



Tomorrow's Leaders Today

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

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Turnaround project for congregations moves forward

A project providing assistance for congregations that want to re-energize and grow is moving ahead through the work of three general ministries.

The cooperative effort of HELM, Church Extension, and Disciples Home Missions will help revitalize congregations through:

- Shifting the congregation's focus from maintaining what already exists into an outreach model extending into the community;
- Nurturing leaders, both lay and clergy, who can help congregations make that change;
- Networking those leaders among peers and mentors help con-

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Staff from HELM, Church Extension, and Disciples Home Missions listen to CE's Gilberto Collazo during a September 10 meeting on the effort by the three general ministries to create a joint congregation revitalization plan.

New fund-raising service offers help to campus ministries

Campus ministries can learn more about fund-raising and board development through a cooperative effort by the Ecumenical Campus Ministry Team (ECMT), which relates to Disciples through HELM.

Rev. Galen Hora currently serves as the Assistant Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He has served as a consultant to ELCA campus ministries in the areas for fund-raising and board development since 1996 and as a campus pastor in six states over 30 years.

The new program offers:

- Full day training seminars open to all campus ministry staff and board members in that area. Personal consultations will be available in certain locations on occasion, in conversation with denominational representatives.

See **FUND-RAISING**, page 3

HELM expands web presence with addition of social media site

HELM has assumed ownership, management, and financial support for The Intersection, a year-old web site and social network created for members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a larger ecumenical community.

"We believe the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) needs a vital online presence," said HELM President Dennis Landon, "and we think The Intersection will provide an important venue for Disciples and others to share information, opinion, and best practices in relation to the Church's priorities — especially the call to renew and revitalize congregational life and mission."

Launched in July 2009 by *DisciplesWorld* magazine, The Intersection

provides a centralized web site for discussion, information, and resource sharing among Disciples and their congregations. Since the magazine ceased publishing at the end of 2009, former news editor Rebecca Bowman Woods has maintained the site. In June, Woods announced she would hand the site off to volunteers, at which point HELM and Woods quickly negotiated the transition.

"HELM continues to hold *DisciplesWorld* and its staff in high esteem," Landon said. "While *DisciplesWorld* is remembered as an outstanding, award-winning magazine about faith and the Disciples, The Intersection is a living legacy of their creativity and vision."

HELM recognizes The Intersection's valuable assets and potential:

- A ready-to-use, recognized platform to support denominational efforts to revitalize 1,000 existing congregations and create 1,000 new congregations by 2020; to become a diverse, reconciling church; and to create leadership make these efforts reality.
- An outlet for a Disciples' brand of "citizen journalism" — Disciples volunteers collecting, reporting, analyz-

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Hey seminarians! Come out, come out, wherever you are...

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, many seminarians will slip

through the cracks.

If you're a Disciples M.Div. student, sign up for the Seminarians list serv at www.helmdisciples.org/listserv/. 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 opportunities such as the Ministerial Grant program and the Disciples Seminarians Conference, scheduled for March 31-April 3 in Nashville, Tenn.

HELM staff work with youth and young adults at ethnic gatherings

Summer is travel season, and HELM staff hit the road for the trio of the Disciples' ethnic constituency meetings.

Dennis Landon headed to Orlando, Fla., for the 15ta Asamblea Nacional Hispana y Bilingüe, the gathering of Hispanic Disciples, followed three weeks later by the National Convocation's meeting in Oklahoma City. At both meetings, he emphasized HELM's willingness to help students figuring out the complicated job of choosing a college.

"We know that there may be different correct answers to the same question," Landon says, "and we're happy to help sort out the confusion of applying for admission, financial aid, and all the other parts of going to college. Continuing your education is too important to let confusion get in the way."

A week later, Brad Lyons met with youth and young adults from the North American/Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD) during their pre-event at Camp Gwinnett, a Disciples campground in Lacey, Wash. In addition to offering help solve "college confusion," he delivered an interactive sermon and discussed how to discern a vocational calling with a small group of students.

"What struck me as I spoke with these passionate, committed students was how they already knew their calling in life," he said. "One student already plans to take his engineering studies home to Mongolia so he can help modernize his home country. To know that at such an age shows an incredibly mature understanding of serving the world and giving back."

At the larger NAPAD event, Lyons also joined with Cisa Payuyo of Chapman University and Kris Culp, dean of the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago, to lead a workshop on higher educational opportunities. Topics ranged from how to choose an undergraduate school to the value of post-doctoral degrees.



