



WITNESS



August 2008 Edition

Visit the Disciple's Men on the Web at: <http://www.indianadisciples.org/men>

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Regional Assembly Men's Luncheon

Indiana Disciples gather for our Indiana Regional Assembly at the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana on October 10-11, 2008. Disciples Men from around the state will come together at the Men's Luncheon on Saturday, October 11 at noon. Men should register for the luncheon when registering for the Assembly. The cost is \$14, and is limited by the seating capacity of the room, to the first one-hundred and fifty men who register. Men who didn't register for the luncheon on their original conference registration are encouraged to contact the Regional Office to verify availability of seating.

The luncheon is an excellent opportunity for men to gather in fellowship to break bread. Additionally, every two years, it is the meeting of the Indiana Men's Commission where the Executive Committee is elected for a two year term beginning January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010. The nominating committee will present the slate of officers and the members of the Men's Commission present will vote for approval of the slate of Officers for the Executive Committee.

The program will be presented by Rev. Bob Shaw on the Assembly topic, "Did you know that...Nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37-37.

Come and join the Men of the Indiana Region of Christian Church, Disciples of Christ at the Men's Luncheon, Saturday, October 11th at noon.

Final Call for 2008 Men's Retreats

The 2008 Indiana Disciples Men Retreats are here! The retreat theme this year is "**Godly Men, Godly Mission.**" Rev Bruce Barkhauer will lead the Bedford Retreat at Bedford Christian Camp, September 5 & 6, and Rev. Eugene Fisher will lead the study at the Barbee Retreat, September 12-14, at the Barbee Christian Camp. If the date has not passed, it is not too late to attend. Late registrants are always welcome. If you are not able to attend, please lift the men attending in your prayers that they will have a safe, inspired, and renewing experience of mind and body. Our prayer is that all of the men in attendance will be filled with the Holy Spirit and return to their families and congregations with renewed enthusiasm for service in Christ's Church.

2007 2008

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Commission Meetings	
October 11, 2008	Men's Luncheon, Regional Assembly, Purdue University First Christian Church, Monticello, IN
November 8, 2008	
Special Events	
October 10-11, 2008	Regional Assembly, Purdue University General Assembly, Indianapolis, IN Sessions 2012, Indianapolis, IN
July 29, August 2, 2009	
2012	
Retreats	
September 5-6 2008	Bedford Men's Retreat
September 12-14, 2008	Barbee Men's Retreat

**Welcome New Area 13 Commissioner
DAVID GELB**



I ran Vincennes Distributors, an Anheuser Busch Beer Distributorship, for about 25 years. We sold it in 1999. Since then I have worked part time as the training administrator for Working Distributors in Evansville, IN. It helps keep me out of trouble.

My wife Sharon and I have three daughters, Lorren (Edwardsville, IL), Deborah (Vincennes, IN) and Dawna (Jackson, WY). We also have one son, Chris, who lives in Casey, IL. Dawna

has two children. Each of the others has three. Other than when I was in college and the military, I have lived my entire life in Vincennes. I met Sharon in Salt Lake City while I was stationed there in the Army.

I am a fourth generation Disciple on my mother's side. I was baptized into Vincennes FCC in 1951 along with my sister and father. My membership has remained there for 57 years. I am currently serving as elder and treasurer. I am also in my second year on the Regional board.

My most impressive claim to fame is that Byron Haflich and my brother were boyhood pals. I knew Byron when he was a pre-teen and had hair. I'm looking forward to seeing him again after a long time.

Indiana Men's Commissioner Meeting Saturday August 23, 2008

The Commission of Indiana Disciple's Men met at the Regional Church Office in Indianapolis August 23, to plan activities of Men's Ministries in Indiana. Seated left to right: Don Mains, Marty Weaver, Dean Phelps Regional Staff, Tony Angelo, David Shirar Commission President, Phil Brady, Jerry Gill, 1st Vice President, Wally Fuetterer 2nd Vice President, Back row: Randy Powell, Cliff Martin, Rick Detlef, Randy Swoveland, David Gelb, David Johnson, Gary Ochs, Jeff Seger. In addition to assisting the organization and revitalization of men's groups the Commission of Men's Ministries plan activities including retreats, Sessions, men's activities like International Day of Pancakes and Men's Luncheon at Regional Assembly. . If you would like to be a part of this planning and fellowship please contact any commissioner. This is a rewarding ministry which meets four times each year. You will treasure the friendships you make at our meetings.



Indiana Men's Commission Appoints Nominating Committee

David Shirar, President of the Indiana Men's Commission appointed the 2008 Nominating Committee at the August 23rd commission meeting. Members are David Gelb, Randy Swoveland, Cliff Martin and as specified by the Commission By Laws, 1st Vice President, Jerry Gill. The nominating committee will propose a slate of officers who will be elected at the Men's Annual meeting at the Men's Luncheon during the Regional Assembly. The Nominating Committee will also seek to fill vacancies on the Commission. The new commissioners will be approved at the November Commission Meeting. Any man desiring more information about the requirements and benefits of becoming a commissioner are encouraged to contact a current Commissioner.

