



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest  
**THE CONNECTED COMMUNITY**

## **INTRODUCING THE CONNECTED COMMUNITY**

You've heard of Facebook and Twitter. Now, get ready for Connected Community. Connected Community is a new communication tool under development exclusively for ministers, members and guests of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest. Connected Community allows members to communicate with one another over a private computer network, using the latest tools the Internet offers. Connected Community is easy to learn and simple to use—literally taking only a few minutes' time to master.

Connected Community allows churches—previously unconnected—to exchange effective ideas and projects for worship, outreach, evangelism, fundraising and other ministries. Connected Community allows ministers—previously unconnected—to exchange ideas, concerns and prayers, and to seek support from one another in a confidential venue that only members may access. For the first time, Christian Churches in areas and regions will be connected to

each other the way Facebook connects "friends" and Twitter connects "followers."

Connected Community is not intended to replace the fellowship found only at church, or the hard work of committees or, most especially, the one-on-one personal conversations we all cherish. Rather, Connected Community supports the mission of church members and clergy by offering—for the first time—a computer network foundation for the whole region to make ministry more effective, organized, efficient and when needed, confidential.

Facebook, Twitter and other social networks are useful primarily to connect friends or to relay short messages. But these social entertainment platforms lack what Connected Community offers: security and privacy; careful governance and reliable predictability; easy-to-use tools and features that allow users the ability to easily collaborate with others to complete projects, to search robust archives, to seek expert advice and to reach out to younger adult church members who almost exclusively communicate over the Internet.

Connected Community is a vast new resource for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For the first time, previously unconnected communities—whether they be a Christian Women's Fellowship group, church Education Committee chairs or a Property Committee chair in need of volunteers—will have the ability to

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Connected Community website. At the top, there is a header with the title "The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest" and a navigation menu including "Home", "About Us", "Regional News Service", "Members", "Private Parties", "Public Meetings", "Help", and "Feedback". Below the header is a large banner image of a group of people. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Welcome to the Connected Community:** A introductory message about the site's purpose as a meeting place for communication, collaboration, and resource sharing.
- Members:** A section for registered members, including a "Sign Up" button and a list of member names.
- Free Booklet Available:** A notice about a 16-page booklet for search people to write news releases about their church or ministry.
- Free Booklet Available On-Writing Releases:** A notice about a 16-page booklet for search people to write news releases about their church or ministry.
- Please Help Us Spread the Word:** A notice about a 16-page booklet for search people to write news releases about their church or ministry.
- Things To Do In the Connected Community:** A list of tasks and resources, including "Regional News Service", "Member Forum", "Bill's Blog", "Connected Community News", "Technical Support", "Project Document Library", and "Research Library".
- Connected Community News:** A section for the latest news, including "Four New Forums Added", "Free 16-Page Booklet Available", "Members a Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 4 Sent", "Members a Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 3 Sent", "Members a Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 2 Sent", and "Members a Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 1 Sent".
- Share Your News Throughout the Region:** A section for sharing news and stories.
- Financial Statements as of December 31, 2008:** A notice about the latest financial statements.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest

Member Home Services Education Regional News Service Forums Connected Community Project

Member Portal Source and Pastoral Protection

### Members Forums

We have four Regional Forums for discussing topics of common interest throughout the Region. These are the "transnational" component of the Connected Community.

If you are new to members Forums, please take note of the tabs for getting started using our Website or comments. Click here to read the New Member Guide. Also, check out the "Forum of Forums" below and at the bottom of this page.

Member Forums	Access Status
Forum On Forums - Start Here	Member Access
Area/Region/Ministry - Private	Member Access
Church Leaders	Member Access
Cherry to Cherry	Member Access
Conversion	Member Access
Connected Community	Member Access
History for Senior Adults	Member Access
Reading Group	Member Access
Regional Transformation	Member Access
Support the 100th Harvest Page 17	Member Access
TODP	Member Access
Unfolded Prayer (2017-2018)	Member Access
Young Adults	Member Access
Private Forums	Access Status
Area/Regional Ministers - Private	Private Access
Connected Community Team - Private	Private Access
How Do We Develop Teams - Private	Private Access
Regional Assembly Planning - Private	Private Access
Transition Team - Private	Private Access

Member Forums are available to any registered member of the Member Forum of this website.

Private Forums are available to only those team members who have access rights to these private forums.

