



LEADING IN TIMES LIKE THESE:
RESTORATION,
RECONNECTION, RECOVERY

October 21, 2023
United Christian Parish, Reston, VA

Welcome to Salt & Light 2023!

Matthew 5: 13-16 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Program Schedule

9:00 a.m. Registration and Networking Atrium

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Gathering Sanctuary

Guest Speakers:

Rev. Yvonne Gilmore

Vice President and Chief of Staff,
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers

Regional Minister, Christian Church Capital Area

12:00 p.m. Lunch and Networking Community Room

1:00 p.m. Workshop Session 1 (see page 3)

2:00 p.m. Workshop Session 2 (see page 4)

3:00 p.m. Closing Worship and Communion Sanctuary

Welcome and Gathering Worship

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

Welcome

Rev. Beth Williams

Call to Worship

We gather this morning as a community of God's people
**to offer ourselves afresh in adoration to God,
to conform our minds more nearly to the mind of Christ,
to receive the renewing gift of the Holy Spirit.**

We are called to be Salt and Light to the world, as such we unite today
**to hear and proclaim God's holy word,
to pray for ourselves and the whole world,
to dedicate this day to God,
through Jesus Christ, who is Light to the world. Amen.**

Welcome from the S&L Planning Committee

Neil Romstedt

Introduction of the Speakers

Rev. Terri McLellan

"Futuring Disciples: The answer to How"

Rev. Yvonne Gilmore

"Regional Plans and Priorities"

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers

**Special Presentation to
Pilgrimage Christian Church**

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers
Rev. Brenda Cardwell

Directions for Lunch and Workshop Sessions

Neil Romstedt

Rev. Yvonne Gilmore

Vice President and Chief of Staff, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Yvonne Teresa Gilmore serves as Vice President and Chief of Staff in the Office of the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada



where she also directs the Church Narrative Project. Previous to this role she served as Interim Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation, and Associate General Minister. From 2013-2020, she served as Associate Dean of Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago (DDH), and as a co-teacher in the MDiv Arts of Ministry sequence at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. Ever committed to the cultivation of thought leadership and community formation, she is also a core trainer with Reconciliation Ministries and co-directs "Living Justice: An Anti-Racist Practicum," a justice learning and innovation lab at DDH UChicago. She also serves as adjunct faculty at Lexington Theological Seminary. She is a former new church pastor, and chaplain.

Rev. Gilmore is a daughter of the elders, pastors, churches, and camps of the Christian Church Capital Area and was formed and ordained at Michigan Park Christian Church. She holds a BA in International Relations from The American University, and an MDiv from the University of Chicago Divinity School. Assata (24) is her oldest daughter and Kharis (19) is her youngest. We love to get back to Bethany Beach as often as possible or at least annually with our whole family.

Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers

Regional Minister, Christian Church Capital Area, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Dr. Marcus L. Leathers began to serve the Capital Area Region as its Regional Minister on September 15, 2023.



Dr. Leathers is no stranger to the Capital Area Region where he has served in pastoral leadership for over 20 years, most recently at United Christian Parish in Reston. Rev. Leathers serves as a Core Organizer/Trainer with the Anti-racism/Pro-reconciliation Initiative and has served in other capacities across the region such Director, Camp and Conference, the Board for the Disciples Center for Public Witness, and the Commission for Ministry.

Dr. Leathers completed a Master of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary. He is married to Tammi Coleman Leathers. They have been blessed with three children Coleman (deceased), Madison, and Maxwell.

Workshops: Session 1

1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

Room A. Panel: Stories of Survival

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Rosetta Robinson

**Panelists: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Tatham
Rev. Dr. Paul Saddler (remote)
Rev. John McNeill
Neil Romstedt**

Panelists will describe their approaches and perspectives to addressing adversity and culture change affecting the church today. This workshop is meant to be a time of encouragement and enlightenment as panelists share experiences and perspectives on where they and their churches succeeded and where they needed help.