Men's Ministries Endowment Fund

This Fund is the main endowment for Men's work. This fund supports Men's Ministries within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It helps others on our spiritual journey, provides funds and doing hands on mission work that support children and offers encouragement to young men as they deal with "passage of life issues". Gary Ochs proposed that the Indiana Disciple Men establish an endowment helping Disciples making a difference for others and that the Foundation help congregations be ready to receive this types of gift and to work with individuals to give these gifts. The foundation teaches and listens, meets congregations and individual needs and helps them express God's claim on their lives. It was proposed that the Commissioner of Indiana establish a fund and become seventh on the list of Endowment Funds. The minimum amount to create a fund is \$1,000. Each commissioner at the meeting was in 100% agreement to support this new fund and pledged to contribute to it. If you would like to support this Indiana Men's Endowment you can send your check or put it on your credit card. Mark checks or credit card for "MMEF – Indiana". Information can be obtained by calling 1-800-668-8016..

The Story of the Shoe

The shoe and the person are very similar. As we look at the shoe, we notice the sole. In a shoe it's important for the sole to be flexible, yet durable. In a person, we also expect flexibility, and of course, we expect the soul to last a lifetime and beyond.

At the base of the shoe is a reminder for us, a heel. This is a reminder that we shouldn't be a heel, with the people with whom we work, play or associate.

The shoe comes in a wide variety of colors, just like the people of this world of ours. You can purchase a shoe in almost any color you wish, to go with that special outfit. We must remember that all people, regardless of color, walk those streets with us. There is room for all colors of people in our world.

Texture in shoes is also very obvious. Smoothly polished, or rough, like a work boot. Shoes of different texture remind me of people too. Some are smooth, some are rough. We need to recognize the differences and work with all people we encounter. We may be able to assist helping someone smooth out the concerns in their life, if we are attentive to others needs. Some people just need understanding.

Some parts of the shoe are named after the body. The tongue serves as a means of protection. It protects the foot from the bite of the lacings, kind of pads it from cutting into the foot. Wouldn't it be a wonderful world, if our tongue was used for only good. Not used for things like gossip, or slander. We need to use our tongue to speak up about our concerns, and to praise others whenever possible.

The eyes of the shoe guide the shoe laces. In our own lives, we expect our eyes to be our guide, to see things around us that need our attention, and to safely lead us down the path we choose.

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Sessions 2008 Wrap Up

Twenty-eight Indiana Disciples trekked to Edmond, Oklahoma (just north of Oklahoma City,) 17-20 July 2008 for Sessions 2008. Attendees were treated to terrific music, inspiring preaching, challenging and informational presentations, and most of all a memorable time of fellowship, worship, service and fun.

Highlights include: Bible Studies with Dr Rick Lowery, Worship Services featuring Rev Mark Briley, Rev Bill Lee, and Rev Dr. Sharon Watkins.

Great music was presented by the Wildwood Christian Church Choir, the musical group Acappella, and the Disciples Men's Chorus. More than a dozen outstanding workshops were offered to assist in growing and sowing. Service opportunities were provided working with a Habitat for Humanity project. An afternoon of Museums, sight seeing, a Red Wings Baseball Game, and the Annual Softball Game rounded out the activities.

Every Disciples man is encouraged to begin planning now to attend Sessions 2012 in Indianapolis!



Welcome New Area 2 Commissioner Tony Angelo



I live on a farm in the big city of LaPaz, Indiana with Joseph, my partner of 18 years, our son Jake, 15, and an ever-changing number of rescue dogs. I grew up in St. Joe, Michigan, graduated from Notre Dame with a degree in Accounting, worked as a CPA in Dallas for a few years, and then decided I'm a Midwestern boy at heart and moved to Indiana in 1989. These days I earn my living as a computer programmer for Moody's Investor Service in South Bend.

A disillusioned ex-Catholic, I hadn't set foot in any church for 20 years when a 2004 Valentine's Day dance at Southside Christian Church led to the simple invitation of "why don't you just come for a Sunday service and see if you like it." The pastor and congregation quickly won me over and Joe and I have been members of Southside – and Disciples – ever since. Early on I served a term as Board Chair, and am currently a deacon and also the church's accountant; a job that, I recently discovered, comes with a lifetime appointment.

I never really expected to become involved in any regional activities beyond Southside but, at the urging of Pastor Martha, I attended my first men's retreat at Camp Barbee in 2006. Wow. By the end of that weekend I felt like the old Grinch: my heart had grown three sizes that day.

I'm honored to serve on the Men's Commission, because the thing I love most about the Disciples (and the thing I most want to sustain and cultivate) is that we honestly are a "big tent," and the best part of the men's activities is the chance to experience each other's faith, fears, uncertainties and beliefs within the common framework we all share as men in the church.

The Story of the Shoe

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The shoelaces have a particular meaning too. If shoelaces are untied, there's a chance that we could stumble and fall. In our own lives, those same loose ends need our attention. We need to pay attention to the big picture, and the small details, to do a complete job. This is true if it's a project at home, in a group, or at work.

As we put the shoe on, we realize that it fits us well. A shoe that doesn't fit well is very uncomfortable. This is a reminder that we need to really make an effort to fit in. If we continue to be uncomfortable, change may be the answer. Everyone needs to be made aware that we all have choices, and we may need to exercise those choices to better our lives. Remember, change is the only thing that's here to stay.

The last reminder concerns the fact that you don't go out and buy a single shoe. You buy a pair. Even when it seems that you are the only person that feels the way you do, remember that there are others that feel like you do. There is always at least one other to share your concerns. You may have a best friend, or family member, but if you are a Christian, you always have Jesus in your life. Someone else does care.

Originally written by Gordon Jones, adapted by John A. Williams
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