### Forum on Forums

One of our Member Forums is dedicated to talking about our Forums themselves. This is the place to ask a question about getting started, make suggestions or talk with the system admin. Also, we will use this space to highlight great discussions going on in other forums. This forum will be moderated by Bill Anderson.

Thread Title	Author	Comments
Should I have started a new thread?	Bill Anderson	0
"Memory to Senior Adults"		1
"Prayer Needs" Search has been increased	Bill Anderson	0
"The 100th Harvest"		1
Do You Have a Request for a New Forum?	Bill Anderson	11
How do you get into the site if you are not a member?	Bill Anderson	1
New User Interface Being Contemplated	Bill Anderson	5
How Do We Develop Teams	Larry Ann	1
How Forums in the Works	Bill Anderson	4
How To Get Started	Bill Anderson	7

join together for collaborative projects. Churches won't have to re-invent the wheel when they have an idea to explore or execute because a Connected Community member will likely have answers and resources for them. Ministers who need the ability to exchange information, to seek advice and support or simply to talk among one another in collaboration will be able to do so on Connected Community. Young people who seek a meaningful and relevant church experiences and relationships will know they have a place in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) because Connected Community—like Facebook—is a part of their daily lives.

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### Published News Stories

Click on any of the headlines below to read the full story.

**New Christmas Narrative & Music Podcast from Westlake Cafe**  
 You (and Christmas) rejoice! Westlake Cafe network is ready with a new and meaningful reading of the birth narrative of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew and Luke with reflections from Mary the mother of Jesus. Interspersed with new musical arrangements from the Westlake Cafe, this podcast will send you off the best meaning of Christmas.

**Felipe Perira's Inspiring Memoir Makes For A Wonderful Christmas Gift**  
 Felipe's memoir is a wonderful gift for your family members and friends. His memoir, "100th Harvest: A Journey of Faith and Hope" is available for purchase at [www.westlakemagazine.org](http://www.westlakemagazine.org) or Amazon.com for more information.

**Regional News Service Launched**  
 The Connected Community has launched an ability for its members to add news and provide events about their churches or ministries.

**The Lord Says: "Can You Hear Me Now?"**  
 John 6:35 "The one who brings to God, never what God says..."  
 April 17, 2018

**Women's Assembly June 24-28, 2019**  
 1:00pm  
 Lead Minister  
 Lead Church

**Going Green on the Border**  
 CSC congregation now Member Border provides energy efficient light bulbs to low income families and creates environmental history.

**FCC Hosts LRQVD Assembly**  
 Eight of 10 District churches send 70 people to attend District Assembly, Dallas, Texas, under of FCC, District, to represent.

**Forthcoming Book: Global Voices on Biblical Equality**  
 The book Global Voices on Biblical Equality will be published by WIP and track the coming November. Dr. Andrew Gonzalez's essays are a step in Biblical equality and the Latin Church in USA.

**CD Available of Friday Night Worship at Regional Assembly**  
 A CD is available of the Friday Night at Regional Assembly is available from University Christian Church of Fort Worth for \$3.99 each.

**How You Can Help With Hurricane Recovery**  
 Hear list of things you and your congregation can do to help with the recovery.

**Hurricane Ike Recovery**  
 Use of congregations affected of which we are aware.

**Hurricane Dolly Recovery**  
 Congregations are still dealing from the effects of Hurricane Dolly in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

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Connected Community is being built by TeleWorship Corporation of Dallas, Texas. TeleWorship specializes in connecting God's church to God's people through innovative technology services for homebound shut-ins, content-rich Web sites for churches and denominational agencies and offices (including the Southwest Region site at [www.ccsw.org](http://www.ccsw.org)) and through Connected Community, a vast communication network under development that allows church clergy, members and their guests a collaborative social network for accomplishing ministry. Bill Anderson, past president of the board of directors of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Dallas ([www.cccdt.org](http://www.cccdt.org)), is TeleWorship's CEO and Chief Scientist.

Requesting membership in the Connected Community is a simple two-step process: (1) register first as a Guest; then (2) fill out a short form requesting membership. All requests will be processed and all eligible applicants will have their Guest Accounts Upgraded to full membership status.

To start the process illustrated above, go to: <http://www.ccsw.org/request>.

Please invite other Disciples from the Region to also become part of the Connected Community. Membership is free. The cost of the Connected Community is supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

For more information or discussion about Connected Community, contact Bill Anderton at 214-295-1195.