HELM's Brad Lyons preaches at NAPAD's youth and young adult pre-event at Camp Gwinnett in Lacey, Wash. Instead of a one-way sermon, he asked participants what they wanted to see in a congregation, a list that filled three sheets of butcher paper in just a few minutes.

Four Ph.D. students receive post-graduate scholarships

HELM's two post-graduate scholarship funds are supporting students working their way to careers in congregational ministry and education.

The Ann E. Dickerson Scholarships are for female members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) working toward the Ph.D. degree in religious studies.

- Christy Newton, Disciples Seminary Foundation. A member of First Christian Church in San Lorenzo, Calif., she is focusing on Interdisciplinary Studies with plans to be a college instructor. Newton has degrees from Texas Christian University, Monash University, and the Pacific School of Religion.

- Katy Valentine, Disciples Seminary Foundation. A member of The Table congregation in Berkeley, Calif., her foci are biblical studies and the New Testament, and she plans to teach in an undergraduate institution. Valentine has degrees from Centenary College of Louisiana and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

- Jean Vandergrift, Boston University School of Theology. A member of Hope Central Church in Boston, Vandergrift is focusing on practical theology, congregations, and community. A pastor for 26 years, she has degrees from the University of Florida and Lexington Theological Seminary.

A special fund supports the Dickerson Scholarship, which remembers former HELM Board member Ann E. Dickerson.

Richard Voelz, a student at the Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt University, is the 2010 recipient of the William Gilbert and Florence Leonard Jones Scholarship, 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.

A member of Vine Street Christian Church, Voelz is focusing on homiletics and liturgics. He earned his bachelor's degree at Milligan College.

Established through an endowment gift by an anonymous donor, this award aims to recognize and encourage outstanding Disciples preparing for ministry.



NEWTON



VALENTINE



VANDERGRIFT



VOELZ



Beau Underwood, (Eureka College '06, Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago '10) was ordained at First Christian Church in Princeton, Ill., his home church, on July 17. A member of the HELM Board of Directors and a former STEP Leadership Team member, Underwood also graduated with a master's in public policy and is working for a Congressional campaign in Illinois.

Rebekah (Cypert) Krevens (Bethany College '07, Brite Divinity School '10) was ordained June 12th at Irving North Christian Church, where she had served during her M.Div. studies. An alumna of the HELM Leadership Fellows Program and the Young Adult Commission, Krevens will study at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Geneva, Switzerland, through the end of January.



FUND-RAISING

- A monthly publication reporting trends, resources, and practical ideas.
- Webinars at regular intervals to supplement and expand the information provided at the seminars.
- Supportive mentoring by phone and e-mail over the course of the initiative.

Dr. Hora's services will be provided at no cost except for travel expenses. As an incentive for ministries to consider this service, ECMT will add funds to make the first five events cost-free to the campus ministry sponsors. Hosting ministries would be asked to invite other campus ministries to participate.

"Financial and organizational support for campus ministries of the mainline denominations has been in transition for the past several decades," Hora says. "The flow of benevolence dollars from regional and church-wide sources has diminished considerably. This trend is not likely to be reversed, making it imperative that in order for campus ministries to continue, new and focused strategies must be developed with all due care and expediency at the local levels.

"Efforts to raise funds and friends for local campus ministries must be

increased, sharpened, and guided, along with crucial attention to the purpose and structure of local boards, as leadership takes on new and significant responsibilities in this arena. These two dynamics of fund-raising and board development are parallel and inseparable. For local campus ministries to go beyond surviving to thriving, training and support needs to be provided for those who strive to lead these ministries forward."

Ministries interested in hosting Hora should contact HELM's Dennis Landon at dlandon@helmdisciples.org or 314-991-3000.

More than 140 campus ministries identify themselves with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through ECMT's online database at www.higheredmin.org/directory. In addition, more than 800 student ministries at over 600 colleges and universities are affiliated with six other mainline Protestant denominations. If your congregation has an active, specialized ministry for students, make sure you're listed in the ECMT database. Adding or editing an entry takes only a few minutes; instructions are on the web site listed above.

INTERSECTION

ing, and distributing news about the denomination's work, from individuals to congregations to regions to the general church.

- An inexpensive, ready-to-use, already established communications tool, eliminating the need for months of labor-intensive planning, costly programming, or a pricey marketing campaign.
 - 863 registered participants as of late August, people who have chosen to become part of an online community.
- "We could have spent a lot of time and energy creating a site from scratch," Landon said. "The acquisition of The Intersection allows us to bypass that step."

HELM, along with Church Extension and Disciples Home Missions, is working to develop tools to train and enable pastoral leaders to energize mission-driven Disciples congregations. A key element in this project is creating a deeper, more diverse network of leaders committed to working with and learning from one another in pursuit of transformed congregations, among other objectives.

