base with each day.

- **Evening social times:** This is, after all, an event for college students. Fun is part of the package.



The SHARE 2010 planning team is (clockwise from upper left) Transylvania University’ Brandon Cook, Kristen Walling of American University, TCU’s Caroline Hamilton, Meredith Jackson of the CA House campus ministry in Davis, Calif., HELM’s Dennis Landon and Brad Lyons, Hiram College’s Chrissy Stonebraker, TCU student Jeremy Arnold, and Barbara Essex, UCC national church staff. Additional planners are Angela Kaufman and Jeremy Albers of TCU’s University Ministries, Noah Gillespie of the University of Toledo, and Jake Joseph of Grinnell College.

Share 2010 is underwritten by the Oreon E. Scott Foundation, HELM’s College/University Grant program, Texas Christian University, and UCC Local Church Ministries and UCC Justice and Witness Ministries.

Participants are encouraged to find funding from as many sources as possible: Congregations near campus or back at home, your campus ministry, regions, student grant programs, and so on. Every dollar students raise will help another person participate.

For more information, or to register online, go to www.stepnetwork.org.

FELLOWS

helmdisciples.org or may be requested by calling HELM at 314-991-3000.

Entering its tenth year, the Leadership Fellows Program has drawn from all areas of church life. Seventy-two students have represented 24 regions of the church. They come from large congregations and small, from major cities and small towns. They attend Disciples colleges and universities, public institutions, and private institutions affiliated with other denominations. While many graduates have gone on to ordained ministry, a majority are laypeople. This diversity gives Fellows a new way to look at the church they have grown up in - the church they will serve in many different ways.

The unique program provides several different ways to help students explore and strengthen their leadership potential:

- **Covenants:** Students design their own covenant with HELM describing how they plan to work on developing their leadership abilities in cooperation with a campus chaplain, director of church relations, ecumenical campus minister or another appropriate mentor. Many participate in planning and leading campus ministry programs or similar activities, while others lead youth groups in local congregations or engage in outreach programs.

- **Leadership Conference:** At HELM’s expense, Leadership Fellows also attend annual leadership conferences, where they learn from Disciples leaders, pastors, and each other while building bonds to support each other as their leadership skills grow. The 2009 conference in Dallas focused on creativity in ministry and vocation.

- **Summer internships:** HELM works with Leadership Fellows to identify internships that will expose students to the wide variety of ways Disciples minister.

- **Grant:** Fellows receive a \$2,000 scholarship at the beginning of each school year for educational use.

- **Intangibles:** HELM connects students with mentors within the denomination, providing students with networking and insight beyond normal connections. Students maintain regular contact with HELM staff and other denominational leaders via e-mail and informal get-togethers.

If you know a student who you believe has leadership potential for the church and the world, let us know. We will send information on how to apply for the HELM Leadership Fellows Program. To pass along the name of a potential applicant:

- call us at 314-991-3000
- e-mail helm@helmdisciples.org
- fax 314-991-2957.

Please send your nomination by April 9. We will send the nominee a copy of the application packet, either electronically or in paper. While only students beginning studies at a four-year school in the fall are eligible, we contact all nominees so they can be ready to apply when their times come.

Thank you for your help!

On campus

Northwest Christian names Womack as 10th president

Dr. Joseph Womack has been named the tenth president of Northwest Christian University in Eugene, Oregon.



WOMACK

Dr. Womack currently is the vice president for university advancement at William Jessup University where he is responsible for fund-raising, marketing, communications, church and alumni relations, as well as community, media, and government relations. He also lead the University's physical relocation from San Jose to Rocklin, Calif, raising \$36 million in capital and annual giving, and establishing and managing the WJU Foundation.

Womack began his career nearly 20 years ago as an admissions counselor at NCU. Since then, he has held various administrative and operational positions at WJU and California Baptist University.

Womack earned an Ed.D and M.Ed. from Azusa Pacific University (2009 & 1998), a bachelor's degree in radio, television and film from Texas Christian University (1991) and an associate degree in biblical studies from NCU (1989). He and his wife, the former Kristine Rhee (NCU '89) have four sons: James, Benjamin, Daniel, and Andrew.

Womack will replace Dr. David Wilson, who is stepping down in June.

Disciples teens invited to Christian Leadership Conference at Culver-Stockton

Are you in high school and want to serve the church? Already serving but want to learn how to continue? Then consider attending "Here I Am: A Conference in Christian Leadership," which will take place June 11-13 at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo. High school students completing grades 10, 11, and 12 are invited to attend a weekend of leadership development, worship, food, and fun.



Todd Adams, associate general minister and vice president of the

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will be the keynote speaker. Christal Williams, associate regional minister in Illinois and Wisconsin, is the featured preacher. Music will be provided by Paul Svenson.

The program is sponsored in part by a College-University Grant provided by HELM.

To register, go to www.culver.edu/hereIam or direct questions to Brent Reynolds at 573-288-6420 or breyolds@culver.edu

DSF visionary Reisinger passes

Donald D. Reisinger, the first executive of the Disciples Seminary Foundation, passed away February 1. Reisinger was a driving force behind the ministry of DSF from 1962-2000. He was a pastor, visionary, and fund raiser who built a ministry that has served more than 600 students. He developed partnerships with theological institutions in Claremont and Berkeley, CA and was particularly adept at nurturing relationships and strengthening the foundation's endowment.



REISINGER

Phillips Theological Seminary honors Imbler with chair

The Phillips Theological Seminary Board of Trustees has honored John M. Imbler with the Stephen J. England Chair. Imbler is executive vice president and associate professor of the history of Christianity and Disciples studies at the seminary. England was a Disciples biblical scholar and the second dean of the College of the Bible at Phillips. He had a passion for ecumenicalism.

Imbler has been a PTS faculty member since 1993. He received his doctorate in divinity from Columbia College, and is scholar of American Christianity, particularly the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He has authored *Beyond Buffalo: Alexander Campbell on Education for Ministry*, among other publications. He



IMBLER

is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and worked at the Division of Higher Education (now HELM) from 1979 to 1993.

Lynchburg College spends money to save money, energy

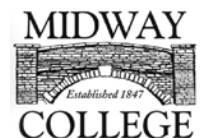
Lynchburg College will spend \$4.65 million in energy improvements over the next several years, which should result in a reduction of \$583,000 in annual energy costs, or about a third of the College's utility bills. Because the cost of utilities will increase, by year nine the College could be saving \$903,000 per year.

Following a campus-wide energy audit, the LC Board of Trustees agreed to approved a \$4.5 million project that includes lighting upgrades, water conservation initiatives, significant changes to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, photovoltaic energy generation, and equipment upgrades. These proposed infrastructure plans are expected to reduce utility and operating costs about \$575,000 per year. The costs of the upgrades will be recouped in about eight years.

An outside consultant estimates the project will reduce carbon dioxide output in the amount of 5,348 metric tons per year - equal to planting 1,215 acres of trees per year; saving 607,000 gallons of gasoline.

Federal grant will help Midway College double the size of its nursing program

Midway College has received a \$100,000 U.S. Department of Education grant for its nursing education program. The grant will allow the college to purchase equipment and renovate laboratories. It will enable Midway to double the number of students in its nursing program, which awards associate degrees.



More Campus News
is online at www.helmdisciples.org.