

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

**Our Identity: Disciples of Christ--Adored by God, Believing in Jesus, Caring for Others.**

We are thankful to be a community of Disciples and Disciples' congregations living and serving together in this place. In God's Spirit, as a Christ-centered people of faith, hope, and love, we are in covenant.

**Our Ministry: Following Jesus--Loving With Christ.**

---Following Jesus. He is the one who knows our way and the way.

---Loving. By this we strive to be faithful to the great commandment.

---With. By this we acknowledge that we desire to serve with Christ and be his faithful disciples. Also, by this we show that all of our abilities to do this come from Christ through the Spirit of the living God.

---Christ. By this we proclaim the one who is our Savior and Lord, the one we endeavor to follow, the one who is our clearest picture of God, and the one who is the most vivid sign of God's love for us.

**Our Vision: Disciples encouraged, linked, inspired, and equipped to join with God in transforming our world.**

---We long, work, and pray to experience Disciples, ministers, and congregations encouraged, linked, equipped, and inspired to join with God in transforming our world.

**Our Ministries:**

---New Church Ministry: Provides leadership and support in working to start and encourage new congregations. Several each year are born and nourished thanks to our labors and prayers.

---Ministry of Leader Development: Provides leadership training for the laity and clergy of the region in ways to serve God more fully. It also oversees the work of Women's Ministry and Men's Ministry.

---Ministry with Young Disciples: Provides communication, coordination, and regional activities with young adults, youth, and children. Includes ministry through the Camp and Conference Task Force, the Youth Ministry Task Force, the Children's Ministry Task Force, and the Young Adult Ministry Task Force.

---Ministry of Community Transformation: Addresses justice and reconciliation needs by witnessing in love and service in our community and to the ends of the earth.

---Ministry of Clergy Oversight: Charged with the responsibility for the support, encouraging, and equipping for ministry. Its commissions include Ordination and Standing, Licensed Ministry, the Disciples Ministers' Association, and the Christian Ministry Scholarship Fund. Thanks to this ministry, most of the ordained ministers in the region are regular participants in a wide variety of small groups.

---Ministry of Tall Oaks Conference Center: Creates a place of spiritual growth and renewal where significant ministry takes place with congregations, ministers, and persons of all ages and walks of life.

---Ministry of Budget and Finance: Guides the use of resources, helps make sure that finances are handled in an appropriate and responsible manner, and encourages growth in stewardship.

---Ministry of Personnel: Works to support and encourage the staff of the region, promotes wholesome and productive working relationships, and helps see that efforts are invested in an appropriate manner.

---Ministry of Structural Oversight: This ministry oversees the places of ministry including office and property. It also monitors and suggests appropriate changes to boundaries, design, and by-laws.

What scripture in particular guides you on your journey? Scripture is rich and complex, but we find ourselves led to pay attention to particular passages at this stage in our journey. All cited are from the *New Revised Standard Version*.

---The Great Commandment. "One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'" (Mark 12: 28-31)

---The Great Commission. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28: 19)

---The Great Commission in John. "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'" (John 20: 21) "Feed my lambs." "Tend my sheep." "Feed my sheep." (John 21)

---The Gospel in Miniature. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3: 16-17)

---The Fruit of the Spirit. "By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5: 22)

---"And (Jesus) answered them, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.'" (Luke 7: 22-23)

---"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me....Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25: 35-36, 40)

---"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4: 18-19)

---"From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'" (Matthew 4: 17)

---"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love." (I John 4: 7-8)

---"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12: 2)

---"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3: 20)

---"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." (I Thessalonians 5: 11)

---"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (I Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

---"I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord." (Psalm 40: 1-3)

---“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.” (Psalm 46: 1-2)

---“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6: 8)

**Recommended Action:**

The General Board receives the report from the Greater Kansas City Region.