"We approach this as an experiment," Landon said. "Other than implementing a new URL – www.disciplesintersection.org – we don't plan any immediate changes in how the site works, and we hope any changes will be additions, not replacements. The site may focus more on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), but we don't plan to exclude participants from other faiths. We will actively seek advertisers who are consistent with our mission and can help The Intersection prosper and grow."

The site's day-to-day operations will be overseen by Landon and Brad Lyons, HELM's Communications Director, but volunteers who want to be involved in the site are still welcomed – and needed.

"Volunteers fuel The Intersection. Without them, it goes nowhere," Landon said. "We appreciate the volunteers who work with the site and everyone who posts, whether regularly or sporadically."



HELM is on Facebook and Twitter. Visit



www.helmdisciples.org for links.

TURNAROUND

gregations discover and create new ways to jump-start their rebirth;

- Training, including a certification process, to pair congregations and leaders, making the most of limited resources and maximize the potential for a successful turnaround.

“Disciples, like all mainline denominations, face a huge challenge,” says HELM President Dennis Landon.

“Declining membership and dying churches are symptoms, but the root cause is that we so easily fall into the task of maintaining institutions and asking how we can survive rather than asking what God wants us to do right now to advance the work of Christ. It’s an exciting project, and HELM is fully committed to this partnership.”

Forty leaders representing congre-

gations, regional ministers, racial/ethnic constituencies, and general ministries gathered earlier this year for a three-day conference on congregational revitalization, providing a foundation for the new project.

The three general ministries involved are already coordinating efforts for the 2011 General Assembly and other programs.

On campus

DSF celebrates 50 years of supporting Disciples learning and leadership

In October 1960, the Disciples Seminary Foundation began a ministry of supporting emerging theological leaders for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on the West Coast.

To acknowledge its 50th Anniversary and important service to the church, DSF will hold two formal events. On October 16, DSF will hold a celebration at the Pacific School of Religion in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada. On October 22, DSF will hold a celebration at the DoubleTree Hotel in Claremont, Calif., with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of the Pacific Southwest Region. For more information, e-mail info@dsf.edu or call (909) 624-0712.



HELM President Dennis Landon presented Dr. Linda Davis, professor of management information systems at William Woods University, the 2010 T.A. Abbott Award for Faculty Excellence at an event in Fulton, Mo., on September 7. Also recognizing Davis' award is Dr. Jahnae H. Barnett, president of William Woods University.

LTS launches online program

Lexington Theological Seminary officially launched its distance-learning program, with 35 new students representing 13 states.

“I believe the online curriculum opens doors for students who could not pick up and move to seminary,” said LTS President James P. Johnson.

LTS remains focused on pastoral education. The new model moves the center of formation from the seminary to the congregation. While taking classes, students also serve a congregation, work with an experienced mentor and participate in a covenant group. Two-thirds of the classes are online, while the rest are short, intensive courses at the seminary.

Brite Divinity School receives \$1.5 million challenge grant for new building

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation has approved a \$1.5 million challenge grant to Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas to complete funding for a new academic building. The grant from the Tulsa, Okla., foundation is contingent on the school's securing the balance required to complete its Building a Brite Future Campaign.

Friends, alumni, churches and other foundations have already committed more than \$12 million toward the campaign which began in 2005.

Culver-Stockton Up 'til Dawn earns national recognition from St. Jude Children's Hospital

Culver-Stockton College is proud to announce the school's Up 'til Dawn chapter was recently recognized with

two awards, Program of the Year and Executive Director of the Year, for its fund-raising efforts by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

During the 2009-2010 school year, Culver-Stockton College raised more than \$38,000 through the Up 'til Dawn program to benefit the ground-breaking research and lifesaving care of St. Jude's. For its efforts, C-SC was recognized with the 2009-2010 Program of the Year and Executive Director of the Year awards. Jessi Krumrei, a member of the Disciples of Christ, served as executive director for the campaign.

In Memoriam: Don S. Browning

Don Browning, Disciples scholar and former Disciples Divinity House dean, died June 3. He was the Alexander Campbell Professor Emeritus of Ethics and the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago Divinity School and a central figure in the field of practical theology. He taught and studied the intersection of psychology, moral philosophy, and religion. A prolific author and editor, he was equally esteemed as a mentor and colleague. From 1977-83, he was the dean of the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago.



BROWNING

A memorial service will be held at the University of Chicago on October 23. For more information see: <http://ddh.uchicago.edu>.