

GB-21-1162

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada

Contact

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada
PO Box 31118 Willow West
Guelph, ON, N1H 8K1
E-mail: mail@canadadisciples.org
Web site: www.canadadisciples.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CDNDisciples>

Leadership

Jennifer Garbin, Regional Minister
Ann Stainton, Moderator

General Board Report on 2020

This has been a year of great challenge, opportunity, struggle, and innovation in the Canadian Region. The advent of global pandemic caused upheaval at all levels of the church, but was met with a resiliency and passion for ministry that was awe-inspiring. Although congregations mourned the loss of in-person worship, they adapted to on-line, phone, and even written communication and connection with one another. In addition, because there was less emphasis on building maintenance and “business as usual”, many congregations shifted focus to outreach, pastoral care, and supporting local and international mission efforts. Dynamic, courageous, faithful, and responsive leadership on behalf of both our clergy and our lay leaders is what has kept our congregations engaged and engaging, with one another, ecumenically, and with the communities around them.

Nationally/regionally the Canadian church launched a new Lay Leader Education Program in order to meet the changing needs of our local congregations, many of which are isolated and/or not fiscally able to employ full time clergy, and to better equip our lay leaders to more confidently and courageously use their gifts for ministry. In addition, we have been planning a Canada-wide resource repository and network for worship, study, and mission, to aid and connect local congregations in their ministry. The goal of this enterprise is to connect resources offered by some to those who do not have access or capacity. Sharing our gifts across the Region builds up the whole body of Christ and eases the stress and strain our leaders are under as they seek to minister across multiple platforms to as many people as possible.

The past year gave witness to the innovation and generosity of Canadian Disciples (both individuals and congregations) who:

- Shared congregational financial resources, creating a Covid relief grant program for congregations in need;

- Offered educational grants to high school students entering first year post-secondary studies whose finances may have been impacted as a result of reduced employment opportunities in the wake of Covid;
- Created an online presence for Disciples to share our stories and faith journeys, featuring the voices of women and men from across Canada (www.rootsnwings.ca); and
- Offered “online” camping programs to minister to youth and children.

As a Region we are seeking to live into our mandate to equip our congregations and leaders to be God’s living love wherever they are planted. We are grateful for the leadership of all of our clergy, laity, and especially board, camp, and committee volunteers. Without all of these faithful people, we could not do the work to which we are called. We move into the coming year with a renewed awareness of the call upon us all to get let go of what no longer serves the gospel, rediscover our purpose, and intentionally focus on being children of God and the Church of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Garbin
Regional Minister

Campgrounds

Disciples Conference Grounds
1899 Lakeshore Road
Haldimand , Ontario
Canada
Phone: 905-776-2221
Director: Sarah Leitch
Email: camping@oacc-disciples.com
Website: <http://oacc-disciples.com/home/>

Johnston Christian Park
3561 Sissiboo Road South Range,
Digby Co., Nova Scotia, N0A 1P0
Canada
Phone: 902-837-5751
Chair, Camp Committee: Bob Howell
Email: rdhowell1947@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.jcpcamp.ca/>