Room B. Filling the Gaps in Disciples

Facilitator: Rev. Yvonne Gilmore

Continuing from her Keynote address, Rev. Gilmore will respond to questions and present observations from the General Church perspective on what gaps (e.g., education, demographics, etc.) exist among Disciples and how they might be addressed.

Room C. Conversations about Racial Justice

Facilitators: Rev. Dr. Carol Green-Freeman and Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers

Rev. Green and Rev. Leathers will present an overview and lead a discussion of the dimensions of racial justice issues and will introduce the in-depth program that will be held in the region in November.

Workshops: Session 2

2:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.

Room A. Panel: Justice and Compassion

Facilitators: Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker-Langston and Rev. Dr. Rosetta Robinson

Panelists: Fred Nelson

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea (remote)

This workshop explores ways in which a passion for justice can more fully express itself in the union of mission outreach and public policy advocacy.

Room B. Developing Ministers

Facilitator: Rev. Peggy Miller

Rev. Miller will describe the resources and processes available in the region to assist lay leaders in getting additional training toward becoming ministers.

Room C. Dimensions of Stewardship

Facilitator: Neil Romstedt

A discussion of stewardship needs and capabilities, as we re-establish the vitality of the congregation. Using the parable of the Talents to assess our resources and explore what can be done with them to bear good fruit.

Closing Worship and Communion

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

Reflections on the Salt and Light Conference	Rev. Dr. Martha Brown	
Presiding	Rev. Dr. Carol Green-Freeman	
Worship Song	“Here I Am to Worship”	Video with lyrics
Prayer		
Scripture Reading	Matthew 5: 13-16 (see inside front cover)	
Communion Service	Wilson Blvd Christian Church	
Words of Institution		
Prayer for Bread & Cup		
Distribution of Elements		
Closing Song		
Benediction	Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers	

Evaluation:

The Capital Area Region is considering the future of the Salt and Light conferences. Your comments would be appreciated. Please e-mail them to Aaron Belcher at ABelcher@cccadisciples.org.

- 1) What were the best and worst features of this S&L?
- 2) What types of workshops should be presented at future S&Ls? (that are of greatest need to the Region and to your congregation)
- 3) Would you be more likely to participate if the venue was closer to you?
- 4) Would you be more likely to participate if the conference was entirely virtual?
- 5) How long should an S&L conference be?

Acknowledgements

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Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers, Regional Minister, Christian Church Capital Area (CCCA)

Rev. Beth Williams, Co-Pastor, United Christian Parish, Reston

Rev. Yvonne Gilmore, Vice President and Chief of Staff, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Terri McLellan, Moderator, CCCA, and Senior Minister, Shepherd Park Christian Church

Rev. Dr. Rosetta Robinson, North Chevy Chase Christian Church, Convenor, HeartSingTable

Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker-Langston, Director, Disciples Center for Public Witness

Rev. Peggy Miller, Director, Commission for Ministry, CCCA, Henson Valley Christian Church

Rev. Dr. Carol Green-Freeman, Senior Minister, Wilson Boulevard Christian Church

Rev. Dr. Paul Saddler, Senior Minister Twelfth Street Christian Church

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, DC Director, Church World Service

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Tatham, Minister, North Chevy Chase Christian Church

Rev. John McNeill, Interim Director and Adjunct Professor, John Leland Seminary, School of Ministry, Bethany Christian Church

Fred Nelson, Elder, First Christian Church, Alexandria

Neil Romstedt, Elder, Antioch Christian Church, Vienna

Salt & Light Planning Team: Neil Romstedt, Rev. Robert Perry, Sara Hindsley, Rev. Dr. Rosetta Robinson, Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker-Langston, Rev. John McNeill, Rev. Carmen Jennings, Rev. Delancy Catlett, Tona Farren, Rev. Marcus Adams, Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers, Rev. Dr. Carol Green-Freeman, Rev. Monica Banks

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