

CCIW News - January 2, 2007

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Taking the Next Step - Saturday, January 27

Find out the necessary next step(s) your church needs to make to begin reaching out to nonbelievers. Sign up now for this one-day workshop that will teach you:

1. How to change your church culture and
2. Provide tools to help that happen

Register early...January 5 is early bird registration deadline.

Taking the Next Step... becoming a great commission church

Saturday, January 27, 2007 8:30 am-4:00 pm at
Grace Community Christian Church
2770 Montgomery Rd
Aurora, IL 60504
Phone at 630-898-7999

How to Register:

Online at <http://www.grace-institute.com>

Download registration form at <http://cciwdisciples.org/scott/TakingNextStep.pdf>

In The Mail

This week, the Annual Yearbook Report Forms will be mailed to you. Deadline for their return to the Regional Office is no Later than March 1, 2007.

Next week, the Renewal of Standing forms will be mailed to you. Deadline for their return to the Regional Office will be **NO LATER than February 9, 2007.**

General Minister and President in CCIW Region

Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada, will be the featured speaker at the Founder's Day Celebration at Eureka College on February 6, 2006. The lecture will be at 4:00 PM in the Cerf Center. The title of Dr. Watkin's address is "Of Intellect and Character: the Challenge of Pairing Faith and Reason."

All CCIW Clergy and laity are invited to attend the lecture, and the informal reception immediately following. This is a great opportunity to meet Dr. Watkins and welcome her to the CCIW Region. While at Eureka College, be sure to also visit the Reagan Garden and Museum.

Background Checks Required

Beginning this month, all ministers entering the Search and Call process of the church will be required to have a criminal background check as part of their profile and references.

The General Board approved this process in July 2006 upon the recommendation of the General Commission on Ministry. The background check will be conducted by the Oxford Document Management Company for a fee of \$140. Ministers will be asked to pay this fee as they enter Search and Call and then be reimbursed by the congregation or institution that calls them. The background checks will be integrated into a new web-based Search and Call process that also will begin in January 2007.

For more information on this process, visit: <http://www.disciples.org/dns/Releases2006/06168.pdf>

More Mission Trips

Central Christian Church, Decatur, will be going to New Orleans March 12-20th, and to Slidell, LA June 23rd through July 1st. Anticipated cost will be \$250 per person per trip. Anyone is welcome to join them. For questions or more information, contact Gretchen Barron at 217-428-4336.

If you want a cultural mission trip, try this one. It's The Navajo Work Camp Mission Program. Information can be found at: <http://www.cciwdisciples.org/dana/mission/missiontripinformation.htm>

Regional Prayer Concerns *DISCIPLES PASTOR JAILED IN PROTEST AT SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS* (Disciples News Service December 1, 2006 issue) Disciples minister A. Donald Coleman was among 16 people arrested on Nov. 19 for protests at the US Army School of the Americas, based in Fort Benning, Ga. Since 2001, the site also has been known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. Coleman is a senior minister at University Christian Church (DOC) in Chicago, Ill. He and the others who were arrested face up to six months in jail in a federal prison and a \$5,000 fine. His trial is scheduled for Jan. 29, 2007.

Their arrests were part of annual demonstrations at the gates of Fort Benning, calling for the closure of the School of the Americas, which trains Latin American security personnel. Coleman and his fellow protesters were arraigned in federal court on charges of unlawful entry. All but one person was released after posting bail of \$500 to \$1,000.

In an email to the Regional Office, Ann Marie states "It is likely that Don will be sentenced to three months in the Federal Pen which is what happens to first time arrestees usually...but it is all up to the discretion of the judge." The Coleman family would appreciate your prayers. To learn more about the School of the Americas and the protests, visit: <http://www.soaw.org>

The father of Rev. Julie Western, former pastor at First Christian Church, Robinson, passed away on Friday, December 22nd, 2006 in Arizona. Condolences can be sent to Rev Western and her family at 406 S Howard St., Robinson, IL 62454.

New Year Greetings! Your Regional Staff wishes each of you best wishes for the new year!