

The Great River Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Regional Office
9302 Geyer Springs Road
Little Rock, AR 72209
Local 501.562.6053
Fax 501-562-7089
office@grrdisciples.org
www.grrdisciples.org

**Regional Board
Executive Committee**
Jean Smith, Moderator
David Britt, Moderator Elect
Cheryl Roach, Recording Secretary
Don Johannes, Treasurer
Don Morrow, RCOM Chair

Executive Regional Minister
Barbara E. Jones
barb@grrdisciples.org

**Regional Church Administrator
Disciples Women Coordinator**
Wendy Paquette
wendy@grrdisciples.org

**Secretary / Receptionist
Currents Editor**
Tina Jones
tina@grrdisciples.org

Regional Youth Coordinator
Alisha Gourley
youth@grrdisciples.org

Disciples Men Coordinator
Stan McDougal
stan.mcdougal@att.net

Pinnacle Outreach Ministry
Miles Cook, Director
milescook@outlook.com

**New Church Planter
Jerusalem Christian Church**
Ashley Sherard
jerusalem.lafayette@gmail.com

Christian Church Foundation
Bobby Hawley
Marilyn Fiddmont
P.O. Box 100686
Ft. Worth, Texas 76185
(817) 923-0422

February 20, 2015

Dear Clergy and Members of the Great River Region Congregations,

Greetings on this first week of Lent and season of preparing our hearts and minds for the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. It's a season of transformation and new life. It's a time of discovering new options and gaining perspective on the past.

I want to introduce the process for Transition in the leadership of the Great River Region and the People leading that process.

The Transition Team will be the core group **leading** the region **through** the Transition process. The staff is not involved other than administrative support as requested from this point on. The Transition Team and Regional Board will be the ones working with our General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, and a consultant from the College of Regional Ministers. Steps include:

- Training for, **and** doing, executive searches
- Communication with the Region
- Determining what information gathering needs to be done
- Overseeing the process of gathering and analyzing information gathered
- Searching for an Interim Minister
- Presenting Interim to the Board for approval
- Moving into the extended process of Regional Minister search with added members

This team was selected under advisement of the Regional Board, Regional Minister and Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins. The current Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Past Moderator, a person from Northwest Arkansas cluster of congregations and a person from MCMC comprise the Transition Team.

These are:

- Jennie Gregory, Past Moderator, laity, Park Hill Christian Church, North Little Rock AR, Chair of the Team (female, 60+, Caucasian, laity)
- Jean Smith, current Moderator, Northside Christian Church, West Point, MS (female, 60+, African American, laity)

- David Britt, FCC Pineville LA and Director of United Way LA (male, 50+, Caucasian, clergy)
- Patricia Parker, East Percy Street Christian Church, Greenwood MS and FT nurse (female, 40+, African American, clergy, MCMC)
- Ronny Nowell, FCC Rogers AR, and our General Board Representative (male, 40+, Caucasian, clergy, NW Arkansas)

These five have all agreed to serve through both the Interim search, and then continue as others are added for the search for the called Regional Minister. They will be in contact with the Region directly. You can feel free to be in touch with them directly through the contact form on the **Contact Us page at www.grrdisciples.org**.

My last day will be July 31, 2015. Between now and then, I will be meeting with clergy and church leaders via meetings around the region with publicity well in advance of each gathering, hosted by each Regional Elder. I will continue to work with Search and Call and other congregational/clergy needs, either in person, by phone conference, video conference, or email. You can arrange contact by filling out the form on the **Contact Us page at www.grrdisciples.org if you don't already have my phone or email.**

My daughter's mastectomy will be Monday, February 23. I will be in Denver until March 12 and fly back to Little Rock. The lymph node surgery was a "test run" for us, so we feel prepared for the "real thing". Since my grandkids go to daycare, do not hesitate to be in touch, and know that I will continue to work on my end of the closure process as well as actively staying in touch with ongoing situations. Yes, it's difficult right now. Your prayers of support and notes on Facebook have been wonderful. Thanks so much. I'm honored to serve you!

In continuing commitment to Christ's mission for us,



Barbara E. Jones
Executive Regional Minister

Press Release

Jones resigns after 20 years as Executive Regional Minister.



Executive Regional Minister Resigns

Rev. Barbara E. Jones submitted letter to GRR Regional Board January 30, 2015, effective July 31, 2015

Little Rock, Ark: On July 31, 2015 Rev Barbara E. Jones will complete 20 years as Executive Regional Minister in Little Rock, Arkansas. She will be moving to Kansas City to be able to assist with her parents, and will seek a ministry position there. She was called originally to serve as the Executive Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arkansas. After 6 years of growth in the region, she and other leaders in Arkansas worked on a transition team to explore creating a new region that could bring together AR, LA and MS into something new. That new entity, the Great River Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), came into being Sept 1, 2002 and Jones served as Co-Executive with Rev. William B. McKnight until his retirement in January of 2004. Throughout 2004 the region became staffed as envisioned by the "LAM.LTD: Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi - Living Toward Discipleship" Transition Team, just in time to be ready to respond to the disasters of historic proportions, Hurricane Katrina, the flooding of New Orleans, and Hurricane Rita. Regional pastors, staff, congregational members and pastors, General Ministry partners, individuals throughout the Disciples of Christ, and volunteers from all over the country responded for over 5 years with continuing donations of dollars, materials, labor, time, and God's love. Congregations who sent volunteers were changed by their involvement in recovery of the Gulf Coast. The Great River Region became a network of individuals and congregations committed to bringing God's love to the point of greatest need; and grew deeper and differently than originally envisioned. "Critical Presence" shaped Jones and the region. Sometimes known as "Barb", sometimes known as "Computer Nerd", sometimes known as "Mama of the Church", other times as "Bishop Barb", she has been known for her passion for governance, mission, youth ministry, and to "get there" when and where needed. Now, as her parents need her closer, it's time for her to pass the baton of leadership to a new generation. Though chomping at the bit to know what's next in ministry, Jones remembers the words preached at her ordination on January 1, 1984: Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith... (Heb. 12: 1b-2a).